Polity & Governance · GS - II

Investigative independence and institutional accountability are essential for maintaining public confidence in criminal justice administration. Examine.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 28/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Investigative autonomy, political interference, rule of law, evidence-based investigation, judicial oversight, accountability, civil liberties

Model Answer

Investigative agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) play a crucial role in detecting corruption, investigating serious offences and enforcing the rule of law. Their credibility depends on both operational independence and accountability.

Importance of investigative independence

1. **Impartiality:** Investigations must be guided by evidence rather than political or personal considerations.
2. **Rule of law:** Equal application of criminal law prevents selective targeting and arbitrary treatment.
3. **Public confidence:** Independent investigations strengthen trust in public institutions.
4. **Professional integrity:** Investigating officers must be able to resist improper directions and follow lawful procedures.

Need for institutional accountability

1. **Judicial scrutiny:** Courts must remain accessible to examine violations of legal and constitutional safeguards.
2. **Internal supervision:** Clear investigation protocols and supervisory mechanisms can discourage arbitrary inquiries.
3. **Evidence-based action:** Searches, questioning and prosecution must comply with statutory requirements.
4. **Protection of rights:** Investigations must respect personal liberty, privacy and the presumption of innocence.

The allegations made by a former CBI officer regarding the 2010 MCI bribery investigation highlight concerns surrounding investigative autonomy. Such claims underline the importance of examining institutional procedures without treating unverified allegations as established facts.

Ultimately, a credible investigative system requires independence from improper influence, transparency in procedure and accountability under law.

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