Polity & Governance · GS - II

Evaluate the role of institutional accountability and political independence in ensuring the effectiveness of anti-corruption mechanisms.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~ 250 words

Answer Hint

Anti-corruption institutions, rule of law, political influence, transparency, selective enforcement, due process, public trust, institutional autonomy

Model Answer

Introduction

Corruption weakens public institutions, distorts resource allocation and undermines citizens' trust in governance. Effective anti-corruption action therefore requires strong institutions operating under the rule of law.

Importance of Institutional Accountability

1. **Deterrence:** Credible investigation and prosecution discourage misuse of public office and abuse of authority.
2. **Administrative integrity:** Accountability mechanisms promote ethical conduct, transparency and responsible decision-making.
3. **Public confidence:** Impartial enforcement strengthens citizens' trust in public institutions.

4. **Equality before law:** Officials at every level must be subject to the same legal standards, irrespective of their political position.

Importance of Institutional Independence

1. **Freedom from political interference:** Investigative agencies must be able to examine allegations against powerful individuals without undue pressure.
2. **Fair investigation:** Professional autonomy helps prevent politically motivated prosecutions and selective enforcement.
3. **Due process:** Independent judicial oversight protects individual rights and ensures that allegations are established through lawful procedures.

Challenges

1. **Selective enforcement:** Anti-corruption action may lose credibility if perceived as targeting political opponents.
2. **Institutional concentration:** Excessive concentration of authority can weaken independent scrutiny.
3. **Delayed justice:** Prolonged investigations and trials reduce deterrence.
4. **Limited transparency:** Opaque procedures can undermine public confidence.

Way Forward

India should strengthen the autonomy, accountability and professional capacity of investigative institutions through transparent appointments, judicial oversight, time-bound investigations and protection for whistleblowers.

Conclusion

Anti-corruption campaigns become sustainable when enforcement is impartial, evidence-based and institutionally independent. Accountability must strengthen the rule of law rather than become an instrument of arbitrary power.

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