Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the role of judicial oversight in ensuring accountability and fairness in investigations conducted by specialised agencies such as the CBI.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 25/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Investigative independence, rule of law, closure reports, judicial scrutiny, fair investigation, political influence, procedural safeguards

Model Answer

Specialised investigative agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) play an important role in investigating corruption, economic offences and serious crimes. Their credibility depends on professional independence, impartiality and adherence to the rule of law.

Why judicial oversight matters

1. **Scrutiny of investigation:** Courts examine whether investigative conclusions are supported by evidence and comply with established legal procedures.
2. **Review of closure reports:** A court is not bound to accept an investigating agency's closure report. It may accept it, reject it and take cognisance where legally justified, or order further investigation.
3. **Protection of individual rights:** Judicial supervision helps prevent arbitrary prosecution, prolonged proceedings and violations of personal liberty under Article 21.
4. **Institutional accountability:** Courts can examine allegations of procedural irregularities, selective investigation or abuse of investigative powers.

Challenges to effective oversight

Investigative agencies may face allegations of political interference, delays, inadequate evidence collection and selective action. Conversely, excessive judicial intervention at the investigation stage may undermine agency autonomy and delay criminal proceedings.

The way ahead

A balanced framework requires transparent investigation protocols, timely submission of reports, reasoned judicial orders and adequate institutional safeguards for investigative independence. Courts must scrutinise legality and fairness without routinely substituting their assessment for that of investigators.

Ultimately, judicial oversight strengthens rather than weakens investigative autonomy when it ensures that state power is exercised lawfully, impartially and in accordance with constitutional principles.

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