Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the role of investigative agencies in ensuring accountability in public institutions. What safeguards are necessary to prevent the misuse of investigative powers?

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Investigative independence, public accountability, due process, political neutrality, judicial oversight, institutional safeguards

Model Answer

Investigative agencies play an important role in upholding the rule of law by examining allegations of corruption, abuse of office and administrative irregularities. Their effectiveness is essential for maintaining public confidence in democratic institutions.

Role in ensuring accountability

1. **Detection of corruption:** Agencies such as the CBI investigate allegations involving public officials and misuse of public resources.
2. **Institutional integrity:** Investigations into irregular appointments, recruitment and financial decisions help enforce administrative standards.
3. **Rule of law:** Evidence-based investigations ensure that public officials are not above the law.
4. **Public confidence:** Credible investigations strengthen trust in governance and public institutions.

Safeguards against misuse

1. **Operational independence:** Investigative decisions should remain free from political interference.

2. **Due process:** Accused persons must receive fair treatment, access to legal remedies and protection against arbitrary action.
3. **Judicial oversight:** Courts must ensure that investigative procedures comply with constitutional and statutory requirements.
4. **Transparency and accountability:** Agencies should follow clear procedures, maintain proper records and remain answerable for misconduct.
5. **Timely investigation:** Unnecessary delays and prolonged proceedings should be minimised.

Investigative agencies must combine independence with accountability. Their credibility ultimately depends on impartial investigations, respect for individual rights and equal application of the law.