Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the role of the Central Bureau of Investigation in ensuring impartial criminal investigations in India. Discuss the legal and federal challenges associated with transferring cases to the CBI.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

DSPE Act, 1946, Section 6, state consent, federalism, Supreme Court and High Courts, impartial investigation, political neutrality, accountability, investigative independence, intergovernmental coordination, police reforms.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is India's premier investigating agency for major corruption cases, serious crimes and cases requiring specialised investigation. Its credibility depends on impartiality, professionalism and adherence to the rule of law.

Role of the CBI

- **Specialised investigation:** Investigates complex corruption, economic offences and cases referred to it under applicable legal provisions.
- **Public confidence:** Independent investigation can strengthen trust in criminal justice and institutional accountability.

- **Inter-state coordination:** Helps investigate offences involving multiple jurisdictions.

Legal and Federal Challenges

Under Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, state consent is generally necessary for the CBI to exercise its powers within a state. This reflects India's federal structure but can create disputes when state and central governments disagree. Constitutional courts may direct CBI investigations where legally justified.

Concerns about political interference, delays, resource constraints and accountability can also affect public confidence.

Way Forward

The government should strengthen operational independence, transparent procedures, professional capacity and parliamentary oversight. Centre–state coordination and time-bound investigations should be encouraged while safeguarding due process.

Conclusion

An impartial and accountable CBI is essential for the rule of law. Clear procedures and respect for federal principles can improve both investigative effectiveness and public trust.

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