



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** Analyze the potential long-term consequences of eroding non-partisanship in public institutions. How does this impact democratic governance and public trust? **(150 words)**

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### Approach:

- Introduce the answer by highlighting the significance of Non-partisanship in public institutions
- Delve into Consequences of Eroding Non-Partisanship
- Highlight its Impact on Democratic Governance and Public Trust
- Conclude suitably.

### Introduction:

**Non-partisanship** in public institutions **ensures impartiality and adherence to constitutional values** over political or ideological leanings. It is vital for maintaining the credibility, independence, and integrity of institutions in a democracy.

- Its erosion can **compromise governance quality, deepen public distrust, and weaken democratic structures.**

### Body:

#### Consequences of Eroding Non-Partisanship

- **Undermining Institutional Integrity:** Public institutions lose their ability to function impartially when influenced by political bias.
  - **Example:** Frequent transfers of civil servants for political reasons erode their autonomy and effectiveness in decision-making.
- **Weakening Rule of Law:** A partisan approach may lead to selective application of laws, undermining the principle of equality before the law.
  - **Example:** Law enforcement agencies accused of **targeting opposition leaders can create perceptions of vendetta**, weakening faith in justice.
- **Erosion of Checks and Balance:** Institutions such as the judiciary, Election **Commission, and CAG** play a critical role in holding the government accountable.
  - Politicization can dilute their role as independent watchdogs.
  - **Example:** Allegations of bias in electoral reforms or judicial appointments harm their credibility.
- **Decline in Professionalism:** Merit and competency take a backseat to political loyalty, reducing administrative efficiency and innovation.
  - **Example:** Partisan favoritism in **appointments to public offices**, like regulatory bodies or universities, can lead to inefficiency and mediocrity.
- **Entrenchment of Cronyism and Corruption:** Politicized institutions become tools for rewarding political loyalty rather than upholding public welfare, increasing corruption.
  - **Example:** **Public sector undertakings** suffering from political interference may prioritize vested interests over performance or accountability.

## **Impact on Democratic Governance and Public Trust**

- **Weakening of Democratic Norms:** Partisan behavior undermines principles like **transparency, accountability, and fairness.**
- **Polarization of Society:** Non-partisan institutions act as **mediators.** Their erosion exacerbates divisions, **fueling political and social tensions.**
- **Compromised Policy Continuity:** Politicization results in frequent policy reversals, leading to uncertainty and inefficiency in governance.
- **Reduced Civic Participation:** Loss of faith in institutions **discourages public engagement in democratic processes.**
- **International Reputation:** Weak institutional integrity impacts the country's global standing in indices like the **Corruption Perception Index.**

## **Conclusion:**

The erosion of non-partisanship in public institutions is a significant threat to democratic governance and public trust. It compromises **institutional integrity, undermines the rule of law, and fuels societal polarization,** with long-term consequences for governance quality and national cohesion.

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