Polity & Governance · GS - II

A constructive opposition is essential for the effective functioning of parliamentary democracy. Examine the role of the Leader of Opposition in ensuring executive accountability and strengthening deliberative democracy in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 13/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Parliamentary accountability, statutory recognition, legislative scrutiny, Question Hour, parliamentary committees, alternative policy perspectives, constructive criticism, democratic deliberation, executive transparency, institutional checks and balances.

Model Answer

Introduction

A parliamentary democracy requires both an effective government and a responsible opposition. The Leader of Opposition (LoP) provides institutional leadership to the opposition and contributes to legislative scrutiny and democratic accountability.

Role in Parliamentary Democracy

The LoP represents alternative political perspectives, scrutinises government policies and raises issues of public importance. Through parliamentary debates, Question Hour and committee proceedings, the opposition can examine executive decisions and demand transparency. The LoP also participates in certain statutory selection committees.

Challenges

Frequent disruptions, declining parliamentary deliberation, political polarisation and limited discussion time can weaken legislative oversight. Personalised political confrontations may also divert attention from substantive policy issues.

Way Forward

Strengthening parliamentary committees, ensuring adequate debate time, encouraging evidence-based criticism and maintaining constructive engagement can improve legislative functioning. Both government and opposition must respect parliamentary conventions.

Conclusion

A strong opposition is not merely an electoral competitor but an essential democratic institution. Constructive disagreement and effective scrutiny strengthen public trust and accountable governance.

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