Polity & Governance · GS - II

Assess the importance of timely parliamentary scheduling in ensuring legislative accountability and effective functioning of representative democracy in India.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Parliamentary calendar, Article 85, executive accountability, legislative scrutiny, parliamentary committees, constituency responsibilities

Model Answer

Parliamentary scheduling is an important component of democratic governance because it determines the opportunities available to elected representatives to debate legislation, scrutinise government action and raise public concerns.

Why predictable scheduling matters

1. **Legislative scrutiny:** Timely announcement of sessions allows MPs to prepare for debates, examine bills and consult relevant stakeholders.
2. **Executive accountability:** Parliamentary questions, discussions and motions provide mechanisms to examine government policies and administrative performance.
3. **Representative responsibilities:** MPs require adequate time to balance parliamentary duties with constituency engagement and public consultations.

4. **Institutional continuity:** A predictable calendar supports parliamentary committees, legislative research and coordination between the two Houses.

Constitutional framework

Article 85 empowers the President to summon Parliament, with the constitutional requirement that the gap between sessions must not exceed six months. In practice, the executive plays a significant role in determining the proposed parliamentary calendar, while presiding officers regulate proceedings within their respective Houses.

Improving parliamentary functioning

1. Announce an indicative annual calendar to improve predictability.
2. Provide adequate notice before introducing significant legislation.
3. Allocate sufficient time for debates and committee scrutiny.
4. Strengthen consultation between the government, opposition and presiding officers.

A predictable parliamentary schedule is not merely an administrative convenience. It strengthens deliberative democracy by enabling informed participation, legislative scrutiny and meaningful executive accountability.

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