Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional framework governing parliamentary sessions in India and explain how regular sittings contribute to executive accountability and democratic deliberation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 26/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Article 85, parliamentary calendar, Question Hour, legislative scrutiny, executive accountability, parliamentary committees, democratic deliberation

Model Answer

Constitutional Framework

Article 85 of the Constitution empowers the President to summon each House of Parliament. However, the interval between the last sitting of one session and the first sitting of the next cannot exceed six months. This ensures that Parliament meets periodically.

The Constitution does not prescribe a fixed number or duration of annual sessions. The Budget, Monsoon and Winter Sessions have evolved as established parliamentary conventions.

Why Regular Parliamentary Sittings Matter

1. **Executive accountability:** Question Hour enables members to seek information from ministers, while discussions and motions allow scrutiny of government decisions.

2. **Legislative scrutiny:** Bills receive parliamentary examination, debate and, where necessary, referral to committees for detailed consideration.

3. **Financial oversight:** Parliament examines government expenditure, taxation proposals and demands for grants, reinforcing legislative control over public finances.

4. **Representation of public concerns:** Elected representatives raise regional, social and economic issues, connecting citizens' concerns with national policymaking.

5. **Institutional deliberation:** Parliamentary debates provide opportunities to examine competing viewpoints and improve the quality of legislation.

Challenges to Effective Functioning

Frequent disruptions, reduced sitting days, inadequate debate and hurried passage of legislation can weaken parliamentary oversight. Limited ministerial participation may also affect responses to questions and legislative discussions.

Conclusion

Parliament is not merely a law-making institution but a central mechanism of democratic accountability. Regular sittings, meaningful debate and effective opposition participation are essential for maintaining the balance between executive efficiency and legislative scrutiny.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP