Polity & Governance · GS - II

The effectiveness of judicial review depends not merely on judicial pronouncements but also on their compliance by the executive. Discuss in the context of the constitutional relationship between the judiciary and executive.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 27/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Judicial independence, Article 144, rule of law, separation of powers, contempt jurisdiction, executive accountability, constitutional governance

Model Answer

The Indian Constitution establishes an institutional balance between the judiciary and executive, with each expected to function within its constitutional limits. Compliance with judicial orders is essential for maintaining the rule of law.

The Thiruparankundram Deepam dispute, in which the Supreme Court initiated contempt proceedings over alleged non-compliance with its directions, highlights this relationship.

Constitutional foundations

1. **Article 144:** All civil and judicial authorities in India must act in aid of the Supreme Court.
2. **Article 129:** The Supreme Court is a court of record and possesses the power to punish for contempt of itself.

3. **Article 141:** The law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts within India.
4. **Separation of powers:** The executive must implement the law and judicial directions while respecting the constitutional limits of its authority.

Challenges to effective compliance

- Administrative delays and institutional resistance can undermine judicial remedies.
- Political or administrative considerations may interfere with the implementation of court directions.
- Excessive reliance on contempt proceedings can strain institutional relations.

Way forward

Clear communication between institutions, accountable administration, timely implementation of judicial directions and constructive dialogue can reduce institutional conflicts.

Ultimately, constitutional governance requires mutual respect among institutions. Judicial authority must be respected, while executive action must remain accountable to the Constitution and the law.

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