# Polity & Governance · GS - II

**"The Attorney General of India plays a crucial role in guiding the legal framework of the Union Government and ensuring sound governance through legal counsel." Discuss his responsibilities, rights and limitations in this regard.**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
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| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

**Article 76, highest law officer, legal advice, representation, President, Union Government, Parliament, right of audience, no vote, conflict of interest, political neutrality**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

The Attorney General of India is the Union Government's highest law officer under Article 76, functioning as the principal constitutional legal adviser to the Union executive.

### 1. Responsibilities

The Attorney General advises the Government of India on legal matters referred by the President or arising in governmental affairs. He performs duties assigned by the Constitution or the President and represents the Union in significant legal proceedings. He also assists the government in ensuring that executive action conforms to constitutional and statutory requirements.

### 2. Rights

He has the right of audience in all courts in India. He may participate in proceedings of either House of Parliament, joint sittings and parliamentary committees of which he is named a member, and may speak and take part in proceedings, though he cannot vote.

**3. Limitations**

The Attorney General is not a member of the Union Cabinet and is not a full-time government servant. He does not possess independent executive authority to make governmental decisions. His advice is advisory, while final decisions remain with the competent constitutional authorities.

Professional obligations also require avoidance of conflicts of interest and preservation of legal ethics.

**Conclusion**

The Attorney General thus serves as a bridge between constitutional governance and legal administration, combining governmental legal assistance with the responsibilities of an independent law professional.

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