Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the significance of Article 141 in maintaining judicial discipline and consistency in the functioning of tribunals in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 30/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 141; binding judicial precedents; rule of law; judicial discipline; tribunal autonomy; separation of powers; judicial review; consistency in adjudication

Model Answer

Introduction

Article 141 of the Constitution provides that the law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts within the territory of India. It ensures consistency and uniformity in the interpretation of law.

Significance of Article 141

1. Uniformity of Law: Binding precedents prevent conflicting interpretations by different courts and tribunals.

2. Judicial Discipline: Tribunals are required to follow the legal principles laid down by the Supreme Court, strengthening institutional accountability.

3. Rule of Law: Consistent application of judicial decisions promotes predictability, legal certainty and public confidence.

4. Effective Justice: Adherence to precedent reduces unnecessary litigation and arbitrary decision-making.

Tribunals and Judicial Review

Specialised tribunals such as the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL), established under the Electricity Act, 2003, provide sector-specific adjudication. However, their specialised character does not exempt them from binding constitutional principles and judicial precedents. Their decisions remain subject to judicial scrutiny within the applicable framework.

Conclusion

Tribunal autonomy must operate within constitutional boundaries. Respect for binding precedents is essential for judicial discipline, institutional credibility and the rule of law.

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