Polity & Governance · GS - II

Compare the impeachment mechanism of the United States with the constitutional process for removing the President of India. Highlight the differences in grounds, procedure and institutional roles.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 10/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Presidential accountability, constitutional safeguards, impeachment, separation of powers, legislative procedure, judicial role, federal constitutional framework.

Model Answer

Introduction

Impeachment is a constitutional mechanism to ensure accountability of high public officials. The United States and India provide distinct procedures for presidential removal.

United States

- The House of Representatives has the exclusive power to impeach.
- The Senate conducts the trial.
- Conviction requires a two-thirds majority of Senators present.
- The Chief Justice presides when the President is tried.
- Grounds include treason, bribery and other high crimes and misdemeanours.

India

- Article 61 provides the procedure for impeaching the President.
- The ground is violation of the Constitution.
- Either House of Parliament may initiate the charge.
- The other House investigates or causes the charge to be investigated.
- Removal requires a two-thirds majority of the total membership of each House.

Key Difference

The US system involves separate impeachment and trial stages, while India's process requires special majorities in both Houses of Parliament. Neither process is an ordinary political no-confidence vote.

Conclusion

Both systems seek to protect constitutional governance by combining legislative authority with procedural safeguards against arbitrary removal.

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