Polity & Governance · GS - II

Political controversies involving constitutional office-holders test the resilience of democratic institutions. Examine how constitutional succession mechanisms and institutional accountability can help maintain political stability in parliamentary and presidential democracies.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 12/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Constitutional succession, separation of powers, institutional accountability, rule of law, judicial review, impeachment, political legitimacy, democratic stability, constitutional continuity.

Model Answer

Introduction

Democratic stability depends not merely on electoral mandates but also on constitutional mechanisms that regulate political transitions and ensure accountability of public office-holders.

Role of Constitutional Succession

- **Continuity of government:** Clearly defined succession procedures prevent administrative uncertainty during vacancies in high constitutional offices.
- **Institutional legitimacy:** Constitutional provisions ensure that leadership transitions follow established legal procedures rather than political expediency.
- **Separation of powers:** Legislatures, executives and judiciaries exercise distinct constitutional responsibilities, limiting arbitrary authority.

- **Accountability:** Impeachment procedures, judicial scrutiny and legislative oversight provide mechanisms to address alleged constitutional violations.
- **Rule of law:** Public office-holders remain subject to constitutional requirements and legal scrutiny.

Challenges

Political polarisation, institutional interference, disputed eligibility and excessive concentration of power can weaken public confidence in democratic institutions.

Way Forward

Constitutional bodies must function independently, judicial decisions should be respected, and succession procedures should remain transparent and predictable.

Conclusion

Constitutional continuity and institutional accountability are complementary pillars of democracy. Their effective functioning helps resolve political crises through lawful and peaceful processes.

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