# Polity & Governance · GS - II

**Compare the semi-presidential system of France with the parliamentary system of India, highlighting their implications for executive accountability and political stability.**

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

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

**Semi-presidentialism, parliamentary executive, dual executive, direct presidential election, collective responsibility, cohabitation, dissolution of legislature, executive accountability.**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

France and India follow different democratic executive arrangements. France operates under a semi-presidential system, whereas India follows the parliamentary system.

### Institutional Differences

In France, the President is directly elected for a five-year term and exercises significant constitutional powers. The Prime Minister heads the government and is accountable to Parliament. This creates a dual executive structure.

In India, the President is the constitutional head, while the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers exercise executive authority. Under Article 75(3), the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

### Implications

France's arrangement provides an independently elected President but may produce political tensions when the President and parliamentary majority belong to different political camps, a situation known as cohabitation.

India's parliamentary model ensures closer executive-legislative accountability but can experience instability when coalition governments lack durable legislative support.

**Conclusion**

Both systems reflect different approaches to balancing executive authority and democratic accountability. Their effectiveness depends on constitutional conventions, institutional checks and political cooperation.

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