Polity & Governance · GS - II

Distinguish between adjournment, prorogation and dissolution of Parliament. Explain their constitutional significance.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Parliamentary procedure, Article 85, presiding officers, President's powers, legislative continuity, Lok Sabha dissolution

Model Answer

Introduction

The Indian parliamentary system provides different mechanisms for regulating the functioning and termination of parliamentary sittings and sessions. Adjournment, prorogation and dissolution have distinct constitutional meanings and consequences.

Distinction Between the Three

1. **Adjournment:** It suspends the proceedings of a House for a specified period. It is ordered by the presiding officer, such as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

2. **Prorogation:** Under Article 85(2)(a), the President prorogues either House of Parliament. It formally terminates a parliamentary session, generally after the House has been adjourned sine die.

3. **Dissolution:** Under Article 85(2)(b), the President dissolves the Lok Sabha. It brings the elected House to an end, requiring fresh general elections. The Rajya Sabha, being a permanent House, is not subject to dissolution.

Constitutional and Parliamentary Significance

1. **Legislative continuity:** Prorogation does not automatically cause pending bills to lapse, whereas dissolution generally causes bills pending in the Lok Sabha or passed by it but pending in the Rajya Sabha to lapse, subject to constitutional exceptions.

2. **Executive accountability:** Parliamentary sessions provide opportunities for questions, debates, motions and scrutiny of government policies.

3. **Institutional functioning:** These procedures regulate parliamentary business while maintaining continuity and constitutional discipline.

4. **Democratic deliberation:** Effective parliamentary functioning requires adequate opportunities for discussion, opposition participation and legislative scrutiny.

Conclusion

Adjournment, prorogation and dissolution serve different constitutional purposes. Their proper use is essential to preserve parliamentary accountability, legislative continuity and democratic governance.

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