Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the role of parliamentary consensus in the passage of contentious legislation. How do bicameralism and coalition politics shape India's legislative process?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 29/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Parliamentary consensus, bicameralism, coalition politics, Rajya Sabha, legislative scrutiny, federal representation, deliberative democracy

Model Answer

The passage of contentious legislation in India requires more than numerical strength in the Lok Sabha. Parliamentary deliberation, inter-party negotiations and the constitutional role of both Houses influence the legislative process.

Role of parliamentary consensus

1. **Legislative legitimacy:** Support across political parties can strengthen public acceptance of major legislative reforms.

2. **Quality of legislation:** Debate and scrutiny help identify legal ambiguities, implementation challenges and unintended consequences.

3. **Coalition dynamics:** Regional and smaller parties can influence legislative negotiations, particularly when the government requires support beyond its own members.

4. **Federal representation:** The Rajya Sabha provides a platform for States and regional interests to participate in national law-making.

5. **Institutional accountability:** Parliamentary committees, opposition scrutiny and voting procedures help ensure that legislation receives adequate examination.

Importance of bicameralism

Under Articles 107 and 108, ordinary Bills generally require approval by both Houses, with joint sitting available in specified deadlock situations. This arrangement prevents the legislative process from being determined solely by the numerical strength of one House.

Conclusion

Parliamentary consensus does not eliminate political disagreement; rather, it provides constitutional and democratic mechanisms to negotiate differences. Effective legislation depends on balancing majority decision-making with deliberation, accountability and federal representation.

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