Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the constitutional position and discretionary powers of the Governor in India. How can the office maintain a balance between the Union and State governments?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 14/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Articles 153–162, President's appointment, constitutional head, Article 163, appointment of Chief Minister, summoning and proroguing the Legislature, assent to Bills, pardoning powers under Article 161, discretionary powers, federalism, Centre–State relations, political neutrality, constitutional conventions.

Model Answer

Introduction:

The Governor is the constitutional head of a State, appointed by the President under Article 155 of the Constitution. The office connects the Union and State constitutional systems.

Constitutional Role and Powers:

Under Article 164, the Governor appoints the Chief Minister and, on the Chief Minister's advice, other ministers. Article 174 empowers the Governor to summon, prorogue and dissolve the State Legislative Assembly, subject to constitutional provisions. Under Article 200, the Governor deals with State Bills by giving assent, withholding assent, returning certain Bills for reconsideration or reserving Bills for the President. Article 161 provides powers of pardon and other forms of clemency within the State's executive sphere, subject to constitutional limits.

Challenges and Reforms:

Controversies over government formation, delays in deciding Bills and the use of discretionary powers can strain Centre–State relations. Political neutrality, adherence to constitutional conventions, time-bound decisions and judicially reviewable conduct are essential.

Conclusion:

The Governor should act as an impartial constitutional authority, protecting constitutional governance while respecting the democratic mandate and federal principles.

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