Polity & Governance · GS - III

Examine the constitutional role of the Governor in Indian federalism. What measures can strengthen the neutrality and accountability of the office?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - III	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Articles 153, 155, 156 and 163; constitutional head; aid and advice; discretionary powers; Centre–State relations; political neutrality; Sarkaria Commission; Punchhi Commission.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Governor is the constitutional head of a state and an important link between the Union and state governments. The office is intended to function according to constitutional principles rather than partisan considerations.

Role in Indian Federalism

The Governor appoints the Chief Minister, summons and prorogues the state legislature, and gives assent to Bills in accordance with constitutional provisions. The Governor also performs certain functions where discretion is constitutionally permitted.

Major Concerns

- **Political neutrality:** Appointments and decisions may generate perceptions of partisan influence.
- **Legislative delays:** Delays in acting on Bills can create friction between state governments and the Governor.
- **Discretionary powers:** Their exercise may lead to disputes over constitutional boundaries.
- **Centre–State tensions:** Conflicts involving the Governor can affect cooperative federalism.

Way Forward

Appointments should prioritise constitutional understanding, impartiality and public service. Recommendations of the Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions can inform reforms. Governors should act transparently, respect constitutional limits and avoid unnecessary interference in elected governments' functioning.

Conclusion

A politically neutral and constitutionally restrained Governor is essential for cooperative federalism. Clear conventions and accountable decision-making can strengthen public confidence in the office.