Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the relationship between secularism and environmental protection in India. How can public authorities promote environmental awareness while respecting religious and cultural practices?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Constitutional secularism; environmental protection; Articles 48A and 51A(g); public health; freedom of religion; scientific awareness; non-discriminatory regulation

Model Answer

Introduction

Secularism and environmental protection are important constitutional principles in India. Environmental challenges such as air pollution affect people across religious and social groups, making public health a common concern.

Constitutional Framework

Article 48A directs the State to protect and improve the environment, while Article 51A(g) establishes citizens' fundamental duty to safeguard the natural environment. Secular governance requires public authorities to act fairly without discriminating among religious communities.

Balancing Rights and Environmental Concerns

Environmental awareness campaigns can encourage responsible celebrations and highlight the health effects of pollution. However, regulatory measures should have a clear legal basis, pursue legitimate public objectives and be implemented consistently. Authorities should communicate scientific evidence transparently and engage communities constructively.

Way Forward

Government agencies should promote cleaner celebrations, strengthen pollution monitoring and use accessible public communication. Dialogue with community organisations, environmental experts and local authorities can improve acceptance of environmental measures.

Conclusion

Secularism and environmental protection can reinforce each other through fair governance and shared civic responsibility. Protecting public health while respecting constitutional rights requires proportionate, transparent and non-discriminatory action.

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