Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional significance of the Right to Privacy in the context of private CCTV surveillance. How can the need for security be balanced with the privacy rights of neighbouring residents?

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Right to Privacy; Article 21; Puttaswamy judgment; private CCTV surveillance; personal security; proportionality; reasonable restrictions; neighbourly rights; grievance redressal; responsible technology use

Model Answer

Introduction

The Right to Privacy is recognised as a fundamental right under Part III of the Constitution, as affirmed by the Supreme Court in the *K.S. Puttaswamy* judgment of 2017. The reported Allahabad High Court ruling highlights the tension between personal security and the privacy of neighbouring residents.

Constitutional and Legal Concerns

CCTV cameras can deter crime and assist investigations. However, cameras directed towards a neighbour’s private premises may intrude into personal and domestic life. A legitimate security objective does not automatically justify disproportionate surveillance.

Balancing Security and Privacy

Camera placement should focus on the owner's premises and relevant access points while avoiding unnecessary recording of neighbouring private spaces. Privacy concerns should be assessed according to the purpose, extent and intrusiveness of surveillance.

Way Forward

Residents should adopt responsible camera-placement practices and resolve disputes through dialogue where possible. Authorities should provide accessible complaint mechanisms and ensure that surveillance arrangements comply with applicable law. Courts can protect privacy where security measures become unjustifiably intrusive.

Conclusion

Security and privacy are both important interests. Proportionate surveillance, responsible technology use and effective legal remedies can help protect individuals without permitting unnecessary intrusion into their neighbours’ private lives.

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