Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional safeguards available to religious minorities in India. Discuss the importance of interfaith dialogue and institutional mechanisms in preventing communal tensions.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Freedom of religion, Articles 25–30, minority rights, secularism, religious harmony, communal violence, rule of law, interfaith dialogue, police accountability, constitutional morality.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's constitutional framework protects religious freedom and promotes equality, secularism and peaceful coexistence among diverse communities.

Constitutional Safeguards

Article 25 guarantees freedom of conscience and the right to profess, practise and propagate religion. Article 26 protects the rights of religious denominations to manage religious affairs. Articles 27 and 28 provide safeguards concerning religious taxation and religious instruction. Articles 29 and 30 protect cultural and educational rights of minorities.

These provisions operate within constitutional limitations, including public order, morality and health.

Importance of Institutional Mechanisms

Reports of mob attacks on churches and congregations in West Bengal highlight the need for impartial investigation, effective policing and protection of religious institutions. Interfaith dialogue can address

misunderstandings, reduce tensions and strengthen mutual trust.

Authorities must investigate allegations objectively, prevent violence and ensure that constitutional rights are protected without discrimination.

Conclusion

Religious harmony depends on constitutional guarantees, equal enforcement of law and sustained dialogue among communities. Protecting minority rights strengthens India's democratic and secular foundations.

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