Science & Technology · GS - II

Analyse the challenges involved in balancing national security, public order and religious freedom in a constitutional democracy, with reference to the lessons of Operation Blue Star.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 11/11/2026	GS - II	Science & Technology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Constitutional secularism, Article 25, public order, internal security, federalism, intelligence assessment, political dialogue, proportionality, religious institutions, conflict resolution, democratic accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Operation Blue Star in June 1984 remains a significant episode in India's post-independence history. It highlights the complex relationship between internal security, religious sensitivities and democratic governance.

Challenges in Balancing Competing Interests

- **National security:** The state has a responsibility to address armed violence and threats to territorial integrity.
- **Religious freedom:** Article 25 protects freedom of conscience and religious practice, subject to constitutional limitations.
- **Federal dimensions:** Public order and police are primarily state responsibilities, while national security involves broader Union responsibilities.

- **Social consequences:** Coercive interventions at religious sites can deepen alienation and create long-term social and political tensions.

Lessons for Democratic Governance

Security responses must be based on credible intelligence, proportionality and careful assessment of civilian consequences. Political dialogue, community engagement and institutional coordination should be prioritised wherever feasible. Decisions involving exceptional force require transparency, accountability and subsequent institutional scrutiny.

Conclusion

National security and religious freedom need not be competing objectives. Constitutional governance requires lawful, proportionate and accountable action that protects citizens while preserving public trust and social harmony.

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