Modern History

The anti-Sikh violence of 1984 highlights the importance of accountability and institutional impartiality in preventing communal violence. Discuss.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 22/10/2026	—	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Anti-Sikh Violence of 1984, Minority Rights, Rule of Law, Article 14, Article 21, Police Accountability, Criminal Justice System, Victim Rehabilitation, Communal Harmony, Institutional Reforms.

Model Answer

Introduction

The anti-Sikh violence of 1984, which followed the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, remains a significant episode in India's history. It highlights the consequences of communal violence and the need for effective protection of citizens.

Main Body

Communal violence undermines constitutional values, social cohesion and public confidence in state institutions. When investigation or prosecution is ineffective, victims may face prolonged delays in obtaining justice.

The Constitution provides important safeguards. Article 14 guarantees equality before the law, while Article 21 protects life and personal liberty. These protections require the state to safeguard citizens impartially and ensure lawful investigation and prosecution.

Key measures include independent investigations where necessary, impartial policing, witness protection, timely trials, victim compensation and rehabilitation. Public education and inter-community dialogue can also help prevent prejudice and promote social harmony.

Conclusion

Ensuring justice for victims of communal violence is essential to the credibility of democratic institutions. Accountability, equal protection and impartial law enforcement are fundamental to strengthening India's constitutional democracy.

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