Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional balance between the right to peaceful protest and the deployment of security forces to maintain public order in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 31/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 19(1)(a); Article 19(1)(b); reasonable restrictions; public order; CAPF deployment; proportionality; police accountability; judicial review; democratic dissent

Model Answer

Introduction

Peaceful protests are an important feature of democratic participation. However, the State also has a responsibility to maintain public order and protect life and property. Balancing these objectives requires constitutional safeguards.

Constitutional Framework

1. Freedom of Expression: Article 19(1)(a) protects citizens' right to express opinions and dissent.

2. Right to Assembly: Article 19(1)(b) guarantees peaceful assembly without arms, subject to reasonable restrictions in the interests of public order and sovereignty and integrity of India.

3. State Responsibility: Security forces may be deployed to prevent violence, protect public property and maintain law and order.

4. Judicial Oversight: Courts can examine whether restrictions and security measures are lawful, necessary and proportionate.

Way Forward

Authorities should adopt risk-based deployment, clear operational protocols, minimum necessary force and accountability mechanisms. Dialogue with protest organisers and protection of peaceful demonstrators should remain priorities.

Conclusion

Public order and democratic dissent are not mutually exclusive. Proportionate security measures and constitutional accountability are essential to protect both.

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