Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional balance between freedom of religion and the right to livelihood in the context of restrictions on commercial activities near religious places.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Freedom of religion; Article 25; right to occupation; Article 19(1)(g); reasonable restrictions; livelihood; judicial review; proportionality

Model Answer

Introduction

Restrictions on commercial activities near religious places raise questions about balancing religious freedom, cultural sensitivities and the livelihood rights of individuals.

Constitutional Dimensions

1. Freedom of Religion: Article 25 protects freedom of conscience and religious practice, subject to public order, morality, health and other constitutional provisions.

2. Right to Livelihood and Occupation: Article 19(1)(g) guarantees citizens the freedom to practise any profession or carry on a trade or business. Reasonable restrictions may be imposed under Article 19(6).

3. Judicial Review: Courts examine whether restrictions have a legitimate objective, a constitutional basis and are proportionate. They must consider their impact on affected communities, including small vendors.

Way Forward

Authorities should establish clear legal grounds for restrictions, consult affected stakeholders and consider alternatives such as designated vending zones, transparent licensing and regulated food markets.

Conclusion

Constitutional governance requires protecting religious freedoms while ensuring that restrictions on economic activity remain lawful, reasonable and proportionate.

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