Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the constitutional framework governing freedom of peaceful assembly in India. How should public authorities balance individual liberties with public order and lawful restrictions?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 19(1)(b); peaceful assembly; reasonable restrictions; Article 19(3); public order; constitutional liberties; judicial oversight; proportionality; lawful administration

Model Answer

Introduction

The right to peaceful assembly is an important democratic freedom that enables citizens to express grievances, participate in public debate and hold authorities accountable. In India, this right is constitutionally protected but subject to reasonable restrictions.

Constitutional Framework

Article 19(1)(b) guarantees citizens the right to assemble peaceably and without arms. Under Article 19(3), the State may impose reasonable restrictions in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India and public order. Such restrictions must have a lawful basis and should not arbitrarily suppress peaceful dissent.

Balancing Liberty and Public Order

Public authorities must assess the nature, scale and likely consequences of a demonstration. Restrictions should be proportionate to legitimate public-order concerns, while preserving opportunities for peaceful expression. Clear procedures, transparent decisions and judicial review can help prevent misuse of administrative powers.

Way Forward

Authorities should facilitate peaceful demonstrations through dialogue, designated arrangements where appropriate and consistent enforcement of the law. Restrictions should be evidence-based, non-arbitrary and subject to constitutional scrutiny.

Conclusion

A democratic state must protect peaceful assembly while maintaining public order. A proportionate and lawful approach strengthens both civil liberties and public confidence in institutions.

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