Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional protection available to peaceful protesters in India. How can the State balance public order with the protection of students' democratic rights and future prospects?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 05/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(1)(b), reasonable restrictions, peaceful assembly, public order, proportionality, police accountability, due process, student rights, protection against arbitrary criminal proceedings.

Model Answer

Introduction

Peaceful protest is an important instrument of democratic participation. The Constitution protects citizens' freedom of expression and peaceful assembly while permitting reasonable restrictions in specified circumstances.

Constitutional Protection

Article 19(1)(a) guarantees freedom of speech and expression, while Article 19(1)(b) protects the right to assemble peaceably and without arms. These rights are subject to reasonable restrictions under Articles 19(2) and 19(3), respectively.

Balancing Public Order and Civil Liberties

Authorities must maintain public order while ensuring that police action remains lawful, necessary and proportionate. Allegations of excessive force should be investigated impartially through appropriate mechanisms. Criminal proceedings must follow due process, and innocent students should not face arbitrary action that unfairly damages their educational and professional prospects.

Way Forward

Clear protest-management protocols, police sensitisation, independent inquiries and transparent grievance redressal can strengthen public trust.

Conclusion

A democratic State must protect peaceful dissent alongside public order. Accountability and constitutional safeguards are essential to achieving this balance.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP