Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional challenges involved in balancing counter-extremism measures with freedom of speech and expression in a democratic society.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 10/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(2), reasonable restrictions, national security, ideological dissent, rule of law, due process, democratic accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Democratic governance requires protecting national security while safeguarding freedom of speech and expression. Political discourse around ideological extremism highlights the importance of maintaining this constitutional balance.

Constitutional Framework

Article 19(1)(a) guarantees citizens freedom of speech and expression. However, Article 19(2) permits reasonable restrictions on specified grounds, including public order, security of the State and sovereignty and integrity of India.

Challenges in Balancing Rights and Security

- **Defining extremism:** Broad or ambiguous labels may blur the distinction between unlawful activities and legitimate ideological disagreement.
- **Protecting dissent:** Peaceful criticism of government policies is an essential feature of democracy.

- **Preventing radicalisation:** Lawful action against violence, incitement and organised unlawful activities remains necessary.
- **Ensuring accountability:** Restrictions must satisfy constitutional standards, proportionality and due process.

Conclusion

Counter-extremism efforts must target unlawful conduct rather than suppress legitimate dissent. An independent judiciary, transparent enforcement and protection of civil liberties strengthen both national security and democratic institutions.

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