India post independence · GS - II

Examine how major controversies and crises in post-independence India, such as the Emergency, the 1984 anti-Sikh violence and the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, shaped debates on democratic accountability, state responsibility and institutional governance.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 11/11/2026	GS - II	India post independence

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Democratic accountability, constitutional safeguards, civil liberties, communal violence, rule of law, corporate liability, environmental justice, institutional failure, judicial accountability, public trust, governance reforms.

Model Answer

Introduction

Post-independence India has witnessed political and administrative crises that exposed weaknesses in democratic institutions, public accountability and regulatory governance. These experiences have influenced constitutional and institutional reforms.

Major Governance Lessons

- **Emergency (1975–77):** Suspension of civil liberties highlighted the importance of constitutional safeguards, judicial independence and parliamentary oversight. The 44th Constitutional Amendment strengthened protections against arbitrary emergency provisions.

- **1984 anti-Sikh violence:** The violence exposed failures in protecting vulnerable communities and ensuring accountability. It reinforced the need for impartial policing, effective prosecution and communal harmony.
- **Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984):** The industrial disaster revealed weaknesses in corporate accountability, industrial safety regulation, environmental protection and disaster response.

Institutional Reforms Required

Independent oversight institutions, transparent administration, stronger regulatory enforcement and accessible justice mechanisms are essential. Accountability must extend to public authorities and private corporations alike. Historical scrutiny should also be based on credible evidence and institutional records.

Conclusion

These crises demonstrate that democratic legitimacy depends not merely on constitutional institutions but on their effective functioning. Protecting rights, enforcing accountability and strengthening public institutions remain essential for good governance.

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