Polity & Governance · GS - II

Restrictions on media and cultural expression under authoritarian regimes raise important concerns regarding human rights and freedom of expression. Examine the role of international human rights frameworks in addressing such restrictions.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 15/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Freedom of expression, media freedom, UDHR Article 19, ICCPR Article 19, cultural rights, permissible restrictions, authoritarian governance, international accountability, digital media, human rights protection.

Model Answer

Introduction

Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right and an essential component of democratic society. Restrictions on media, including cultural and sporting broadcasts, raise concerns about access to information and individual freedoms.

International Human Rights Framework

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognises freedom of opinion and expression. Similarly, Article 19 of the ICCPR protects the freedom to seek, receive and impart information. However, restrictions are permitted under specified legal conditions to protect legitimate interests such as national security and public order.

Challenges

Authoritarian restrictions may limit independent media, cultural participation and public debate. Weak accountability mechanisms and limited access to independent information can further undermine human rights protection.

Way Forward

International organisations should strengthen monitoring, promote independent journalism and encourage compliance with human rights obligations. Digital access, media literacy and protection of cultural expression are equally important.

Conclusion

Protecting media freedom requires balancing legitimate public interests with fundamental rights, transparency and accountability.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP