Polity & Governance · GS - II

Security operations in places of worship present a complex challenge of balancing national security, religious freedom and public order. Examine the constitutional and administrative safeguards required to address such situations in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 18/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Article 25, Article 26, freedom of religion, public order, secularism, proportionality, civilian protection, religious sensitivity, operational accountability, community trust.

Model Answer

Introduction

Counter-terrorism operations in places of worship require exceptional sensitivity because they involve both security concerns and constitutionally protected religious freedoms. The Indian Constitution seeks to balance individual rights with public order and national security.

Constitutional Framework

- **Article 25:** Guarantees freedom of conscience and the right to profess, practise and propagate religion, subject to public order, morality, health and other fundamental rights.
- **Article 26:** Protects the rights of religious denominations to manage religious affairs, subject to constitutional limitations.
- **Secularism:** Requires the State to treat religions impartially while maintaining public order and constitutional governance.

Essential Safeguards During Security Operations

1. **Proportionality:** Use only legally authorised and necessary force, considering the threat and potential civilian harm.
2. **Civilian protection:** Identify and safeguard worshippers, local residents and other vulnerable persons.
3. **Negotiation:** Where feasible, provide opportunities for surrender and peaceful resolution.
4. **Religious sensitivity:** Coordinate with appropriate community representatives without compromising operational security.
5. **Accountability:** Maintain operational records and ensure investigation of alleged violations.

Administrative Measures

Specialised training, intelligence coordination, clear standard operating procedures and community engagement can improve operational effectiveness while reducing social tensions.

Conclusion

Religious freedom and national security are not inherently contradictory. A constitutionally compliant, proportionate and accountable approach can protect both public safety and India's secular democratic framework.

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