Polity & Governance · GS - II

“A Constitution becomes meaningful when its values are reflected in the everyday conduct of citizens and public institutions.” Analyse this statement in the context of constitutional morality in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 26/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

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Answer Hint

Constitutional morality, Preamble, fundamental rights and duties, civic responsibility, institutional accountability, constitutional culture

Model Answer

Beyond constitutional institutions

A Constitution is not merely a legal document governing Parliament, courts and government. Its effectiveness depends on whether its principles shape social relationships, public administration and citizens' everyday behaviour.

1. Constitutional morality as a guiding principle

Constitutional morality means commitment to the Constitution's underlying values, including justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, dignity and secularism. It requires respect for constitutional methods and institutional boundaries, even when popular opinion favours otherwise.

2. Its relevance in everyday life

1. **Social relations:** Rejecting caste discrimination, untouchability, gender-based exclusion and religious intolerance translates equality and fraternity into practice.

2. **Public institutions:** Officials must exercise authority impartially, respect due process and protect citizens' rights.
3. **Democratic participation:** Citizens should engage in informed debate, respect dissent and resolve disagreements through constitutional means.
4. **Civic responsibility:** Fundamental Duties under Article 51A encourage respect for the Constitution, national unity, public property and scientific temper.

3. Bridging the implementation gap

Constitutional awareness remains uneven, while social prejudice, misinformation, discriminatory practices and weak institutional accountability can undermine constitutional ideals. Civic education, accessible legal remedies, transparent administration and inclusive public participation are therefore essential.

Conclusion

Constitutional morality must become a lived civic culture rather than remain confined to legal institutions. Its strength lies in the continuous interaction between rights, duties, institutional restraint and mutual respect among citizens.

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