International Relations · GS - II

“Balancing national sovereignty with international human rights concerns remains a major challenge in contemporary international relations.” Discuss with reference to India's response to foreign criticism of the NRC in Assam and the situation in Kashmir.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

National sovereignty, non-interference, NRC Assam, Kashmir, human rights, international law, bilateral relations, democratic accountability, constitutional safeguards, diplomatic engagement.

Model Answer

Introduction

National sovereignty gives states authority over their internal affairs, while international human rights frameworks encourage the protection of fundamental freedoms. India's response to US Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal's criticism of the NRC in Assam and the situation in Kashmir highlights the tension between these principles.

Main Body

India's position

1. Sovereignty: India maintains that citizenship and internal governance are matters for its constitutional and legal institutions.

2. Judicial oversight: The Assam NRC update was conducted under the Supreme Court's supervision.
3. Diplomatic concerns: India has opposed foreign commentary that it considers interference in domestic affairs.

Balancing sovereignty and human rights

1. International obligations: Sovereignty does not exempt states from applicable international human rights obligations.
2. Democratic accountability: Transparent procedures, judicial remedies and due process are important in citizenship and security matters.
3. Constructive engagement: Dialogue and evidence-based discussion can address international concerns without undermining diplomatic relations.

Conclusion

National sovereignty and human rights protection need not be mutually exclusive. India can safeguard its constitutional autonomy while ensuring due process, fundamental rights and constructive engagement with international institutions and other countries.

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