Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the role of the Central Government in addressing law-and-order concerns in states. How can Centre–State cooperation strengthen internal security while respecting the federal structure?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 17/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Centre–State Relations, Public Order, State List, Article 355, Internal Security, Police Administration, Cooperative Federalism, Constitutional Responsibilities, Intelligence Sharing, Intergovernmental Coordination.

Model Answer

Introduction

Law and order is primarily a state responsibility under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution. However, serious security concerns may require coordination between the Central and State Governments.

Main Body

Role of the Central Government

1. Constitutional responsibility: Article 355 requires the Union to protect states against external aggression and internal disturbance and ensure that state governments function in accordance with the Constitution.
2. Security coordination: The Centre can facilitate intelligence sharing, provide assistance through central agencies and support states in addressing serious security threats.

3. Seeking reports: The Union may seek information from states to assess significant security and governance concerns.

Importance of Centre–State cooperation

1. Effective policing: Coordination improves crime prevention and responses to security threats.
2. Information sharing: Timely exchange of intelligence helps prevent organised crime and security breaches.
3. Federal balance: Political differences should not obstruct public safety, and central intervention must remain within constitutional and legal limits.

Conclusion

Effective law and order requires capable state police forces, accountable governance and constructive Centre–State cooperation. A balanced approach can strengthen internal security while preserving India's federal principles.

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