Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the importance of protecting religious minorities and preventing hate crimes in a constitutional democracy. Examine the role of law enforcement, civil society and international cooperation in addressing such threats.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Religious freedom, equality before law, Article 25, minority rights, hate-crime legislation, police accountability, community engagement, interfaith dialogue, international cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

The reported foiled plot to attack a Hindu temple in Illinois highlights the importance of protecting religious communities from targeted violence. Hate crimes threaten individual security, religious freedom and social cohesion.

Constitutional and Legal Framework

- **India:** Articles 14 and 15 uphold equality and prohibit specified forms of discrimination, while Article 25 protects freedom of conscience and religion, subject to constitutional limitations.
- **United States:** The First Amendment protects religious exercise, while federal and state laws provide mechanisms to prosecute qualifying hate crimes.

- **International framework:** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ICCPR recognise freedom of religion and equality.

Role of Institutions

1. **Law enforcement:** Investigate credible threats, protect vulnerable institutions and ensure impartial prosecution.
2. **Judiciary:** Safeguard due process, equality and access to justice.
3. **Civil society:** Promote interfaith dialogue, counter stereotypes and support victims.
4. **International cooperation:** Facilitate information-sharing and cooperation against transnational extremist networks where relevant.

Way Forward

Governments should improve threat assessment, strengthen community policing, encourage responsible public communication and ensure that security measures respect civil liberties.

Conclusion

Protecting religious minorities requires effective law enforcement alongside constitutional safeguards, social trust and respect for diversity. Zero tolerance for violence must be accompanied by fairness, accountability and due process.

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