Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the challenges of balancing the right to peaceful protest with public order in India. Suggest measures to protect civil liberties while maintaining law and order.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Fundamental Rights, Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(1)(b), Article 19(2), Article 19(3), Article 21, peaceful assembly, arbitrary detention, internet shutdowns, police accountability, judicial oversight, proportionality, democratic dissent.

Model Answer

Introduction

Peaceful protests are an essential feature of democracy, enabling citizens to express dissent and hold the government accountable. However, restrictions on protests and alleged excessive use of force raise concerns about the protection of civil liberties in India.

Main Body

Constitutional and Governance Challenges

1. Fundamental Rights: Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(b) protect freedom of speech and the right to assemble peacefully without arms, subject to reasonable restrictions.
2. Public Order: Authorities may regulate demonstrations to prevent violence and maintain public safety, but restrictions must be lawful, necessary and proportionate.
3. Arbitrary Detention: Unjustified arrests can undermine personal liberty and the rule of law.
4. Internet Shutdowns: Broad or prolonged restrictions can affect communication, education, livelihoods and access to information.
5. Police Accountability: Excessive force against peaceful demonstrators can weaken public trust in institutions.

Way Forward

Authorities should prioritise dialogue, transparent arrest procedures, judicial oversight and proportionate crowd management. Internet restrictions must satisfy legal requirements and be narrowly tailored. Independent investigations should address allegations of misconduct.

Conclusion

A strong democracy protects peaceful dissent while maintaining public order through constitutional means. Balancing security with civil liberties strengthens public trust, institutional accountability and democratic governance.

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