Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the challenges of maintaining secularism and preventing the politicisation of religious and cultural festivals in India.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Indian Secularism, Constitutional Values, Articles 25–28, Freedom of Expression, Religious Freedom, Political Mobilisation, Cultural Diversity, Communal Harmony.

Model Answer

Introduction

India’s religious and cultural festivals promote community participation, social harmony and cultural identity. However, their association with political activities can raise questions about secularism and the appropriate relationship between religion and politics.

Main Body

Key Challenges

1. Politicisation of festivals: Political parties may use public celebrations to promote ideologies, attract supporters or influence public opinion.

2. Freedom of expression: Activities such as book displays and discussions may represent legitimate political and cultural expression.
3. Secular governance: Political involvement in religious events can create concerns about equal treatment of different communities.
4. Social harmony: Political disagreements during festivals may increase tensions and weaken their inclusive character.

Way Forward

Authorities should apply rules impartially, protect freedom of expression and ensure that public spaces remain accessible to different groups. Political parties should exercise restraint and avoid activities that encourage religious polarisation. Community organisations can promote inclusive celebrations through dialogue and cultural programmes.

Conclusion

India’s secular framework requires both religious freedom and equal treatment of citizens. Balancing freedom of expression with social harmony can help preserve festivals as inclusive spaces while strengthening democratic and constitutional values.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP