International Relations · GS - II

Discuss the role of parliamentary diplomacy and international human rights mechanisms in addressing the alleged persecution of religious minorities in neighbouring countries.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 29/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Religious freedom; parliamentary diplomacy; universal human rights; minority protection; refugee safeguards; humanitarian assistance; sovereignty and bilateral relations

Model Answer

Introduction

Reports alleging persecution of religious minorities in neighbouring countries raise concerns about religious freedom, equality and human dignity. Parliamentary groups and civil society organisations can help bring such issues to the attention of governments and international institutions.

Role of Parliamentary Diplomacy

1. Raising awareness: Parliamentary groups can scrutinise human rights concerns, organise discussions and encourage governments to seek credible information.

2. Policy engagement: Governments may consider diplomatic representations, targeted assistance and human rights conditions in aid programmes, while assessing their legal and humanitarian implications.

3. International cooperation: Engagement with the United Nations and human rights bodies can support monitoring, dialogue and protection of vulnerable communities.

Legal and Humanitarian Framework

Article 18 of the UDHR and ICCPR protects freedom of religion. Refugee protection mechanisms may provide safeguards to individuals facing persecution, subject to applicable legal criteria.

Challenges

Reliable verification of allegations, geopolitical sensitivities, access restrictions and the risk of politicising minority rights complicate responses. Broad aid restrictions may also adversely affect vulnerable populations.

Way Forward

Independent documentation, transparent socio-economic monitoring, targeted diplomatic engagement and accessible asylum procedures should be prioritised. Measures must distinguish verified findings from allegations and protect affected communities.

Conclusion

Parliamentary diplomacy can advance minority protection when grounded in credible evidence, universal human rights standards and constructive international cooperation.

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