Modern History · GS - I

Examine the significance of justice, accountability and reconciliation in addressing episodes of communal violence in India, with reference to the anti-Sikh violence of 1984.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - I	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

1984 anti-Sikh violence; communal harmony; rule of law; accountability; victims' rehabilitation; institutional responsibility; reconciliation

Model Answer

Introduction

The anti-Sikh violence of 1984 remains a painful episode in India's post-independence history. It highlights the importance of protecting citizens, ensuring accountability and restoring public confidence after communal violence.

Significance of Justice and Accountability

1. Rule of Law

Investigations and prosecutions must be based on evidence and conducted impartially. Constitutional protections, including equality before the law under Article 14 and the right to life under Article 21, apply irrespective of religious identity.

2. Victim-Centred Justice

Victims and survivors require access to timely legal remedies, rehabilitation, compensation where legally warranted and protection against intimidation.

3. Institutional Responsibility

Effective policing, prompt administrative action and accountability for failures are essential to prevent violence and ensure that public institutions serve all citizens equally.

4. Reconciliation and Social Trust

Acknowledgement of historical suffering, responsible political communication and community dialogue can contribute to reconciliation. However, reconciliation should not substitute for justice.

Way Forward

Transparent proceedings, preservation of evidence, victim support and impartial enforcement of the law can strengthen confidence in institutions.

Conclusion

Addressing communal violence requires a combination of justice, accountability and reconciliation to uphold constitutional values and social harmony.

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