Polity & Governance · GS - II

Constitutional democracy requires not merely the existence of constitutional safeguards but their effective protection in political and social practice. Evaluate this statement in the Indian context.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 26/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Constitutional supremacy, constitutional morality, separation of powers, fundamental rights, institutional independence, social justice, democratic accountability

Model Answer

Constitutional safeguards: Beyond the written text

The Indian Constitution establishes a framework of democratic governance based on justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. However, constitutional democracy depends not only on written provisions but also on their consistent implementation by institutions and citizens.

Institutional foundations of constitutional protection

1. **Judicial review:** The Supreme Court and High Courts protect fundamental rights and examine the constitutional validity of state action under Articles 13, 32 and 226.

2. **Separation of powers:** Legislative, executive and judicial functions are distributed to prevent excessive concentration of authority and strengthen institutional accountability.

3. **Independent institutions:** The Election Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General and other constitutional bodies support transparency, electoral integrity and accountability.

4. **Fundamental rights:** Articles 14, 15, 17, 19 and 21 protect equality, dignity, freedom and safeguards against discrimination.

The implementation gap

1. Social discrimination, caste-based exclusion and economic inequality can prevent vulnerable communities from exercising constitutional rights meaningfully.
2. Institutional delays, inadequate accountability and restrictions on civil liberties can weaken public confidence in democratic processes.
3. Majoritarian pressures may create tensions between electoral mandates and constitutional limitations.

Making constitutional values effective

The protection of the Constitution requires independent institutions, accessible justice, transparent governance, civic education and meaningful political participation. Special attention must be given to the effective implementation of safeguards for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women and other disadvantaged groups.

Ultimately, constitutional democracy survives through a continuing commitment to constitutional morality, institutional restraint and equal citizenship—not merely through the formal existence of constitutional provisions.

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