Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine how economic inequality and the rising cost of living can trigger mass protests in democratic societies. Discuss the importance of evidence-based political communication in addressing public grievances.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Purchasing power, fuel prices, inflation, economic inequality, taxation, social movements, public trust, political polarisation, misinformation, inclusive policymaking, democratic accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Mass protests often emerge when citizens perceive that economic policies disproportionately burden particular groups or fail to address their everyday concerns. The 2018 Yellow Vest protests in France illustrate how fuel costs and living expenses can become wider political issues.

Factors Behind Economic Protests

- **Cost-of-living pressures:** Rising prices reduce household purchasing power, particularly among lower- and middle-income groups.
- **Perceived inequality:** Citizens may view taxation and public spending policies as unfairly distributed.
- **Regional disparities:** Communities with limited public transport or employment opportunities may experience economic policies differently.

- **Declining trust:** Perceptions of inadequate consultation can intensify public dissatisfaction.

Importance of Responsible Political Communication

Political leaders should distinguish verified evidence from political interpretation. Oversimplifying complex protests or attributing them to a single cause can obscure genuine grievances and deepen social divisions.

Way Forward

Governments should consult affected communities, assess the distributional impact of policies, provide targeted support where necessary and maintain transparent communication. Independent media and reliable public data can improve accountability.

Conclusion

Democratic stability depends not on suppressing legitimate dissent, but on addressing its underlying causes through inclusive policymaking, credible communication and institutional accountability.

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