Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the role of public protests in strengthening democratic accountability. How can governments balance the right to peaceful protest with the need to maintain public order?

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Right to peaceful assembly, freedom of expression, democratic accountability, public participation, French Revolution, civil liberties, public order, proportional restrictions, dialogue, rule of law.

Model Answer

1. Introduction

Public protests are an important means through which citizens express grievances, demand accountability and influence public policy. France’s history, from the 1789 Revolution to contemporary demonstrations, illustrates the political significance of collective action.

2. Main Body

Role of protests in democracy

1. Provide citizens with a platform to express dissent and raise public concerns.
2. Hold governments accountable and encourage policy reforms.
3. Increase public participation and bring neglected social issues into political debate.

Challenges

1. Violent incidents can threaten public safety and damage property.
2. Excessive restrictions may undermine civil liberties and democratic participation.
3. Prolonged unrest can disrupt essential services and economic activity.

Way forward

1. Protect peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.
2. Use proportionate, lawful restrictions when genuinely necessary.
3. Encourage dialogue between governments, protesters and civil society.
4. Ensure impartial policing and accountability for excessive use of force.

3. Conclusion

Peaceful protest is a vital democratic instrument. Governments should protect citizens' rights while maintaining public order through dialogue, the rule of law and proportionate action.

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