Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the importance of protecting religious minorities and promoting cultural inclusiveness in strengthening democratic governance and social harmony in South Asia.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Religious freedom, minority rights, constitutional safeguards, secularism, equal citizenship, cultural diversity, political representation, communal harmony, rule of law.

Model Answer

Introduction

South Asia is characterised by considerable religious, linguistic and cultural diversity. Protecting minority rights and ensuring equal citizenship are essential for social stability, democratic legitimacy and peaceful coexistence.

Importance of Cultural Inclusiveness

1. **Constitutional values:** Freedom of religion and equality before the law protect individuals against discrimination and arbitrary treatment.

2. **Social harmony:** Respect for festivals, traditions and cultural practices can foster mutual understanding and strengthen community relationships.

3. **Inclusive governance:** Minority participation in public institutions and political processes helps ensure that diverse concerns receive attention.

4. **Regional stability:** Protection of minority communities can strengthen social trust and contribute to peaceful relations between neighbouring countries.

Challenges and Way Forward

Communal polarisation, discrimination, misinformation and inadequate law enforcement can undermine minority security. Governments should enforce anti-discrimination protections, investigate violence impartially, promote interfaith dialogue and strengthen civic education. Political leaders should encourage peaceful coexistence through inclusive public engagement.

Conclusion

Cultural diversity is compatible with democratic unity when every citizen enjoys equal protection and dignity. Constitutional safeguards, accountable institutions and sustained community dialogue are vital for lasting social harmony.

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