Polity & Governance · GS - II

How should the State balance the fundamental right to peaceful assembly with public-order requirements when regulating religious and cultural processions?

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 19(1)(b), Article 19(3), reasonable restrictions, public order, religious freedom, police discretion, secularism, non-discrimination, proportionality, rule of law.

Model Answer

Introduction

Religious and cultural processions are important forms of public expression in India. Their regulation requires balancing fundamental rights with the State's responsibility to maintain public order and protect citizens.

Constitutional Framework

Article 19(1)(b) guarantees citizens the right to assemble peacefully and without arms, while Article 19(3) permits reasonable restrictions in the interests of public order and India's sovereignty and integrity. Article 25 protects freedom of conscience and religion, subject to constitutional limitations.

Role of State Authorities

Police authorities may prescribe routes, timings, safety conditions and crowd-management measures. Decisions should be based on objective assessments of risk, not political affiliations or religious identity. Restrictions must be lawful, proportionate and non-discriminatory.

Challenges and Way Forward

Political disputes surrounding processions can increase tensions and undermine public confidence. Authorities should publish clear permission criteria, communicate conditions in advance and consult organisers and affected communities. Any alleged violation should be addressed through lawful procedures.

Conclusion

A democratic state must protect peaceful assembly while preventing violence. Transparent, impartial and proportionate regulation strengthens both constitutional freedoms and public order.

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