International Relations · GS - II

Examine the challenges in ensuring humanitarian access to civilians during armed conflicts. Discuss the role of international humanitarian law and multilateral institutions in addressing these challenges.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 11/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Humanitarian access, civilian protection, international humanitarian law, Geneva Conventions, humanitarian principles, aid diversion, military restrictions, UN agencies, accountability, conflict resolution.

Model Answer

Introduction

Armed conflicts frequently disrupt access to food, healthcare, shelter and essential supplies. Ensuring humanitarian assistance to civilians is therefore a central obligation under international humanitarian law.

Major Challenges

- **Access restrictions:** Blockades, border closures and security restrictions can obstruct the movement of essential relief supplies.
- **Aid diversion:** Armed groups may divert humanitarian assistance, weakening civilian relief operations.

- **Infrastructure destruction:** Damage to hospitals, roads, water systems and electricity networks intensifies humanitarian suffering.
- **Political disagreements:** Conflicting narratives and limited trust between parties complicate relief coordination.

Role of International Institutions

The Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols establish protections for civilians and regulate humanitarian relief. The United Nations, ICRC and humanitarian agencies facilitate assistance, monitor violations and coordinate emergency responses. International accountability mechanisms can address serious violations.

Conclusion

Humanitarian access must remain guided by civilian protection, impartiality and international law. Effective monitoring, diplomatic engagement and accountability are essential to ensuring that assistance reaches people in need.

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