International Relations · GS - II

Examine the role of third-party mediation and confidence-building measures in resolving protracted international conflicts. How can humanitarian agreements contribute to the creation of conditions for a sustainable ceasefire?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 12/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Third-party mediation, diplomatic negotiations, confidence-building measures, prisoner exchanges, humanitarian diplomacy, ceasefire mechanisms, energy security, verification, sovereignty concerns, sustainable peace.

Model Answer

Introduction

Protracted conflicts involve complex political, territorial and security concerns. Third-party mediation and confidence-building measures can create opportunities for dialogue and gradual de-escalation.

Role of Mediation and Confidence-Building

- **Diplomatic facilitation:** Third parties provide negotiation platforms and help bridge differences between conflicting parties.
- **Humanitarian agreements:** Prisoner exchanges and humanitarian access arrangements can build trust without requiring immediate political concessions.

- **De-escalation:** Limited ceasefires, including agreements concerning energy infrastructure, can reduce civilian suffering and military tensions.
- **Verification mechanisms:** Independent monitoring and clear reporting procedures improve compliance and reduce mistrust.

Challenges

Deep-rooted territorial disputes, competing security interests, domestic political pressures and violations of negotiated commitments can undermine diplomatic progress. External mediators may also face limitations in enforcing agreements.

Way Forward

Negotiations should combine humanitarian commitments with credible security guarantees, monitoring arrangements and sustained diplomatic engagement. Political settlements must respect international law and address legitimate security concerns.

Conclusion

Humanitarian agreements cannot independently resolve geopolitical conflicts, but they can create the trust and diplomatic space necessary for a durable political settlement.

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