International Relations · GS - II

Examine the challenges in ensuring the protection of children and other civilians in situations of military occupation. Discuss the role of international humanitarian law and international institutions in addressing violations of civilian rights.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Military occupation, civilian protection, children in armed conflict, Fourth Geneva Convention, Convention on the Rights of the Child, principle of distinction, proportionality, accountability, international institutions, humanitarian access.

Model Answer

Introduction

Armed conflicts and military occupations expose civilians, particularly children, to violence, displacement and deprivation. Their protection is a fundamental obligation under international humanitarian law.

Major Challenges

- **Civilian casualties:** Military operations in populated areas increase risks to non-combatants.
- **Child vulnerability:** Children face physical injuries, psychological trauma, displacement and disruption of education.

- **Humanitarian restrictions:** Limited access to healthcare, food and essential services intensifies civilian suffering.
- **Accountability deficits:** Political divisions and difficulties in collecting evidence can obstruct investigations.

Role of International Law and Institutions

The Fourth Geneva Convention establishes protections for civilians in occupied territories. Additional Protocol I reinforces the principles of distinction and proportionality. The Convention on the Rights of the Child provides specific safeguards for children. The UN, UNICEF and ICRC contribute through humanitarian assistance, monitoring and advocacy.

Way Forward

Independent investigations, humanitarian access, protection of essential infrastructure and accountability for violations must be strengthened.

Conclusion

Protection of civilians must remain central to conflict management. Respect for international humanitarian law and effective international cooperation are essential for safeguarding human dignity.

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