International Relations · GS - II

Examine the role of intelligence diplomacy and economic sanctions as instruments of statecraft. How do they compare with military intervention in managing regional security crises?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 13/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Intelligence cooperation, strategic communication, economic coercion, targeted sanctions, sovereignty, international law, military escalation, regional alliances, diplomatic negotiations.

Model Answer

Introduction

States employ diplomatic, economic and intelligence instruments to protect national interests and manage security threats. Their effectiveness depends on strategic objectives, international legitimacy and the possibility of escalation.

Intelligence Diplomacy

Intelligence cooperation enables governments to exchange information, assess threats and coordinate responses to terrorism, proliferation and regional instability. It can facilitate diplomatic engagement without requiring direct military involvement.

Economic Sanctions

Sanctions restrict financial transactions, trade and access to strategic technologies. Targeted sanctions can pressure specific individuals or institutions while limiting broader humanitarian consequences. However, unilateral measures may face legal and diplomatic objections and can encourage economic realignment.

Comparison with Military Intervention

Military intervention may rapidly alter the security environment but carries substantial risks, including civilian casualties, regional escalation and prolonged instability. Diplomatic and economic instruments offer alternatives, although their outcomes may be slower and uncertain.

Conclusion

A sustainable security strategy requires calibrated intelligence cooperation, lawful economic measures and diplomatic engagement. Military force should remain constrained by international law and the principles of necessity and proportionality.