Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

“It is not enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it; and it is not enough to believe in it, one must act upon it.” In the present context, the major weapon industries of the developed nations are adversely influencing continuation of number of wars for their own self-interest, all around the world. What are the ethical considerations of the powerful nations in today's international arena to stop continuation of ongoing conflicts?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2024	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Peace, ethical responsibility, arms industry, powerful nations, civilian protection, humanitarianism, non-intervention, international law, diplomacy, global justice

Model Answer

Introduction

Power in international relations creates corresponding ethical responsibilities. Powerful nations possess greater capacity to influence conflicts and therefore have a moral obligation to prevent avoidable human suffering.

Body

Ethical Considerations

Primacy of human life: Protection of civilians and prevention of humanitarian catastrophe should take precedence over narrow strategic or commercial interests.

Non-commercialisation of suffering: Arms transfers should not be driven solely by economic gains when they prolong conflicts or intensify civilian casualties.

Respect for international law: Powerful states should uphold the UN Charter, international humanitarian law and principles governing legitimate use of force.

Impartiality and justice: Diplomatic engagement should not selectively defend principles according to geopolitical convenience.

Responsibility to prevent escalation: Major powers should facilitate negotiations, ceasefires, humanitarian corridors and peaceful dispute resolution.

Accountability: Arms-export decisions should involve rigorous assessment of their likely consequences and mechanisms to prevent diversion or misuse.

Long-term peacebuilding: Assistance should address underlying causes such as poverty, exclusion and political grievances rather than merely treating military symptoms.

Conclusion

The ethical test of great powers lies not merely in their ability to win wars but in their willingness to prevent unnecessary suffering. **Peace-oriented diplomacy, responsible arms policies and respect for human dignity** should guide international conduct.