Current Affairs · GS - II

Examine the role of the International Criminal Court in ensuring international accountability. Discuss the challenges posed by sanctions and limited state cooperation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 17/10/2026	GS - II	Current Affairs

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

ICC, Rome Statute, international justice, war crimes, state sovereignty, sanctions, enforcement challenges, international cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction:

The International Criminal Court (ICC), established under the Rome Statute, investigates and prosecutes individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

Role in International Justice:

The ICC promotes accountability when national authorities are unable or unwilling genuinely to investigate certain crimes within its jurisdiction. It provides victims with a platform for justice and may deter serious international crimes. Its work also reinforces the principle that individuals, including senior officials, may be held accountable under international law.

Challenges:

The ICC has no independent police force and depends on states to arrest suspects and enforce its decisions. Major powers' non-participation, political pressure, sanctions against court officials and selective cooperation can restrict its effectiveness. Critics also raise concerns about state sovereignty and the perceived unequal application of international justice.

Conclusion:

The ICC remains an important institution for international accountability, but its effectiveness depends on impartial proceedings, consistent state cooperation and respect for judicial independence. Strengthening international support is essential to uphold the rule of law.

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