International Relations · GS - II

Economic sanctions have become an important instrument of foreign policy in contemporary international relations. Discuss their effectiveness and limitations with reference to US–Russia relations.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 18/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Economic sanctions, foreign policy instruments, US–Russia relations, diplomatic negotiations, energy security, global supply chains, economic costs, international cooperation, unintended consequences, peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Model Answer

Introduction

Economic sanctions are measures imposed by countries or international organisations to influence the behaviour of another state without direct military intervention. They include trade restrictions, financial penalties and asset freezes.

Main Body

Effectiveness of Economic Sanctions

1. Political pressure: Sanctions can increase the economic and diplomatic costs of a country's actions.
2. Financial restrictions: Limits on banking and access to international financial systems can restrict economic activities.

3. Diplomatic leverage: Sanctions may encourage negotiations and provide bargaining power during diplomatic discussions.

Limitations

1. Limited effectiveness: Targeted countries may develop alternative trade routes and strengthen economic partnerships.
2. Global repercussions: Sanctions can affect energy prices, international trade and supply chains.
3. Risk of escalation: Prolonged sanctions may deepen geopolitical rivalries and reduce diplomatic trust.
4. In US–Russia relations, proposals to review sanctions legislation before implementation illustrate the importance of assessing economic consequences alongside diplomatic objectives.

Conclusion

Economic sanctions can support foreign policy objectives, but their success depends on clear goals, coordinated enforcement and diplomatic engagement. A balanced approach combining economic pressure with negotiations is essential for long-term stability.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP