International Relations · GS - II

Examine the role of international humanitarian law and international institutions in protecting civilians during armed conflicts. What challenges hinder accountability for alleged grave violations?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 26/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

International humanitarian law; Geneva Conventions; Genocide Convention; civilian protection; war crimes; accountability; International Criminal Court; United Nations; ceasefire monitoring

Model Answer

Introduction

Armed conflicts frequently expose civilians to displacement, killings, deprivation and other serious abuses. International humanitarian law establishes rules to limit the effects of hostilities and protect people who are not participating in combat.

Legal Framework

- **Geneva Conventions:** Establish protections for civilians, wounded persons and other protected groups during armed conflict.
- **Genocide Convention, 1948:** Requires states parties to prevent and punish genocide.
- **International Criminal Court (ICC):** Can prosecute individuals for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and, under specified conditions, aggression.
- **United Nations:** Supports humanitarian assistance, investigations, diplomacy and mechanisms for accountability.

Challenges to Accountability

1. Political divisions within international institutions can obstruct collective action.
2. Restricted access to conflict zones can complicate evidence collection.
3. Questions of jurisdiction, state cooperation and enforcement can delay investigations.
4. Ceasefires may reduce hostilities without resolving territorial disputes or ensuring accountability.

Way Forward

Independent investigations, protection of witnesses, humanitarian access, preservation of evidence and compliance with international law are essential. Allegations must be examined impartially against the applicable legal standards.

Conclusion

Sustainable peace requires more than a ceasefire. Civilian protection, credible accountability mechanisms and adherence to international law are essential for preventing further abuses and restoring public confidence.

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