International Relations · GS - II

Examine the humanitarian challenges associated with civilian displacement during armed conflicts. Suggest measures to strengthen civilian protection, with reference to the conflict in Ukraine.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

International humanitarian law; Geneva Conventions; internally displaced persons; civilian evacuations; humanitarian access; protection of children; ceasefires; international cooperation

Model Answer

Introduction

Armed conflicts expose civilians to attacks, destruction of infrastructure and shortages of essential services. Evacuations from vulnerable areas of Ukraine's Kherson region illustrate the importance of timely civilian protection.

Major Humanitarian Challenges

1. Threats to Civilian Life

Renewed hostilities can endanger residents, particularly children, older persons and people with disabilities. Damage to homes, hospitals and transport infrastructure further increases vulnerability.

2. Displacement and Essential Needs

Displaced families require safe accommodation, food, drinking water, healthcare, education and psychosocial support. Repeated displacement can disrupt livelihoods and family unity.

3. International Humanitarian Law

The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols establish protections for civilians. Parties must distinguish civilians from combatants, take precautions during attacks and facilitate humanitarian relief in accordance with applicable law.

Way Forward

Evacuations should be timely, voluntary where feasible, non-discriminatory and conducted through safe routes. Humanitarian agencies need secure access, adequate funding and mechanisms to protect children and reunite families. Ceasefires should be supported by clear arrangements and effective monitoring.

Conclusion

Civilian protection must remain central to conflict management. Compliance with international humanitarian law and coordinated humanitarian action can reduce suffering even when a comprehensive political settlement remains distant.

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