International Relations · GS - II

Examine the role of international courts and international humanitarian law in ensuring accountability for alleged violations during armed conflicts. Discuss the major challenges in enforcing international law.

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; Genocide Convention; ICJ jurisdiction; ICC prosecution; civilian protection; state cooperation; enforcement challenges

Model Answer

Introduction

International humanitarian law seeks to limit the suffering caused by armed conflicts by protecting civilians and restricting the means and methods of warfare. International courts provide mechanisms to determine state responsibility and individual criminal liability.

Role of International Courts

1. International Court of Justice: The ICJ adjudicates legal disputes between states, including disputes concerning the interpretation and application of international treaties. Its proceedings can address allegations of state responsibility.

2. International Criminal Court: The ICC prosecutes individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression, subject to its jurisdictional requirements.

3. Genocide Convention: The Convention requires states to prevent and punish genocide. Establishing genocide requires proof of specific intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a protected national, ethnical, racial or religious group.

Major Enforcement Challenges

International courts depend significantly on state cooperation for arrests, evidence collection and implementation of decisions. Political divisions, jurisdictional limitations and selective compliance can weaken enforcement.

Way Forward

States should cooperate with lawful investigations, protect civilians, preserve evidence and comply with binding legal obligations. Independent investigations and consistent application of international law are essential.

Conclusion

International justice strengthens accountability, but its effectiveness depends on impartial procedures, credible evidence and sustained cooperation by states.

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