International Relations · GS - II

Discuss the significance of humanitarian ceasefires in armed conflicts. Examine the role of international humanitarian law and diplomatic engagement in protecting civilians.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 04/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Civilian evacuation, humanitarian access, temporary cessation of hostilities, Geneva Conventions, principle of distinction, protection of civilians, diplomatic negotiations, monitoring and accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Humanitarian ceasefires are temporary arrangements intended to reduce civilian suffering during armed conflicts. They can facilitate evacuations, medical assistance and the delivery of essential supplies.

Significance of Humanitarian Ceasefires

Civilians in conflict zones face displacement, shortages of food and medicine, infrastructure damage and direct threats to life. Temporary pauses in fighting can create opportunities for safe evacuation, rescue operations and humanitarian relief. Their effectiveness depends on clear arrangements, coordination and compliance by the parties involved.

Role of International Humanitarian Law

The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols establish rules to protect people affected by armed conflict. The principle of distinction requires parties to distinguish civilians from combatants and civilian objects from military objectives. The principles of proportionality and precautions seek to limit civilian harm. Humanitarian ceasefires complement these obligations but do not replace them.

Role of Diplomacy and Challenges

Neutral intermediaries, international organisations and bilateral negotiations can help secure ceasefires. However, mistrust, violations, inadequate monitoring and disagreements over evacuation routes may undermine implementation. Independent monitoring and accountability are therefore important.

Conclusion

Humanitarian ceasefires can save lives when supported by credible diplomacy and compliance with international humanitarian law. Civilian protection must remain a priority throughout armed conflicts.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP