International Relations · GS - II

Discuss the legal and diplomatic challenges involved in the extradition of former heads of government. How can countries balance international cooperation with sovereignty, due process and human rights?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 09/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Legal frameworks and extradition treaties, dual criminality, sovereignty and diplomatic relations, due process, human rights safeguards, judicial scrutiny, bilateral cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Extradition is a legal process through which one country surrenders an individual to another for prosecution or punishment. Requests involving former heads of government often create complex legal and diplomatic challenges.

Legal and Diplomatic Challenges

Extradition depends on domestic laws, bilateral treaties and principles such as dual criminality. Political sensitivities, allegations of politically motivated prosecution and differences in judicial systems may complicate the process. Such cases can also affect bilateral relations and diplomatic cooperation.

Balancing Key Principles

- **Sovereignty:** The requested country must independently examine the request under its domestic legal framework.
- **Due process:** The individual must receive a fair hearing and access to legal remedies.
- **Human rights:** Authorities should consider risks of torture, persecution or unfair treatment.
- **Diplomatic cooperation:** Countries should use established legal and diplomatic channels rather than allowing political pressure to determine the outcome.

Conclusion

Extradition should be governed by law, procedural fairness and international obligations. A transparent process helps maintain both international cooperation and respect for national sovereignty.