International Relations · GS - II

Examine the challenges in achieving a durable peace settlement in the Russia–Ukraine conflict. How can multilateral diplomacy address the competing concerns of sovereignty, territorial integrity and regional security?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 13/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Sovereignty, territorial integrity, neutrality, security guarantees, UN Charter, great-power rivalry, European security architecture, mediation, sanctions, post-war reconstruction.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Russia–Ukraine conflict illustrates the difficulty of resolving contemporary interstate wars where territorial claims, national sovereignty and competing security interests intersect.

Major Challenges to a Peace Settlement

1. **Territorial disagreements:** Conflicting positions over occupied territories remain a fundamental obstacle to negotiations.

2. **Security arrangements:** Russia's demands regarding Ukraine's neutrality conflict with Ukraine's emphasis on sovereign freedom to determine its security partnerships.

3. **Trust deficit:** Continued military operations, civilian casualties and previous diplomatic failures undermine confidence in negotiated commitments.

4. **Great-power involvement:** The interests of the United States, European countries and other external actors complicate negotiations and influence the security environment.

5. **Enforcement mechanisms:** Any agreement requires credible monitoring, security guarantees and mechanisms to address violations.

Role of Multilateral Diplomacy

The UN framework, inclusive negotiations and impartial mediation can facilitate dialogue. European participation may help address regional security concerns. A durable settlement should respect international law, protect civilians and provide credible arrangements for reconstruction and implementation.

Conclusion

A sustainable peace cannot rest solely on temporary military arrangements. It requires a negotiated framework that reconciles sovereignty, territorial integrity and legitimate security concerns under international law.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP