International Relations · GS - II

Analyse the limitations of third-party mediation in protracted international conflicts. How can ceasefire monitoring and security guarantees contribute to a durable peace settlement?

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Mediator neutrality, strategic partnerships, geopolitical interests, conflict asymmetry, ceasefire verification, security guarantees, prisoner exchanges, territorial disputes, multilateral diplomacy.

Model Answer

Introduction

Third-party mediation is an important instrument of conflict resolution. However, geopolitical interests and strategic alignments can limit the credibility and effectiveness of mediators in prolonged conflicts.

Limitations of Mediation

A country maintaining close economic, military or diplomatic relations with one party may struggle to establish the perception of impartiality. Competing national interests, mistrust between belligerents and disagreements over territorial sovereignty further complicate negotiations.

Moreover, ceasefire agreements may remain fragile when parties lack confidence in one another's intentions or when underlying political disputes remain unresolved.

Building Durable Peace

A sustainable settlement requires clearly defined ceasefire conditions, independent monitoring and verification mechanisms, communication channels and arrangements for addressing violations. Security guarantees can provide assurances against renewed aggression, while prisoner exchanges and humanitarian access help build confidence.

The United Nations and relevant regional organisations can facilitate diplomatic engagement and support implementation, subject to their mandates.

Conclusion

Durable peace requires more than temporary cessation of hostilities. It depends on credible guarantees, mutual commitments, respect for international law and sustained diplomatic engagement.

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