International Relations · GS - II

Economic sanctions and military assistance have increasingly become instruments of geopolitical bargaining in contemporary conflicts. Analyse their effectiveness and limitations in influencing the course of the Russia–Ukraine conflict.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 14/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Economic coercion, military assistance, strategic leverage, sanctions evasion, shadow fleets, energy security, financial stability, civilian impact, diplomatic negotiations, international cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Russia–Ukraine conflict demonstrates how economic sanctions and military assistance are being used alongside diplomacy to shape battlefield outcomes and negotiating positions.

Role of Sanctions and Military Assistance

Sanctions targeting banks, energy revenues, cryptocurrency networks and shipping seek to restrict Russia's financial and logistical capacity. Military assistance and infrastructure support strengthen Ukraine's defence capabilities and resilience. Financial aid also helps maintain essential public services and economic stability.

Effectiveness and Limitations

Sanctions can increase transaction costs, restrict access to technology and reduce revenue opportunities. However, alternative trading networks, sanctions evasion and third-country intermediaries limit their impact. Military assistance can improve defensive capabilities but may prolong confrontation and increase escalation risks.

Differences among sanctioning countries can weaken collective pressure.

Way Forward

Sanctions require coordinated enforcement, transparency and measures against evasion. Humanitarian safeguards should protect civilian populations. Diplomatic negotiations must address sovereignty, territorial integrity and credible security arrangements.

Conclusion

Economic pressure and military support can strengthen negotiating leverage, but a durable settlement ultimately requires diplomacy, security guarantees and respect for international law.

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