International Relations · GS - II

Airspace violations by foreign military aircraft can transform routine military encounters into diplomatic and security crises. Examine the role of international aviation law and diplomatic mechanisms in managing such incidents while safeguarding national sovereignty.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 17/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Territorial sovereignty, Chicago Convention 1944, Article 1, national airspace, military aircraft, air defence identification, diplomatic protest, interception, escalation risks, confidence-building measures, international security.

Model Answer

Introduction

National airspace is an essential dimension of territorial sovereignty. Unauthorised entry by foreign military aircraft can create security concerns and strain bilateral relations.

International Legal Framework

- **Chicago Convention, 1944:** Article 1 recognises every State's complete and exclusive sovereignty over its territorial airspace.
- **Article 3:** The Convention distinguishes State aircraft, including military aircraft, from civil aircraft. State aircraft cannot fly over another State's territory without authorisation.

- **National jurisdiction:** States can regulate and monitor aircraft entering their sovereign airspace.

Security and Diplomatic Implications

1. **Sovereignty:** Airspace violations challenge territorial control and national security.
2. **Military preparedness:** States may scramble fighter aircraft to identify and monitor suspected intrusions.
3. **Diplomatic tensions:** Protests and demands for explanations can strain bilateral relations.
4. **Escalation risks:** Misidentification or unintended military confrontation may intensify regional instability.
5. **Regional security:** Repeated incidents can undermine trust and increase military alertness.

Way Forward

States should strengthen air-surveillance systems, maintain direct military communication channels and establish incident-prevention protocols. Diplomatic engagement, transparent investigations and confidence-building measures can prevent accidental escalation.

Conclusion

Protection of sovereign airspace must remain consistent with international law. A combination of credible defence preparedness, diplomatic restraint and institutional communication is essential for regional stability.

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