International Relations · GS - II

Assess the importance of credible security guarantees and multilateral diplomacy in achieving a sustainable peace settlement in protracted interstate conflicts.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Conflict resolution, security guarantees, sovereignty, territorial integrity, deterrence, UN mechanisms, great-power diplomacy, ceasefire monitoring, post-conflict reconstruction.

Model Answer

Introduction

Protracted interstate conflicts cannot be resolved through ceasefires alone. Sustainable peace requires diplomatic negotiations, credible security arrangements and mechanisms to prevent renewed hostilities. The Ukraine peace discussions involving the US and European representatives highlight these requirements.

Importance of Security Guarantees

1. **Deterrence:** Credible guarantees can discourage renewed aggression by increasing the anticipated costs of violating a settlement.
2. **Strategic reassurance:** They address the security concerns of conflict-affected states and create confidence in negotiated agreements.
3. **Long-term stability:** Monitoring arrangements, defence cooperation and diplomatic commitments can reduce the risk of renewed conflict.

Role of Multilateral Diplomacy

- **Legitimacy:** Participation of relevant international actors can improve the acceptance and durability of peace agreements.
- **Conflict management:** Multilateral platforms facilitate negotiations, ceasefire monitoring and humanitarian coordination.
- **Burden-sharing:** International partners can support reconstruction, economic recovery and institutional rehabilitation.
- **International law:** Diplomatic settlements can reinforce sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful dispute resolution.

Challenges

Divergent strategic interests among major powers, mistrust between conflicting parties, disagreements over territorial issues and ambiguity in security commitments can obstruct negotiations. Excessive external involvement may also complicate consensus-building.

Way Forward

Negotiations should ensure meaningful participation of affected parties, verifiable ceasefire arrangements, clearly defined security commitments and independent monitoring. Post-conflict reconstruction and accountability mechanisms must accompany political agreements.

Conclusion

Sustainable peace requires more than ending immediate violence. Credible security guarantees, inclusive multilateral diplomacy and respect for international law are essential to prevent conflict recurrence and establish durable regional stability.

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