International Relations · GS - II

Analyse the major challenges in implementing ceasefire agreements in protracted conflicts. How can international monitoring and humanitarian mechanisms contribute to their sustainability?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Ceasefire implementation, mutual distrust, non-state armed groups, territorial control, verification mechanisms, buffer zones, international humanitarian law, civilian protection, humanitarian access, third-party mediation, accountability, durable peace.

Model Answer

Introduction

Ceasefire agreements are important instruments for reducing violence in protracted conflicts. However, their implementation is often difficult where territorial disputes, competing political objectives and mutual distrust persist.

Major Challenges

- **Mutual distrust:** Conflicting parties frequently accuse each other of violations, weakening confidence in the agreement.
- **Fragmented control:** Multiple armed groups and non-state actors make enforcement difficult.

- **Territorial disputes:** Disagreements over boundaries, buffer zones and military withdrawals can trigger renewed confrontations.
- **Weak verification:** Absence of credible monitoring mechanisms makes it difficult to establish responsibility for violations.
- **Political instability:** Domestic political pressures may discourage parties from sustaining negotiations.

Role of International Mechanisms

- **Monitoring and verification:** Neutral observers can document violations and improve transparency.
- **Third-party mediation:** International organisations and credible mediators can facilitate communication and prevent escalation.
- **Humanitarian access:** Monitoring agencies can help ensure delivery of essential supplies and protection of displaced civilians.
- **Legal accountability:** International humanitarian law establishes obligations concerning civilians, detainees and humanitarian personnel even during hostilities.

Way Forward

Ceasefire agreements should include clearly defined territorial arrangements, reliable communication channels, independent monitoring and procedures for investigating alleged violations. Humanitarian access and civilian protection must remain central priorities.

Conclusion

A ceasefire is a necessary but insufficient condition for durable peace. Its sustainability depends on mutual compliance, credible verification, humanitarian safeguards and sustained political engagement.