International Relations · GS - II

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has exposed differences among Western countries regarding engagement with Moscow and the future of European security. Analyse the implications of these differences for NATO unity, European strategic autonomy and the international order.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Russia-Ukraine conflict, NATO cohesion, collective defence, EU strategic autonomy, transatlantic relations, diplomatic negotiations, security architecture, geopolitical multipolarity.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has reshaped European security and exposed differences in threat perceptions and diplomatic approaches among Western countries. Such differences influence the cohesion of NATO and the European Union.

Implications for European Security

1. **NATO cohesion:** Divergent positions on engagement with Russia may complicate consensus-building within the alliance.
2. **European strategic autonomy:** Uncertainty in transatlantic relations can encourage European countries to strengthen independent defence capabilities.

3. **Diplomatic negotiations:** Differences over ceasefire conditions, territorial sovereignty and security guarantees may complicate peace initiatives.
4. **Regional security:** Countries bordering Russia and Belarus, particularly Poland and the Baltic States, perceive direct security risks.
5. **International order:** Divergent responses raise questions about sovereignty, territorial integrity and the effectiveness of collective security institutions.

Challenges and Way Forward

Western countries need greater coordination on diplomatic objectives, military assistance and post-conflict security arrangements. European defence cooperation should complement NATO rather than weaken transatlantic coordination. Any durable settlement must respect international law and address legitimate security concerns without undermining Ukraine's sovereignty.

Conclusion

Differences in diplomatic approaches are natural in a diverse alliance, but sustained disagreement can weaken collective responses. European security requires political cohesion, credible deterrence and coordinated diplomacy.

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