International Relations · GS - II

The Ukraine conflict has exposed fundamental disagreements over NATO expansion, national sovereignty and the European security architecture. Critically examine the challenges of establishing an inclusive and sustainable security framework in Europe.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

NATO expansion, collective security, sovereignty, territorial integrity, strategic mistrust, arms control, OSCE, UN Charter, multipolarity, diplomatic negotiations.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Ukraine conflict has intensified disagreements over European security, particularly concerning NATO expansion, military deployments and Russia's security demands. These differences reflect the absence of a mutually accepted regional security framework.

Major Challenges

1. **NATO-Russia tensions:** Russia's opposition to NATO's eastward expansion conflicts with the sovereign right of European states to determine their security and alliance arrangements.
2. **Sovereignty versus security claims:** Demands to restrict military deployments or alliance choices of neighbouring states raise questions about territorial integrity and sovereign equality under international law.

3. **Strategic mistrust:** Conflicting threat perceptions, military deployments and weakened arms-control arrangements have increased insecurity.
4. **Nuclear deterrence:** Disagreements involving the nuclear capabilities of major powers complicate negotiations and increase escalation risks.
5. **Fragmented diplomacy:** Differences between Russia, Ukraine, the United States and European countries make consensus difficult.

Elements of a Sustainable Security Framework

- **International law:** Respect for the UN Charter, sovereignty and territorial integrity must remain fundamental.
- **Inclusive dialogue:** Platforms such as the OSCE can facilitate communication and confidence-building.
- **Arms control:** Reviving military transparency, communication channels and arms-control negotiations can reduce miscalculation.
- **Conflict resolution:** Diplomatic settlements must address security concerns without legitimising territorial acquisition through force.
- **European participation:** European countries must have meaningful involvement in decisions affecting their security.

India's Perspective

India supports dialogue, diplomacy, sovereignty and peaceful resolution of disputes. The conflict also highlights India's need to maintain strategic autonomy while balancing its relations with major powers.

Conclusion

A durable European security order cannot rest solely on military dominance or unilateral demands. It requires mutual security, respect for international law and sustained diplomatic engagement.