International Relations · GS - II

Assess the role of international humanitarian organisations in protecting civilians and facilitating relief operations during armed conflicts, particularly in densely populated urban areas.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 22/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

International humanitarian law, ICRC, civilian protection, Geneva Conventions, humanitarian access, urban warfare, displacement, emergency relief, accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

Armed conflicts in densely populated areas expose civilians to casualties, displacement and disruption of essential services. International humanitarian organisations play a critical role in protecting affected populations and delivering relief.

Role of humanitarian organisations

1. **Civilian protection:** The ICRC promotes compliance with the Geneva Conventions and engages parties to conflicts on humanitarian obligations.
2. **Emergency assistance:** Organisations provide medical aid, food, shelter and essential supplies to affected communities.

3. **Humanitarian access:** They facilitate relief operations and seek safe access to conflict-affected populations.
4. **Tracing and family reunification:** Humanitarian agencies help locate missing persons and restore contact between separated families.
5. **Documentation and advocacy:** They report humanitarian concerns and encourage respect for international humanitarian law.

Persistent challenges

Restricted access, insecurity, damaged infrastructure and insufficient funding often obstruct relief operations. Humanitarian workers themselves may also face serious risks.

Conclusion

Effective civilian protection requires respect for international humanitarian law, safe humanitarian access and cooperation by all parties to conflict. Humanitarian organisations remain essential to reducing civilian suffering and preserving human dignity.

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