International Relations · GS - II

Examine the significance of the international rule of law in maintaining global peace and stability.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

International legal order, sovereign equality, multilateralism, peaceful dispute resolution, power asymmetry, UN Charter

Model Answer

Introduction

The international rule of law requires states to conduct their relations according to established legal principles rather than unilateral coercion or the arbitrary exercise of power. It provides the foundation for a stable and predictable international order.

Significance of the International Rule of Law

1. **Sovereign equality:** It reinforces the principle that all states, irrespective of their economic or military strength, possess equal legal status under international law.

2. **Peaceful dispute resolution:** The UN Charter encourages negotiation, mediation, arbitration and judicial settlement, reducing the likelihood of armed conflict.

3. **Limits on the use of force:** Article 2(4) of the UN Charter restricts the threat or use of force, protecting territorial integrity and political independence.

4. **Strengthening multilateralism:** International institutions and treaties provide platforms for collective action on security, trade, climate change and humanitarian concerns.

5. **Protection of weaker states:** Common legal standards help prevent powerful countries from imposing unilateral decisions on smaller states.

Challenges

1. Selective application of international law by powerful countries undermines its credibility.
2. Geopolitical rivalries and veto politics can weaken collective security mechanisms.
3. Limited enforcement mechanisms often make compliance dependent on political will.

Way Forward

1. Strengthen the effectiveness and representativeness of multilateral institutions.
2. Ensure consistent application of international legal standards.
3. Promote peaceful negotiations and respect for treaty obligations.
4. Improve accountability for violations of international law.

Conclusion

A stable global order cannot depend solely on military or economic power. Respect for international law, sovereign equality and multilateral cooperation remains essential for sustainable international peace and security.

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