Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

Russia and Ukraine war has been going on for the last seven months. Different countries have taken independent stands and actions keeping in view their own national interests. We are all aware that war has its own impact on the different aspects of society, including human tragedy. What are those ethical issues that are crucial to be considered while launching the war and its continuation so far? Illustrate with justification the ethical issues involved in the given state of affair.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2022	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

War raises ethical questions about sovereignty, self-defence, necessity, proportionality, civilian protection, humanitarian access and accountability. National interests cannot justify unlimited force. The principles of just war and international humanitarian law require restraint during both the decision to use force and the conduct of hostilities.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Russia–Ukraine war raises fundamental ethical questions about the use of force, national sovereignty and the protection of human life.

Ethical Issues

Justification for War: The use of force must be assessed against the UN Charter, particularly the prohibition on aggression and the limited right of self-defence.

Proportionality and Necessity: Military action must pursue legitimate objectives without causing excessive harm relative to the anticipated military advantage.

Civilian Protection: Deliberate attacks on civilians and indiscriminate violence violate humanitarian principles. Civilian infrastructure, hospitals and essential supplies require protection under international humanitarian law.

Humanitarian Responsibility: Refugees, displaced persons, prisoners of war and vulnerable groups must receive humane treatment and assistance.

Responsibility of Leadership: Political leaders must weigh national security against the foreseeable human, economic and environmental costs of prolonged conflict. Diplomatic negotiations and humanitarian pauses should be pursued wherever feasible.

Conclusion

Ethical conduct in war requires restraint, accountability and respect for human dignity. National interest cannot override international law or justify avoidable suffering; peace efforts and civilian protection must remain central throughout the conflict.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP