International Relations · GS - II

The Russia–Ukraine conflict highlights the tension between national security concerns and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. Discuss.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 23/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

NATO expansion, national security, sovereignty, territorial integrity, UN Charter, balance of power, peace negotiations.

Model Answer

Introduction:

The Russia–Ukraine conflict illustrates the difficulty of reconciling competing security interests with established principles of international law.

Main Body:

Major issues

1. Security concerns: Russia has cited NATO expansion as a strategic concern, while Ukraine seeks to safeguard its sovereignty and security.
2. Territorial integrity: Russia’s annexation claims are widely disputed internationally, raising questions under the UN Charter.

3. Global consequences: The conflict has affected European security, energy markets, food supplies and international relations.
4. Diplomatic challenges: A ceasefire may halt fighting temporarily, whereas a durable peace agreement requires mechanisms to address security guarantees, territorial disputes and compliance.

Way forward

- Resume sustained negotiations with meaningful participation by the parties concerned.
- Establish credible security arrangements and monitoring mechanisms.
- Uphold the UN Charter, sovereignty and peaceful settlement of disputes.
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Conclusion:

Lasting peace requires balancing legitimate security concerns with international law and a negotiated settlement that reduces the risk of renewed conflict.

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