# International Relations · GS - II

**Examine the strategic and international-law considerations involved when a country contemplates military strikes against another state amid changes in its senior military leadership.**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| DAILY PRACTICE 29/10/2026 | GS - II | International Relations |

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

**Civilian control of armed forces; military strategic planning; national security; UN Charter; Article 2(4); Article 51; proportionality; escalation risks; diplomatic engagement**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

Military leadership changes and the consideration of strikes against another state can influence defence planning, operational continuity and regional stability. Such decisions require institutional preparedness, strategic assessment and compliance with international law.

### Strategic Considerations

**Civilian–Military Relations:** Civilian oversight ensures that military decisions remain accountable to constitutionally established political authority. Professional military advice is essential for assessing operational feasibility and risks.

**Continuity of Planning:** Frequent changes in senior leadership may disrupt institutional knowledge, strategic coordination and implementation of defence priorities.

**Escalation Risks:** Military action may trigger retaliation, widen a conflict, threaten civilian populations and disrupt energy supplies and trade.

**International Legal Framework**

Article 2(4) of the UN Charter prohibits the threat or use of force against another state's territorial integrity or political independence. Article 51 recognises the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs, subject to applicable requirements of necessity and proportionality. Security Council-authorised action is another lawful basis for the use of force.

**Way Forward**

States should assess intelligence carefully, evaluate civilian harm, maintain credible military advice and prioritise diplomacy and de-escalation wherever possible.

**Conclusion**

Effective defence planning requires professional institutions and accountable leadership. Military action must be assessed not only for strategic consequences but also for its legality and humanitarian impact.

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