International Relations · GS - II

Examine the challenges faced by India in securing the safety and repatriation of its citizens caught in foreign conflicts.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Consular diplomacy, State sovereignty, Vienna Convention, human trafficking, foreign recruitment, bilateral cooperation, evacuation mechanisms

Model Answer

Introduction

The increasing mobility of Indian students and workers exposes some citizens to recruitment into foreign military forces, trafficking networks and armed conflicts. Their protection requires coordinated diplomatic, legal and administrative action.

Major Challenges

1. **Sovereignty constraints:** India cannot directly enforce its domestic laws or compel foreign authorities to release individuals within another country's territory.
2. **Legal complexities:** Recruitment and military service are governed by the host country's laws, while the circumstances of recruitment may involve coercion, deception or trafficking.
3. **Limited consular access:** Conflict conditions, detention arrangements and diplomatic restrictions can obstruct communication with affected citizens.

4. **Verification difficulties:** Establishing the identity, location, consent and circumstances of recruitment can be challenging.
5. **Geopolitical sensitivities:** Repatriation efforts may become complicated when the host country is involved in an ongoing conflict.

Measures for India

1. **Consular intervention:** Indian missions should facilitate legal assistance, consular access and communication with families under applicable international law.
2. **Bilateral diplomacy:** Use diplomatic channels to seek release and safe repatriation of affected citizens.
3. **Preventive awareness:** Strengthen advisories against fraudulent overseas employment and suspicious recruitment offers.
4. **Inter-agency coordination:** Improve cooperation among the Ministry of External Affairs, law-enforcement agencies and state governments.
5. **Legal accountability:** Investigate trafficking, deception and illegal recruitment networks wherever evidence establishes such offences.

Conclusion

Protecting citizens abroad requires persistent diplomacy, preventive regulation and international cooperation. India's responsibility to assist its nationals must be pursued while respecting the sovereignty and legal jurisdiction of other States.

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