International Relations · GS - II

Examine the major causes of insecurity in the Sahel region of Africa. Suggest measures to address insurgency, communal violence and governance challenges.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Jihadist insurgency, weak governance, ethnic tensions, climate change, resource competition, poverty, military coups, regional cooperation, peacebuilding, development assistance.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Sahel region of Africa faces persistent insecurity arising from armed insurgencies, communal violence, political instability and socioeconomic vulnerabilities. These challenges have displaced populations and weakened state institutions.

Major Causes

- **Insurgency:** Armed extremist groups exploit ungoverned spaces and weak security arrangements.
- **Governance deficits:** Political instability and limited administrative capacity undermine public trust.
- **Communal conflicts:** Competition over land, water and livelihoods can intensify tensions between communities.

- **Climate pressures:** Droughts and environmental degradation can worsen resource scarcity and displacement.
- **Socioeconomic exclusion:** Poverty, unemployment and limited public services increase vulnerability to recruitment by armed groups.

Way Forward

Governments should strengthen accountable institutions, improve civilian protection and enhance intelligence cooperation. Regional organisations and neighbouring states should coordinate efforts against cross-border armed groups. Investment in education, livelihoods, climate resilience and local conflict-resolution mechanisms is equally important.

External security assistance should complement locally legitimate governance rather than substitute for it.

Conclusion

Sustainable peace in the Sahel requires a comprehensive approach combining security measures with inclusive governance, development and community reconciliation.

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