International Relations · GS - II

How do misinformation and conflicting narratives during military crises affect international relations? Discuss the measures required to prevent escalation and maintain regional stability.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Information warfare, conflicting official claims, public trust, diplomatic tensions, independent verification, crisis communication, international law, confidence-building measures.

Model Answer

Introduction

In modern conflicts, information is a strategic instrument. Conflicting claims about military operations can create uncertainty, undermine trust and intensify diplomatic tensions.

Impact of Misinformation

1. **Escalation risk:** Unverified reports may provoke retaliatory actions or military miscalculations.
2. **Diplomatic deterioration:** Competing narratives can weaken bilateral dialogue and deepen hostility.
3. **Information warfare:** States may use selective information to influence domestic and international opinion.
4. **Regional instability:** False or disputed claims can affect neighbouring countries, trade and maritime security.

Measures to Prevent Escalation

- **Independent verification:** Media organisations and relevant institutions should examine evidence before confirming allegations.
- **Crisis communication:** Military hotlines and diplomatic channels can clarify incidents quickly.
- **Responsible reporting:** Governments should provide timely, evidence-based information while avoiding premature accusations.
- **International cooperation:** Appropriate international institutions can support fact-finding and peaceful dispute resolution.
- **Confidence-building:** Regular dialogue and agreed procedures for incident reporting can reduce misunderstandings.

Conclusion

During military crises, evidence-based communication and diplomatic engagement are essential. Distinguishing verified facts from allegations can help prevent misinformation from becoming a trigger for wider conflict.

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