International Relations · GS - II

Examine the role of international arms control agreements in preventing the proliferation and use of chemical weapons. Discuss the challenges of verification and compliance amid geopolitical rivalries.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 04/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Chemical Weapons Convention, OPCW, disarmament, verification and inspections, dual-use chemicals, allegations and intelligence assessments, geopolitical mistrust, accountability, multilateral cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Chemical weapons pose a serious threat to human life and international security. International arms control agreements seek to eliminate these weapons and prevent their use during armed conflicts.

International Legal Framework

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which entered into force in 1997, prohibits the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention and use of chemical weapons. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) monitors implementation through declarations, inspections and other verification measures.

Challenges of Verification and Compliance

Some chemicals and industrial facilities have legitimate civilian applications, complicating monitoring. Intelligence assessments and allegations of prohibited activities may be disputed, particularly during periods of geopolitical tension. Limited access to suspected sites, non-cooperation and selective political responses can undermine confidence in arms control mechanisms.

Way Forward

States should strengthen information-sharing, facilitate impartial verification and support the OPCW's technical capacity. Allegations should be assessed using credible evidence and established procedures. Consistent enforcement, diplomatic engagement and accountability are essential to prevent the politicisation of chemical disarmament.

Conclusion

Effective arms control depends on binding legal obligations, credible verification and cooperation among states. Upholding the CWC is vital for reducing proliferation risks and strengthening international security.

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