International Relations · GS - II

Great-power diplomacy can create opportunities for nuclear risk reduction, but sustainable disarmament requires credible multilateral institutions and verification mechanisms. Examine in the context of emerging global power dynamics.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Nuclear deterrence, strategic rivalry, NPT, CTBT, IAEA safeguards, arms control, verification, trust deficit, geopolitical competition, India's nuclear doctrine, strategic stability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Nuclear diplomacy among major powers remains important for reducing strategic tensions. However, geopolitical rivalry, declining trust and technological competition complicate global arms-control efforts.

Importance of Great-Power Diplomacy

- **Risk reduction:** Direct dialogue can prevent miscalculations and reduce the possibility of accidental escalation.
- **Arms control:** Negotiations can promote limits on nuclear arsenals and improve transparency.
- **Non-proliferation:** Cooperation can discourage the spread of nuclear weapons and sensitive technologies.

Challenges to Sustainable Disarmament

- **Strategic distrust:** Competing security interests weaken commitments to arms-control agreements.
- **Verification deficit:** Effective monitoring is essential to ensure compliance.
- **Technological changes:** Hypersonic weapons, cyber capabilities and emerging military technologies complicate existing frameworks.

India's Approach

India supports universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament while maintaining credible minimum deterrence and a declared No First Use policy.

Conclusion

Leader-level diplomacy can initiate dialogue, but durable nuclear stability requires inclusive negotiations, institutional credibility and verifiable commitments.

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