International Relations · GS - II

“Military preparedness and peaceful diplomacy can operate simultaneously in international relations.” Discuss with reference to tensions between the United States and Iran.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Diplomatic negotiations; military deterrence; peaceful conflict resolution; economic sanctions; United Nations Charter; regional stability; escalation risks; confidence-building measures

Model Answer

Introduction

Relations between the United States and Iran illustrate the complex interaction between military preparedness and diplomatic engagement. US officials have indicated confidence in American military capabilities while expressing a preference for a peaceful resolution.

Complementary Roles

1. Military Deterrence

Defence preparedness may discourage hostile actions and provide strategic leverage. However, excessive reliance on military threats can increase mistrust and trigger escalation.

2. Diplomatic Negotiations

Dialogue can address disagreements over security, nuclear activities, sanctions and regional influence. Negotiations also provide opportunities for confidence-building and mutually acceptable arrangements.

3. Economic and Multilateral Instruments

Sanctions may be used to influence state behaviour, but their effectiveness depends on political objectives, international coordination and humanitarian considerations. The United Nations Charter provides the legal framework governing the use of force.

Challenges

Domestic political pressures, conflicting strategic interests and repeated breakdowns in trust can obstruct negotiations. Miscalculation may turn limited confrontation into a wider regional conflict.

Way Forward

Sustained negotiations, clear communication, proportionate actions, humanitarian safeguards and verifiable agreements can reduce tensions. Regional and multilateral diplomatic initiatives should complement bilateral engagement.

Conclusion

Military preparedness may support deterrence, but lasting stability requires diplomacy, adherence to international law and a credible political settlement.

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