International Relations · GS - II

Discuss the significance of diplomatic engagement between Iran and Saudi Arabia for regional security in West Asia. What challenges can limit the effectiveness of such initiatives amid continuing conflict in Yemen?

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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Iran–Saudi Arabia relations; regional security frameworks; diplomatic engagement; Yemen conflict; Iran-aligned Houthis; foreign military intervention; military escalation; regional stability; confidence-building measures

Model Answer

Introduction

West Asia faces persistent security challenges arising from regional rivalries, armed conflicts and competing strategic interests. The continuing diplomatic engagement between Iran and Saudi Arabia, as reported, reflects an effort to establish regional security frameworks and prevent further military escalation.

Significance of Diplomatic Engagement

Dialogue can help reduce mistrust, maintain communication during crises and create opportunities for negotiated solutions. Regional security arrangements developed through diplomacy may also strengthen local ownership of conflict prevention and reduce dependence on external military intervention. Cooperation between influential regional powers could contribute to broader stability.

Major Challenges

The intensification of fighting involving Saudi Arabia and Iran-aligned Houthis in Yemen demonstrates the difficulty of separating diplomatic progress from ongoing conflicts. Mutual strategic distrust, competing regional interests, the involvement of armed non-state actors and the possibility of further escalation can weaken confidence-building efforts. Diplomatic talks alone may not produce immediate changes on the ground.

Way Forward

Iran and Saudi Arabia should sustain dialogue, establish crisis-communication mechanisms and pursue confidence-building measures. Regional initiatives should also support de-escalation in Yemen, inclusive political negotiations and respect for the sovereignty of regional states.

Conclusion

Diplomatic engagement offers a pathway towards regional stability, but its effectiveness depends on sustained political commitment and parallel efforts to address active conflicts.

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