International Relations · GS - II

The effectiveness of collective security organisations depends not merely on treaty commitments but also on mutual trust and the willingness of members to fulfil their obligations. Examine this statement in the context of tensions within the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 14/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Collective security, CSTO, Article 5, Article 25, Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, credibility of alliances, Russia's regional influence, sovereignty, institutional trust, regional security architecture.

Model Answer

Introduction

Collective security organisations aim to protect member states through mutual defence commitments. However, their credibility depends on timely institutional responses, political trust and compliance with treaty obligations.

Challenges to CSTO Cohesion

- **Security expectations:** Armenia questioned the CSTO's response to its security concerns during tensions with Azerbaijan.
- **Institutional credibility:** Perceived failure to provide adequate support can weaken confidence in collective defence arrangements.
- **Divergent interests:** Members may have different geopolitical priorities and strategic relationships.

- **Financial and institutional obligations:** Non-payment of contributions and reduced participation can weaken organisational functioning.
- **Geopolitical realignment:** Armenia's growing engagement with other international partners reflects diversification of its security relationships.

Implications

Such tensions can weaken regional security cooperation, reduce the influence of established alliances and encourage smaller states to explore alternative partnerships.

Way Forward

The CSTO needs transparent dispute-resolution mechanisms, credible collective-response procedures and equitable burden-sharing. Member states must maintain diplomatic dialogue and clarify treaty obligations.

Conclusion

The durability of collective security arrangements rests on institutional credibility and mutual confidence, not merely formal membership or military agreements.

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