International Relations · GS - II

The involvement of major powers in nuclear arms-control negotiations highlights the continuing importance of strategic dialogue in an increasingly multipolar world. Examine the challenges and opportunities for global nuclear governance.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Nuclear deterrence, arms-control treaties, strategic stability, NPT, verification mechanisms, great-power rivalry, emerging technologies, regional conflicts, multilateral diplomacy, India's security interests.

Model Answer

Introduction

Nuclear arms control remains essential for reducing strategic uncertainty and preventing escalation among major powers. However, geopolitical rivalry and changing security technologies have complicated global nuclear governance.

Major Challenges

The weakening or expiry of bilateral arms-control arrangements can reduce transparency and mutual confidence. Strategic competition, modernisation of nuclear arsenals and disagreements over verification undermine negotiations. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, cyber capabilities and missile defence further complicate strategic stability.

Opportunities

Dialogue among nuclear powers can establish communication channels, confidence-building measures and mechanisms to reduce accidental escalation. Multilateral institutions, including the United Nations and IAEA within their respective mandates, can strengthen non-proliferation and verification efforts.

India's Approach

India must maintain credible minimum deterrence while supporting universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. Strategic autonomy and diplomatic engagement remain important.

Conclusion

Sustainable nuclear governance requires renewed treaty frameworks, transparency and sustained dialogue among major powers.

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