International Relations · GS - II

The effectiveness of military alliances depends not merely on collective defence commitments but also on political cohesion and institutional coordination. Examine this statement in the context of NATO's decision to scale back high-level meetings.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 15/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Political cohesion, collective defence, strategic coordination, burden-sharing, transatlantic relations, institutional effectiveness, diplomatic consultations.

Model Answer

Introduction

NATO, established in 1949, is a collective defence alliance whose effectiveness depends on both military capabilities and political unity among its members.

Importance of Political Cohesion

Collective defence under Article 5 requires members to demonstrate solidarity against external threats. Differences over defence expenditure, strategic priorities and international conflicts can weaken this unity.

Implications of Scaling Back Meetings

Reducing high-level summits may allow NATO to focus on long-term military planning, capability development and implementation of existing commitments. However, fewer political engagements may also reduce opportunities to resolve disagreements and build consensus.

Challenges for the Alliance

Unequal defence contributions, divergent threat perceptions and tensions between European allies and the United States can undermine mutual confidence. Institutional coordination is therefore essential to maintain deterrence and credibility.

Way Forward

NATO should strengthen ministerial consultations, improve burden-sharing, enhance defence interoperability and maintain regular diplomatic communication. Emergency meetings can provide flexibility during crises.

Conclusion

The strength of a military alliance rests not only on its treaty provisions but also on sustained political trust, strategic coordination and collective commitment.