International Relations · GS - II

In an increasingly fragmented international order, dialogue among major powers remains essential for managing nuclear risks and regional conflicts. Examine the significance and limitations of great-power diplomacy in maintaining global strategic stability.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Nuclear deterrence, arms control, strategic stability, Ukraine conflict, energy security, crisis communication, great-power rivalry, sovereignty, multilateral institutions, Global South, India's strategic autonomy.

Model Answer

Introduction

Dialogue among major powers is important for managing conflicts, reducing nuclear risks and maintaining international stability. Trilateral engagement involving the United States, China and Russia highlights the importance of communication among influential nuclear powers.

Significance of Great-Power Diplomacy

1. **Nuclear risk reduction:** Dialogue can promote arms control, transparency and mechanisms to prevent accidental escalation.
2. **Conflict management:** Major powers can use diplomatic influence to facilitate negotiations in conflicts such as Ukraine.

3. **Energy security:** Cooperation can address disruptions in global energy markets and strengthen supply-chain stability.
4. **Crisis communication:** Direct engagement reduces miscalculation and creates channels for managing strategic disagreements.
5. **Global governance:** Cooperation among influential states can support responses to transnational challenges.

Limitations

- Strategic rivalry and conflicting national interests restrict policy convergence.
- Smaller states may be excluded from decisions directly affecting their sovereignty.
- Nuclear deterrence and military competition can undermine trust.
- Bilateral or trilateral arrangements cannot replace inclusive multilateral institutions.

Way Forward

Major-power dialogue should complement the United Nations and established arms-control frameworks. Conflict resolution must respect sovereignty and territorial integrity, while affected countries should participate in negotiations concerning their future.

Conclusion

Great-power diplomacy is necessary but insufficient for global stability. A sustainable international order requires strategic dialogue, credible arms-control mechanisms and inclusive multilateral decision-making.

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