International Relations · GS - II

Military cooperation is increasingly being used by states to advance strategic interests beyond conventional defence objectives. Discuss its significance and limitations in the context of changing geopolitical alignments.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Defence diplomacy, joint exercises, intelligence sharing, interoperability, energy security, strategic autonomy, sovereignty, regional stability, great-power competition

Model Answer

Introduction

Defence diplomacy involves the use of military engagement, joint exercises, intelligence sharing and defence agreements to strengthen international partnerships. Such arrangements increasingly serve wider geopolitical and economic objectives.

Strategic Significance

1. **Regional security:** Cooperation improves coordination against terrorism, organised crime and transnational security threats.
2. **Operational interoperability:** Joint training and exercises enhance the ability of partner forces to operate together.

3. **Intelligence capabilities:** Information sharing strengthens early-warning systems and threat assessment.
4. **Economic interests:** Defence partnerships may complement cooperation in energy, infrastructure and strategic resources.
5. **Diplomatic engagement:** Military-to-military relations can maintain communication even during periods of political uncertainty.

Limitations and Concerns

- **Sovereignty:** Defence arrangements must respect the independent foreign-policy choices of participating states.
- **Geopolitical rivalry:** Military partnerships may generate suspicion among neighbouring countries.
- **Political instability:** Changes in government can affect the continuity of agreements.
- **Strategic dependence:** Excessive reliance on external partners may weaken independent defence capabilities.

Way Forward

India should pursue diversified defence partnerships while maintaining strategic autonomy. Transparent agreements, parliamentary oversight where appropriate, and adherence to international law can help ensure that military cooperation contributes to regional stability.

Conclusion

Defence diplomacy can strengthen security and advance economic interests, but its effectiveness depends on mutual trust, sovereignty and a balanced approach to geopolitical competition.

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