International Relations · GS - II

The growing importance of great-power diplomacy in addressing global security challenges raises concerns about the effectiveness and inclusiveness of multilateral institutions. Critically examine in the context of nuclear arms control and international conflict resolution.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Great-power politics, nuclear arms control, New START, NPT, strategic stability, UN Security Council, multilateralism, sovereignty, smaller states, inclusive diplomacy

Model Answer

Introduction

The unprecedented trilateral engagement among the United States, China and Russia in Shenzhen highlights the growing role of great-power diplomacy in addressing nuclear risks and international conflicts. However, such engagements also raise questions about inclusiveness and institutional legitimacy.

Significance of Great-Power Diplomacy

1. **Nuclear risk reduction:** Cooperation among major nuclear powers can reduce the possibility of escalation and strengthen strategic stability.
2. **Conflict resolution:** Direct engagement may create diplomatic channels for addressing conflicts such as those in Ukraine and Iran.

3. **Global economic stability:** Agreements among major economies can influence international trade, energy security and financial stability.
4. **Crisis management:** Informal diplomatic channels can complement established multilateral mechanisms.

Limitations and Concerns

- **Exclusion of affected countries:** Negotiations without the participation of directly affected states may undermine their sovereignty and interests.
- **Power asymmetry:** Smaller countries may have limited influence over decisions affecting their security.
- **Institutional marginalisation:** Bilateral and trilateral arrangements may weaken established multilateral platforms.
- **Divergent interests:** Strategic competition and unequal nuclear capabilities complicate arms-control negotiations.
- **Implementation deficit:** Diplomatic declarations may not translate into enforceable agreements.

Way Forward

Strengthen the United Nations framework, revive inclusive arms-control negotiations and ensure participation of affected countries. Confidence-building measures, transparency and verification mechanisms should accompany diplomatic commitments.

Conclusion

Great-power diplomacy can facilitate negotiations on urgent global challenges, but durable international peace requires inclusive multilateralism, respect for sovereignty and rules-based cooperation.