Modern History · GS - II

Third-party mediation is increasingly shaping contemporary international diplomacy. Examine the factors that influence a country's ability to act as a mediator and discuss the implications for India's diplomatic role in West Asia.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/11/2026	GS - II	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Mediation diplomacy, strategic trust, bilateral relationships, geopolitical leverage, regional influence, US-Iran tensions, Pakistan's reported role, India's ties with Iran and the US, strategic autonomy, energy security, diaspora, multi-alignment.

Model Answer

Introduction

Third-party mediation involves facilitating dialogue between conflicting parties to reduce tensions or negotiate settlements. Recent reports of Pakistan facilitating communication between the United States and Iran, alongside Rahul Gandhi's criticism of India's diplomatic role, have renewed debate on India's mediation capabilities.

Factors Determining Mediation Capacity

1. **Strategic trust:** A mediator must maintain sufficient credibility and working relationships with both conflicting parties.

2. **Geopolitical leverage:** Economic, military and diplomatic influence can provide incentives for parties to participate in negotiations.
3. **Regional acceptability:** Geographic proximity and historical relationships may help a country understand regional sensitivities.
4. **Diplomatic credibility:** Consistency, discretion and the ability to maintain communication channels strengthen mediation efforts.
5. **National interests:** Mediation must remain compatible with the country's security and economic priorities.

Implications for India's Role in West Asia

- **Energy security:** Instability in the Gulf directly affects India's crude oil and natural gas supplies.
- **Diaspora protection:** Millions of Indians living in the region make regional stability a significant national interest.
- **Strategic relationships:** India maintains important partnerships with Iran, Israel, the United States and Gulf countries.
- **Connectivity:** Projects such as Chabahar Port and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor demonstrate India's regional interests.
- **Diplomatic opportunity:** India's relationships across competing regional groupings can support dialogue, humanitarian initiatives and confidence-building measures.

Way Forward

India should strengthen diplomatic engagement, maintain independent communication channels, support multilateral dialogue and avoid equating mediation with diplomatic influence alone. Its role can also include humanitarian assistance, economic cooperation and conflict de-escalation.

Conclusion

A country's diplomatic influence cannot be measured solely by its participation in a particular mediation exercise. India's long-term objective should be to convert its economic weight, regional relationships and strategic autonomy into constructive contributions to West Asian stability.