International Relations · GS - II

The Iran nuclear negotiations highlight the difficulty of reconciling nuclear non-proliferation objectives with national sovereignty and security concerns. Critically examine the role of diplomacy and international institutions in addressing such conflicts.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

NPT, IAEA safeguards, uranium enrichment, nuclear non-proliferation, sanctions, strategic mistrust, regional security, confidence-building measures, multilateral diplomacy.

Model Answer

Introduction

The stalled negotiations between Iran and the United States reflect the complex relationship between nuclear non-proliferation, national sovereignty and regional security. Disagreements over Iran's enriched uranium stockpile and future enrichment activities have complicated diplomatic efforts.

Major Issues in Nuclear Negotiations

1. **Nuclear proliferation concerns:** High-level uranium enrichment raises concerns about the possibility of developing nuclear weapons, although enrichment alone does not establish a weapons programme.
2. **Sovereignty and peaceful use:** Iran maintains that its nuclear activities are linked to its right to peaceful nuclear energy under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

3. **Strategic mistrust:** Differences over security guarantees, sanctions relief and verification mechanisms undermine confidence between negotiating parties.
4. **Regional instability:** A military confrontation could intensify insecurity across West Asia, disrupt energy supplies and affect global trade.

Role of Diplomacy and International Institutions

- **IAEA verification:** Independent inspections and monitoring can establish confidence regarding nuclear activities and safeguards compliance.
- **Multilateral negotiations:** Agreements can provide reciprocal commitments on enrichment, stockpile management and sanctions relief.
- **Confidence-building:** Phased implementation, verification and security assurances can reduce mistrust.
- **International law:** The NPT provides a framework for balancing peaceful nuclear use with non-proliferation obligations.
- **Conflict prevention:** Mediation and sustained diplomatic engagement can prevent disputes from escalating into military confrontation.

Way Forward

A sustainable agreement should combine verifiable nuclear commitments, credible sanctions-related arrangements and diplomatic engagement. Regional dialogue should also address broader security concerns.

Conclusion

Nuclear disputes cannot be resolved through coercion alone. A rules-based and verification-oriented diplomatic framework remains essential for non-proliferation and regional stability.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP