International Relations · GS - II

Assess the implications of renewed military threats against Iran for the prospects of nuclear diplomacy and stability in West Asia. What role can multilateral institutions play in preventing escalation?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 23/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

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Answer Hint

Nuclear non-proliferation, JCPOA, strategic deterrence, IAEA safeguards, regional security, diplomatic engagement, multilateralism

Model Answer

Introduction

The possibility of renewed military action against Iran highlights the fragile relationship between nuclear non-proliferation and regional security. Threats of force may increase diplomatic pressure but can also complicate negotiations and intensify instability in West Asia.

Implications for Nuclear Diplomacy and Regional Stability

1. **Weakening diplomatic trust:** Military threats can reduce confidence between negotiating parties and make political compromises more difficult.

2. **Nuclear proliferation concerns:** Escalation may encourage Iran to reconsider its nuclear posture, increasing concerns about proliferation and regional nuclear competition.

3. **Risk of military escalation:** Strikes and retaliation could expand into a wider conflict involving regional actors and threaten civilian populations.

4. **Energy security:** Instability around the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz could disrupt oil and gas supplies, affecting global energy markets and India's import interests.

5. **Impact on regional partnerships:** Heightened tensions may complicate diplomatic and economic engagement by countries maintaining relations with both Iran and Western powers.

Role of Multilateral Institutions

1. **International Atomic Energy Agency:** Independent inspections and verification can provide credible information about nuclear activities and strengthen confidence in compliance.

2. **United Nations Security Council:** The Council can facilitate diplomatic engagement, address threats to international peace and security, and consider appropriate collective measures.

3. **Negotiated framework:** Reviving a verifiable agreement based on reciprocal commitments can provide a more sustainable alternative to military confrontation.

4. **Regional dialogue:** West Asian countries should strengthen confidence-building measures and establish communication channels to prevent miscalculation.

5. **India's diplomatic role:** India can support peaceful negotiations, uphold international law and advocate regional stability while protecting its energy and connectivity interests.

Conclusion

Military pressure may create immediate leverage but cannot substitute for a durable diplomatic settlement. Verification, reciprocal commitments and multilateral engagement remain essential to addressing nuclear concerns while preventing wider conflict.

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