Defence & Security · GS - III

“The development of advanced conventional weapons has significant implications for regional security and nuclear diplomacy.” Discuss with reference to the reported consideration of the GBU-43/B MOAB against Iran's underground nuclear facilities.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Conventional weapons, GBU-43/B MOAB, bunker-busting weapons, underground nuclear facilities, military deterrence, escalation risks, nuclear proliferation, West Asian geopolitics, international law, diplomatic negotiations, regional stability.

Model Answer

1. Introduction

Advances in conventional weapons have expanded military capabilities against fortified targets. Reports that the United States considered using the GBU-43/B MOAB against Iran's underground nuclear facilities highlight the relationship between military technology and nuclear diplomacy.

2. Strategic Significance

A. Military Capability: MOAB is a large conventional bomb designed to generate a powerful blast. However, it is not a nuclear weapon, and its effectiveness against deeply buried facilities cannot be assumed.

B. Regional Security: Attacks on sensitive nuclear infrastructure could trigger retaliation, widen conflict and threaten regional stability.

C. Nuclear Diplomacy: Military pressure may complicate negotiations, weaken trust and increase incentives for nuclear deterrence.

3. Challenges and Way Forward

Military action must be assessed against international law, civilian risks and escalation consequences. Diplomatic negotiations, international monitoring and confidence-building measures remain important tools for addressing nuclear concerns.

4. Conclusion

Advanced conventional weapons influence strategic calculations but cannot independently resolve nuclear disputes. A combination of credible deterrence, diplomacy and international cooperation is essential for lasting security.

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