International Relations · GS - II

Examine the effectiveness of economic sanctions as a tool to prevent nuclear proliferation. Discuss their implications for regional stability in West Asia.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Economic Sanctions, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, JCPOA, IAEA Safeguards, Coercive Diplomacy, Regional Security, Energy Security, Multilateralism, Nuclear Negotiations.

Model Answer

Introduction

Economic sanctions are instruments of foreign policy used to influence a country's behaviour without direct military intervention. US pressure on Iran highlights both the potential and limitations of sanctions in addressing nuclear proliferation.

Main Body

Effectiveness of Economic Sanctions

1. Economic pressure: Restrictions on oil exports, trade and financial transactions can increase the cost of disputed policies.
2. Diplomatic leverage: Sanctions may encourage negotiations over nuclear activities and international verification.

3. Non-proliferation: Coordinated international pressure can support efforts to limit the spread of nuclear weapons.

Limitations and Implications

1. Uncertain outcomes: Sanctions may not achieve their objectives if the targeted government refuses to compromise.
2. Humanitarian impact: Economic restrictions can indirectly affect ordinary citizens.
3. Regional instability: Prolonged confrontation may threaten maritime security and global energy supplies.
4. Diplomatic setbacks: Excessive pressure can weaken trust and complicate negotiations.

Way Forward

Sanctions should be combined with sustained diplomacy, verifiable nuclear safeguards through the IAEA and proportionate sanctions relief linked to compliance.

Conclusion

Economic sanctions can support nuclear non-proliferation, but they are rarely sufficient on their own. A balanced approach combining diplomatic engagement, verification and proportionate incentives offers a more sustainable path towards peace and stability in West Asia.

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