International Relations · GS - II

Examine how international criticism during global health emergencies can influence a country's foreign policy and multilateral cooperation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 01/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

COVID-19 diplomacy; national image; strategic communication; multilateral institutions; geopolitical competition; global health cooperation

Model Answer

Introduction:

Global health emergencies are not only public health challenges but also tests of international trust, transparency and cooperation. Disagreements over the handling of COVID-19 affected diplomatic relations among several countries.

Impact on foreign policy

- **Diplomatic tensions:** Criticism regarding transparency and crisis management can deepen mistrust between states.
- **National image:** Governments may adopt defensive communication strategies to protect their international reputation.
- **Geopolitical competition:** Health-related disagreements can become linked to broader strategic rivalry and competition for influence.
- **Multilateral cooperation:** Political tensions may complicate consensus-building within international institutions.

- **Global public health:** Reduced trust can hinder information-sharing and coordinated responses to future outbreaks.

Way Forward

Countries should strengthen independent scientific assessment, timely information-sharing and transparent international reporting. Multilateral institutions must maintain technical credibility while facilitating dialogue and cooperation. Diplomatic disagreements should not prevent collaboration on shared public health risks.

Conclusion

Global criticism can influence foreign policy by affecting trust and perceptions of national interests. Sustained multilateral cooperation requires transparency, evidence-based assessment and the separation of scientific collaboration from geopolitical rivalry.

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