Defence & Security · GS - III

To what extent can international arms-control treaties prevent the use of weapons of mass destruction amid growing geopolitical rivalries?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 25/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Chemical Weapons Convention, Biological Weapons Convention, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, OPCW, verification, compliance, geopolitical rivalry

Model Answer

Introduction

Weapons of mass destruction pose threats beyond national borders. International arms-control treaties seek to limit their development, proliferation and use through legally binding obligations and verification arrangements.

Contributions of Arms-Control Frameworks

1. **Norm creation:** The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) prohibits chemical weapons and establishes a global norm against their use.

2. **Verification:** The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) conducts inspections and monitors compliance with the CWC.

3. **Non-proliferation:** The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty seeks to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons while supporting peaceful nuclear cooperation.

4. **International cooperation:** Treaty mechanisms facilitate information exchange, technical assistance and coordinated responses to violations.

Persistent Limitations

1. **Political mistrust:** Rival States may reject allegations, restrict cooperation or use arms-control concerns as instruments of strategic competition.

2. **Verification gaps:** Concealed facilities, dual-use technologies and limited access can complicate monitoring.

3. **Enforcement constraints:** International institutions often depend on member States for political support and effective enforcement.

4. **Unequal security perceptions:** Different threat perceptions can weaken consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation.

India's Approach

India should continue supporting universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable arms-control arrangements while strengthening diplomatic engagement, strategic preparedness and multilateral institutions.

Conclusion

Arms-control treaties cannot eliminate geopolitical rivalry, but they establish legal obligations, verification mechanisms and diplomatic channels that reduce the risks of proliferation and conflict. Their effectiveness ultimately depends on sustained international cooperation and political commitment.

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