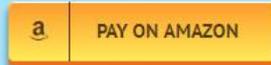


November 9th, 2018 Sample Current Affairs

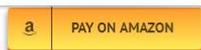
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1. INF Treaty reflected the political reality of the Cold War: Existing nuclear arms control agreements need to be brought in line with today's political realities

- What is Intermediate- Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty?**
- Is INF treaty consistent with today's realities?**
- Could U.S. and Russia alone control the nuclear stability of the world?**

GS paper 2 (Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

Rakesh Sood. (2018, November , 09).
Preserving the taboo: on nuclear arms control. The Hindu.
Retrieved from
<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/preserving-the-taboo/article25429668.ece>

What is the context about?

- Last month, U.S. President Donald Trump declared that the U.S. is quitting the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, a bilateral agreement with Russia signed in 1987.

- ❑ The decision was not unexpected since the U.S. has long maintained that Russia has been violating the treaty.
- ❑ Mr. Trump has been critical of arms control agreements because, according to him, other countries cheat putting the U.S. at a disadvantage.

What is Intermediate- Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty?

- ❑ The 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty required the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate and permanently forswear all of their nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometers.
- ❑ The treaty marked the first time the superpowers had agreed to reduce their nuclear arsenals, eliminate an entire category of nuclear weapons, and utilize extensive on-site inspections for verification. As a result of the INF Treaty, the United States and the Soviet Union destroyed a total of 2,692 short-, medium-, and intermediate-range missiles by the treaty's implementation deadline of June 1, 1991.

IS INF treaty consistent with today's realities?

INF treaty not in consistent with todays realities :

- ❑ INF treaty does not restrict the other countries to eliminate the intermediate range missiles.

- ❑ The Nuclear Posture Review of US, envisages more expansive role of nuclear arms to tackle the present security and environmental threats.
- ❑ Chinas hegemonic power at the local level, and potential to be a competitor and become a multi polar world never comply with INF treaty.
- ❑ At present days there is no clear demarcation between the nuclear and conventional weapons.

Could U.S. and Russia alone control the nuclear stability of the world?

- ❑ The key difference with today's return of major power rivalry is that it is no longer a bi-polar world, and nuclear arms control is no longer governed by a single binary equation.
- ❑ There are multiple nuclear equations — U.S.-Russia, U.S.-China, U.S.-North Korea, India-Pakistan, India-China, but none is standalone.
- ❑ Therefore, neither nuclear stability nor strategic stability in today's world can be ensured by the U.S. and Russia alone and this requires us to think afresh.

The way forward

- ❑ The most important achievement of nuclear arms control is that the taboo against use of nuclear weapons has held since 1945.

- ❑ Preserving the taboo is critical but this needs realisation that existing nuclear arms control has to be brought into line with today's political realities.