International Relations · GS - II

The weakening of traditional multilateralism and the emergence of minilateral groupings are reshaping global governance. Examine the challenges and opportunities this transition presents for India's strategic autonomy and global leadership.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Great-power rivalry, institutional paralysis, minilateralism, multi-alignment, strategic autonomy, supply-chain resilience, technology governance, Global South, bridge-builder role.

Model Answer

Introduction

Traditional multilateral institutions are facing challenges due to geopolitical rivalries, competing national interests and declining consensus. Consequently, smaller issue-based groupings are gaining importance in global governance.

Challenges for India

- **Strategic pressure:** Rival blocs may compel India to take positions that constrain independent foreign policy choices.
- **Economic vulnerabilities:** Weaponisation of supply chains and technological restrictions can threaten India's economic security.

- **Institutional fragmentation:** Competing platforms may weaken universal rules and create fragmented global standards.

Opportunities for India

- **Multi-alignment:** India can engage simultaneously with different powers through platforms such as BRICS, Quad and G20.
- **Global South leadership:** India can articulate developing countries' concerns regarding climate finance, trade and technology access.
- **Norm-setting:** Participation in emerging technology partnerships provides opportunities to influence standards on artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and digital governance.

Conclusion

India should pursue flexible partnerships while strengthening multilateral institutions. Its ability to act as a credible bridge-builder can transform strategic autonomy into constructive global leadership.

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