International Relations · GS - II

Strategic autonomy remains a defining feature of India's foreign policy amid changing global power equations. Analyse how India can balance its partnerships with major powers while safeguarding its independent decision-making.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Strategic autonomy, multi-alignment, national interest, multipolarity, India-US relations, Russia partnership, strategic groupings, defence cooperation, economic interdependence, diplomatic flexibility.

Model Answer

Introduction

Strategic autonomy refers to India's ability to make independent foreign policy decisions according to its national interests. In an increasingly multipolar world, it remains central to India's diplomatic approach.

Importance of Strategic Autonomy

India engages with multiple powers through platforms such as the Quad, BRICS and SCO. It maintains partnerships with the United States, Russia and European countries while pursuing independent positions on international issues. This approach expands diplomatic flexibility and protects national interests.

Challenges

Growing geopolitical rivalries, defence dependencies, technology restrictions and economic interdependence can create external pressure. Balancing competing partnerships without compromising national priorities requires consistent diplomacy.

Way Forward

India should diversify defence and technology partnerships, strengthen domestic manufacturing, enhance economic resilience and deepen regional cooperation. Transparent dialogue based on mutual respect can help manage disagreements with strategic partners.

Conclusion

Strategic autonomy does not mean isolation or equidistance. It enables India to pursue constructive partnerships while preserving sovereign decision-making in a changing global order.

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