International Relations · GS - II

The emergence of minilateral groupings such as the Quad alongside renewed dialogue among major powers reflects a changing global order. Examine the opportunities and challenges this presents for India's strategic autonomy and national interests.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Minilateralism and multipolarity, strategic autonomy, Indo-Pacific security, supply-chain resilience, great-power competition, India’s diplomatic balancing, economic and security interests, risks of bloc politics.

Model Answer

Introduction

The global order is witnessing a shift towards flexible strategic groupings and renewed engagement among major powers. The Quad and possible US-Russia-China dialogue reflect these changing dynamics.

Opportunities for India

- **Indo-Pacific security:** The Quad strengthens maritime cooperation and supports a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific.
- **Economic resilience:** Diversifying supply chains in critical technologies and strategic sectors can reduce excessive dependence on China.
- **Diplomatic leverage:** Engagement with multiple power centres enhances India's international influence.

- **Strategic partnerships:** Cooperation with the US, Russia and other partners can advance India's defence, energy and technological interests.

Challenges

- Intensifying US-China rivalry may pressure India to choose sides.
- Renewed great-power arrangements could marginalise the interests of middle and smaller powers.
- Excessive dependence on any single partner may constrain India's policy flexibility.

Conclusion

India must pursue issue-based partnerships, strengthen indigenous capabilities and maintain constructive engagement with competing powers. Strategic autonomy should remain central to its approach to the emerging world order.

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