International Relations · GS - II

“The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised Nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order” Elaborate

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Non-Alignment Movement; anti-colonial solidarity; Global South; strategic autonomy; economic growth; major-power relations; BRICS; G20; development partnerships; national interest; continuity and change in foreign policy

Model Answer

Introduction

After independence, India established an international identity based on anti-colonialism, non-alignment, peaceful coexistence and support for developing countries. Its growing economic and strategic capabilities have changed its global role, raising questions about whether India has moved away from its traditional solidarity with the Global South.

Reasons for the Perceived Change

- **Strategic partnerships:** India has expanded cooperation with major powers, including the United States, Japan and European countries, to advance security and economic interests.
- **Economic integration:** Greater participation in global markets has increased the importance of investment, trade and technological partnerships.
- **National-interest orientation:** India increasingly balances competing geopolitical relationships rather than aligning categorically with a particular bloc.

- **Regional security priorities:** Border disputes, terrorism and Indo-Pacific challenges influence India's foreign-policy decisions.
- **Global ambitions:** India's engagement in institutions such as the G20 and BRICS reflects its ambition to shape global governance.

Evidence of Continuity

India continues to advocate reform of international institutions, climate justice, development finance and greater representation for developing countries. Its cooperation with African nations, development partnerships and support for a more representative multilateral order reflect continuing Global South concerns.

Assessment

India's foreign policy has evolved from non-alignment as a defining doctrine towards strategic autonomy and issue-based partnerships. This does not necessarily mean abandoning developing countries; it reflects an attempt to combine solidarity with national interests and greater international influence.

Conclusion

India's role has changed, but its traditional commitment to a fairer international order has not disappeared entirely. Its credibility as a Global South leader will depend on whether its growing power translates into practical support for development, equity and representative global governance.

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