International Relations · GS - II

Examine how India's strategic autonomy and multi-alignment can help it navigate the emerging world order characterised by US-China rivalry, geopolitical conflicts and technological competition.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Strategic autonomy, multi-alignment, US-China rivalry, Global South, emerging technologies, AI and national security, diplomatic challenges, strategic partnerships.

Model Answer

Introduction

The emerging world order is characterised by intensifying great-power competition, regional conflicts and technological rivalry. India seeks to protect its national interests through strategic autonomy and pragmatic multi-alignment.

Strategic Autonomy and Multi-alignment

Strategic autonomy enables India to make independent foreign-policy decisions without becoming dependent on any single power. Multi-alignment allows simultaneous engagement with different countries and groupings, including the Quad, BRICS, SCO and G20.

Opportunities for India

- **Global South leadership:** India can advocate reforms in global institutions and represent developing-country priorities.
- **Economic opportunities:** Diverse partnerships can strengthen trade, investment, energy security and supply-chain resilience.
- **Technological advancement:** Cooperation in AI, semiconductors and critical technologies can improve India's strategic capabilities.
- **Diplomatic influence:** Engagement with competing powers enhances India's role in conflict resolution and global negotiations.

Challenges

Managing conflicting partnerships, external pressure, technological dependence and regional instability requires careful diplomacy and domestic capacity-building.

Conclusion

India's influence will depend on combining diplomatic flexibility with economic strength, technological self-reliance and consistent commitment to national interests.

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