International Relations · GS - II

Assess how exclusive diplomatic engagements among major powers influence the effectiveness of multilateral institutions and India's pursuit of strategic autonomy.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Great-power diplomacy, minilateralism, multilateralism, US-China rivalry, Russia-China partnership, global governance, strategic autonomy, Global South, UN reform, India's diplomatic balancing.

Model Answer

Introduction

High-level engagements among major powers can influence global security, economic governance and the balance of power. Such diplomacy operates alongside established multilateral institutions and can reshape international decision-making.

Implications for Global Governance

1. **Diplomatic flexibility:** Smaller negotiating groups may facilitate quicker discussions on complex issues.
2. **Power concentration:** Exclusive arrangements can marginalise smaller states and developing countries.
3. **Institutional impact:** Parallel diplomatic platforms may weaken the centrality of multilateral institutions such as the United Nations.
4. **Strategic stability:** Dialogue among major powers can reduce miscalculations, particularly on nuclear security and regional conflicts.

Implications for India

India must navigate competing power centres while protecting its independent foreign policy choices. It can strengthen partnerships with the US, Russia and other powers without becoming strategically dependent on any single bloc. Engagement through the G20, BRICS, Quad and other platforms also enables India to advance the interests of the Global South.

Way Forward

India should support inclusive multilateralism, advocate reform of global institutions and promote dialogue on arms control and nuclear risk reduction.

Conclusion

Great-power diplomacy can complement multilateralism when it promotes cooperation rather than exclusive power arrangements. India's strategic autonomy depends on maintaining diversified partnerships and an independent approach to global issues.

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