International Relations · GS - II

The growing prominence of great-power diplomacy raises questions about the representativeness and effectiveness of existing multilateral institutions. Analyse the implications for India's aspirations for a greater role in global governance.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Great-power politics, UN Security Council reform, multipolarity, strategic autonomy, Global South, multilateralism, India's permanent membership claim, international institutional reform.

Model Answer

Introduction

Recent high-level engagements among major powers such as the United States, China and Russia illustrate the influence of great-power diplomacy in shaping global affairs. Such engagements also highlight concerns regarding the representation of emerging powers in international decision-making.

Implications for Global Governance

1. Concentration of Decision-Making

- Major powers possess disproportionate influence over international security, trade and strategic issues.
- Smaller states and developing countries may have limited participation in decisions affecting them.

2. Challenges to Multilateralism

- Exclusive diplomatic arrangements can weaken confidence in inclusive international institutions.
- Competing geopolitical interests may obstruct consensus on global challenges such as nuclear risks, energy security and climate change.

3. India's Strategic Position

- India's economic, demographic and diplomatic influence strengthens its claim for greater representation.
- Its engagement with the Global South provides an opportunity to articulate developing-country concerns.
- Strategic autonomy allows India to maintain relations with competing power centres while pursuing national interests.

Reforms Required

- Expansion of the UN Security Council to reflect contemporary geopolitical and demographic realities.
- Greater representation of developing countries, particularly from Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- Strengthening transparency, accountability and democratic participation in multilateral decision-making.
- Reform of global financial and governance institutions to address unequal representation.

Conclusion

India's global aspirations require both greater participation in established institutions and constructive engagement with emerging diplomatic platforms. An inclusive, representative and rules-based multilateral order remains essential for sustainable global stability.