International Relations · GS - II

Analyse the implications of emerging great-power diplomatic alignments for India's strategic autonomy and its role in shaping a multipolar international order.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Great-power competition, US-China-Russia relations, strategic autonomy, multipolarity, UN reforms, energy security, nuclear risk reduction, Global South, issue-based partnerships, multilateral diplomacy.

Model Answer

Introduction

The evolving diplomatic engagement among major powers, particularly the United States, China and Russia, reflects changing patterns of global power relations. Such developments have implications for India's strategic autonomy and its engagement with the international order.

Implications for India

1. **Strategic balancing:** Closer coordination among major powers may influence India's diplomatic choices and require careful management of its partnerships with the US, Russia and other countries.

2. **UN reforms:** Discussions on reforming global institutions provide an opportunity to advance India's demand for a more representative United Nations Security Council.

3. **Energy security:** Changes in major-power relations can affect global energy markets, sanctions regimes and India's access to diversified energy supplies.

4. **Nuclear stability:** Dialogue on nuclear risk reduction can contribute to international security, particularly amid modernisation of nuclear arsenals and geopolitical tensions.

5. **Indo-Pacific interests:** India's partnerships with countries such as Japan, Australia and the US remain important for maintaining a stable and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

India's Strategic Approach

- Preserve strategic autonomy through issue-based partnerships.
- Strengthen engagement with the Global South and multilateral institutions.
- Diversify defence, technology and energy partnerships.
- Advocate reforms in global governance institutions.
- Support dialogue, peaceful dispute resolution and respect for international law.

Conclusion

India's foreign policy must remain guided by national interests, strategic autonomy and an inclusive multipolar order. Active diplomacy and diversified partnerships can help New Delhi respond to changing great-power alignments without becoming dependent on any single power bloc.

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