International Relations · GS - II

Examine how emerging trilateral engagements among major powers could reshape the global balance of power and the functioning of multilateral institutions. What are the implications for India's strategic autonomy?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Multipolarity, great-power competition, strategic alignments, UNSC structure, global governance, issue-based cooperation, strategic autonomy, multi-alignment, India's diplomatic space.

Model Answer

Introduction

Trilateral diplomacy among major powers can create new channels for cooperation on trade, security and global challenges. However, such engagements may also influence existing alliances and multilateral institutions.

Implications for Global Order

- **Changing power equations:** Direct engagement among major powers can reshape strategic calculations and influence regional and global balances.
- **Selective cooperation:** Countries may cooperate on trade, arms control or security despite competing interests in other areas.
- **Multilateral institutions:** Informal power groupings can complement international institutions but may also marginalise smaller states and weaken inclusive decision-making.
- **Global security:** Dialogue can reduce miscalculations, although agreements lacking transparency may create uncertainty among other countries.

- **Economic governance:** Coordination among major economies can influence trade rules, technology standards and supply-chain arrangements.

Implications for India

- **Strategic autonomy:** India must preserve independent decision-making rather than align exclusively with any major-power bloc.
- **Diplomatic balancing:** Engagement with the US, Russia and China should remain guided by national interests.
- **Global South:** India can advocate inclusive multilateralism and equitable representation in global institutions.
- **Economic security:** Diversifying trade, energy and technology partnerships can reduce external vulnerabilities.

Way Forward

India should strengthen issue-based partnerships, invest in indigenous capabilities and support reforms of institutions such as the UN Security Council. Transparent diplomacy and adherence to international law should remain central.

Conclusion

Trilateral diplomacy can facilitate cooperation but cannot substitute inclusive multilateral governance. India must use its diplomatic flexibility to protect national interests while contributing to a stable and multipolar international order.

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