International Relations · GS - II

‘The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India.’ What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2023	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

A stronger transatlantic partnership can create opportunities for India through a stable rules-based order, technology and defence cooperation, yet excessive bloc politics and intensified great-power rivalry could constrain India's strategic autonomy.

Model Answer

Introduction

The strengthening of NATO and the US-Europe strategic partnership has altered the geopolitical balance, particularly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. For India, its consequences are mixed, creating both opportunities and strategic challenges.

Body

Why It Can Work in India's Favour

European strategic engagement: Greater European attention to security can strengthen Europe's willingness to engage India as an important Indo-Pacific partner.

Defence cooperation: India can benefit from expanded technological and defence relationships with the US and European countries.

Rules-based order: A stronger commitment to sovereignty, territorial integrity and freedom of navigation aligns with India's interest in a stable international order.

Indo-Pacific convergence: NATO members such as France, Germany and the UK increasingly recognise the strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific.

Technology and supply chains: Western efforts to diversify critical supply chains can create opportunities for India in semiconductors, manufacturing and emerging technologies.

Countering coercion: Greater collective capacity among Western partners can contribute to deterrence against unilateral coercion.

Challenges

Russia factor: Stronger Western confrontation with Russia can complicate India's long-standing defence and diplomatic relationship with Moscow.

China rivalry: Intensified bloc politics may increase polarisation and reduce diplomatic space for India.

Strategic autonomy: India does not seek formal alignment with any military bloc and must retain independent decision-making.

Economic disruptions: Geopolitical confrontation can affect energy prices, trade and global supply chains.

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Conclusion

A stronger US-Europe partnership can broadly benefit India **if it contributes to stability and cooperation without producing rigid bloc politics**. India should therefore pursue issue-based partnerships while preserving strategic autonomy and maintaining diversified external relationships.