



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** The principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' is deeply rooted in Indian philosophy. Examine its relevance and ethical implications in shaping India's foreign policy in an era of increasing global polarization. **(150 words)**

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### Approach

- Introduce by highlighting the meaning of the phrase Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam
- Delve into Relevance and Ethical Implications of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' in India's Foreign Policy
- Conclude suitably.

### Introduction

The phrase 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' is derived from the ancient Indian text like **Mahopanishad**, " encapsulates a **holistic worldview emphasizing interconnectedness, mutual respect, and collective well-being**.

- As global polarization intensifies, this principle gains heightened relevance, shaping India's foreign policy framework in promoting cooperation, peace, and sustainable development on the international stage.

### Body

#### Relevance and Ethical Implications of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' in India's Foreign Policy:

- **Universal Brotherhood and Global Cooperation:** The principle of '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**' (**the world is one family**) emphasizes universal brotherhood, which ethically obligates India to promote global cooperation.
  - This principle challenges the **notion of narrow national interests and encourages a more inclusive approach to foreign policy**.
  - **Example:** India's Covid-19 vaccine diplomacy, where it supplied vaccines to numerous countries under the "**Vaccine Maitri**" initiative, exemplifies this ethical stance.
- **Conflict Resolution and Peaceful Coexistence:** The concept promotes **peaceful coexistence and non-violent conflict resolution**, which is particularly relevant in an era of increasing polarization.
  - **Example:** India's stance on the **Russia-Ukraine conflict**, where it has maintained **diplomatic relations with both sides while calling for peaceful dialogue**, reflects this principle.
    - India's **abstention from UN votes condemning Russia**, while **simultaneously providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine**, demonstrates an attempt to balance relationships and promote peace.
- **Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power:** 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' encourages the use of cultural diplomacy and soft power as **ethical alternatives to hard power in international relations**.

- **Example:** The promotion of **International Day of Yoga by India** at the United Nations is a manifestation of this principle.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** The principle extends the idea of family to include the **natural world**, implying an ethical responsibility towards global environmental issues.
  - **Example:** India's leadership in the **International Solar Alliance** and its Panchamrit commitment demonstrate this ethical stance.
    - By taking a proactive role in combating climate change, India acknowledges its **responsibility to the global 'family'**.
- **Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief:** The principle ethically compels India to **provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief beyond its borders**.
  - **Example:** India's swift response to the **Nepal earthquake in 2015** and its assistance to **Sri Lanka during its economic crisis in 2022** exemplify this ethical approach.
- **Economic Cooperation and Development:** 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' ethically supports inclusive economic policies that consider the development needs of other nations, particularly less developed ones.
  - **Example:** India's role as **Voice of Global South reflects this principle**. These partnerships focus on mutual benefit rather than exploitative relationships.

## Conclusion

While '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**' provides a strong ethical foundation for India's foreign policy, its application in an era of **increasing global polarization presents numerous ethical challenges**. Balancing this inclusive, cooperative principle with the realities of national interests and global power dynamics requires careful ethical consideration.

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