



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** Analyze the implications of the growing Russia-China strategic partnership for global power dynamics. How should India navigate its relationships with these two powers in this context? **(250 words)**

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### Approach

- Introduce the answer by mentioning growing Russia-China Ties
- Give implications of the growing Russia-China strategic partnership for global power dynamics
- Give how India can navigate relationship with Russia and China
- Conclude suitably.

### Introduction

The **burgeoning strategic partnership** between **Russia and China** is a significant development with profound implications for global power dynamics.

- As these two major powers deepen their cooperation across various domains, including **military, economic, and diplomatic spheres**, the international landscape is undergoing a profound transformation.

### Body

#### Implications of the Growing Russia-China Strategic Partnership for Global Power Dynamics:

- **Challenge to US-led Global Order:** The Russia-China partnership presents a significant challenge to the US-led global order, potentially accelerating the shift towards a multipolar world.
  - The **joint Russia-China naval exercises in the Baltic Sea in 2017** signaled their growing military cooperation and willingness to project power far from their borders, **directly challenging NATO's influence in the region.**
- **Economic integration and Alternative Financial Systems:** Russia and China are working to reduce their dependence on the **US dollar and Western-dominated financial systems.**
  - The development of alternatives to SWIFT, such as **China's Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS)** and **Russia's System for Transfer of Financial Messages (SPFS)**, demonstrates their efforts to create parallel financial structures less vulnerable to Western sanctions.
- **Technological Cooperation:** Increased collaboration in **high-tech sectors, including 5G, artificial intelligence, and space exploration**, could accelerate technological advancements in both countries.
  - **Huawei's involvement in developing Russia's 5G network**, despite US pressure on its allies to exclude the Chinese company, showcases the deepening technological ties between the two nations.
- **Energy Partnership:** Strengthened energy cooperation between Russia and China affects global energy markets and geopolitics.
  - The **Power of Siberia pipeline**, not only strengthens energy ties between the two

countries but also **reduces Russia's dependence on European markets.**

- **Diplomatic Alignment:** Increased coordination in forums (like **BRICS, SCO**) and on global issues can reshape diplomatic dynamics.

### **Navigating India's Relationships with Russia and China:**

- **Maintain strategic autonomy:** India should continue its policy of strategic autonomy, balancing its relationships with **Russia, China, and the West** without aligning exclusively with any bloc.
  - India's participation in both the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** and the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)** demonstrates its ability to engage with seemingly opposing groups to serve its national interests.
- **Leverage Economic Opportunities:** India should seek economic benefits from both countries while safeguarding its own interests.
  - India's **continued oil imports from Russia** despite Western pressure, and its participation in **Chinese-led initiatives like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**, show its pragmatic approach to economic engagement.
- **Strengthen Defense Partnerships:** Maintain and enhance defense ties with Russia while diversifying sources of military equipment.
  - India's purchase of the **S-400 missile defense system from Russia**, alongside growing defense cooperation with the US, illustrates its balanced approach to defense partnerships.
- **Enhance Regional Partnerships:** Strengthen ties with other regional powers to create a more balanced Asian power dynamic.
  - **India's "Act East" policy** and growing partnerships with countries like **Japan, Australia, and Vietnam** help create a counterweight to China's influence in the region.

### **Conclusion**

The growing Russia-China strategic partnership presents both challenges and opportunities for India. By maintaining its **strategic autonomy, leveraging economic opportunities, strengthening defense partnerships**, engaging in multilateral forums, addressing border issues, enhancing regional partnerships, focusing on domestic capacity building, and playing a mediating role where possible, India can effectively navigate its relationships with these two powers **while advancing its own interests in the evolving global order.**

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