

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q19

"The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised Nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order" Elaborate(15).

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · GS II · 15 marks · Governance and Policy

Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Core demand of the question

- "The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised Nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order" Elaborate

Revision summary

NAM, G77 and South-South programmes built India's image as a leader of colonised and developing nations.

Post-1991 weight, nuclear diplomacy and Indo-Pacific partnerships created a major-power role.

The old image has thinned where India looks like a US-leaning security player and a market competitor.

ITEC, WTO developing-country coalitions and strategic autonomy show continuity.

Elaborate as layering and tension, not as a clean disappearance.

Introduction

From Bandung and the **Non-Aligned Movement** through the G77 and the demand for a New International Economic Order, India spoke as a large poor country that claimed to lead the colonised and the developing world. In the emerging order after the Cold War - and more sharply in the 2000s - India also seeks a permanent UN Security Council seat, a nuclear-normal identity, and a place among major powers. The old image has thinned; it has not cleanly disappeared.

Body**The long-sustained image**

- Anti-colonial solidarity, NAM under **Nehru**, and later South-South rhetoric (**ITEC**, concessional lines of credit, UN peacekeeping) built the picture of India as a voice of the oppressed nations, not a camp follower of Washington or Moscow.
- India used that identity in WTO coalitions (G20 developing countries in agriculture, G33), in climate talks as a developing-country leader with China in BASIC, and in the Commonwealth and African forums.
- Moral language - decolonisation, anti-apartheid, disarmament - was the public face, even when realpolitik with neighbours was harder.

The emerging global order and the new role

- Economic weight after 1991, the India-US civil nuclear path (2008 NSG waiver politics), and later the **Quad**, 2+2 dialogues, and Indo-Pacific language placed India closer to a major-power table.
- **Aspirations:** permanent UNSC membership, NSG membership, a larger IMF-World Bank voice, and a role in setting digital and maritime rules.
- **Multi-alignment (BRICS, SCO, RIC, Quad at once) is the method:** India wants options, not a single camp. That is a different image from NAM chair of the weak.

Why the old image appears to have disappeared

- Voting and language at the United Nations on some Western-led resolutions, and a tighter US and **Quad** security conversation, are read in parts of the Global South as a shift away from automatic third-world solidarity.
- India's own rise makes it a competitor for African and Asian markets, not only a brother of the marginalised; lines of credit come with project politics.
- **Climate and trade:** as emissions and services exports grow, India is asked to take "major economy" burdens that poor island states do not see as leadership of the oppressed.
- Domestic development success stories sit beside inequality; partners may see a would-be great power, not a fellow victim of the old order.

Why "disappeared" is too strong

- India still runs a large **ITEC** and development-partnership programme; it still argues special and differential treatment in the WTO; it still speaks for African representation in global governance in BRICS and IBSA language.
- Vaccine diplomacy (later than this 2019 paper's core years, but in the same trajectory of South-South health) and peacekeeping continuity show the old register is usable.
- **Strategic autonomy remains official doctrine:** refusal of alliance, and continued Russia defence and energy ties, are not the behaviour of a country that has fully joined the established West.
- The emerging order is itself multi-polar; leadership of the marginalised and a seat among major powers are both Indian claims, in tension, not a completed substitution.

Elaboration

- **The statement captures a real rebranding:** from NAM tribune to multi-aligned major power.
- It overstates erasure. The image has been layered, not deleted. Friction appears when a **Quad** speech and a G77 speech must be given in the same week.

Flow diagram

NAM South-South image South-South image -> Tension
 Major-power role Quad UNSC bid -> Tension
 Tension -> Multi-alignment-alignment
 Multi-alignment -> Layered identity not full disappearance

Conclusion

India's long image as leader of oppressed nations has faded because the emerging order rewards major-power behaviour - UNSC bid, nuclear normalcy, Indo-Pacific partnerships. It has not disappeared: South-South cooperation, WTO developing-country coalitions, and strategic autonomy still use the older language. The new role sits on top of the old image and sometimes contradicts it.

Facts & figures

Non-Aligned Movement

Cold War-era platform through which India claimed independence from power blocs and solidarity with newly independent states.

ITEC

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme; training and technical assistance as a South-South tool.

NSG waiver / civil nuclear path

Marked India's move toward nuclear normalcy with major-power bargaining, distinct from classic disarmament-tribune politics.

Quad

India, United States, Japan, Australia - a later Indo-Pacific grouping that signals the new security role.

BRICS / IBSA

Forums where India still uses reform-of-global-governance language for the developing world while sitting with large emerging economies.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-2/2019/the-long-sustained-image-of-india-as-a-leader-of-the-oppressed-and-marginalised-nations-has-disappeared-on-account-of-its-new-found-role-in-the-emerging-global-order-elaborate-15/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com