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Q5(e)

What diplomatic steps has India taken to articulate the interests of the Global South in International Politics?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · PSIR GS 2 · 10 marks · Contemporary Global Concerns

Contemporary Global Concerns: Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice, terrorism, nuclear proliferation.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss India's diplomacy toward the Global South
- Keep the answer within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Global South diplomacy continues NAM and G77 in a new institutional setting.

India hosted South summits and used G20 2023 to seat the African Union.

ITEC, credit, vaccines, and UN peacekeeping are the material side.

WTO food and IP fights remain part of the same file.

China's finance is the main competitor for Southern attention.

Introduction

Global South diplomacy is India's claim to speak with developing countries on trade, climate finance, food, and UN reform. It continues NAM and G77 habits with new platforms such as the Voice of Global South Summit and the G20 year 2023.

Body

Lineage

- NAM, the G77, and UNCTAD are the older stages. India used them for decolonisation, NIEO language, and later for climate differentiation.
- The claim is leadership without a formal empire and without OECD membership.

Current instruments

- Voice of Global South Summits collected demands on debt, fuel, and fertiliser before and during the Indian G20 presidency.
- African Union seating in the G20 was presented as a South win inside a Northern-heavy table.
- ITEC, lines of credit, vaccines, and peacekeeping are material complements to speeches.
- At the WTO, India still defends public stockholding and told the TRIPS-waiver story in 5(c).

Limits

- Many Southern States also deal with China as banker and builder. India's offer is smaller in capital.

- Multi-alignment with the Quad can look, to some NAM members, like a tilt. India answers with autonomy and with Russia and energy ties.
- Diplomacy succeeds when it delivers finance, technology, and UN voice, not when it only recalls Bandung.

Flow diagram

NAM G77 -> Voice of Global South
Voice of Global South -> G20 2023 AU seat
G20 2023 AU seat -> Trade climate UN votes
ITEC credit PKO -> Trade climate UN votes

Conclusion

India's Global South diplomacy is NAM lineage plus G20-era convening and development tools. It is real as voice and training. It is constrained as a capital alternative to China.

Facts & figures

G77

UN caucus of developing countries in which India has been a long-standing voice.

Voice of Global South Summit

Indian-hosted virtual and later meetings of developing-country governments around 2023.

African Union in G20

Permanent seating advanced during India's G20 presidency.

ITEC

Training and technical cooperation as a durable South-South tool.

UN peacekeeping

Large historical troop contribution that India cites in Global South and UNSC-reform diplomacy.