DATE: 27-08-2025 DAY:

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August Mock

Current Affairs

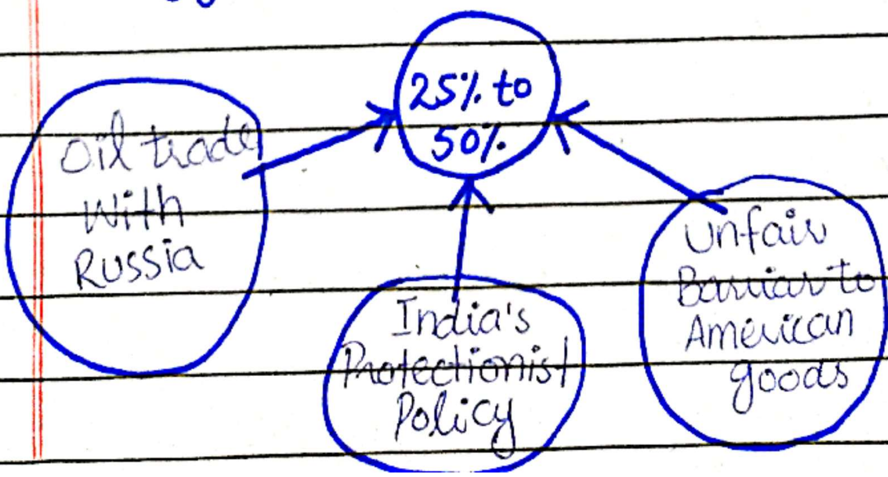
Q. No. 8

US-India Trade

Introduction:-

The imposition of double tariff by the United states on India, raising duties to nearly fifty percent and covering over half of India's export to the American market, marks a significant turning point in global trade politics.

Trigger of these Tariff Hikes



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This move largely triggered by India's continued reliance on discounted Russian oil, has sparked not only bilateral trade but also about the broader balance of economic and geopolitical power.

Economic Implication on regional & Global power politics:-

Economically, **India** is the Immediate loser. The sectors most affected by new tarif include Textile, footwear, gems and Jewellery which collectively generate **37-billion dollars** in export annually to the United states. Factories in hub like Tirupur and Surat are already reporting order order Cancellations and work layoff, resulting unemployment in labour intensive Industries.

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Analysts estimated that India's GDP growth could fall upto half a percentage point, with trade losses ranging from 25-55 billion dollars annually. While India has attempted to cushion the blow by offering subsidies, exbanding credit lines and exploring the alternative export markets, the scale of the outweight these measures. The governments saving of roughly 17 billion dollars from discounted Russian crude imports is insufficient to ofset the 37 billion dollar hit caused by U.S. tariffs. In effect, India's ambition to emerge as a global manufacturing hub and as a viable alternative to China's supply chains has been dealt a critical set back.

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Yet, the Policy is no without costs for **United States**. But shaply raising Tariffs on goods that American retailers and consumers heavily depends upon. Washigton risks feuling price inflation at home. Rising costs may become a Political liability ~~as~~ for already grappling American's economy.

Moreover, by pushing India out of its supply chains, the United States inadvertently strengthens other competitors such as Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Mexico which are poised to capture India's lost market share. Rather than consolidating U.S. influence in the **Indo-Pacific** trade architecture, the tariffs undermine the very strategy of building trusted alternatives to **Chinese** manufacturing dominance.

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Geopolitical Implication:-

The geopolitical implications are even more far reaching

Tariff cast a shadow over US-India Strategic Partnership:-

US-India Strategic partnership build through frameworks such as Quad and Indo-Pacific Economic Forum. India percieves the punitive measures as an attack on its pursuit of strategic autonomy, particularly its energy dealings with Russia. Instead of pushing New Delhi closer to Washington, the tariff may nudge India toward deeper engagement with Moscow and Beijing reinforcing its hedging strategy within multipolar global order.

Ironically, Russia emerges as a silent beneficiary as india's reliance on discounted crude imports grows strong in absence of contemporary economic relief from United States. This outcome contradict

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Washington's border objective of isolating Moscow.
At the same time, China is positioned to exploit the weakening of US-India alignment by portraying India as an reliable partner of the west, thereby undermining the credibility of the Washington's Indo Pacific Coalition.
Signaling to world that the U.S. prioritises Unilateral power politics over multilatural trade norms:-
The use of Tariffs as instrument of geopolitical coercion highlights the weaponization of trade interdependance by U.S.. This erodes Faith in **WTO** system and accelerates the fragmentation of global economic order. Instead of strengthening **U.S. led hegemony**, such policies contribute to the emergence of a multipolar world where states like India, Russia, and china seek alternative alignments and Institutions.

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To conclude, the doubling of tariffs on India is less a show of strength than risky gamble with damaging consequences. Severe economic disruption on India through job losses and Inflation and strategic setback to U.S. On the geopolitical stage the move strain partnership, empowers rival and accelerate global fragmentation. Overall, the escalation offers only short term pressure at the expense of longterm stability, making it a short sighted policy.

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Water politics

Introduction:- The geopolitics of South asia are increasingly being shaped by water disputes, with transboundary rivers becoming flashpoints for regional tensions. Two recents development have excebrate these concerns: India's reconsideration of The Indus Water treaty with Pakistan, and China's groundbreaking 170 billion dollar hydropower project on the Brahamaputra river, which originates in Tibet and flows into India and Bangladesh.

India's move out of IWT: A shift in Policy

India's this decision mark a significant in South Asian water diplomacy. The IWT brokered by world bank has survived multiple wars and conflicts, largely because its ensure fair distribution of Indus Basin Waters. India's dissatifaction stem from, Pakistan repeated Objections to India's run of river hydropower in Jammu and kashmir.

The Broader deterioration of bilateral relation after Pahalgam attack. India's reassertion of its rights over the eastern rivers (Ravi, Sutlej, Beas) and more assertive interpretation of permissible use of western rivers could reshap water avail ability downstream in Pakistan which already (Pakistan)* faces sever water stress.

China's Brahmaputra Mega Dam:-

In bold move china has begun construction what it claims will be the largest hydropower project, dwarfing the Three Gorges Dam. Located along a 50km stretch where the Yarlung Zangbo (Brahmaputra in India and Bangladesh), drops 2000 meters from Tibet plateau. This infrastructure venture is part of Beijing's strategy to Ensure clean energy transition. However China has provided minimal transparency ~~over~~ about technical details, environmental safeguard or water sharing mechanism. This lack of disclosure has intensified anxities in India and Bangladesh both of which riparian nation rely on Brahmaputra for agriculture, hydropower and drinking water.

"Dam could dry out 80% of the river passing through Indian state while potentially inundating downstream areas such as neighbouring Assam state"

(CM of Arunachal Pradesh)

These both moves rooted in national interest but risk destabilizing regional coopera-tion.

Implication of this water politi-cs in region:-

Hydro-strategic Realignment and Bilateral Fallout:-

India's unilateral suspension of the indus water treaty signifies a major Hydro-political rupture, triggering a re-alignment in South asia's strategic Calculus. Long considered model of trans-boundry water cooperation, The IWT's breakdown reflects a broader erosion of trust fueled by rising hydronati-onalism demographic pressures and identity based politics.

India's non participation in arbitration over Ratle and Kishenganga hydroelectric projects and its rejection of the court of Arbitration's legitimacy, reveals a shift toward unilateral hydrological assertiveness

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Where river flows are treated as sovereign tools rather shared resources.

Regional Precedents and normative Breakdown:-

Beyond bilateral tensions, India's move undermines regional riparian norms, setting a dangerous precedent for other upper riparian states like China, if left unchecked such treaty nihilism may embolden Beijing's controversial damming of Yarlung Zangbo (Brahmaputra), posing downstream threats to India and Bangladesh. This shift from cooperative water management to coercive hydro-diplomacy risks triggering a zero-sum scramble over riveriane control, excerbated by climate volatality and glacier retreat.

To conclude, Without renewed comitment to rules based water governance, the region may drift toward hydrological brinkmanship with destabilizing consequences.