

DAY: Monday

DATE: 3 Nov, 2025

## NOA TEST SERIES

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NOA Batch: CB-001 - NTS 26

Subject: Current Affairs

### Question # 01

US Imposes tariffs on India

Answer:

#### ? Introduction:

In August 2025, the United States announced a sharp decrease in duties on many Indian exports, an initial "reciprocal" tariff was followed by an additional penalty tied to India's continued purchases of Russian oil, bringing headline tariffs on many products to 50%. A punitive 25% tariff, imposed to India's purchases of Russian oil was added.

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to trump's prior 25% tariff on many imports from the South Asian nation. The Indian rupee also continued its falling streak for a fifth consecutive session on Tuesday, ending at its lowest level in three weeks.

Tariff level:

Upto 50% on a wide range of indian goods. Additional 25% tariff imposed as punishment for India buying Russian oil.

~~Implication~~:

**Economic Implication for India:**

Export Shock, jobs and sectoral pain:

Sectors most exposed textiles, apparel, gems and jewellery,

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leather, some labour-intensive apparel and miscellaneous manufactured goods, many of which are price-sensitive and face close competition from Bangladesh, Vietnam and China. A sudden 50% tariff will make Indian goods uncompetitive in US markets leading to order cancellation, job losses in affected clusters.

Marketing share loss, Structural adjustments.

"No Indian product can stand any competitive edge under such heavy import taxes," said Garima Kapoor of Elara Securities.

Buyers may shift supply chains to alternative suppliers (Bangladesh, Mexico, Vietnam, Cambodia). Market share loss

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can become permanent if firms move capacity abroad.

### Financial and macro effect:

Currency pressure, discretionary fiscal backstops, and potential downgrade to investor sentiment could raise borrowing costs. However, India's largest domestic markets and relatively diversified growth engines blunt catastrophic macro collapse in the or base case.

### Geopolitical Consequences; Regional and global:

India's Strategic autonomy and regional posture:

The tariff directly challenge Indian Strategic autonomy. New Delhi is

likely to double down on policies that reduce overreliance on any single power; deeper engagement with BRICS, Russia and strengthened ties with East and South east Asian partners.

### Regional Alignments and Competition:

Pakistan, China or Russia may seek to exploit the fallout. China could court India economically while Russia deepens energy and defence ties. The Indo-Pacific balance of power calculus shifts slightly in favor of states less dependent on Washington.

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### Signaling to allies and partners:

A punitive unilateral move against a major strategic partner signals that

US trade policy is more transactional and contingent on short-term political objectives

### Conclusion:

The U.S. decision to double tariffs on india produces meaningful harm to india exports and risks permanent market-share losses in labour-intensive sectors. In short, the tariffs are an effective short-term lever for coercive diplomacy but carry a high strategic price. The ultimate outcome will depend on political leadership choices in both capitals and on whether a negotiated political compromise can (negotiated) reconcile security priorities with trade openness.

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## Question #02

# UKRAINIAN WAR.

### Introduction:

The Russia - Ukraine war, which erupted in February 2022, has evolved into one of the most consequential geopolitical crises of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The roots of the conflict lies in Ukraine's strategic orientation toward the west and Russia's perceived encirclement by NATO. Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its subsequent invasion of Ukraine in 2022 were attempts to reassert influence over its near abroad. What began as a territorial and security dispute has transformed into a full-scale

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confrontation between Russia and western alliance, led by NATO.

## Russia's Core demands and Strategic Goals.

Moscow insists on Ukraine's neutrality - a guarantee that it will never join NATO. Russia also demands recognition of its annexed territories in Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson. These demands are deeply tied to President Putin's broader aim of restoring Russia's great-power status and securing its western borders from perceived NATO aggression.

## NATO's stance and objectives:

NATO's objectives revolve around defending Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and right to choose its own alliances. The alliance has consistently rejected Russia's territorial claims and emphasized that security in Europe cannot be negotiated through coercion. NATO's military aid and sanctions strategy is aimed at weakening Russia's capacity to sustain its aggression.

## Points of conflict between NATO and Russia:

The conflict is fundamentally zero-sum. Russia seeks to halt NATO expansion and assert dominance over Eastern Europe, while NATO

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to prevent Russian hegemony and preserve a rules-based international order. This diametric opposition of goals ensures that compromise remains elusive.

## Diplomatic efforts and peace initiatives.

Several mediation efforts — including those by Turkey, China and UN have attempted to broker ceasefire or peace frameworks. However these have failed largely due to mistrust, battlefield dynamics, and incompatible end goals. Both sides continue to believe that military victory, rather than negotiation, will improve their bargaining power.

## Current Obstacles to conflict resolution:

The persistence of mutual suspicion, high casualties and domestic political pressures in both Moscow and western capitals hinder diplomacy. Additionally, Ukraine's resistance, backed by western aid, has nullified any quick Russian victory. On the other hand, Russia's control of key territories gives it leverage it is unwilling to relinquish.

## Possible Scenarios for the end of war:

Stalemate and Frozen conflict:

The war could settle into a long-term frozen conflict similar to Korea's demilitarized divide.

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~~will get people~~  
Negotiated Settlement:

~~Unlikely in the short term~~  
unless both sides face exhaustion or leadership changes.

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Escalation:

There is also a risk of further escalation if external powers deepen involvement.

Role of International community- and Global Power politics:

The war's trajectory is increasingly influenced by global power dynamics. China's cautious neutrality, the Global South's calls for peace, and Europe's energy recalibration all play roles in shaping the diplomatic environment. Yet, without US-Russia consensus, sustainable peace remains improbable.

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## Conclusion:

The prospects for ending the Ukrainian war remain bleak as long as Russia and NATO cling to irreconcilable demands. Both sides perceive existential stakes in the conflict. For Russia, its sphere of influence; for NATO, the credibility of its collective defense. Unless a strategic compromise or significant shift in global politics occurs, the war is likely to persist in one form or another, reshaping international order for years to come.

