



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

SMART

CURRENT AFFAIRS

For Prelims & Mains 2025

Theme:

GS-3

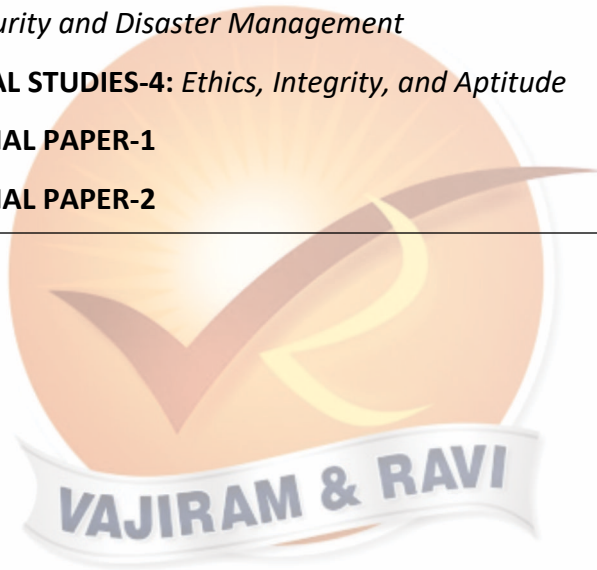
**Topics: India's Trade Agreements (FTAs),
Trade War- Meaning & Impact**

by Dr. Jayant Parikshit



UPSC MAINS SYLLABUS

- ❖ **PAPER-1: ESSAY**
- ❖ **PAPER-2: GENERAL STUDIES-1:** *Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society*
- ❖ **PAPER-3: GENERAL STUDIES-2:** *Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice, and international relations*
- ❖ **PAPER-4: GENERAL STUDIES-3:** *Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management*
- ❖ **PAPER-5: GENERAL STUDIES-4:** *Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude*
- ❖ **PAPER-6: OPTIONAL PAPER-1**
- ❖ **PAPER-7: OPTIONAL PAPER-2**



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GENERAL STUDIES-1:

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

- **Culture:**
 - Major aspects of the various Indian art forms, Architecture & literature of India, from ancient to modern India
- **Indian History**
 - Significant issues, events & personalities from the mid 18th century to the present
 - The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
 - Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country
- **World History**
 - World events from the 18th century onwards and their effects on society & the world at large. (Industrial Revolution, World Wars, delineation of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, effects of political philosophies like communism, capitalism, etc.)
- **Society**
 - Society of India, its diversity and important aspects
 - Role of women and women's organization
 - Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism
 - Population and issues related to it
 - Poverty, and development-related issues, urbanization, problems due to it and solutions, etc.
 - Globalization and its effects on Indian society
- **Geography**
 - Salient features of world's physical geography
 - Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent)
 - Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India)
 - Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes

GENERAL STUDIES-2:

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations

- **Polity and Indian Constitution**
 - Historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure
 - Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
 - Separation of powers between various organs, dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.
 - Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.

- Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.
- Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- The development sector and its processes – the role of SHGs, NGOs, and other associations and groups, institutions, and other stakeholders.
- **Social Justice**
 - Welfare schemes issued by the Centre and states for vulnerable sections, the performance of these schemes; laws, mechanisms, bodies and institutions set up for the protection, and development of the vulnerable sections.
 - Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources
 - Issues relating to poverty and hunger
- **Governance**
 - Governmental policies & interventions aimed at developing various sectors and issues arising out of their design & implementation
 - Key aspects of governance, e-governance- applications, successes, potential, accountability and transparency, models, limitations; citizen charters, and other measures.
 - The role of Civil Services in a democracy.
- **International Relations**
 - India and its neighbourhood- relations.
 - Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
 - Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
 - Important International institutions, agencies and fora - their structure, mandate.

GENERAL STUDIES-3:

Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- **Economy**
 - The economy of Indian and planning-related issues.
 - Government budgeting
 - Inclusive growth and issues/challenges associated with it.
 - Liberalization and its effects on the economy (post-1991).
 - Infrastructure – Ports, Airports, Roads, Energy, Railways, etc.
 - Investment models like PPP, etc.
- **Agriculture**
 - Predominant cropping patterns in various parts of the nation, various types of irrigation techniques and systems, storage, marketing, transportation of agricultural produce, and challenges/issues related to it

- Use of e-technology in the agricultural sector
- Rearing of animals and the economics related to it
- Industries related to food processing and its kind in India – significance and scope, upstream-downstream requirements, location, supply chain management.
- Problems related to indirect and direct farm subsidies and minimum support prices
- Objectives of Public Distribution System, functioning and its limitations, revamping; food security and buffer stock issues; technological missions
- Land reforms in India
- **Science & Technology**
 - Recent technological developments and their effects
 - Indians and their achievements in science & technology
 - Indigenous technological innovation and the development of new tech
 - General Awareness of Space, IT, Robotics, Computers, biotechnology, and nanotechnology
 - Problems related to intellectual property rights
- **Environment**
 - Conservation
 - Pollution of the environment and its degradation
 - EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)
- **Disaster Management (Act, laws, etc.)**
- **Security**
 - Challenges to internal security (non-state actors and external state)
 - How extremism develops and spreads.
 - Internal security challenges pertaining to the communication networks.
 - Fundamentals of cyber security; money laundering and how to prevent it.
 - Challenges to security and managing security in border areas; the connection between organized crime and terrorism.
 - The names of the various security agencies and forces and their mandates

GENERAL STUDIES-4:

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

- **Human Interface & Ethics**
 - The essence of ethics, the determinants & consequences in human interaction.
 - Dimensions of Ethics
 - Ethics in public and private relationships
 - Human values: lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators
 - The role of one's family, society, and educational institutes in developing ethical and moral values in him/her
- **Attitude**
 - The content of attitude
 - The influence of attitude in behaviour and thought
 - The relation of attitude to behaviour and thought
 - Political and Moral attitudes
 - Social influence and persuasion
- **Aptitude**
 - The foundational values and aptitude of civil services
 - Integrity

- Non-partisanship and impartiality
- Objectivity
- Dedication to serving the public
- Compassion towards society's weaker sections
- **Emotional Intelligence**
 - The concept of emotional intelligence
 - The application and utility of emotional intelligence in administration and governance.
- **Contributions of Philosophers and Thinkers**
 - From the world and India
- **Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration:**
 - Status and problems
 - Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions
 - Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance
 - Accountability and ethical governance
 - Strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance
 - Ethical issues in international relations and funding
 - Corporate governance
- **Probity in Governance**
 - Concept of public service
 - Governance & probity and its philosophical basis
 - Transparency & information sharing in government
 - Right to Information
 - Codes of ethics
 - Codes of conduct
 - Citizen's charters
 - Work culture
 - Quality of service delivery
 - Utilization of public funds
 - Challenges of corruption

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TRADE WAR

USA ALLEGATION AGAINST CHINA:

1. High Trade Deficit:

2. Technology Theft:

3. Dumping:

NEGATIVE IMPACT OF TRADE WAR FOR INDIA

1. IMF: Global GDP decline

2. Investment:

3. FDI decline & depreciation:

4. Inflation

5. Supply Chain disruption



POSITIVE IMPACT OF TRADE WAR

1. Chinese alternatives:
2. India can increase export to USA:
3. Global oil Price drop:
4. India's competitors:
5. Chinese Market:

Way Ahead:



MCQ FOR PRELIMS

Question-1: Which of the following components can be used to pursue trade war in general?

1. Tariff Barrier
2. Non-Tariff Barrier

Select the correct option:

- a. Only 1
- b. Only 2
- c. Both 1 & 2
- d. None of these

Question-2: Consider the following methods:

1. Canning
2. Freezing
3. Primary Processing
4. Irradiation

How many of the above methods can be called as preservation methods?

- a. One Only
- b. Two Only
- c. Three Only
- d. All Four

Question-3: Which of the following had been observed in India during the recent trade war initiated by USA?

1. Rupee Depreciated
2. Fear of Inflation
3. Imported Oil prices dropped

How many of the above methods can be called as preservation methods?

- a. One Only
- b. Two Only
- c. All three
- d. None of these

Question-4: Consider the following statements regarding India's Trade Agreements in general:

Statement-1: India's has historically signed more trade agreements with Asian neighbours.

Statement-2: India has been unable to utilise its FTAs to promote exports.

Select the correct option:

- a. Both the statements are individually true and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I
- b. Both the statements are individually true and Statement I is the correct explanation of Statement II
- c. Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
- d. Statement I is false but Statement II true.

Question-5: Which of the following factors affect India's export of Goods?

1. Internal Trade Barriers
2. External Trade Barriers

Select the correct option:

- a. Only 1
- b. Only 2
- c. Both 1 & 2
- d. None of these

Question-6: In the recent trade war, USA imposed this tariff on countries having high trade surplus with USA as well as those countries which had imposed high tariff on USA goods and services entering their country. Which Tariff is being referred to in the given situation?

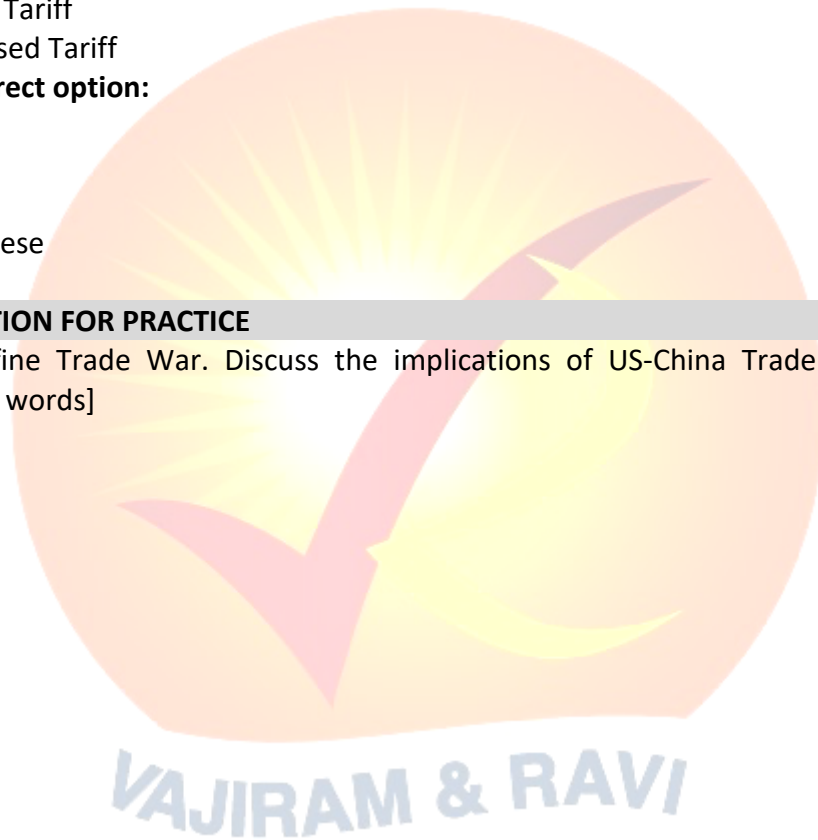
1. Reciprocal Tariff
2. Individualised Tariff

Select the correct option:

- a. Only 1
- b. Only 2
- c. Both 1 & 2
- d. None of these

MAINS QUESTION FOR PRACTICE

Question: Define Trade War. Discuss the implications of US-China Trade War on India. [15marks, 250 words]



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