International Relations · GS - II

"With the waning of globalization, post-Cold War world is becoming a site of sovereign nationalism." Elucidate.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Post-Cold War globalization, sovereign nationalism, protectionism, strategic autonomy, deglobalization, geopolitical fragmentation, supply chains, economic security, multipolarity, multilateralism

Model Answer

Introduction

The post-Cold War era witnessed unprecedented economic integration, liberalisation and cross-border flows. However, geopolitical conflicts, economic inequalities, pandemics and strategic competition have encouraged states to reassert sovereignty and national economic interests.

1. Drivers of sovereign nationalism

Economic insecurity has encouraged protectionist policies, industrial subsidies and tighter migration controls. Strategic competition has transformed trade and technology into instruments of national security. States increasingly seek resilient domestic supply chains and technological self-reliance.

UNCTAD notes a shift from post-1990 trade liberalisation towards more protectionist and interventionist policies, alongside greater geopolitical fragmentation.

2. Manifestations

The trend is visible through reshoring and friend-shoring of supply chains, strategic technology controls, energy security policies and stronger border controls. National interests increasingly shape decisions on semiconductors, critical minerals, defence technologies and data.

3. Yet globalization has not disappeared

Global trade remains substantial and interconnected production continues. UNCTAD reported that global trade exceeded $35 trillion in 2025, even while fragmentation and regionalisation increased.

Conclusion

The emerging order is therefore not complete deglobalization but a more fragmented globalization in which sovereign interests, strategic autonomy and economic security increasingly coexist with international interdependence.

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