International Relations · GS - II

'The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China's supply chain and as a strategic ally to counter China's political and economic dominance.' Explain this statement with examples.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2024	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

China+1 strategy, supply-chain diversification, India, Indo-Pacific, semiconductor ecosystem, critical minerals, QUAD, strategic partnerships, manufacturing, resilient supply chains

Model Answer

Introduction

Growing geopolitical tensions and supply-chain vulnerabilities have encouraged Western economies to diversify production beyond China. India has consequently gained importance as a manufacturing, technology and strategic partner.

Economic Dimension

The **China+1 strategy** seeks alternative production locations. India's large domestic market, skilled workforce, improving infrastructure and policy initiatives such as Production Linked Incentive schemes have attracted investment in electronics, pharmaceuticals, automobiles and other sectors.

Western firms have increasingly explored India for supply-chain diversification, while cooperation in semiconductors and critical technologies has expanded.

Strategic Dimension

India's geographical position in the **Indo-Pacific** makes it important for maritime security and resilient supply chains. Cooperation through the **QUAD** with the United States, Japan and Australia covers critical and emerging technologies, resilient supply chains and regional security.

The United States and European countries have also strengthened defence, technology and economic cooperation with India.

Limitations

India still faces challenges relating to logistics costs, manufacturing depth, skill gaps, regulatory complexity and dependence on imported components. Moreover, India's strategic autonomy means its partnerships should not be viewed simply as alignment against China.

Conclusion

The West's engagement with India reflects both **economic diversification and strategic convergence**. India can leverage this opportunity to strengthen manufacturing and strategic capabilities while maintaining an independent foreign-policy approach.

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