Indian Economy · GS - III

Non-tariff barriers have emerged as significant challenges to international trade despite reductions in conventional tariffs. Examine their impact on India's trade relations and suggest measures to address them.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/11/2026	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Non-tariff measures, technical standards, SPS measures, customs procedures, WTO framework, market access, export competitiveness, trade facilitation, mutual recognition agreements, bilateral cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Non-tariff barriers refer to regulatory, technical and administrative measures that restrict or complicate international trade without directly imposing customs duties. They increasingly influence market access and global trade competitiveness.

Impact on India's Trade

- **Export competitiveness:** Different product standards and certification requirements increase compliance costs for Indian exporters.
- **Market access:** Sanitary, phytosanitary and technical restrictions can limit agricultural and manufactured exports.

- **Customs delays:** Complex documentation and clearance procedures increase transaction costs.
- **MSMEs:** Smaller exporters face greater difficulties in meeting international certification requirements.
- **Trade relations:** Disagreements over regulatory measures can create bilateral trade tensions.

Measures Required

India should strengthen domestic testing and certification infrastructure, harmonise standards with international norms and promote mutual recognition agreements. Digital customs systems, single-window clearances and regular bilateral trade dialogues can reduce procedural barriers. Engagement through the WTO can help address discriminatory trade restrictions.

Conclusion

India's export expansion requires not only tariff reduction but also regulatory cooperation and efficient trade facilitation. Addressing non-tariff barriers can improve competitiveness and strengthen international economic partnerships.

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