Geography · GS - I

"The centre of global trade is gradually shifting from the Atlantic region to the Indo-Pacific region."
Examine this statement.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2026	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Rise of Asia, China, India, ASEAN, East Asian economies, maritime trade, supply chains, ports, Indo-Pacific sea lanes, Atlantic legacy, manufacturing, geopolitics, regional integration

Model Answer

The global economic and trading landscape has increasingly shifted towards the Indo-Pacific, although the Atlantic region continues to remain a major centre of global trade and finance. The shift is therefore better understood as a gradual redistribution of economic weight rather than a complete displacement.

The Indo-Pacific contains major manufacturing and consumption centres such as China, India, Japan, South Korea and ASEAN economies. It encompasses critical maritime routes connecting the Indian and Pacific Oceans and carries a substantial share of global merchandise trade and energy flows. The growth of Asian supply chains, digital commerce, manufacturing and regional production networks has further strengthened its economic importance.

The expansion of major ports, logistics infrastructure and initiatives such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership reflects deeper regional economic integration. India's growing role in global supply-chain diversification also adds to the region's significance.

However, the Atlantic remains important due to the economic weight of the United States and European economies, established financial centres, transatlantic trade and deep institutional linkages. Moreover, geopolitical tensions, maritime disputes and strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific create uncertainties.

The shift is also influenced by changes in global supply chains, technological competition and energy routes.

Thus, the Indo-Pacific has emerged as an increasingly important centre of global trade, but the global economy remains interconnected, with the Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions continuing to exercise complementary economic influence.

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