International Relations · GS - II

‘China is using its economic relations and positive trade surplus as tools to develop potential military power status in Asia’, In the light of this statement, discuss its impact on India as her neighbor.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2017	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Economic asymmetry; defence modernisation; strategic influence; border security; regional connectivity; supply-chain dependence

Model Answer

Introduction

China's economic scale, trade surpluses and technological capacity support its defence modernisation and regional influence. These developments affect India's security environment, economic choices and strategic position in Asia.

Impact on India

- **Military modernisation:** China's economic resources enable investment in advanced weapons, naval capacity, space capabilities and military infrastructure.
- **Border tensions:** Infrastructure expansion and military deployments along the Line of Actual Control increase strategic competition.
- **Indian Ocean presence:** China's growing naval reach and port-related engagements raise concerns for India's maritime security.

- **Regional influence:** Economic initiatives and infrastructure financing strengthen China's relationships with India's neighbours.
- **Trade dependence:** India's reliance on Chinese imports in areas such as electronics, machinery and active pharmaceutical ingredients creates supply-chain vulnerabilities.
- **Strategic competition:** Differences over regional institutions, connectivity projects and security partnerships complicate bilateral relations.

Opportunities and Constraints

Trade can also create mutual economic benefits and provide channels for dialogue. China's economic strength does not automatically translate into unlimited military power; domestic constraints, strategic geography and regional balancing also matter.

Way Forward

India should diversify supply chains, strengthen domestic manufacturing, modernise defence capabilities, deepen partnerships with Indo-Pacific countries and maintain diplomatic mechanisms for border stability.

Conclusion

China's economic and military rise presents significant strategic challenges for India. A combination of economic resilience, credible deterrence, regional cooperation and sustained diplomacy is necessary to safeguard India's interests.

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