

UPSC

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question. Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

अभ्यर्थी को इस हार्डिग में नही लिखना चाहिए। Candidates must not write on this margin

2. Free trade Agreements in India should not only meet its economic goals but also social or geo strategic objectives. Explain.

India's FTA strategy focus on using it to drive markets for its goods and services. However, the strategy does not seem adequate as some of the provisions will erode the access to domestic markets and potentially affect government flagship program, particularly atmanirbhar.

Future driving sectors and FTA:

Two future driving sectors - Digitization and climate friendly products.

Issues:

1. Cross-border data flow

with FTA, developed world could mandate usage of domestic data. 'Data localization' within country, is important tool for governments policy measures. Cross border data ~~It~~ could erode prospects of domestic markets and atmanirbhar progress

2. Manufacturing

Tariff related - customs duty reduction will affect the domestic industry manufactured products.

Non-tariff - meeting Developed countries standardisation of climate products, by domestic industries.

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eg. UAE - present FTA - allows for non-binding Standardization
But developed countries may pressure for Standardization.

Climate Norms

Future of climate commitments will move away from domestic to imported products.

Past instance → 1997 - WTO IT Agreement - zero customs duty measure by India, ~~lead~~ to severely hit Domestic IT hardware and ~~affected~~ widened trade deficit

Affordable Healthcare

Patenting of drugs by developed world will affect generic medicine. Future of ^{Low cost} Affordable healthcare is threatened

Geopolitical

FTA seems most of geo strategic. But if it affects economic prospects, the political status at global level will lower, deepening geostrategic problems

Economic

Developed world obliges FTA more about societal. But policy maker must keep eye on future window opening prospects

On whole, India must re-frame its FTA strategy to put Aadhar at forefront and prevent domestic market isolation and also leverage economic, socials, geostrategic objectives