Current Affairs · GS - II

“Geopolitical tensions between neighbouring countries can have significant economic consequences beyond the immediate security domain.” Discuss with reference to India–Pakistan airspace restrictions.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

India–Pakistan relations, airspace sovereignty, geopolitical tensions, Pulwama attack, Balakot airstrikes, aviation costs, flight diversions, fuel consumption, regional connectivity, trade, tourism, diplomatic dialogue.

Model Answer

Introduction

Geopolitical tensions can affect not only diplomatic and security relations but also transport, trade and economic activity. Pakistan’s restrictions on Indian aircraft illustrate how bilateral disputes can influence international aviation.

Main Body

Economic and Strategic Implications

1. Higher operating costs: Longer routes increase fuel consumption, crew expenses and aircraft operating costs.
2. Flight duration: Diversions can increase journey times and complicate airline scheduling.
3. Passenger impact: Higher operating costs may place upward pressure on fares and reduce travel convenience.
4. Regional connectivity: Restrictions can affect tourism, business travel and the efficiency of international transport networks.
5. Diplomatic consequences: Prolonged restrictions can deepen economic interdependence concerns and reflect the broader state of bilateral relations.

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Way Forward

Diplomatic engagement, confidence-building measures and predictable aviation arrangements can help reduce avoidable economic costs while respecting national security and applicable international law.

Conclusion

Airspace restrictions demonstrate the wider economic effects of geopolitical disputes. Sustainable regional connectivity requires stable diplomatic relations, effective security cooperation and respect for international aviation rules.

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