1) Considering India's development, finding free trade agreements (FTA) partners will be a shot in the arm for manufacturing industry in the country. Explain.

Ans:- As of 2020-21, India's per capita income is around $7000PPP classifying it as lower middle income country according to World Bank.

India's manufacturing sector contributes to around of 25% of India's GDP. Given India's consistent growth, manufacturing sector still lags behind world class standards.

In this context, finding FTA will be a big boost to India's manufacturing sector.

1) FTA provides for reduced or nil import duty of certain raw materials which are inputs. With this, mfg. sector can mass produce many products.

Key advantage → Economic growth, job multiplier, reduced civilian unrest, earning of foreign currency.

2) FTA also allows for foreign players to compete in domestic Indian market.

Key advantage → Competition leading to quality products, reduced inflation, quality goods for consumer.

3) FTA necessitates injection of foreign investments into India.

Key advantages → Brings new technologies and practices, focus on efficiency

4) FTA also allows for migration of people to other countries in search of work.
Key advantage → Increased remittances, stable current account.

5) FTA provides for priority of India's goods in foreign countries without breaching or violating WTO rules.

6) FTA focusing on competitive advantage enables the mfg sector to develop highly specialised products.

7) Finally, FTA can also provide social security to Indians working abroad. India's FTA with Brazil has this provision.

FTA stimulates foreign investors to invest in India. India also requires the fund as it is cash-strapped. FTA brings wonders to the ailing mfg sector, already burdened by many bottlenecks. So, India should sign FTAs which are beneficial to its manufacturing sector, with as many countries as possible.