# Question - 08

"The Asian century is inevitable." Critically analyze this claim in the context of US-China rivalry, demographic shifts, technological supremacy, semi-conductor wars, and the fragmentation of global trade.

**The Asian Century:** entails the rise of the countries of the Eastern hemisphere, mainly the Global South countries in Asia in the geo-political, geo-economic and geo-strategic roles globally. The leading example in this case is of China which has not only undergone meteoric development domestically but also emerged as an influential player in global politics and economy. Considering the rapid development of Asian countries like India and China, persistance of Russia to sustain its power and increasing cooperation in the form of regional alliances and organisations are all of the factors that point to the fact that the Asian century perhaps is inevitable.

## Factors proving the inevitable rise of Asia :

1. US-China Rivalry

Fareed Zakaria in his book, "The Changing World Order" analyzed the rise of China in relation with the decreasing influence of US in the global realm. US despite being a strong and key international player faces challenge of decreasing global influence. Zakaria sums up his argument in these words:

"The rise of China would not result as a fall of the ~~ ~~ West, but rather the rise of the rest."

relate your headings and arguments to the qs statement.......

2. Demographic shifts:

Human capital is one of the most influencial factors in the rise and development of any country. South-East Asia alone comprises of one-fourth of the global population. Asia as a whole comprises of more than half of the total worlds population. Human capital contributes to economic development as witnessed in India and China and subsequently the economic prowess results in global influence

3. Technological Supremacy:

Technology is the key element of the contemporary warfare scenario. Technology including Artificial Intelligence, modern weapons including electro-magnetic warfare and cyber intelligence are areas which define how ~~in~~ much

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influence a country holds globally as security and military power are another determining factor of one's global standing. China has surpassed US in the technological fields with showcase of their technological strengths. One of the main example is the recent successful testing of electro-magnetic catapult by China, which US had been unsuccessful in doing so a few months back. President Trump directed the focus to be shifted towards developing a steam catapult but US ended up in a dilemma as the company that produces steam catapults had been bought by Beijing and was now a Chinese state-owned company. This is yet another example of the Asian meteoric rise.

keep the description of a single argument a bit brief.........

use more specific and self explanatory headings.......

4: **Semi-conductor Wars:**

Taiwan may be a strategic flash-point due to its monopoly over semi-conductor production but the main ingredient of the recipe to make semi-conductors lies in the hands of China. China is the biggest source, producer and exporter of rare-earth metals. It has monopolized the market by investing in rare-earth mineral sources in other countries across the globe aswell. Semi-conductors are of great importance due to their use in not just domestic electronic machinery, mobile-phones, laptops but also the most critical tool i.e, weapons and military equipment such as fighter jets. Therefore, this is another important area of Asian development.

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.........

5. Global Trade:

President Trump has waged a tarriff war on friends and foes alike, which has incentivised countries to look for other options in trade. Moreover, China-led regional organizations ~~and~~ such as BRICs and SCO have shifted the winds of global trade. South to South cooperation is growing and as a result, Western ~~depe~~ reliance is decreasing. The fragmentation of global trade and increasing influence of China, Russia and India is also an important factor of Asia's rise.

**Conclusion:**

The three broad determining factors of the rise of any country are military, economy and political influence in global world. In the case of Asian Countries, especially China, add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments ......



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all these boxes are ticked or about to be (as projected by international analysts). Russia and ~~a~~ India, along with other Asian countries such as Pakistan, Japan, South-korea, Bangladesh and the CARs have been showcasing decent progress. this goes on for support the argument that the Asian century, indeed, is inevitable.

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## Question-06

Critically assess whether Donald Trump's renewed trade-war and tariff escalation against China weakened the Chinese economy more or strategically backfired on the United States. Analyze its affects on ~~the~~ inflation, supply chains, technology controls, and global markets.

## Tariff Wars:

President Trump waged tariff wars on friends and foes alike by dismantling the very system of free-trade that US has been the biggest advocate. of with the help of World Trade Organisation. Trump's main argument in this case is that he ought to "Make America Great Again" by reviving its economy. For that, he has been imposing tariffs on the principle of reciprocity ~~withe~~ on all countries and sometimes penalty tariffs as coercive tools on some such as India. The primary target of the tariffs was the country with US is in the biggest trade-deficit with (about $ 3 trillion); China. However, the imposition of tariffs on China not only resulted

~~Is~~ as an unsuccesful endeavor but ended up backfiring ~~and~~ as China also had some cards up her sleeve. Therefore, rather than weakening the Chinese economy the tariffs ended up exposing the United States' strategic vulnerabilities, due to which the Trump administration eventually ended up stepping back, but not on their own terms.

## China's Response:

The news of Trump administration imposing tariffs on china met with an immediate and reciprocal response by China as it banned the export of critical earth minerals to USA which the defence sector of US is heavily releant upon. This wreaked havoc in the defence economy of US which sustains itself by producing and exporting arms.

## Inflation in US - Local Markets:

The US local economy is heavily reliant on Chinese goods that are cheaper due to their minimal cost of production in China. The local american industries are not capable of delivering the same quality and price which resulted in their closure as they could not compete with Chinese goods. However; now that Chinese exports were given higher tariff barriers; the prices of these goods also shot up to the sky. In the end, the local American people are the ones who fell victim to the Trade and Tariff war that was supposed to bring back the economic glory of the United States.

## Affect of Tariffs on US supply-Chains:

The basic rules of demand and supply in economics entails that the fluctuation in demand of a product has a direct ~~result~~ impact on its supply which ultimately decides its value. The increased tariffs on Chinese exports resulted in increased demand before the tariffs came into effect. This caused mass imports of Chinese goods, benefitting Chinese markets. This is also the reason why the American markets first seemed unaffected by the imposition of tariffs but later went through chaos of inflation when the demand of the products exceeded ~~its~~ supply.

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## Technology Controls :-

The US technology market and big semi-conductor producing companies, such as Nvidia are all reliant on the rare-earth minerals that China has a clear monopoly on. The Chinese reaction of banning all rare-earth mineral exports to US as a reaction of US imposed tariffs also greatly affected this sector. As a result, Trump had to hold meeting with President Xi Jing Ping to negotiate the terms again by going back on his tariff imposition.

## Global Markets :-

The tariffs that Trump imposed on countries around the globe that were heavily reliant on ~~Trump~~ US for trade resulted in ~~the~~ a huge disruption in trade globally. The global trade markets showcased a changing trend with increasing South to South cooperation and trade under the leadership of China. India, for instance, after 50% tariff imposition showed more interest in increased economic cooperation with China.

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Conclusion:

The tariffs that were imposed by Trump as a protectionist measure to develop US economy and undermine Chinese economy ~~to~~ hugely backfired with its own markets and technological and defence sectors taking major hits. Moreover, Chinese economic influence increased worldwide with more countries approaching China in a time when US had abandoned them.