General Knowledge - II
Current Affairs

Part - II

Q.5.
Pakistan - KSA Defense Pact would have far reaching geopolitical achievement for both the countries and economic opportunities for Pakistan.

Answer:

Pakistan - KSA Defense Pact: Geopolitical achievements and economic opportunities for Pakistan:

Introduction:

Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) share a long-standing relationship rooted in shared religious identity, strategic interests, and defense cooperation. Over the decades, this relationship has evolved from informal militancy assistance into a **multifaceted strategic partnership**. In the contemporary international system, characterized by Middle Eastren instability, shifting alliances, and Pakistan's quest for economic revival, a formalized Pakistan - KSA Defense Pact would produce far reaching **geo political achievements** for both states while simultaneously opening substancial economic opportunities for Pakistan. Such a pact would enhance regional stability, elevate Pakistan's international standing, and contribute to its economic resilience.

Historical Background of Pakistan-KSA Defense relations:

The defense relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia dates back to **1960s**, when Pakistan began providing military training and advisory support to Saudi armed forces. Pakistani troops have remained stationed in the Kingdom for **training** and **defensive purposes**, reflecting **Riyadh's** trust in Pakistan's professional military. **Joint** military exercises intelligence sharing, and counter terrorism cooperation have further strengthened this bond symbollically. Pakistan's commitment to the security of **Haramain Sharifain** has added a religious and emotional dimension to the relationship, making defense cooperation not merely transactional but deeply strategic.

Geopolitical Significance of a Pakistan-KSA Defense Pact:

A formal defense pact would significantly enhance geopolitical stability in both South Asia and the Middle East. For Saudi Arabia, Pakistan provides strategic depth through its experienced and disciplined **armed forces** at a time when the Middle East faces persistent security challenges such as the Yamen conflict, Iran-Israel tensions. For **Pakistan**, closer defense ties with KSA would translate into greater influence in Middle Eastren affairs, enabling Islamabad to play a stabilizing role in the Muslim world.

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Regional Instability (Middle East)
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Pakistan-KSA Defense Pact
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Strategic Balance and Deterrence

Enhancement of Pakistan's Global Standing:

A Pakistan-KSA Pact would elevate Pakistan's international stature by reinforcing its image as a reliable security partner. This would strengthen Pakistan's voice in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and deepen engagement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Moreover, Pakistan's enhanced strategic relevance would improve its bargaining position with major powers such as United States and China, as Gulf security remains central to global energy politics.

Maritime and Energy Security dimension:

Energy security is a critical pillar of

Pakistan - KSA Strategic Cooperation.
Saudi Arabia's oil exports pass through vital **sea lanes** such as the Red Sea, Arabian Sea, and Strait of Hormuz. **Joint naval cooperation** between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would help secure these **Sea Lines of Communication** (SLOCs), ensuring uninterrupted global energy supplies. For Pakistan, participation in maritime security enhances its naval diplomacy and reinforces its role as a guardian of regional trade routes.

Oil Routes at Risk

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Pak - KSA Naval Cooperation

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Secure SLOCs

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Regional and Global Energy Stability

Economic Opportunities for Pakistan:

Beyond Geopolitics, the defence pact carries immense **economic significance** for Pakistan. Defense cooperation would pave the way for increased exports defense equipment, military training services, and technical expertise. Joint defense production initiatives would help strengthen Pakistan's **indiginous defense industry**, generating employment and technological advancement.

Furthermore, strategic trust generated through defence collaboration would encourage greater Saudi investment in Pakistan, particularly in energy, infrastructure, and **industrial sectors** aligned with Saudi vision 2030. Such investments would not only boost Pakistan's economic growth but also help stabilize its balance of payments.

Defence Pact

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Strategic Trust

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Saudi investment

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Industrial growth in Pakistan

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Employment and Exports

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Economic Stability

Remittances and Economic Cushion:

The defense pact would also indirectly enhance remittance inflows by expanding employment opportunities for Pakistani military trainers, engineers, and skilled professionals in Saudi Arabia. Historically, Saudi Arabia has provided Pakistan with financial assistance, deferred oil payment facilities, and budgetary support during economic crises. A deeper defense partnership would institutionalize this **economic cushion**, offering Pakistan critical support during periods of financial stress.

Challenges and Critical Considerations:

Despite its benefits, a Pakistan - KSA Defense pact is not without challenges. Pakistan must carefully balance its relations with **Iran** to avoid regional polarization. There is also a risk of being drawn into Middle Eastern conflicts, which could strain Pakistan's military and diplomatic resources. Therefore, maintaining **strategic autonomy** and ensuring parlimentary and public consensus are essential for the sustainability of such a pact.

Way Forward:

To maximize benefits, Pakistan should **institutionalize defense cooperation** through clearly **defined agreements** focused on training, technology sharing, and defense diplomacy rather than combat roles. Expanding cooperation into emerging domains such as cyber security, counter-terrorism, and defense technology would further future-proof the partnership. Most importantly, Pakistan must pursue a balanced **Middle East policy** that prioritizes peace and regional stability.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, a Pakistan - KSA Defense Pact would yield far - reaching geopolitical achievements by enhancing regional stability & strengthening Muslim world security cooperation, and elevating Pakistan's global standing. Simultaneously, it would unlock significant **economic opportunities** for Pakistan through defense exports, foreign investment, employment generation, and financial support. If managed prudently, the pact can serve as a **strategic cornerstone** for Pakistan's **economic revival** and long - term geopolitical relevance.

Q. 7.
US used chip as weapon and china in return used Rare Earth metals. Critically evaluate the future war between the two world largest economies in the light of the above statement.

Answer:

US - China Trade War: Chips versus rare earths and the future of Strategic economic warfare:

Introduction:

The intensifying trade and technology rivalry between the US and China, the world's two largest economies, has entered a new and dangerous phase characterized by the **weaponization of supply chains**. The United States has increasingly used **semiconductors** (chips) as a strategic weapon by restricting China's access to advanced technology, while China in response, has signaled its readiness to leverage its dominance in

rare earth metals, which are critical for modern industries. This tit-for-tat strategy reflects a shift from conventional trade disputes to **geo-economic warfare**, raising serious questions about the future trajectory of the US-China war and its implications for the global economy.

- **Strategic Context of the US-China Trade War:**

The US-China trade war, which begins with tariffs, has evolved into a broader contest for **technological supremacy and strategic dominance**. While tariffs targeted goods, the current phase targets **choke points in global supply chains**, particularly in high tech sectors. The US dominates advanced semiconductors design and manifacturing equipment, whereas China controls a significant share of rare earth mining and processing. This asymmetry has transformed trade into a strategic battlefield.

Chips as a Strategic weapon: The US Approach:

The US has used its dominance in the semiconductor ecosystem to restrict China's technological advancement. By imposing export controls on advanced chips, chip-making equipment, and related software, Washington aims to slow China's progress in artificial intelligence, military modernization, and high tech manufacturing. These measures are justified under national security concerns but effectively function as **economic containment**. As semiconductors are foundational to almost every modern industry - from defense systems to consumer electronics - the US strategy seeks to preserve its technological edge while constraining China's rise.

US control over advanced chips

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Export restrictions on China

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Slowed Technological Advancement

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Strategic Containment of China

Rare Earth metals as China's Counter-Weapon:

In response, China has highlighted its dominance over **rare earth metals** (REEs), which are essential for manufacturing electric vehicles, wind turbines, missiles, smartphones, and advanced defense systems. China controls major share of **global** rare earth processing, making it a critical supplier to the US and its alliance. By restricting exports or tightening regulations on rare earths, China can disrupt global manufacturing chains, increase costs, and apply strategic pressure on

Western economies. This counter-move demonstrates China's ability to retaliate asymmetrically rather than mirror US actions directly.

China's dominance in Rare Earths

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Export controls / Restrictions

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Disruption of Global Supply Chains

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Pressure on US and allied Industries

Future of Trade War:

The future of the US-China trade war is likely to be prolonged, structural and multidimensional rather than temporary or transactional. First, the weaponization of chips and rare earth suggests that both states view **economic interdependence**, as a vulnerability rather than a stabilizing force. This makes a departure from traditional globalization toward **selective decoupling**, especially in sensitive sectors such as technology, defense, and energy transition industries.

Second, neither side enjoys **absolute leverage**. While the US controls advanced chip technology, it depends on global manufacturing networks and allied cooperation. Similarly, China's rare earth dominance is significant but not irreplaceable in the long run, as alternative suppliers and recycling technological may emerge. Therefore, the trade war is likely to evolve into a contest of resiliance, where both economies invest heavily in self sufficiency.

Third, the broader global economy will incresingly become **collateral damage**. Middle powers and developing states may face supply disruptions, higher costs, and pressure to choose sides. This could fragmented the global trading system into competing blocks, undermining institutions like WTO.

Global and Geopolitical Implications:

The chip - rare earth confrontation has implications beyond economies. It reinforces the emergence of a **new Cold War-style rivalry**, where technology replaces ideology as the primary fault line. Countries such as japan, South Korea, and the EU are being drawn into the conflict due to their roles in supply chains. Meanwhile, resource - rich developing states may gain strategic importance as alternative suppliers, reshaping global geo politics.

US - China Tech War

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Supply Chain Fragmentation

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Economic Blocks and Strategic Alliances

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Transformation of Global Order

Way Forward and Possible Scenarios:

In the short to the medium term, the trade war is likely to intensify through **selective escalation**, with targeted restrictions rather than total decoupling. In the long term, two scenarios appear plausable. Either managed competition emerges, where both sides accept limited interdependence under clear red lines, or strategic rivalry deepens, leading to parallel economic systems. The outcome will depend on domestic economic pressures, global responses, and the ability of both powers to innovate independently.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the US us of **chips as strategic weapon** and China's counter use of **rare earth metals** signify a fundamental transformation in the nature of the US-China trade war. The conflict is no longer about trade balances but about technological control, strategic autonomy, and global leadership. While both possess **powerful tools**, neither can achieve complete dominance without incurring significant costs. Consequently, the future trade war is likely to be long-term, complex, and globally disruptive, reshaping the international **economic order** in profound ways.