

Instructions to Secure Good Marks in the Current Affairs Paper

Date: _____

THU FRI SAT

Important Note: Marks will be awarded strictly on the following parameters:

Content 60%, References 15%, Subject-specific language 15%, Graphs, charts & diagrams 10%.

Key Guidelines: Each question should be attempted with 12-13 clear headings. The answer must be 8-9 pages (sides) in length to score above 15 marks per question.

Questions usually contain 3-4 parts, each part carries equal weightage, so all parts must be discussed equally and proportionately.

Content & Argumentation: Always use examples from current and ongoing events to justify your arguments. Demonstrate strong analytical depth, not mere narration of facts. Support arguments with relevant data, reports, international indices, treaties, and recent developments.

Structure & Presentation: Begin every answer with an attractive, context-setting introduction. End with a forward-looking, well-linked conclusion that ties back to the question. Use headings directly derived from the question statement - pick words and phrases from the question itself.

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The trust global system has built on dollar.

"The dollar is being used as a political weapon which undermines the trust in global economic system."
(Vladimir Putin)

Dollar and SWIFT as Instrument of Coercion.

Dollar and SWIFT are being used as instrument of coercion rather than being a support and unbiased service. US controls nearly all transactions around the world in ^{dollars} so implements its control to leverage the global systems. US is applying 'sanctions' on firms and countries from third states specifically violating the sovereignty of other states. It has its influence on SWIFT, so reserves in ~~any~~ depend on the relation ~~between~~ with USA. When Trump was asked the reason for increasing sanctions he clearly stated that the reason was "How we've been treated in the past". Resultantly it is clear now that

the foreign reserves are not immune anymore

"The west has turned the dollar into an instrument of coercion rather than cooperation."

(Lavrov) (Foreign minister of Russia)

Implication of Weaponization of Dollar and SWIFT on Global South.

Following are some implications on Global South due to sanctions faced by Russia.

1- Diminishing Financial Sovereignty:

Global South has come to know that their financial sovereignty with the dollar and SWIFT is no longer immune. It has become a weakness. Countries with high foreign dollar reserves, like China, are more under threat after the episode of sanctions on Russia.

2- Secondary Sanctions:

The threat of Secondary Sanctions is increasing continuously. The

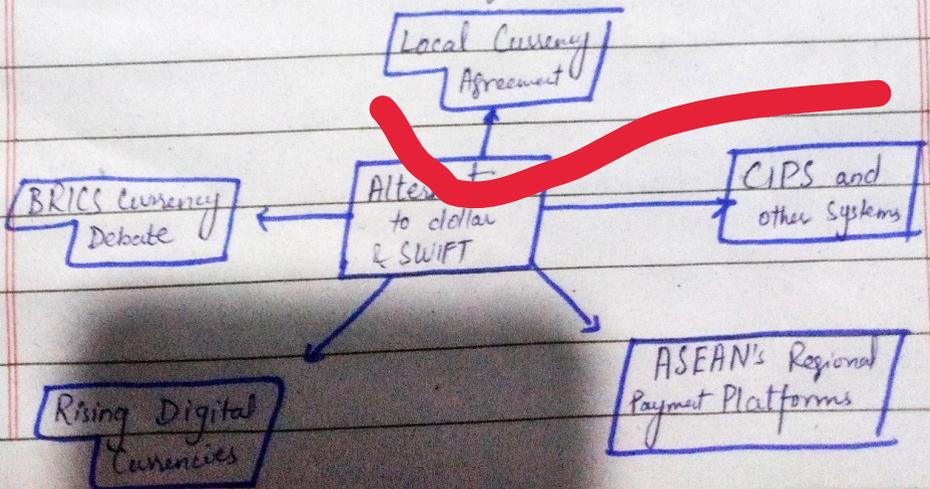
countries in Global South are well aware now, of the influence of US and Europe on their financial reserves.

3. Developing De-dollarization Discourse:

There has been an emergence of discourse of de-dollarization. Countries ^{along} with institutions and contracts with other states trying to trade and deal in their own currency, limiting the influence of dollar on their market and business.

Emerging Alternatives against Dollar and SWIFT:

Countries in Global South have been persuading the other methods of business instead of trading in dollar and through SWIFT.



• Local Currency Agreements.

Many countries in Global South are now trading and business dealing in their own, local currencies. Specially since the sanctions on Russia, it is searching for a ~~process~~ to deal with the local ~~currency~~. Hence the result was Yuan-Rubbal, Rubal-IRS, Yuan-IRS ^{deals} etc.

• CIPS and other Payment Systems.

Global South has collectively launched a system contrary to SWIFT for safe transactions within southern countries. Since SWIFT has been influenced by USA and ~~pulling~~ the rivals and ~~pulling~~, it is a quite safe system launched as CIPS - Cross-border Interbank Payment System. It helps in ^{safe} trade within the south.

• ASEAN Regional Payment Platforms.

Many states in ASEAN has devised their own payment systems specially QR codes scanning apps

and systems. For instance Thailand has launched 'Promptpay', Singapore 'Paynow' and Indonesia 'QRIS'. These QR systems are working efficiently for ASEAN countries.

• BRICS Currency Debate.

BRICS countries are also trying to launch a unified system of currency exchange within the institution.

• Rising Digital Currencies.

The e-banking system has given rise to digital currency such as Bitcoin, Binance etc. These systems are used globally to make a safe route for business & trading.

Constraints for Global South:

Although the Global South countries are trying to move out of the influence of Dollar & SWIFT, yet they are bound by some constraints.

- **Weak Network Among the Countries:**

Since the 87% of world population is comprised by Global South, it is almost impossible to manage the networks between the countries. There is hardly any peaceful borders and dependable commitment among countries. This situation makes it difficult to move out of the influence of dollar and ~~colours~~ between the south states for dependable local system.

- **Lack of Trust among Global South States**

There is a complete lack of trust among various states. The conflicts and waves of ^{shrewd} business strategies are always prevailing. Many organizations stepped to build their own finance system but ~~biasedness~~ and ~~fear~~ of US and Europe ~~handls~~ always been in the way of achieving success.

- **Limited Convertability:**

Countries of global South are not as powerful yet to

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cent The ^{economic} knots with America and Europe.
So there is hardly a number of states participating in de-dollarization process.

Options for Global South.

Although it seems impossible to withdraw the dollar and SWIFT participation yet there are some options for global south to manage their own finance.

- Gradual Disengagement from SWIFT & Dollars.

Abrupt withdrawal might cause severe shock to economies of the country but gradual disengagement can help the states to play safe.

- Regional Integration.

This is the most important and impactful if the global south wants to achieve the success in building a counter finance system. There must be proper engagement among countries of Global South. Organizations like ASEAN, OIC, BRICS and SCO must bring forth

The integration talks among discorded states...

• Building Reliable Financial Capacity;

The soft powers Global south must help in building reliable financial capacity for enhanced trust and dependable financial systems

Conclusion:

The decreasing trust in Dollar and SWIFT due to its coercion specially sanctions on Russia has provided a new trust to Global South. It has become impossible to move forward with the biased financial system of SWIFT especially for the countries in pose with USA. Global South has declared it as an unsustainable system since it no longer provides security but serves as the weapon of suppression

Q-No.4

Introduction

The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine since 2023 and even before is now gaining attention for its resolution. It is considered inevitable to devise a solution for this conflict since it has remained an issue for too long for a state to survive. Since the resolution plan is presented by Russia, NATO and Trump's administration, it is not agreed upon yet. It, on the other hand, has resulted in a discord among three undermining the harm prolongation of war is causing in Ukraine. The three representatives want the solution but are unable to agree upon a devised plan.

• Russia's Stance for Resolution

Russia is stuck to its own deal and is insisting on following points:

a. Recognition of Territorial Gains:

Russia wants Ukraine and the world to recognize the gained states and regions as part of Russia. Specially the Annexed Eastern and Crimea are of great importance.

b. Permanent Exclusion of Ukrain From NATO:

Russia has always been against the interference of NATO and Ukrain. The major reason for previous Ukraine's conflict was this very involvement. Russia wants Ukraine to move out of NATO alliance it is trying to build.

c. Sanctions' Relief:

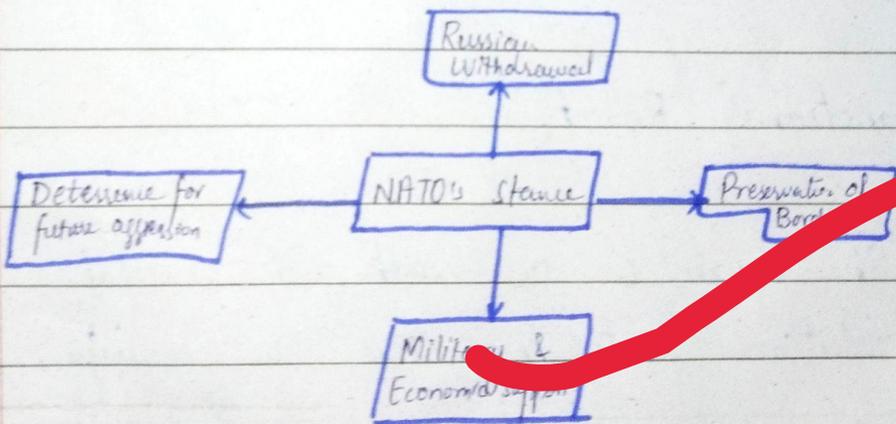
Vladimir Putin clearly stated "The goal is to reach a peaceful solution that guarantees the security of all involved."

Russia wants SWIFT and Dollar reserves sanction lift from it. It will be truly beneficial for Russian economy.

Evaluation:

The demand of Russia to recognize the annexed region is truly nothing but an attack on sovereignty of Ukraine. It is clearly the abolishment of International law. Moreover The I Law provides Ukraine at right to manage its relation to other states and organisations. But Russia's influence will be diminished as a result of NATO-Ukraine alliance. It will be a set-back to Russia's influence on sphere of Ukraine.

NATO's Stance:



NATO presented its points for peace deal.

1. Russian Withdrawal:

NATO wants peaceful withdrawal

of Russian forces completely from every region of Ukraine (from Crimea & Luhansk & other states) it will be the only solution for building peace.

2- Preservation of Borders.

NATO proposed the preservation of defined boundaries of Ukraine. It rejected the stance of [redacted] for recognition of annexed states.

3. Military and Economic Support.

NATO wants to build a strong military and provide the economic support to Ukraine by the world to safeguard it from any harm in the future.

4. Deterrence of Future Russian Aggression.

NATO wants to deploy military forces and provide economic strength to Ukraine for the sake of its deterrence from Russia aggression in the future.

Analysis:

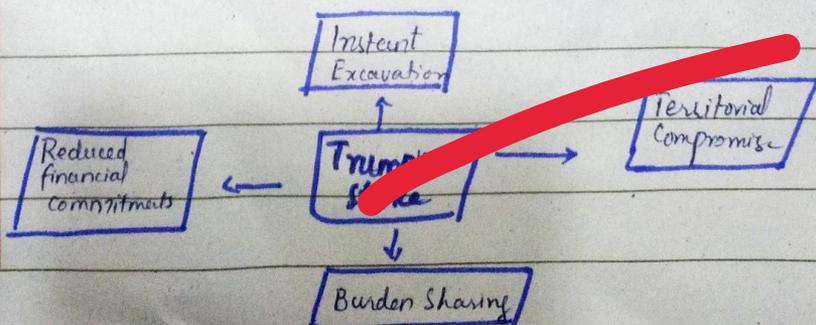
The proposal of Peace by NATO is justified by international peace organization since it is giving a complete sovereign power to Ukrain.

'Peace is the only way to stop bloodshed but it should be the peace that gives respect to Ukraine's Sovereignty'
(Zelensky)

Moreover the proposal gives sign of a long awaited opportunity of Ukraine for alliance with NATO and Europe. It also helps Ukraine in building a good military & economic strength. But Russia opposes it since it is not giving fruitful resolution for Russia at all.

Trump's Stance:

Trump's view is not with the NATO and Russia.



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a. Instant Removal of forces.

Trump wants the Russia to stop war within 24 hours limit and instantly remove the military troops from Ukraine.

b. Territorial Compromise.

Trump is standing with Putin's view of recognition of territorial gains and of annexed regions. It is against the sovereignty of Ukraine.

c. Reducing Financial Commitments.

Trump wants to cut down the economic and strategic aid to Ukraine as soon as peace is made.

d. Burden sharing by EU.

Trump wants European union to share the burden of economic and military loss in US.

Analysis.

It is very difficult for Russia to agree upon the instant end of war since it has been ongoing for three years. Moreover, giving up the

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The country is against the stance of Ukraine and NATO so it is quite difficult to ~~reach~~ reach

Ukraine needs funding to develop its need based economy for survival since cut down of investment is also not acceptable by Ukraine.

Implications of Disputed Peace Proposal:

This peace proposal build a discord in region

- Strategic Confusion within the Region:

With Trump opposing Ukraine's sovereignty demand of preservation of territories, there's been a huge confusion within all parties since it is against the right of Ukraine

- Prolonged War:

The peace plan with no solution is causing the prolongation of war. It is resulting into greater

humanitarian crisis increasing economic threat for people.

• Global Repercussions.

Energy and food security is becoming a challenge to provide due to extended war. Moreover the geopolitics is being militarized as NATO and US forces are deployed against Russia on Ukraine border.

Recommendations:

Following are some recommendations for peaceful drive of peace plan.

• Unified Negotiation Frame.

There must be a proper frame of negotiation where the parties talk and agree upon a unified solution of this ongoing war.

• Phased Peace Strategy.

There must be a proper strategy to carry the troops and war machinery out of Ukraine. It was witnessed in US-Afghan prolonged war.

when US designed the phased plan for removal of troops from Afghanistan.

• Include Neutral Mediators.

The peace meeting must include neutral mediator. China has been a neutral mediator in KSA-Iran negotiation, Pak-Afghan negotiation and other such peace meetings. It would be better to have such unbiased mediator.

• Preparation of Postwar Security Agreement.

Instead of cutting off the funding there must be a proper security agreement to sort out the economic and infrastructure issues in Ukraine.

Conclusion:

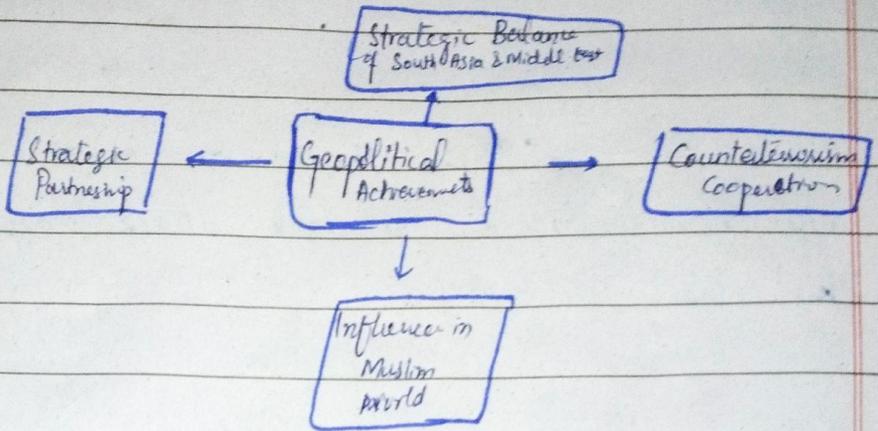
The divided peace proposal of Ukraine-Russia rivalry is indeed an issue of great concern. Ukraine is backed by NATO but it failed to support the peace plan and talks among the parties. There must be proper talk with a neutral mediator and well devised plan to bring peace to Ukraine.

Q. No. 5

Introduction,

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a defence pact on 17 September 2025 stating "The attack on one country will be considered as the attack on the other." This defence pact comprises the deployment of Pakistani military in KSA to safeguard it from the attack of any foreign entity. It is a pact which brought Pakistan into the Gulf region's borders showing Saudi Arabia as its strong military alliance and a message to attacking entities like Israel to keep them at distance. This pact is not just a defence pact but it also contains a whole lot of achievements for both countries. Whether geopolitical or strategic for KSA and Pakistan it is also an economic opportunity for country like Pakistan to overcome the losing economic strength.

Geopolitical Achievements.



- Strategic Balance Between Middle East and South Asia.

This part comes out the importance of Pakistan's military strength in Gulf. It is also important for its image in South Asia especially after the short conflict of 2015. It emphasizes the importance of Pakistan in Middle East since Saudi Arabia chose to be the defense partner.

- Counterterrorism Cooperation.

Pakistan has an experience of countering terrorism. It is also helpful in making the

country's stance of rooting out the terrorism
dear to Gulf and Middle East countries
through the cooperation of K.S.A.

• Influence in Muslim World:

Pakistan is the only Muslim country with nuclear power in the world. It is best opportunity to declare the positive and strong image of Pakistan to other Muslim countries by connecting them through Saudi Arabia's reference.

• Strategic Partnership:

This defense pact is not just about the defense at the time of attack but cooperating or helping each other for better strategic influence.

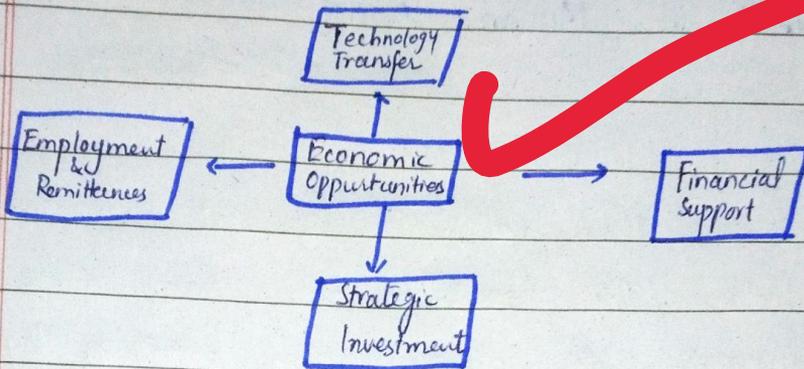
"Pakistan's military diplomacy has become a tool of strategic relevance rather than mere symbolic."

(Christian Faine)

Hence this partnership is expected to

serve as a tool for mutual benefit and long-term collaboration.

Economic Opportunities:



• Technology Transfer:

This defense pact also includes the mutual transfer of Technology and IT advancements with each other. Both countries will provide support for Technological revolution and will share the experiences with each other.

• Financial Support:

This is the most important support provided to debt-enclosed country like Pakistan. Saudi Arabia is one of the emerging powers in the

world since it is ^{one of} the largest oil producers and exporter. This defence pact contains many infrastructure and investment packages which will help in economically balancing of country.

• Employment and Remittances.

Over nine hundred thousand Pakistani population resides in KSA doing labour work and other employments. During Post years, they were facing challenges due to increasing security challenges. But this defence pact also secures their spots and it will also helps in booming foreign remittances.

• Strategic Investment,

Various business investments and large scale economic investments are also a part of this defence pact. Oil refineries and energy projects, global linked infrastructures and mining companies are going to invest due to this agreement.

"Strategic credibility is a prerequisite for sustained foreign investment in fragile economies like Pakistan."

(Hussain Akbari)

Risks and Constraints

There are some factors which can constraint the fulfillment of these vital of defence pact

- 1) Iran-KSA rivalry, although controlled over, but still has influence specially after the attack on Iran by USA backed Israel.
- 2) Internal Political Disturbance in Pakistan is a major hindrance and civil-govt conflict may lead to the difficulty in the fulfillment of this pact.
- 3) World Powers i.e USA and China might question the close ties between two Muslim countries

Conclusion:

The defence pact being so many opportunities for both sides might be the most powerful defence pact till now if met with wise solutions and risks are controlled. Otherwise the opportunity, this great, might be lost in the shadow of pressures.

Q. No-6

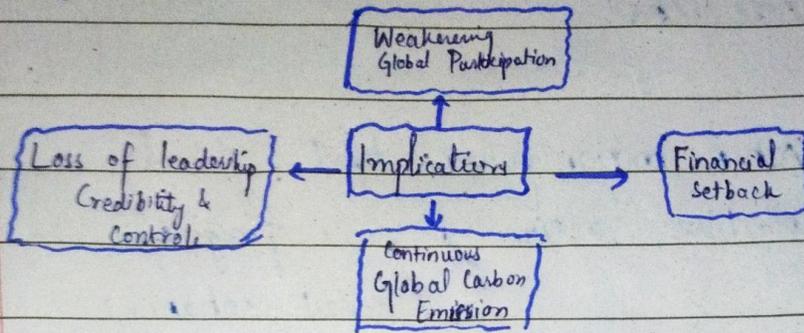
Introduction,

"When major powers defect, global collective action becomes fragile."

(Robert Kohaone)

From calling the climate change as a 'global issue' to calling it a 'myth', USA travelled a decade for this shift. Obama took the climate so seriously that he travelled to major carbon emitting countries for the sake of safety of environment. But Trump did the opposite. A full-fledge, binding agreement for carbon cut to save the atmosphere, Trump pulled out of it. He not only allowed the use of coal but also lifted the ban from Hydrocarbon using industries for the sake of economic gain. He argued that the agreement was disadvantageous for US economy harming business, loss of jobs and unfulfilment of needs of the country.

Implications of US Withdrawal.



• Weakening Global Participation:

The withdrawal of USA from Paris agreement led to the loss of interest by ally countries and specially developing countries which were already struggling to meet the cut-down of carbon emission. The agreement was set to the limit of 2030-40 but later it was extended when in COP21 countries gathered it shows how much the ~~gap~~ has come and it will surely impact the climate in negative way.

• Financial and Technological Setback,

USA had to provide around 3 billion USD

to mitigate the climate change and technological devices to carry out the procedures of green revolution. But due to the withdrawal, a major investor left the huge gap which resulted in the lack of interest and reluctance of countries to take responsibility.

• Continuous Global Carbon Emission,

World followed USA and allowed the carbon emission to its industries to boost economy. The global index of carbon emission increased which resulted in the severe climate disasters in past few years. The rise in temperature, floods, volcanic eruption etc. came with a huge destruction.

• Loss of Leadership Credibility and Control.

The decision of Trump, of withdrawal from the agreement left the whole world question USA's credibility of making decisions and controlling the issues without

proper measurements.

Promises of COP21 and the Credibility of China and Europe to Achieve Them.

COP21 Promises:

1 -> launched massive plan for decarbonization by banning the new coal projects, phasing out the projects in a decade and installation of latest technology hydrocarbon plants.

2 - Shifting from coal & HC to clean energy projects solar, tidal, electrical etc.

3 - Plantation on maximum level.

- Involving carbon emitting countries like China, Brazil, South Africa.

Role of China:

According to Nicholas Stern

"China is both, the problem and the solution to climate change".

Due to its large industry and population, China uses coal and hydrocarbons

to fulfil the needs of its country. But after COP21 China joined the major changes in its strategies.

Strengths of China:

Xi Jinping stood in the front and ~~she~~ took the responsibility to shoulder the global challenge.

1- BRI Projects were changed into clean energy projects and huge investments were made.

2- Clean energy industry was boosted within and outside china. China became the largest producer and exporter of solar panels.

3- Wind Turbine industry was also boosted & invested by China for use and export.

4- Civil nuclear energy industry also rose up. Increase in export of clean energy happened across the globe.

Limitations

China failed to meet the target badly. It had to cut off 45% carbon emission till 2040 but the major cuts would be initiated after 2030.

So it is now increasing climate change and still the struggle to meet the target is going on.

Role of Europe:

European countries were also in the queue to cut carbon emission upto 45% till 2030.

Strengths of Europe:

Europe has been producing energy by using coal since 150 years, so they have a bigger responsibility.

• Green deal.

European union devised a plan "Green deal" to cut down carbon emission till 2050. They planted trees and adjusted cities in patches to fulfill the goal but the pressure stopped midway.

• Climate Law and Emission Trading System.

EU devised climate law and a who system to fund and trade the technological devices and technical equipment

to carry out the carbon cut.

Failure & Limitation,

Due to the failure of all meetings in past years and disinterest of leaders specially US administration, Europe was held back and couldn't get the proper measured results.

Conclusion:

These climate agreements were the responsibility of whole world. Developed or developing countries, all of them are responsible for the atmosphere but the powers of world must take the step forward to make decision about deteriorating climate. Those states which are effected by the change in climate are eager to participate but lack resources and are waiting for powerful and influential states to back them to counter the challenge of climate change.