

# Instructions to Secure Good Marks in the Current Affairs Paper

Question 17

Important Note: Marks will be awarded strictly on the following parameters: Content 60%, References 15%, Subject-specific language 15%, Graphs, charts & diagrams 10%.

Introduction

After the World War II, <sup>of Marshall Plan, Bretton Woods system and Petro dollar</sup> ~~the~~ states with the help

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.

<sup>strengthened the dollar. Moreover, by utilizing</sup>

<sup>Society for World Intellectual Property</sup>

<sup>It also took control over digital banking with the</sup>

<sup>argument of European Union. The state of Global</sup>

Content & Argumentation: Always use examples from current and ongoing events to justify your arguments.

<sup>North was never endorsed of India of Global South</sup>

<sup>as it is considered a step threat (only benefit econ)</sup>

<sup>of the world Europe. However, after Russian crack</sup>

Demonstrate strong analytical depth, not mere narration of facts. Support arguments with relevant data, reports, international indices, treaties, and recent developments.

<sup>an economy, US and Europe used</sup>

<sup>Russian to turn it econ of fragile - Although, with</sup>

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.

<sup>Pussia's strategy it somehow prevented base</sup>

<sup>July 1st of security, therefore, this step of USA</sup>

<sup>and EU made it clear for countries of Global South</sup>

<sup>that they have to find alternative currency in order</sup>

Alignment with the Question: Each argument must be explicitly linked to the specific part of the question being asked. If your heading is not aligned with the demand of the question, the content - no matter how accurate - will not be rewarded. Avoid generic or unrelated headings; precision is key.

<sup>to trade as others, they will demand</sup>

<sup>to US and Europe</sup>

Language & Visuals: Use subject-specific terminology relevant to international relations, geopolitics, economics, and security studies. Incorporate simple graphs, flowcharts, tables, or maps, wherever relevant to enhance clarity and scoring potential.

<sup>After feeling threatened of Ukraine joining the</sup>

<sup>MAP, Russia that it can</sup>

<sup>2022</sup>

United States, UK and European Countries provided huge amount of Weapon including drones and missiles to fight Russia - Although, this provision of weapons helped Ukraine to give tough time to the Russian and to attack deep inside it, However, Ukraine was far weaker to fight any longer with Russian Army -

Thus European Union and United States took alternative steps against Russia to destroy its economy -

Efforts to turn Rubel in Rubble:

US and Europe initiative was to destroy Russian Currency and make its economy fragile. In this regard, many sanctions were imposed on Russia and it was no longer allowed to trade in Dollars - Moreover,

~~Dollarization~~ Russian's reserves amounting more than 300 billion US dollars were also frozen by US - Later, SWIFT was also weaponized through the above attempt and Russia was left with no option to have any access to digital banking. This whole step was intentioned that by ending Russian trade, US & EU can bring Russia down to its knees -

However, Russia played smart tactics which

Saved Russian economy to get weakened-

Steps taken by Russia:

First and foremost, Russia decreased the prices of oil as compare to standard prices. Moreover, it also provided an option to trade in yuan or exchange of gold.

This smart step allowed China and India to buy Russian oil and gas in less price, also helping Russian economy to sustain. By providing the above given option, Russia successfully saved its economy and there was no tangible damage to its currency.

However, this step of weaponizing dollar and SWIFT, although not much successful against Russia, it made it clear to the countries of Global South that they to find an alternative by self de-dollarization or otherwise they can become the next target.

Message to the Global South:

To begin with, Country that felt threatened the most by this above mentioned weaponization was China. China is second largest economy of world who mostly relies on its export of goods to other countries.

Furthermore, China is also considered a threat

by US and allies, being an emerging power and US and China conflict over Taiwan is also an evidence that this weaponization of dollar and SWIFT can also target China.

China can get immensely affected by such step thus it has realised that in order to prevent any situation like that it must trade in different currencies.

Trading oil in Yuan and INR by Saudi Arabia:

Gulf countries including KSA are currently the partners of USA; However, after Israel's impugning and attack on Qatar, KSA also felt threatened.

The step that KSA took was to allow trade of oil in Yuan and Indian Rupees. This effort was seen as an alternative for Saudi Arabia to prevent any situation of dollar weaponization against it.

Threat to India:

India was also an important partner of US, seen as a counter to China. However, recent shift in US foreign policy and imposing punitive tariffs on India also threatened India. Moreover,

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India being the important member of BRICS+ also looking forward to have any other currency to counter dollar and save itself from any threat in the future.

### Efforts for dedollarization:

The step that countries of global south are looking forward to is finding a way out through another common currency and ending dependency on dollar. ~~But~~ In this regard, BRICS+ is thought to be a counter to Global North Hegemonization.

### Session of BRICS+:

BRICS+ is known to be the most powerful organization that is alternative of IMF, World Bank and Dollarization of Global North. It was made clear that BRICS+ will work on subject matter, through introducing any common currency to trade while ending dependency on dollar.

However, at first India and Brazil were the main hurdles, as both these countries never wanted to put their relation with USA under threat.

Currently, by imposition of Tariffs on both Brazil and India, its considered relevant

that BRICS+ will seriously work on said step and introduce alternative currency.

### Russia trading in Yuan:

Like wise, Russia due to imposition of sanctions on it, is already trading in Yuan - Russia oil exports were reduced by Europe to force it to surrender. However, now by trading in Yuan and exchange of gold, Russia gave of specimen to the world that the only way out through dollar dependency is trading in any currency other than the dollar.

### Alternative transaction system:

After seizure of Russian reserves with the help of Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (that also operates of dollar), Global south has been looking forward to find an alternative transaction system - In this backdrop, China has already introduced its own Continental C transactional system that operates on Yuan - This step, although at its initial stage, seems to be ending the dollar hegemony in the upcoming future by allowing the trading options in other currencies.

## Conclusion:

Above in view, weaponization of dollar and SWIFT by USA and European Countries to damage the Russian economy ~~was~~ although failed ~~to~~ to do the same. However, it made the countries of Global South threatened of similar situation happening to them in the future especially to China and India. Thus, Global North with the help of BRICS+ is looking for an alternative option, wherein alternative transactional system of China, Russian trade in Yuan and having own common bank already makes it evident that global north is heading towards the future without dependency of dollar or SWIFT.

## Question No 4:

### Introduction

After three years of Russia and Ukraine war, there have been some attempted efforts to put an end to this war. However, due to opposing stance of global powers, the war seems to be further moving. After the regime change

in USA, Donald Trump tried all his options to end the ongoing conflict. Nevertheless, the deadlock between Russia and NATO remains the same. While Russia demanding some guarantees by US and NATO, European countries demand an unconditional ceasefire putting Trump in a difficult situation as he claimed to end this war after assuming the power.

### Background:

After the Cold War, USSR and USA came into an agreement, wherein it was decided that after disintegration of Soviet Union, Russia won't interfere in German Unification and as Warsaw Pact had ended, US will not increase NATO members.

However, US, as usual broke the promise and started offering membership to more European countries in order to join NATO. By adding more than nine new members till 2012, Russia was placed under threat. However, right after the offering membership to Georgia, Russia attacked on Georgia and forced it remain neutral.

Moreover, Ukraine on the other end was also

at immediate borders of Russia. After, NATO's intention of adding Ukraine too in the organization, Russia attacked on Ukraine in 2013 and captured Crimea to have an access to to black sea, essential for its trade - Later, in 2022, joining the Ukrainian efforts to join NATO, there was another attack on Ukraine by Russia that is still ongoing -

~~Russian Stance~~ ::

Stance of NATO ::

NATO has always claimed that Russia intends to form another Soviet Union and want to expand Communism - That's why, it's essential to save the countries at its immediate borders -

In this regard, European countries and USA provided weapons to Ukraine to fight Russia.

Moreover, NATO demands a ceasefire between Russia without any condition and desires that Russia should leave the occupied territories of Crimea.

Furthermore, accepting Russian capture of Ukraine is considered to be defeat of NATO -

In this context, NATO intends to continue

its support for Ukraine by providing weapons to it.

### Stance of Russia :

Russia simply denies the claims of NATO to be expanding Communism and forming another Soviet Union - Furthermore, Russia intimates that the furs-blasts that it has captured in Ukraine, actually belong to Russia because the majority of the population is Russian speaking - Like wise, Russia demands that Ukraine should surrender and give back all the weapons to NATO countries while making a promise that it will not join NATO in the future.

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## Stance of Trump:

Donald Trump eagerly wants to end the war between Russia and Ukraine due to following reasons:-

1- Donald Trump made it part of his campaign that he will end all the wars and make this world a peaceful world.

2- Furthermore, it is an extreme desire of Trump to be ~~known~~ remembered as president who ended wars and brought peace in the world.

3- Trump wants to win Nobel Prize for Peace.

Above in view, Donald Trump had a meeting with Putin during the Alaska summit and called on President Zelensky, where he scolded him for not accepting the Russian demands.

Trump is a business man, not a geopolitical expert - On the other end, Putin is known for his excellent geopolitical expertise. - Thus

Trump had a difficult time in negotiating with Putin. However, it is also pertinent for

Ukraine to have access to American Aid other wise Ukraine can't fight with Russia with its poor economy.

## Critical Analysis:

While thoroughly analyzing the stance of both Russia and NATO, following merits attention:

1. Claim of NATO that Russia has to expand its territories to establish another Soviet Union and

expand Communism is wrong - As if this was

to defend Article of Russia, it could have

expanded towards eastwards and have captured

Central Asian Republics -

ii. Secondly, Russia can afford it immediate neighbors to become part of NATO. It will bring the threat to its doors.

iii. Thirdly, NATO will never accept a Russian stance of containing the Crimea. NATO countries especially the European countries have paid high prices to support Ukraine as they were dependant on Russian oil. Moreover, they have provided weapons of amounting billions of dollars to Ukraine. By accepting the Russia demand, it will only offer a threat of NATO.

iv) At last, it seems to be no end to this conflict reason because of the deadlock between the Russia and NATO. It is destined to assume that either one of them has to surrender to end this conflict but neither of the powers are ready to do the same.

Recommendations:

1. NATO has to provide guarantee that it won't offer membership to Ukraine.
- ii. Russia also needs to step back from its captured territories of Ukraine while having any

## Question No 5

### Introduction:

Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) have been partners for decades due to common religious values. Moreover, KSA has always provided support to Pakistan during its difficult times including the aid during Bengal famine and helping during the time when Pakistan was under sanctions due to its nuclear tests.

However, after refusing to send its troops to Yemen to fight the proxies, the relations got weakened and KSA tilted more towards rival of Pakistan i.e. India. Nevertheless, in September, during PM of Pakistan visit to KSA, a defense pact was signed which had a clause i.e. "Attack on one will be considered as an attack on other". This NATO alliance agreement was a milestone for Pakistan to achieve. This pact has both political and economic benefits for Pakistan.

## Background:

Also KSA and other Gulf countries were considered to be a close allies of USA, allowing the country to have its military bases in the country. However, right after Israel's attack on Qatar, all the countries of Gulf were alarmed. It was made clear to KSA that USA will never save it if Israel (a nuclear power) attacks on it.

On the other end, Pakistan during its stand-off with India in May 2025, shocked the whole world by demonstrating its strategic deterrence and Air supremacy over a ~~large~~ enemy India. Thus, KSA had no other option but to have Pakistan on its side.

In this regard, the ~~agreement~~ or defence

Pact was signed between KSA and Pakistan.

### Political Achievements for KSA and Pakistan:

#### 1. Nuclear Umbrella to KSA

The main reason as mentioned above for KSA to sign the defence pact with Pakistan to get nuclear umbrella or protection - Israel

has been enjoying the impunity while its allies (Lebanon, Gaza, Syria, Iran and what others -

That is why KSA has achieved nuclear deterrence against Israel.

### 2- Access to US weaponry to Pakistan:

Pakistan had not access to US weapons including fighter jets. Moreover, Pakistan does have F-16 jets

but due to strained relations with US it can get the spare parts required for maintenance. While KSA being impeded of US weapons, Pakistan can also get access to those.

### 3- Strategic depth to Pakistan:

It was thought that due to geographic location of Pakistan, it has no strategic depth. Neither the country can repair so called after a large military attack by India or any other enemy.

However, having access to KSA's territory Pakistan can establish its base to counter attack by increasing the strategic depth.

### 4- Deterrence against Israel for both Pakistan & KSA:

Israel is known to be working on Greater Israel plan as witnessed during the interview of Netanyahu. However,

the major threat was to KSA due to its presence in the region and Pakistan's firm support to

Islamic world. With defence pact, both countries can defend each other during any misadventure by Israel.

## Economic benefits to Pakistan

The Salience Pact has also provided economic benefits especially to Pakistan as follows -

### 1. Provision of oil to Pakistan

Pakistan mostly relies on KSA for oil in order to run its industrial and energy sector. The provision of oil is necessary for Pakistan's economy. By the help of Pact with KSA, Pakistan can get oil at easy repayment or can lend it too.

### 2. Visa relaxation for Pakistani labourers

Pakistan's largest income source that contributes in its GDP growth is remittance sent by overseas Pakistanis. Moreover, KSA hosts largest no of Pakistani labourers approximately 2.6 million. KSA placed restrictions on Pakistanis for getting visa due to security reasons. However, now by visa relaxation can help Pakistanis access KSA market.

### 3. Investment of KSA in Pakistan's CPEC

KSA also intends to invest in Gwadar Port and CPEC. However, due to its earlier tilt towards India, the investment was low. Currently, it an opportunity for Pakistan to attract the investment of KSA and make the country part of CPEC.

#### 4. Trade Opportunities for Pakistan with KSA.

KSA invested more in India and had good trading relations with it - However, with the defence pact, it is also an opportunity for Pakistan to have trade deal with KSA - By doing so, Pakistan can increase its exports of sports goods, agricultural products and footwear to KSA, ultimately benefitting Pakistan's economy.

#### Conclusion:

The recent defence pact between KSA and Pakistan is considered to be a latest milestone for both, especially for Pakistan. While there are political advantages for both the countries, Pakistan can also utilize this pact for its economic benefits.

#### Question No 8-

#### Introduction:

After months of Israel aggression against the Gaza while conducting violence in the area brutally killing about 60 thousand innocent people, the world has finally achieved

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a way to end this massacre by the help of  
Gaza Peace Plan. Although, the end of  
Israel's aggression in the region is positive step  
allowing Palestinians to live. However, it is yet  
to be decided whether it is actually a  
Peace agreement or a period for surrender  
of Hamas.

### Critical analysis of Gaza Peace Plan:

President of the United States with the help of  
Egypt, Qatar, Pakistan and other countries  
reached to an agreement to end Israel's  
aggression on Gaza. However, the peace plan  
seems to be favouring more to Israel.

#### 1- No accountability of Israel

Israel, who has conducted this genocide against  
the innocent Palestinians by killing almost  
sixty thousand people including women and  
children is left unaccountable.

There is no such article in the Peace plan  
where it can say that Israel must answer  
for its aggression or at least pay a  
financial compensation or for economic

loss of the state.

Unconditional ceasefire of Hamas:

Hamas has been directed to agree for an unconditional ceasefire. Moreover, it has been advised to either leave the Gaza or stay there without weapons. This statement seems to be favouring Israel more, as there will be no such authority to control Israel in future.

Appointing Tony Blair as Controversial Personality:

Toump appointed Tony Blair a former PM of UK and his role to oversee the development in Gaza and other essential matters. However, Tony Blair is known to be the most controversial person for his hatred against muslim. He was one of those people who supported US attack on Du 11/9 and that justified his stance. So, appointing such anti muslim personality also raised a question on Peace plan.

No guarantee that Israel won't attack in future:

The biggest flaw in the peace agreement is that there is no such guarantee that

Israel won't do any similar attacks in the future. Moreover, Israel has also been given permission that it can conduct any attack if it feels threatened terrorism. This is another favor to Israel that will also allow to it conduct so called pre-emptive attack on Gaza in the future.

### Chances of success:

While the only positive aspect of peace plan is that there is currently no attack on Gaza by Israel, however, it seems to have less chances of success.

1- Not restricting Israel to expand its occupation  
 Israel has not been restricted to expand its ~~occupation~~ occupation. Moreover, Israel has been creating new settlements generating another situation of Apartheid while peace plan doesn't stop it.

2- Not directing Israel to leave occupied territories  
 While not directing Israel to leave the occupied territories from where the whole conflict started make it clear that the issue will persist in the future and there is less chance of success of Peace Agreement.

### 3 - No such Article of 2 state solution

While UAI and many other nations demands two state solution as to end this conflict - Peace agreed doesn't have such Article that can guarantee a two state solution to allow Palestinians live with freedom.

### ❖ Pakistan's Policy

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister made it clear that the peace plan which Pakistan agreed upon was different to that showed - In this regard, Pakistan not fully agrees with the Peace Plan proposed - Moreover, there is no unanimity the whether Pakistan will send its troops to engage Hamas deweaponization or to save Gaza from Israel aggression.

### Conclusion:

Thus, Gaza Peace Plan has many flaws and much less chances to succeed in the future as it more favors to Israel and is a document ceasefire for Hamas.