

# Instructions to Secure Good Marks in the Current Affairs Paper

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.

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.

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.

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Q. Nos

## (1) INTRODUCTION

Strategic Mutual Reference Agreement (SMRA) without trace of US security presence, Israel's regional hegemony, and French Nuclear ambitions.

The pact is an achievement for both states geopolitically. It provides mutual deterrence against threats, risk

gap in public opinion, full political support, economic opportunities through well-linked conclusion of this pact, EDI through SIFC, Middle Eastern involvement to mitigate energy crisis, and transfer of geo-economic dividends amid geo-political gains.

## (2) PAK RSA DETERMINES PACT: SMRA

"Aggression against me will be answered as aggression against both"

with the context of above lines, SMRA formulated a NATO like framework (Articles)

The pact ensures mutual security. Although its major commitments are still not publicized, it has succeeded in providing political deterrence to both states against ~~regional powers~~ from regional powers. The pact ensures enhanced deterrence for both states. It has far-reaching geopolitical achievements for both.

### (3) FAR-REACHING GEO-POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENT FOR BOTH COUNTRIES

Geo-politically, the defense pact relates to Alliance theory under the larger framework of Balance of power, where both states have ensured geo-political security.

#### (3-1) Enhanced security for KSA amid withering of US guarantees

Israel's attack on Oyster and its passive response delegitimizing US's security guarantees. Amid this, KSA sought a regional ally to mitigate its security

vulnerabilities to particularly vis-à-vis Israel's hegemony in the region. The long-standing understanding with Pakistan was instrumentalized through SMDA to enhance national security.

### (3-2) Nuclear ambiguity of the pact provides KSA with political deterrence against Israel and Iran

Iranian nuclear ambitions and Israel's nuclear hegemony in the region were a strategic vulnerability for KSA's security apparatus. The pact with Pakistan provided a nuclear ambiguity that fosters strategic political deterrence at least to deter any threat from regional rivals.

### (3-3) The Pact accentuated Pakistan's geo-political profile as a net-security provider in the region

Pakistan through SMDA is viewed globally as net-security provider in the region. It has risen Pakistan's geopolitical profile, which carries enormous geo-strategic opportunities. Both economically and politically,

Pakistan's risen profile helps in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.

### (3.4) The Pact has solidified Pakistan's soft power geopolitically

Pakistan's foreign policy has long sought a leadership role in Islamic world.

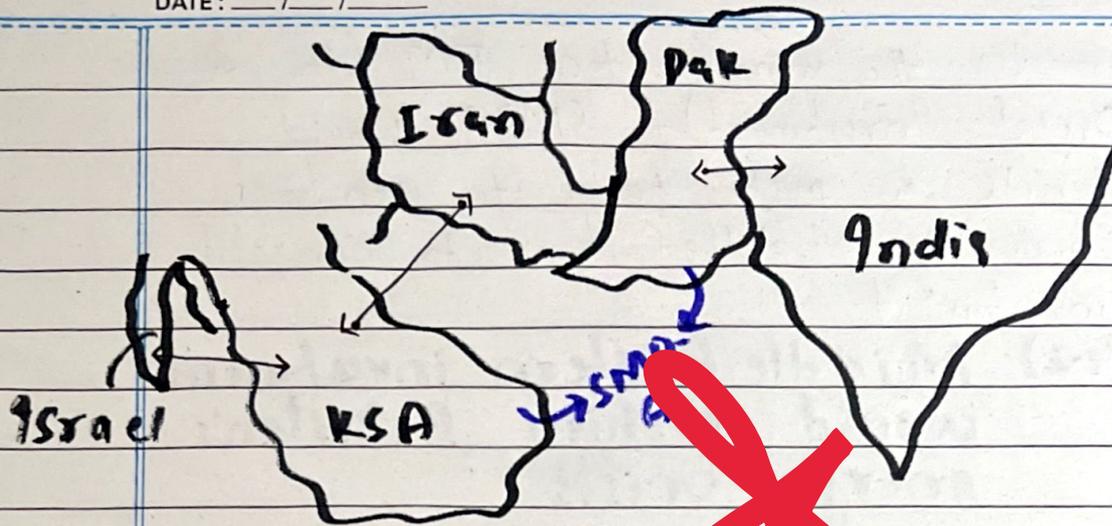
Hosting OIC conference, CENTO, SEATO, and continuous Islamic diplomacy substantiate this fact. This pact has solidified Pakistan's soft power geopolitically as protector of Islamic world.

Pakistan's soft power would assist in strengthening geo-economic and cultural diplomacy and prosper.

### (3.5) The Pact has enhanced geo-political security of both states through extended deterrence framework

Extended deterrence implies that the conventional deterrence has multiplied through an extra layer of security.

This pact has enhanced geopolitical security by ensuring that the rival states' security calculation remains complex as an attack on one could attract both states in the conflict.



▶ The map above provides Geo-political understanding of SMDA as security frameworks against perceived threats of both countries: India vis-a-vis Pakistan and Israel, Iran vis-a-vis KSA.

#### (4) ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR PAKISTAN

(4.1) SMDA as a gateway for increased FDI from Middle East

Pakistan's SIFC (one window approach)

provides the window for FDI (Foreign Direct Investment). SMDA would provide a push factor for countries especially Middle Eastern to increased investment.

#### (4-2) Middle Eastern investment would cushion Pakistan's energy crisis

Oil-rich countries of Middle East are best source for Pakistan to mitigate its energy crisis. Middle Eastern investment would cushion Pakistan's chronic energy issues, particularly by circular debt in energy sector.

#### (4-3) Pakistan could translate geo-political gains (SMDA) into geo-economic dividend

US-Pak economic cooperation after softening of ties during second Trump administration accelerated post this defense pact. It illustrates the geo-economic opportunities amid geo-political rise of the state. Pakistan could translate these dividends through geo-economic diplomacy as it major foreign policy driver.

#### (4-4) Pakistan as a conduit, connecting Middle East

## World South Asia

Pakistan is prone to be an efficient conduit across regions through its geo-political location. Pakistan's Gwadar port remains a strategic location within Indian Ocean. Hereditary tension with SMIDA provides economic opportunities for Pakistan.

### CONCLUSION

SMIDA alliance put between Pakistan and ISA enhances mutual security.

Geopolitical implications for both states include extended deterrence, geopolitical stability, national prestige and solidification of soft power.

Economic opportunities for Pakistan include Middle Eastern investments, FDI through SIFC, and geo-economic dividends and geo-political gains.

QNO 6

## (1) INTRODUCTION

US under 2nd Trump administration pulled out from Paris agreement in January, 2025. This pullout has implications for future climate efforts. They include financial constraints, enhanced emissions, legitimacy concerns, leadership vacuum. Moreover, China has showed political will to lead climate efforts through its Global Governance Initiative (GGI). China possess both will and resources to fill the leadership vacuum. On the other hand, Europe remains the voice of global north. China and Europe together can sustain the future climate efforts even after Trump's pullout.

## (2) TRUMP PULLOUT FROM PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

On 9th January, 2025, Trump pulled out from Paris climate Agreement. US remained major power who sustained and presided climate efforts for decades. Its pullout from

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major climate effort instrument, Paris agreement, indeed is a setback for future climate efforts

### (3) IMPLICATIONS ON FUTURE CLIMATE EFFORTS

#### (3-1) Future climate efforts would face financial constraints

US remained major contributor in climate fund. These financial resources were used in financing green initiatives particularly in developing nations. US's pullout creates a large financial gap for future climate efforts.

#### (3-2) Increased carbon emissions as US's non-implementation of NDCs realized post-pullout

NDCs refer to Nationally Determined contributions. US's pullout implied non-implementation of American NDC's. This risks increased carbon emissions globally as US remains one of the major carbon emitters.

### (3-3) The pullout would cause legitimacy concerns for global climate actions

Trump in his last UN General Assembly speech called climate efforts a "conny job". Such remarks after pulling out from incremental climate agreement, delegitimizes climate actions globally as US still remains in the global power in the multilateral forums.

### (3-4) The pullout risks domino effect

Domino effect refers to the tendency of chain reaction. It implies that US's pullout incentivize other states to neglect climate constraints for industrial and economic development.

### (3-5) The pullout provides other major powers opportunity to fill the leadership vacuum

China and Europe along with other major powers like Russia and India possess resources and will that could

fill the leadership vacuum established after US's withdrawal from Paris agreement and other climate commitments.

### (3-6) Sub-national commitments within US provides hope amid American derision

States within America still hold the climate commitment even after Trump's pullout. For instance, California and major business corporations still adhere to climate concerns and constraints. These sub-national commitments provide hope

### (4) CHINA AND EUROPE HELPING WORLD TO CONTINUE ACHIEVING PROMISES OF COP21

COP21 promises include climate funds for developing nations and restricting global temperature below 1.5°C net rise. To continue achieving these promises, China and Europe must cooperate to bridge the vacuum

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established after US's pullout

#### (4-1) China Posses both will and resources to fill the leadership vacuum

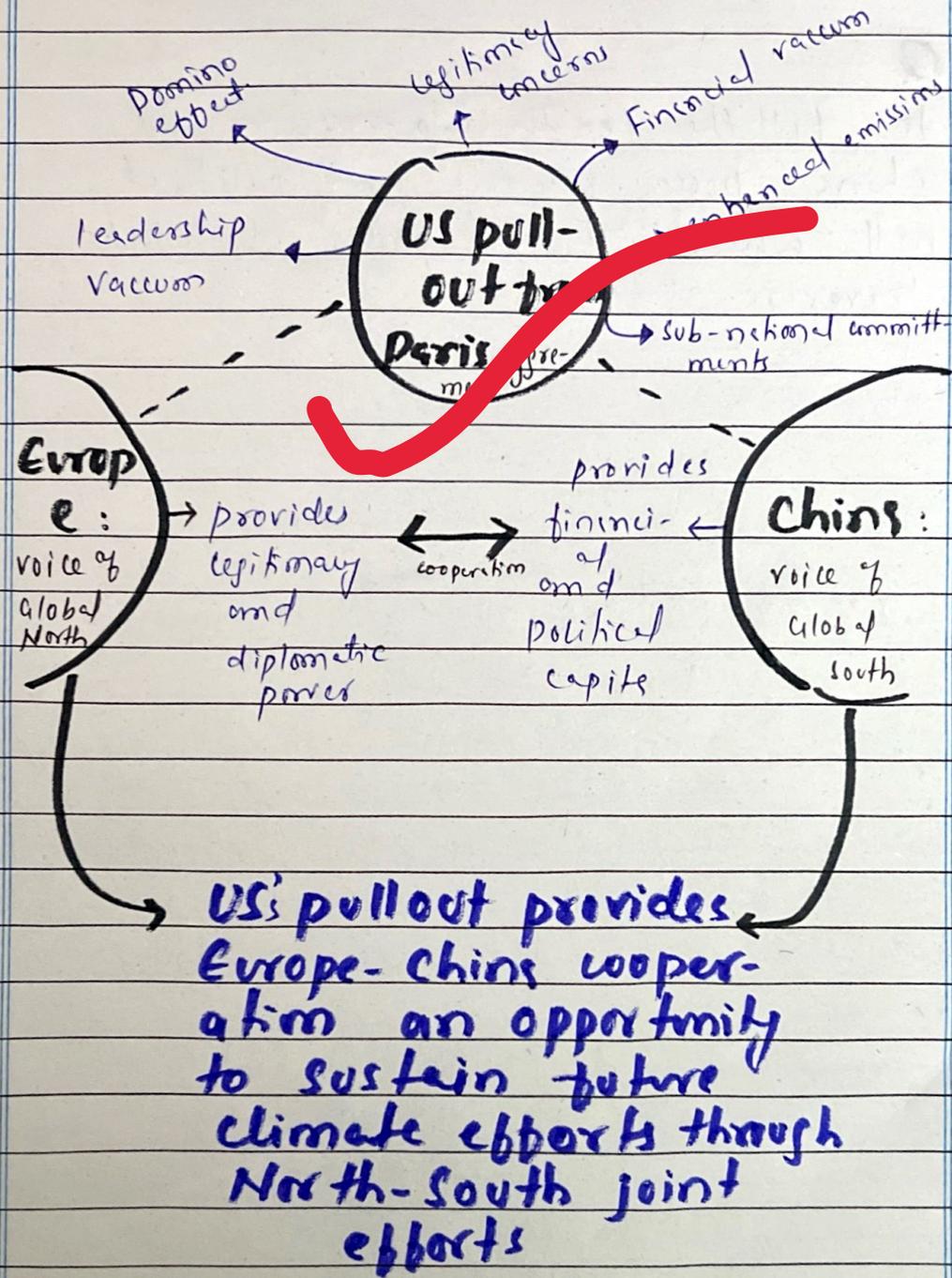
China through its global initiatives here time again illustrated its political will to lead global actions particularly climate efforts. Besides, it possesses economic resources to mitigate the financial constraints post-Trump pullout.

#### (4-2) Europe's climate diplomacy remain intact amid US pullout

Although US pulled out, Europe's climate diplomacy remain intact. Europe is the largest of global north. Its diplomatic leverage and soft power mitigate legitimacy concerns post-US pullout.

#### (4-3) China-Europe cooperation would rally global north and south together behind climate efforts

China with its will and resources and Europe with its diplomacy and legitimacy could cooperate to rally global south and north behind climate efforts.



### (5) CONCLUSION

Trump pullout from Paris Agreement inflict financial constraints, legitimacy concerns, risk domino effect, and threaten enhanced emissions. Europe and China can cooperate

to fill the leadership vacuum as  
china posses resources and political  
will while Europe posses diplomatic  
leverage.

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QNO7

## (1) INTRODUCTION

Chip and Rare Earth Metals were recently used as weapons in recent US-China economic, coercive trade war. It indicates that the future trade war would weaponize interdependences. It would rationalize them self-sufficiency. The norms of engagement would be Mercantilist in nature, withering away commercial liberalism. It would have negative impacts on global economy and risk spillover effects in geo-political realm.

## (2) CHIP AND RARE EARTH METALS AS WEAPONS AMID US-CHINA TRADE WAR

In recent trade war between US and China, chips (semiconductors) and Rare earth metals were employed by America and China as coercive

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tactic to respond to aggression (economic) of counterpart. It symbolizes weaponization of key materials as a pressure tactic in trade negotiations between countries.

### (3) EVALUATION OF FUTURE TRADE WAR BETWEEN US AND CHINA

The 'tit-for-tat' response in the recent rounds of tariffs and trade wars between US and China would reshape itself in future trade war in following manners:

#### (3-1) Weaponized interdependence would sustain as pattern of future US-China trade war

Weaponized interdependence refers to use interdependence of products being used as a pressure lever to coerce the dependent country. The future trade war would replay the chip and rare earth metals as pressure levers to realize weaponized interdependence.

#### (3-2) 'Decoupling' and 'friend-shoring' would emerge

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## as new norms of trade

Decoupling refers to strategic disengagement to reduce extensive dependence. Both US and China would aim to reduce trade dependence on each other. Friend-shoring refers to transfer of supply chains to friendly nations. For instance, many US corporations had already started to reshore from China.

### (3-3) Withering away of commercial liberalism would extend mercantilist trade policies

The future war would further delegitimize free trade norms of commercial liberalism. Once it withers away, it provides space for mercantilist policies to dominate trade schemes. Tariffs and Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) from both sides would operationalize trade policies.

### (3-4) Trade war between US and China would resurrect self-help and self-sufficiency norms

Amid weaponized interdependence, Mercantilism, Decoupling and friend-shoring, self-sufficiency and self-

help remain major lexicon for governing state's policies. It resurge realist framework, pushing away liberal norms

**(3-5) Geo-economic conflict could translate into geo-political one particularly vis-à-vis Taiwan**

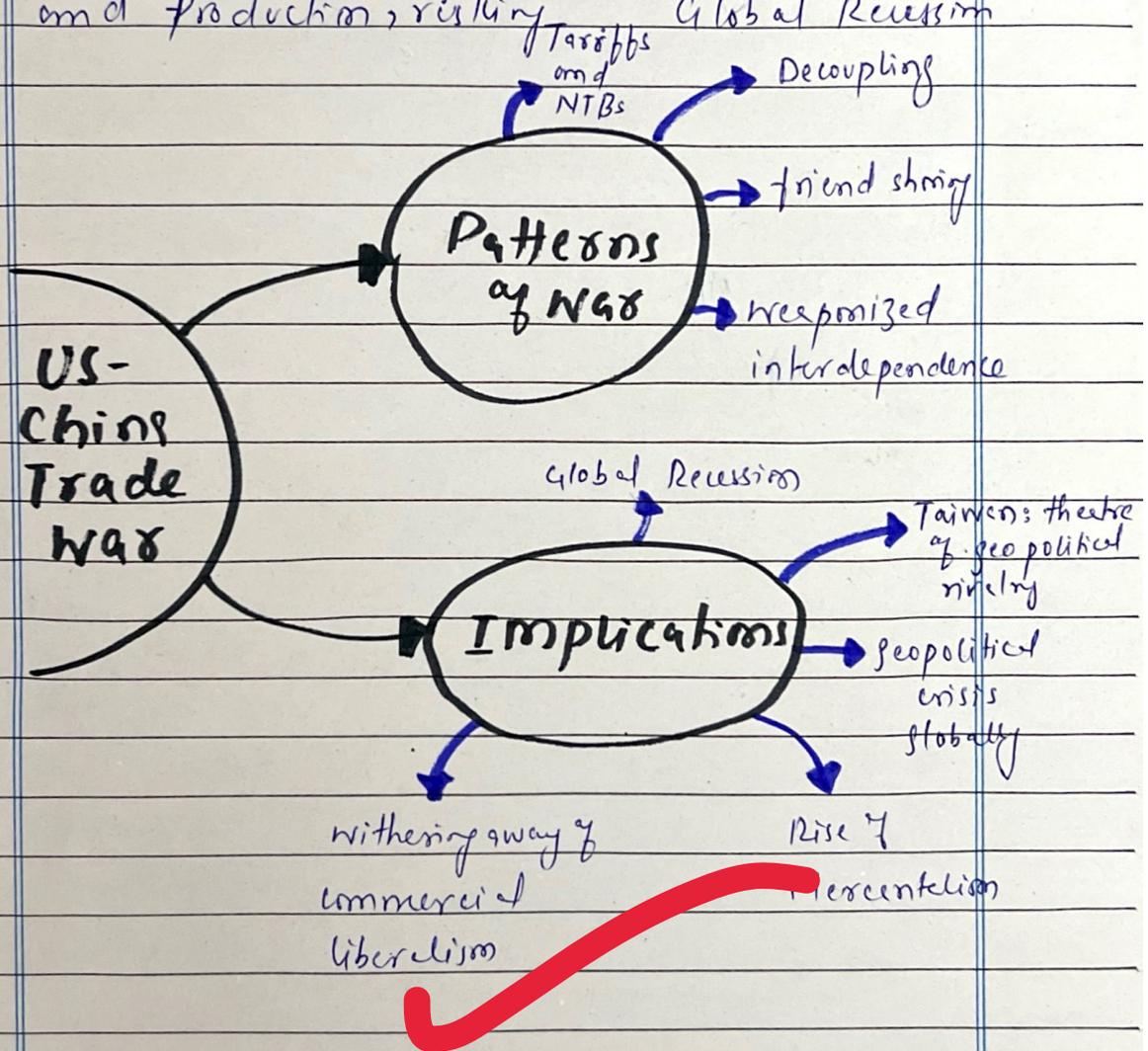
Chips (semiconductors) remain a dominant production of Taiwan, which is viewed as a part of China by Chinese establishment. Exercise on basis of chips as resorted by US against China, risk geo-political translation of geo-economic conflict. To mitigate chip vulnerability China might seek Taiwan politically.

**(3-6) US's vulnerability vis-à-vis rare earth metals risk geo-political crisis globally**

Moreover, US's vulnerability vis-à-vis rare earth metals risk geo-political crisis globally. For instance, US's exercise on Ukraine amid Ukraine war for a peace deal is reported to be a result of Ukraine's denial for US-based extraction of rare earth metals in Ukraine.

### (3.7) US-China trade war would negatively impact global economy

The two largest economies' trade war would negatively impact global economic norms, trade, and production, risking Global Recession



### (4) CONCLUSION

Chip and rare earth minerals are being used in current US-China trade war dynamics. The Future trade war

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would patternize deepened interdependence, Tariffs, decoupling, and friend-shoring as new norms of economic engagement. The implications would include Global Recession, rise of Mercantilist policies, withering away of commercial liberalism and geopolitical crisis.