

Instructions to Secure Good Marks in the Current Affairs Paper

Current Affairs

Important Note: Marks will be awarded strictly on the

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

Q:4

(Russia - Ukraine War)

I. INTRODUCTION: Each question should be attempted with 12-13 clear headings. The answer must be 2-3 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.

II. Russia's Stance on ending the war in Ukraine:

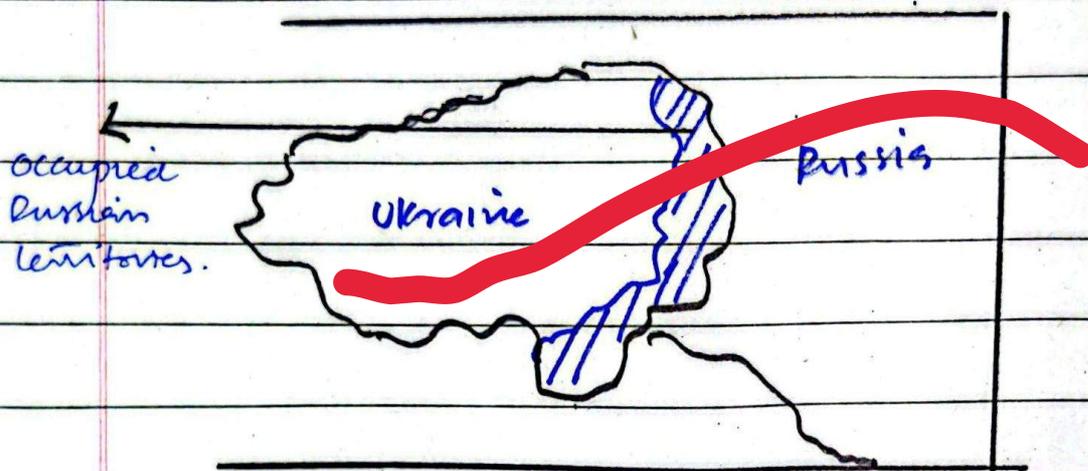
Alignment with the Question: Each argument must be explicitly linked to the specific part of the question being asked. If your heading is not aligned with the demand of the question, the content - no matter how accurate - will not be rewarded. Avoid generic or unrelated headings; precision is key.

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.

these territories.

"we will not cede the territories
that are already ours"

- Putin



III. NATO's stance on ending the war in Ukraine:

While initially, NATO's stance was hard concerning the occupied territories post Feb 2022 war, it is now considering a pathway, by taking Zelenskyy on board, to end the never-ending war. Also while Zelenskyy also neglected ceding any territories to Russia,

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"we will defend every
inch of Ukraine"

-Volodymyr Zelenskyy

He is now considering DMZ's (demilitarized
zones) as options.

iv.

Trump's stance on
ending the war in
Ukraine:

President Donald

Trump has continuously trying to
mediate and devise the path
forward for Russia and Ukraine
peace. He has proposed a
middle way which includes
allowing some Ukrainian
territories that are already occupied
by Russia to be annexed. His
28 point plan emphasises on
stopping the battle and role
of Russia in reconstruction.

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V.

Critical Analysis on
the dead lock on how
to end the war in
Ukraine :

After Feb 2022, when the war on Ukraine by Russia began, there were no signs of its ending soon. However, the talks of devising a plan to end the war have taken pace. Pressure of Zelensky has increased to hold elections and bring out results in the war. Trump's role as mediator is now being questioned for its inefficiency and he has shown 'frustration' on Putin's behaviour. Putin, on the other hand, has sustained all the sanctions and pressure tactics by the US and EU and now is in a strong position for negotiations.

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vi.

Recommendations for
going about ending
the Russia Ukraine
war:

Amidst the stalemate,
there are possible pathways
which will prove substantial in
ending of the war. Following are
the recommendations.

- Diplomacy among all
the stakeholders including
Russia, Ukraine, NATO,
and US:

Diplomatic
shutdown should be avoided.

Diplomatic talks are the only
way forward in devising a
plan. Recent developments on
the war are a relief that took
place in Miami, Florida.

- Demilitarized zones as
a viable option to
move forward:

Putin's reluctance and strong claim over the occupied 4 regions has prove to be a deal breaker. Russia should move on with considering the option of demilitarized zones (DMZ).

- Role of US as indispensable
in the peace process:

United States should continue to play its role - Its role is indispensable in this global catastrophe.

Gaza peace plan amid never ending Israeli Aggression is an example that role of US is important.

- Going forward under UN Mandate to substantiate the peace process:

Any process to take place should move forward under the mandate of United Nations Security Council to make the whole process comprehensive and legitimate under UN.

(vii) CONCLUSION:

The talks of possible end to Russia and Ukraine have engaged with all players presenting their own version. Pragmatism should prevail in this key and crucial time to end the war for global peace by taking adequate measures.

Q. NO. 5 (PAK-KSA Agreement)

I. INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have signed a Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement. Following it, major geo-political achievements have taken place for both the stakeholders. Moreover, along with getting geopolitical gains, Pakistan has also benefited from it when it comes to economic opportunities. These include increased Saudi and Gulf cooperation and economic relations.

II. Pak-KSA Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement: A brief overview

The timing of the signing was crucial for

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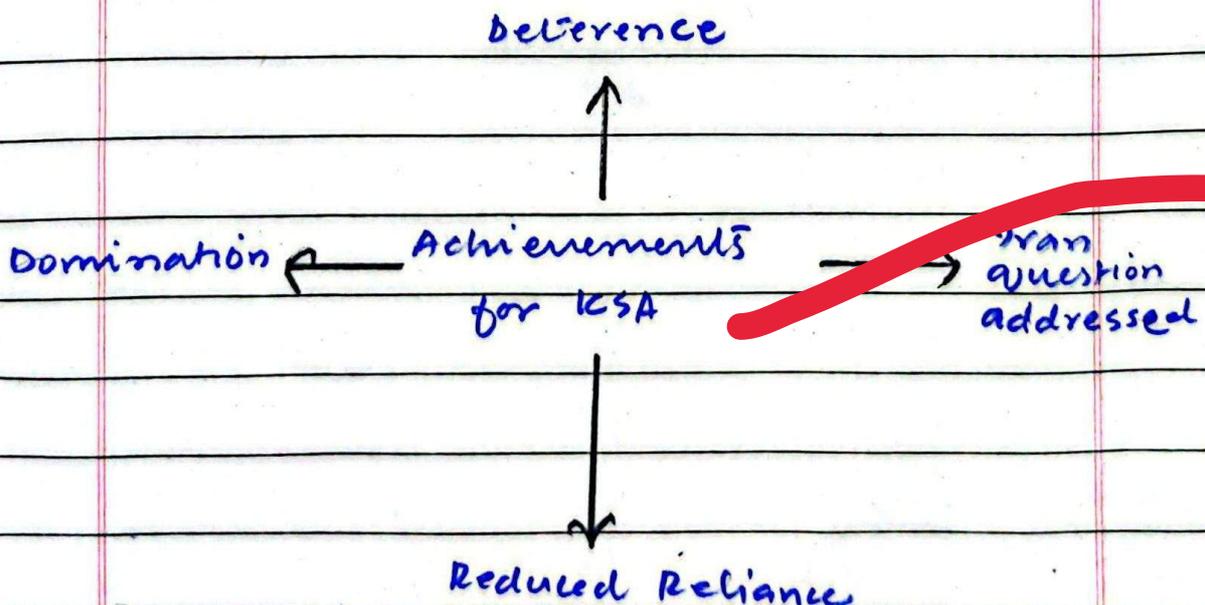
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Both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan amid geopolitical and regional tensions.

Therefore, both devised a NATO-like treaty. It mentioned only one important text.

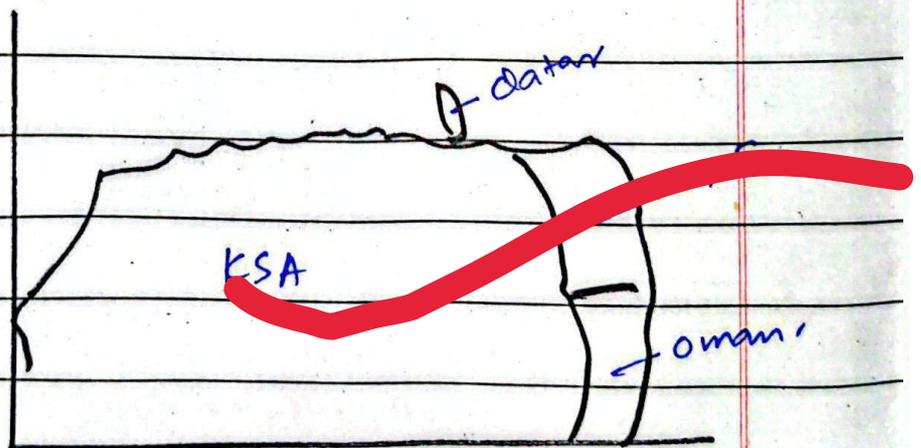
"The attack on one country shall be considered an attack against both"

III. Geopolitical Achievements for Saudi Arabia due to Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement:



- Deterrance maintained
against possible Israeli
Aggression:

The treaty folled the 'Israeli attacks on Qatar.' while the talks on this agreement were going on for a while. The Israeli attack on Doha became an immediate trigger. Because Qatar is a close neighbour of KSA. Also, major escalation in Middle East will also grasp KSA.



→ map showing KSA and Qatar.
as near neighbours.

- Reduced reliance on United States as security provider:

The role of US as net security provider faded and came under question after Israel attacked Qatar - closest US ally. Now KSA is under Pakistan's 'Nuclear umbrella' as per many defense analysts.

- Continue to dominate as key power in the Middle East:

While economically, KSA was dominating, the recent security situation in the region posed a challenge to Saudi dominance. After the SMDA, Saudi will continue to dominate without looking over its shoulders.

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- Less worrying of Iran question due to Pak-Iran growing cordiality:

Iran and Pakistan have boosted their ties in the recent times. Following the SMDA Abbas Araghchi (Iranian foreign minister) said this is not a matter of concern for us.

IV. Geopolitical Achievements for Pakistan due to (SMDA):

Pakistan was navigating through major crisis in the geopolitical arenas. However, it has benefited from SMDA in the following ways:

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- SMDH as a deterrence
against possible Indian
Aggression:

This Agreement proved to be a major shock against India. While the treaty remains symbolic, it has deterred India from future misadventure because of USA's geopolitical posture.

- Recognition in Global
diplomatic arenas owing
to prestige of USA:

A NATO-like agreement in the defense arena has resulted in major recognition of Pakistan at global level. It has proved the defense capabilities of Pakistan.

- SMDA as a pathway towards further such kinds of Agreement:

Pakistan's Defense

Minister, after the treaty reiterated that this treaty is not limited to KSA only Pakistan is open to such partnership with other Gulf countries.

V. Economic opportunities for Pakistan due to (SMDA):

- Opportunity to increase economic ties with Saudi Arabia and Investment:

While

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always been a phenomenal

economic partner and supporter of Pakistan. This treaty has paved the way enhance that cooperation:

- More such treaties will improve economic ties with cash rich Arab states:

Arab Nations including Bahrain, Qatar, Egypt, and United Arab Emirates are now skeptical regarding their security. Therefore, partnership with them will bring massive influx of investment in Pakistan.

- Capitalizing on Defense capabilities as net security provider of the region:

After the

Pak-India skirmishes, Pakistan's dominance, and defense treaty with Saudi, Pakistan can now act as a US ally to play its role as net security provider in the region. This will improve economic ties with Middle East.

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CONCLUSION:

There is no doubt in the fact that Pak-Saudi Mutual Defense Agreement for both the stakeholders at geo-political level and economic opportunities especially for Pakistan. Therefore, it is essential for Pakistan to continue such cooperation to achieve global geopolitical goals and capitalize on economic opportunities.

Q:7 (US-China Trade War)

I. Introduction :

In the changing global dynamics, new unconventional wars are emerging. Trade war is prime among them. US has used chip dominance to confront China while China has capitalized on its dominance in the rare earths. This will have major future repercussions.

II. United States using Chip as weapon against China :

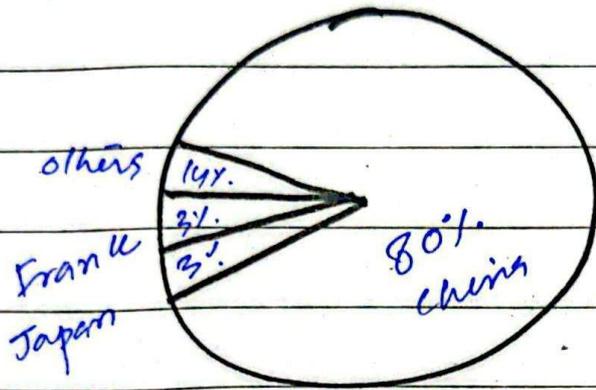
USA has domination in the chip sector. Taiwan is its key ally and draw

support from China USA is
confront China and aspire
independence. Taiwan controls and
manufacture 90 percent of
the global chip semiconductors.
Therefore, China as a result, faced
the challenge in this sector,
USA uses it against China.

III China's Counter with monopolizing the dominance in the rare earth's sector :

While USA controls
chip, China has dominance
in the Rare earth minerals
and metals sector. Rare
earths are crucial in modern
technology and industry
concerning defense sector. China
control 80% of global RE's
production and 90%.

of global rare earth deposits.



• US Rare Earth Imports

US Continued Quest

IV.

Pressure on China's demographics.

Strain on global institutions

Tariffs

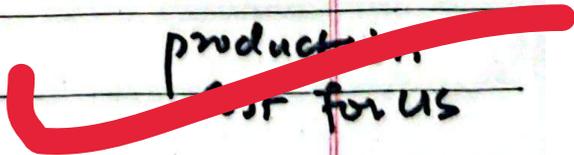
Future prospects of Trade War

Rise of Regionalism

Supply Chain Disruption globally

Increased production for US

China's indigenous programs



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- US will continue its quest for rare earth dominances

Keeping in view the Chinese monopoly in the rare earth sector, USA is looking for alternatives to reduce dependency on China. This includes annexing Rare Earth in Greenland from Denmark.

- China to continue indigenous Chip production:

China has initiated domestic and indigenous productions of chips. Recently, China's capability was manifested when they produced indigenously and cheaply the chip to make deepseek. Remarkably, Nvidia's share dropped enormously.

- Trend of Protectionism
will rise: Security driven
economies

The uncertainty in the markets following global shocks due to global integrated nature of markets due to globalization. Resultantly, countries have started to protect their industries.

- Production cost for domestic
US industries will remain
high:

Chinese products were cheap and better. After that in imports, local industries are manufacturing these products. Resultantly, production cost is higher due to Chinese cheap products against US.

- Tariffs will increase pressure on China and further growth of the trade war:

China's national interest insisted on the non-protectivism due to its aspirations of becoming ~~global~~ hegemon. But tariffs are acting as impediment and China is retaliating with reciprocal tariffs.

- Supply chain of relevant materials will fragment globally:

Global Supply chain of these materials will be disrupted with both supply and demand ~~being~~ in a disproportionate amount,

- Strain on International Conflict Resolution Mechanisms will increase owing to trade war:

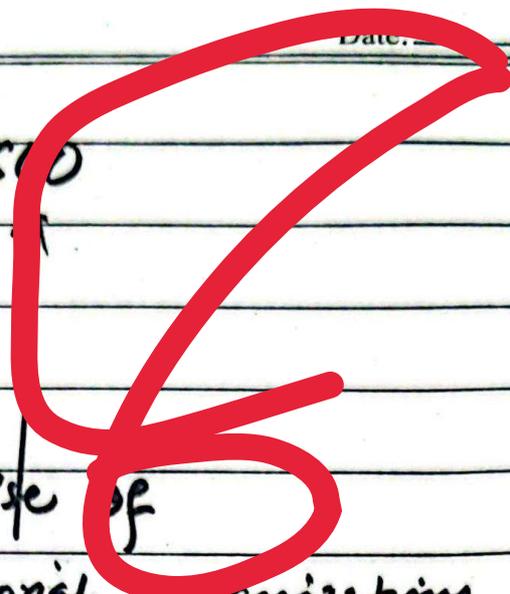
All the trade conflicts will end up in World Trade Org's Dispute Resolution Council. Resultantly, the load and pressure will increase on it resulting in stalled decisions

- Rise of Regional trade blocks to sustain shocks:

Keeping these problems in view, regional trade blocks are emerging including SCO, BRICS+, and European Unions increasing emphasis on non protectionism.

Q.1

STO



Rise of

regional organizations

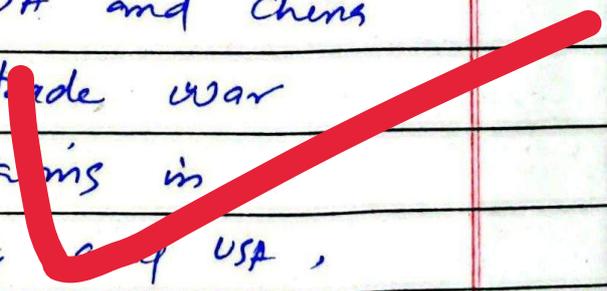
BRICS*

ASEAN

V.

CONCLUSION:

USA and China
 are in a trade war
 with China dominating in
 rare earth sector of USA,
 in the chip making. Resultantly,
 all world is facing shocks of
 this war of two major
 economic powers.



Q.8 (Implications of Gaza Peace Plan)

I. INTRODUCTION:

US President Donald Trump introduced Gaza Peace Plan in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. While the peace plan was comprehensive, its shortcomings have rendered its credibility questioned. Moreover, Islamabad policy concerning the plan is discussed along with possible fallouts.

II. A Brief Overview of Gaza Peace Plan:

The Gaza peace plan consists of 20 points. It is divided into

3 phases.

PHASE 1:

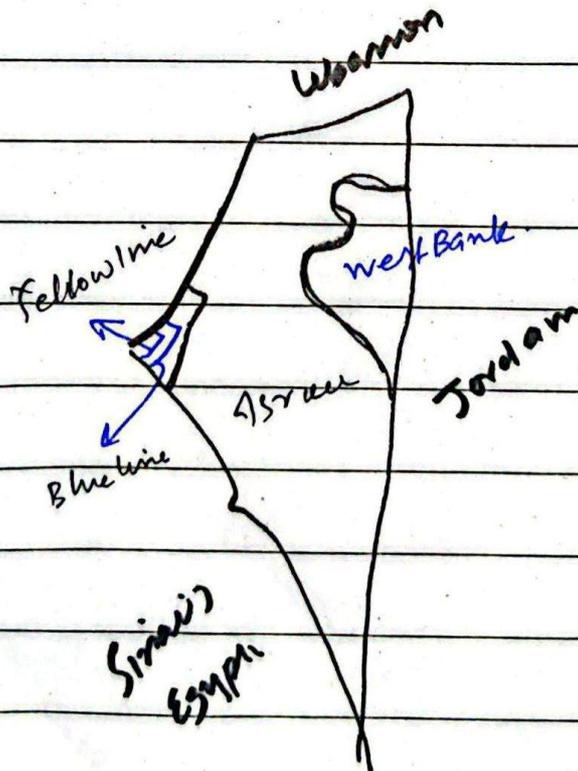
- Cease fire
- Hostage exchange

PHASE 2:

- Demilitarise Gaza
- weapons Handover
- ISF
- Israel to recede to Blue line

PHASE 3:

- SEZ
- Technocratic Government.



III. Reasons why the chances of the success of Gaza peace plan are low:

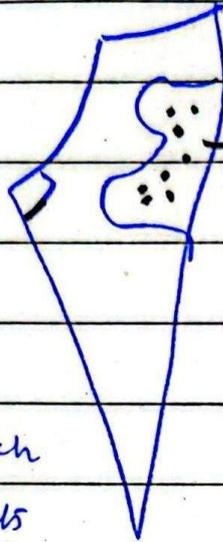
There are many shortcomings in the Gaza peace plan. Therefore, its chances of success, as well as further in the plan, are grim.

- Israel's continuous violation of ceasefire and its adventurism in the West Bank:

Israeli continue to weaponize basic supplies and it has increased settler violence in the West Bank.

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Israeli
settlements
in the West
Bank

They are
over 7 lakh
settlements

- Vague Pathway to a viable Palestinian Statehood :

While the
locally mentioned that it
will promote a pathway
towards a credible state
of Palestine, No technical
or pathway was discussed
or mentioned. Resultantly,
it is considered as one
sided.

- Concerns on the
mandate of the
International Stabilization
force:

Muslim countries including
Palestine have been asked to
join ISF. However its
mandate remains vague on
whether it will control or
fight against Hamas.

- No proper timeline given
in the peace plan:

while the
3 phases mentioned a
pathway, timeline
not mentioned. Resultantly,
the plan rendered weak
and questionable.

IV. Islamabad has still not
showcased its confirmation
to join ISF and does
not fully agree with
the peace plan:

Upon the criticism from the public regarding the plan. Foreign minister Ashraf Dar said that the published version was not theirs and that it was completely new. However, Islamabad reiterated its support to President Trump regarding the peace plan.

"The published version is not what we agreed to"

-FM Dar.

(v) Possible Fallouts on
Pakistan of Gama peace
plan :

Pakistan is a potential candidate to join ISF and also supporter of the peace plan. However, fallouts may follow written.

- United States' pressure to
join ISF :

Pakistan, after so much thaw in relations, have finally paved its good relations with US. However joining ISF presents a dilemma for Pakistan. due to International Stabilization Force's vague contents

Regional resistance and
pressure on government
preventing the ISF joining:

There are
 already talks emerging from
 different quarters in the
 country. If Islamabad moved
 on with joining it, it will
 face criticism from the
 public.

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CONCLUSION:

The chances
 of the success of Gaza
 peace plan are slim owing
 to its vague contents.

Also, Islamabad should treat
 carefully in dealing with
 matters relating to Gaza peace
 plan as there is a risk
 of possible fallout within.