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CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES

For Workshop for Special CSS

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CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES

For Workshop for Special CSS

Topic: The BRICS Expansion: a New Order of Multialignment

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Current Affairs Workshop for Special CSS

Ammar Gul

The BRICS Expansion: a New Order of Multialignment

What is BRICS?

- The acronym BRIC, which did not initially include South Africa, was coined in 2001 by then Goldman Sachs chief economist Jim O'Neill in a research paper that underlined the growth potential of Brazil, Russia, India and China.
- The bloc was founded as an informal club in 2009 to provide a platform for its members to challenge a world order dominated by the United States and its Western allies.
- Its creation was initiated by Russia.
- The group is not a formal multilateral organisation like the United Nations, World Bank or the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- The heads of state and government of the member nations convene annually with each nation taking up a one-year rotating chairmanship of the group.
- Brazil, Russia, India and China are the founding members.
- South Africa, the smallest member in terms of economic clout and population, was the first beneficiary of an expansion of the bloc in 2010 when the grouping became known as BRICS.
- Together the countries account for more than 40% of the world population and a quarter of the global economy.

What are the Main Objectives of BRICS?

- The BRICS seeks to deepen, broaden and intensify cooperation within the grouping and among the individual countries for more sustainable, equitable and mutually beneficial development.
- BRICS takes into consideration each member's growth, development and poverty objectives to ensure relations are built on the respective country's economic strengths and to avoid competition where possible.

- BRICS is emerging as a new and promising political-diplomatic entity with diverse objectives, far beyond the original objective of reforming global financial institutions.

What are the Main Areas of Cooperation within BRICS?

1. Economic Cooperation

- There are rapidly growing trade and investment flows between BRICS countries as well as economic cooperation activities across a range of sectors.
- Agreements have been concluded in the areas of Economic and Trade Cooperation; Innovation Cooperation, Customs Cooperation; strategic cooperation between the BRICS Business Council , Contingent Reserve Agreement and the New Development Bank.
- These agreements contribute to realisation of the shared objectives of deepening economic cooperation and fostering integrated trade and investment markets.

2. People-to-People exchange

- BRICS members have recognised the need for strengthening People-to-People exchanges and to foster closer cooperation in the areas of culture, sport, education, film and youth.
- People-to-People exchanges seek to forge new friendships; deepen relations and mutual understanding between BRICS peoples in the spirit of openness, inclusiveness, diversity and mutual learning.
- Such People to people exchanges include the **Young Diplomats Forum, Parliamentarian Forum, Trade Union Forum, Civil BRICS** as well as the **Media Forum**.

3. Political and Security Cooperation

- BRICS member political and security cooperation is aimed at achieving peace, security, development and cooperation for a more equitable and fair world.
- BRICS provides opportunities for sharing policy advice and exchanges of best practices in terms of domestic and regional challenges as well as advancing the restructuring of the global political architecture so that it is more balanced, resting on the pillar of multilateralism.
- BRICS is utilised as a driver for South Africa's foreign policy priorities including the pursuit of the **African Agenda** and **South-South Cooperation**.

4. Cooperation Mechanism

Cooperation among members is achieved through:

- **Track I:** Formal diplomatic engagement between the national governments.
- **Track II:** Engagement through government-affiliated institutions, e.g. state-owned enterprises and business councils.
- **Track III:** Civil society and People-to-People engagement.

What is the Impact of BRICS on Global Institutional Reforms?



- The main reason for co-operation to start among the BRICs nation was the financial crises of 2008. The crises raised doubts over sustainability of the dollar-dominated monetary system.
- The BRICs called for the “**the reform of multilateral institutions** in order that they reflect the structural changes in the world economy and the increasingly central role that emerging markets now play”.
- BRICs managed to push for institutional reform which led to **International Monetary Fund (IMF) quota reform in 2010**. Thus the financial crises had momentarily reduced western legitimacy and briefly let the BRICs countries become “agenda setters” in multilateral institutions.

What is the New Development Bank?

- NDB is headquartered in **Shanghai**.
- At the Fourth BRICS Summit in New Delhi (2012) the possibility of setting up a new Development Bank was considered to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies, as well as in developing countries.
- During the Sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014) the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB).
- **Fortaleza Declaration** stressed that the NDB will strengthen cooperation among BRICS and will supplement the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global development thus contributing to sustainable and balanced growth.
- NDB's key areas of operation are clean energy, transport infrastructure, irrigation, sustainable urban development and economic cooperation among the member countries.
- The NDB functions on a consultative mechanism among the BRICS members with all the member countries possessing equal rights.
- **Major Projects funded by NDB in India:**
 - It has committed funding to a number of **major infrastructure projects in India, including the Mumbai Metro rail, Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System and many Renewable Energy projects**.
 - The NDB has so far approved 14 Indian projects for an amount of nearly USD 4.2 billion.
 - In 2020, India announced a **1 billion USD loan pact with NDB** to boost rural employment and infrastructure.

What is the Contingent Reserve Arrangement?

- Considering the increasing instances of global financial crisis, BRICS nations signed BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) in 2014 as part of Fortaleza Declaration at Sixth BRICS summit.
- The BRICS CRA aims to provide short-term liquidity support to the members through currency swaps to help mitigating BOP crisis situation and further strengthen financial stability.
- The initial total committed resources of the CRA shall be one hundred billion dollars of the United States of America (USD 100 billion).

- It would also contribute to strengthening the global financial safety net and complement existing international arrangements (IMF).

What is BRICS Expansion?

- The BRICS bloc of developing nations agreed to admit Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina and the United Arab Emirates in a move aimed at accelerating its push to reshuffle a world order it sees as outdated.
- They will be granted full membership status from 1st January 2024.

Implications of BRICS Expansion on the World Order:

1. BRICS Offering the Global South an Alternative Global Order which is a counterbalance to Western Order:

- The primarily economic bloc was originally created as an alternative to the U.S.-led international order, with the goal of offering growing countries in the Global South a counterbalance to Western institutions. (United States Institute for Peace)

2. BRICS: A Geopolitical Counterweight to the G7 Countries:

- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa have invited six other countries to join the BRICS grouping next year to create a geopolitical counterweight to the G7 and potentially a framework to reduce dependence on Western financial systems. (Centre for Strategic and International Studies)

3. BRICS Countering US-led Initiative (Minerals Security Partnership) through the inclusion of energy rich countries:

- Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), which is a U.S.-led initiative to strengthen critical energy security for itself and 13 of its allies.
- The addition of Argentina will strengthen the bloc's lithium supply: the third-largest lithium reserves in the world, According to an August 2022 JPMorgan



forecast, Argentina's share of global lithium supply would rise from 6 percent in 2021 to 16 percent by 2030.

- Saudi Arabia made a \$2.6 billion deal to buy a 10 percent stake in Brazil's largest mining company, Vale's base metals division, to access various critical minerals, including nickel and copper.

4. BRICS Controlling the Oil and Gas Supply and Energy Market of the World by Including Energy Rich Countries:

- With the addition of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Iran, this expanded group would include three of the world's largest oil exporters and would constitute 42 percent of global oil supply.
- OPEC+ states have complained that Western energy sanctions on Iran and Venezuela have constrained investment and export flows.
- EU-G7 Prices Caps and Sanction Mechanisms
- An enlarged BRICS would include both oil and gas exporters and two of the largest importers; China and India—both of which refused to join the “price cap coalition” targeting Russia.

5. Countering the role of Western Financial Institutions:

- **IMF, WB and ADP.**
- **New Development Bank**
- **BRICS Currency: Brazilian Proposal**
- **Contingent Reserve Arrangement**

6. China Promoting its Global Order through BRICS:

- **BRICS Expansion a Victory of Chinese Model of Multilateralism.**
- **Global Security Initiative**

- **Global Development Initiative**
- **Global Security Initiative**

7. BRICS Expansion: A Beginning of Multi-polar era:

- **Rise of Revisionist Powers: Russia, China, Iran etc**
- **Change of Power Structure.**
- As Narayanappa Janardhan, an Abu Dhabi-based scholar with the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, said in an interview: “The multipolar world we knew has now shifted. It is no longer conditioned by superpowers alone. It is just as likely to be conditioned by middle and smaller powers, who prefer multi-alignment.”

8. BRICS and De-dollarization:

- **Concept of BRICS Currency: Brazilian President.**
- **Trade and Investment in Common Currency.**
- **Oil rich countries can threaten the petrodollar system.**
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin confirmed: that getting rid of the dollar as a global currency is an irreversible issue.**
- **China established its own interbank payment system, seeking to make the yuan an international currency of exchange and payment: Cross-Border Interbank Payment System.**

Challenges to the BRICS:

- 1. India-US Strategic Partnership.**
- 2. China-India Strategic Confrontation.**

3. Saudi-US Strategic Partnership.

4. Generating consensus among BRICS members a hard nut to crack.

5. Saudi-Iran Strategic Competition

6. Dwindling Economy of South Africa.

Conclusion.



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CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES

For Workshop for Special CSS

Topic: CPEC Phase 2 a New Recipe for Pakistan's Development

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EC Phase 2 a New Recipe for Pakistan's Development How

CPEC Phase 2 can lead Pakistan to the Path of Development:

- **Former Chairman CPEC, Asim Saleem Bajwa, said that CPEC Phase 2 was about three things: Dividends to masses, connectivity and spreading prosperity to remote areas.**
- **The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) phase-II is much broader in scope and focuses on relocation of industries, agriculture sector modernisation, cooperation in science and technology, job creation and socio-economic wellbeing of people, said Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moinul Haque.**

1. Formation of Special Economic Zones:

- **Rashakai SEZ:**

- **Spread over the area of 1000 acres, Rashakai prioritized Special Economic Zone (pSEZ) is a flagship project under the industrial cooperation of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.**
- **It serves as CPEC Special Economic Zone. The 1000 acres pSEZ will be developed by CRBC in joint venture with KPEZDMC. An SPV Company of these two firms named Rashakai Special Economic Zone Development and Operations Company (RSEZDOC) has been setup for implementation of this agreement.**
- **Attracting Investments in the following sectors:**
 - Processing and Manufacturing
 - Home Appliances
 - Pharmaceutical
 - Home Building Materials
 - Automobile and parts



- Agriculture and Horticulture
- Wholesale Market/ Specialty mills

- **Dhabeji Special Economic Zone:**

- The 1530 acres of land has been allocated to establish Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (DSEZ) in Thatta.
- Development of Dhabeji SEZ is planned in 3 phases. Dhabeji Industrial Zone has been proposed to be constructed in 2 phases comprising of 750 acres for Phase I and 780 acres for Phase II.
- Investments are expected in the following sectors:
 - Light Engineering
 - Automotive and Auto parts
 - Chemical & Pharmaceuticals
 - Consumer Electronics Engineering
 - Textile & Garments
 - Steel-Foundries
 - Warehousing
 - Building Material

- **Allama Iqbal Industrial City:**

- Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC) is a priority SEZ and being developed on approximately 3217 acres.
- Faisalabad Industrial Estate & Management Company (FIEDMC) is the developing body of Allama Iqbal SEZ.
- Focus Sectors for Investment are:
 - Textiles
 - Engineering
 - Electrical & Electronic
 - Chemical & Paints
 - Food Processing
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Automobiles
 - Packaging
 - Building Material



- **Bostan Special Economic Zone:**

- Bostan Industrial Zone covers an area of 1000 acres which is situated at district Pishin bordered with Quetta.
- Following clusters/sectors are proposed to be established at Bostan Special Economic Zone:
 - Fruit Processing
 - Agriculture machinery
 - Pharmaceutical
 - Motor Bikes Assembly
 - Chromite
 - Ceramic industries
 - Ice and Cold storage
 - Electric Appliance
 - Halal Food Industry

- **In Pipeline Projects:**

- **ICT Model Industrial Zone.**
- **Industrial Park on Pakistan Steel Mill Land.**
- **Mirpur Industrial Zone**
- **Mohmand Marble City**
- **Moqpondass Special Economic Zone**

2. Gwadar Free Trade Zone:

- Construction of the first phase of the Gwadar Free Zone started in 2015 and was inaugurated in 2018.
- The construction work on over 60 acres of land began with a focus on developing business centers, cold storage, warehouses, and fishery processing centers.
- According to China Port Holding Company, there is a \$3 billion direct investment lined up that will create around 30,000 jobs.
- This phase will focus on the manufacturing, trading, and service industries. The development work on phase 2 is underway, and expected to be completed in a year or two.
- Investments in the following sectors:



- Bonded warehousing
- Container yards
- International purchasing, transit & distribution
- Packaging/labeling
- Ambient/temperature-controlled/refrigerated storage facilities
- Stuffing & de-stuffing
- Trans-shipment
- Light end-assembly
- Imports & exports
- Value-added exports
- Value addition to imports

3. A New Wave of Industrialization in Pakistan:

- **Creation of Industries under SEZs**
- **Gwadar Free Trade Zone**
- **Creation of Jobs: Potential to Create 700,000 jobs.**
- **Industrial boost in all these sectors:**
 - Processing and Manufacturing
 - Home Equipment
 - Pharmaceutical
 - House Building Materials
 - Automobiles and automobile parts
 - Agriculture and Horticulture
 - Wholesale markets

4. Socio-Economic Development of Pakistan:

- **27 Projects are identified in Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) for the Socio-Economic Development.**
- **Six Major Sectors:** Agriculture, health, education, drinking water supply, poverty alleviation, and vocational and technical education.

5. Technology Transfer to Pakistan:

- Establishment of China-South Asia Technology Transfer Center-Sub Center in Pakistan.
- Pakistani Ambassador to China Moinul Haque said that the Sub Center would help strengthen bilateral technology



transfer, enhance cooperation among enterprises, research institutes, and universities, as well as support cooperation in the pursuit of science, technology, and innovation (STI) for sustainable development under Belt and Road Initiative between the two countries.

- Pakistan and China are now focusing on STI cooperation in areas of information technology and other emerging technologies, advanced and new materials, green transportation, renewable energy technologies, digital economy, smart cities, minerals and natural resources, biotechnology and modern agriculture.

6. Promotion of Knowledge Based Economy in Pakistan:

- Transfer of Knowledge in different sectors:
 - Experts from industrial zones, rural and urban development, job creation & SMEs, water resources management & treatment and agriculture.
 - Training Workshops on Industrial Zones.
 - Creation of Digital Infrastructure.
 - Transfer of Technology
 - Creation of Skilled Labour.

7. Infrastructural Development:

- **ML-1 Railway Project: 7.2 Billion Dollars Investment.**
- **Cross Border Optical Fiber Cable (Khunjrab - Rawalpindi)**
- **Zhob - Quetta (Kuchlak) (N-50)**
- **Pilot Project of Digital Terrestrial Multimedia Broadcast (DTMB)**

8. Up gradation of Ports in Pakistan:

- **Gwadar: 120 berths, currently has 3.**
- **Karachi Port: 33 berths.**
- **Development of Keti Bender Port.**

9. Creation of Energy Corridor Under CPEC Phase 2:

- 884MW Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, KP
- 300MW Coal-Fired Power Project at Gwadar
- CASA-1000, TAPI and IP etc.

10. Agricultural Revolution in Pakistan:



Agriculture Projects under CPEC

1. Diامر Basha Dam Project: Diامر-Bhasha Dam project has been included in CPEC which will be built on the Indus River, one of Pakistan's major river systems, in the Gilgit Baltistan area near the Chinese border.
2. Gomal Zam Dam Project: The Gomal Zam Dam is a proposed multi-purpose rock and earth-filled embankment dam on the Gomal River in Dera Ismail Khan District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan.
3. The **irrigation system** works on gravity where water flows down to lower areas through canals or pipelines after it is lifted at an initial height through water towers.
4. Soil Improvement Project: The project aims at improving **soil fertility** and crop yields through the application of organic manure/seed treatment fertilizer in poor soils. It will also be enhanced to reduce greenhouse emissions from soils by adopting better land management practices such as minimum ploughing, no-till farming, etc. Thus, the need arises for a reduction in energy consumption and a sustainable alternative would help farmers to maintain fertile soils with minimum application of **chemical fertilizers**.
5. **Cotton** Production Project: Under CPEC, China has agreed to provide technology transfer which includes production techniques as well as post-harvest technologies so that Pakistani producers can benefit from cotton produced under this initiative. In 2016, Pakistan achieved the 5 million bales target under the PM's Extended Credit Facility Scheme and it is expected that the target of 10 million bales under this program would be achieved.
6. Sugar Cane: One of the main crops to benefit from CPEC is sugar cane as China has long been a net exporter of refined sugar; Pakistan's demand for sugar has increased rapidly since 2011-12 as its population consumes more than 40 kg per capita annually, which was about half of China's consumption in 2015-16.
7. Sugar cane project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
8. Cotton ginning factories in Gwadar, Balochistan and Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

CPEC and Regional Connectivity:

- **CPEC Connecting China with Middle East and Turkey: W-CPEC+**
- **CPEC Connecting Pakistan through Afghanistan with Central Asia: N-CPEC+**
- **CPEC Connecting China and Iran.**
- **CPEC connecting BRI with EAEU.**
- **CPEC connecting with East Africa: S-CPEC+**
- **CPEC connecting Pakistan with East Asia: E-CPEC+**

Challenges to CPEC:

- **Terrorism in Pakistan.**
- **Indian and American propaganda, portraying CPEC as debt trap.**



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- **Economic Crisis of Pakistan.**
- **Bad governance and delays in the completion of CPEC related projects.**
- **Prospects of Civil War in Afghanistan.**

Conclusion.



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CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES

For Workshop for Special CSS

**Topic: The U.S.-India Comprehensive Global and Strategic
Partnership and Its Implications on Pakistan**

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**Topic 6: The U.S.-India Comprehensive Global and Strategic
Partnership and Its Implications on Pakistan**

Multidimensional Indo-US Strategic Partnership:

1. India-US defence partnership:

General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) 2002: Sharing of Intelligence.

The New Framework for the US-India Defence Relationship 2005: joint weapon production, transfer of civil and military technology.

The Indo-US Civilian Nuclear Agreement 2008: nuclear cooperation and non-proliferation, Entry of India in Nuclear Supply Group.

US-India Defence Technology Trade Initiative 2012: To promote co-development and production of systems including the Javelin anti-tank guided missile.

Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement 2016: US can use Indian airbases in South China Sea, Use of military facilities for supplies, spare parts, services and refuelling.

Communication, Compatibility and Security Agreement 2018: India can buy US advanced weaponry.

Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement 2020: India will provide US access to classified geospatial data and topographic data.

US to give India GE Aerospace's proven F-414 jet-engine technology with India.

The Indo-US defence industrial cooperation roadmap 2023: To enable co-production of advanced defence systems, and collaborative research, testing, and prototyping of projects.

The India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X): defence industrial cooperation and unlock new innovations in technology and manufacturing.

The annual “2+2” Ministerial Dialogue

2. US-India Technology Partnership:

Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology 2023: Areas of cooperation artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors and wireless telecommunication.

NASA and ISRO to develop a strategic framework for human spaceflight cooperation by the end of 2023.

NASA to provide advanced training to Indian astronauts at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, with a goal of mounting a joint effort to the International Space Station in 2024

Semiconductor Supply Chain and Innovation Partnership.

3. US-India Economic Partnership:

The U.S.-India trade and investment partnership: bilateral trade exceeding \$191 billion in 2022, nearly doubling from 2014.

The U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue and CEO Forum: o build resilient supply chains for emerging technologies, clean energy technologies, and pharmaceuticals; promote an innovative digital economy; lower barriers to trade and investment; harmonize standards and regulations wherever feasible; and work towards skilling our workforces.

Economic and Financial Partnership Dialogue: The U.S. Federal Insurance Office and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India to

advance areas of mutual interest in the insurance sector under their existing MoU framework.

India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum

U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue: To expand cooperation in the areas of Talent, Innovation, and Inclusive Growth.

4. Indo-US Deeping Strategic Partnership:

U.S. support for India's permanent membership on a reformed UN Security Council (UNSC).

QUAD

Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain

Awareness

Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative: a collaborative approach among stakeholders to address shared challenges. It extends the "Security and Growth for All in the Region" (SAGAR) initiative initiated in 2015 by the Indian government. India welcomed US joining it.

Partners in the Blue Pacific 2022: the US and its allies — Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the United Kingdom — have launched a new initiative called 'Partners in the Blue Pacific' for "effective and efficient cooperation" with the region's small island nations. India as an observer partner.

Strategic partnership in the Middle East: I2U2, IMEC etc

5. Indo-US Partnership on Energy Transition and Climate Change:

U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership

Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP)

U.S.-India New and Emerging Renewable Energy Technologies Action Platform.

What factors are driving proximity in India-US relations:

1. US led contain China Strategy.
2. Counter global terrorism: Al-Qa'ida, ISIS/Daesh, Lashkar e-Tayyiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), and Hizb-ul-Mujhahideen.
3. Democracy vs Authoritarianism
4. Indian ambitions of becoming a global stakeholder and regional hegemon.
5. Economic Interests of India and US.

Factors that can hamper the growth of India-US Strategic

Partnership:

1. India-Russia Strategic Partnership.
2. Indian participation in the SCO- a Chinese and Russian dominated organization.
3. BRICS Expansion and Indian Role.
4. Indian Policy of non-alignment.
5. De-dollarization and India's trade in its own currency.
6. India-Iran Strategic Partnership.
7. Independent Foreign Policy Persuasion of India.
8. Modi's growing Human Rights Violations.

Implications for Pakistan:

1. Disturbing the Balance of Power in South Asia.
2. Exacerbating arms race in the region.
3. Strengthening Indian ambitions to suppress Kashmir Issue.
4. US turning its eye from India's Human Rights violations.
5. Deteriorating Pak-US relations.
6. Portraying CPEC as debt trap.
7. India using its diplomatic might to isolate and coerce Pakistan from the global political arena.
8. Prospects of Indian inclusion in the UNSC as Permanent Member.

Policy options for Pakistan:

1. Enhance its strategic Partnership with China.
2. Pursue active diplomacy to curb the Indian attempts to isolate Pakistan.
3. Modernizing Military Prowess with help of China and Russia.



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4. Forming formidable bilateral economic cooperation with inter-regional and intra-regional countries to avoid economic suppression.
5. Inclusion in the regional corridors to enhance regional connectivity: Middle Corridor, IMEC, Greater Eurasian Partnership, B3W etc
6. Playing a vibrant role in SCO to achieve strategic interests.

Conclusion



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CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES

For Workshop for Special CSS

Topic 5: Pakistan's pivot to Geo-Economics: Challenges and Prospects.

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Topic 5: Pakistan's pivot to Geo-Economics: Challenges and Prospects.

What is Geo-Economics?

Geo-economics is about using economic tools and geography to benefit through international trade and other means of interstate economic cooperation.

It is understood as the use of economic tools to advance geopolitical objectives.

In *War by Other Means*, Robert Blackwill and Jennifer Harris explore today's leading geoeconomic instruments: trade policy, investment policy, economic and financial sanctions, financial and monetary policy, energy and commodities, aid and cyber.

In Pakistan, the term is employed generally in support of promoting intra-regional trade and economic cooperation in South Asia and inter-regional trade between South Asia and surrounding regions.

Foundations of Pakistan's Geo-Economic policy:

- According to Moeed Yousuf, there are three basic principles in the geo-economic strategy of Pakistan:
 1. Regional Connectivity.
 2. CPEC
 3. Developmental Partnerships.

History of Pakistan's Geo-strategic Policy:

1. Anti-India Strategic Culture of Pakistan.
2. The Alignment in cold war with US against Russia.
3. Search for economic assistance and security.



4. Need of Strategic depth in Afghanistan.
5. Kashmir Issue.
6. Participation in War on Terror.

Pakistan's Shift to Geo-Economics:

- Islamabad Policy Dialogue organized by National Security Division in March 2021.
- According to Nation Security Policy, the security of the people of Pakistan lies in the economic security.
- The core of Pakistan's security is the economic security.

What Pakistan is doing at the Foreign Policy level to promote its policy of geo-economics?

1. Russia-Pakistan Detente:
 - Pakistan Stream gas pipeline.
 - Enhancing economic partnership
 - Energy partnership.
 - Imran khan's trip to Moscow despite western pressure.
2. Pursuing economic centric relations with the US:
 - Broad based relations with the US.
 - Relations beyond Afghanistan and Terrorism.
 - The U.S.-Pakistan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA).
3. Enhancing Economic relationships with CARs:
 - Pakistan-Uzbekistan Transit Trade Agreement.
 - Pakistan-Tajikistan Strategic Partnership.
 - Pakistan's Vision Central Asia Policy.
4. Participating in regional energy and transportation Corridors:
 - TAPI
 - CASA 1000
 - PAKAFUZ Railway Project
5. Enhancing Regional Connectivity with CPEC:
 - Greater Eurasian Partnership.
 - Middle Corridor.



- BRI.
 - IMAC
6. CPEC and Economic Investments:
 - Attracting FDI in Special Economic Zones.
 - SIFC and CPEC.
 - Oil Refinery at Gwadar.
 - Infrastructural Development.
 7. Pakistan pursuing the policy of non-alignment in the global geopolitical confrontation:
 - Sino-US Cold War.
 - Russia-Ukraine War.
 8. Enhancing diplomatic means to secure peace in Afghanistan.

How Pakistan can operationalize its geo-economic policy:

1. Regional Connectivity: Middle Corridor, IMAC, B3W, BRI, INSTC.
2. Trade Diversification: Made In Pakistan Policy.
3. Energy Security: Development of Energy Infrastructure.
4. Investment Promotion: SIFC, SEZs, Tourism, Industrialization.
5. Regional Cooperation and Partnerships: SCO, ECO, SAARC, ASEAN, BRICS.
6. Human Resource Development: Skilled Labour, Education and Vocational Training.
7. Digital Economy: Technological Innovation, Digital Infrastructure Development, IT Parks, E-commerce, Digitalisation etc.
8. Economic Diplomacy: Economic Partnerships, Technology Transfer, Trade Agreements.

Challenges to the Geo-Economic Policy of Pakistan:

1. Security Concerns: Terrorism, hybrid warfare, Sectarianism, Separatist Movements etc.
2. Regional Disputes and Conflicts: Afghanistan, India, Iran.
3. Energy Shortages: hamper industrial production, discourage foreign investors, and impede economic growth.
4. Debt Sustainability: Limits fiscal space for investments and hinder economic growth.



5. Trade Imbalances: Trade deficit, limited export products etc
6. Environmental Sustainability: Water Scarcity, Food Insecurity, Climate Change, Floods etc.
7. Geopolitical dynamics: US-China cold war, US-India nexus, Russia-Ukraine war etc.
8. Lack of skilled Labour.
9. Dearth of Research and Development Facilities.

Conclusion.



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Current Affairs Workshop

Topic: Middle East.

1. Political Restructuring of Middle East:

➤ Manifestations of Political Restructuring of Middle East:

▪ GCC-Russia burgeoning relations:

- Saudi Arabia is the largest player in the global energy markets – 19% of the world’s oil reserves; 12% of world production; more than 20% of oil exports on world markets. Proved oil reserves are approximately 267 billion barrels, and production is more than five million barrels per day, both domestically and abroad.
- MBS brokered prisoner swap deal between Ukraine and Russia: 10 foreign soldiers were released, 55 Russians were swapped in exchange Ukrainian 215 Ukrainians.
- Russia-Saudi oil cooperation: OPEC+, Saudi Arab denied Biden’s request to enhance oil production, Saudi and Russia announced to cut oil production by 500,000 barrels a day in August 2023.
- Saudi-Iran normalization: Bolster Russian economic and Political interests.
- Saudi Arabia to join BRICS Bank:
“In the Middle East, we attach great importance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and are currently engaged in a qualified dialogue with them,” the New Development Bank told the Financial Times in a statement.
- UAE abstained to vote against Russia in UNGA.
- Relations between member countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, also known as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), are strong, GCC Secretary General Jassim Muhammad Al-Budaiwi
- Russia-Gulf Cooperation Council strategic dialogue: Sixth Ministerial meeting at Moscow: deepening cultural, political and economic relations. A Joint Plan of Action 2023-2028.

- Russia believes it is very important to maintain closer diplomatic ties and further develop cooperation with Saudi Arabia, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.
- **Chinese augmenting influence in the Middle East:**
 - Saudi-Iran rapprochement: mediated by China.
 - “Some folks in the gulf clearly see this as the Chinese century,” said Steven A. Cook, a senior fellow for Middle East studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. “The Saudis have expressed interest in joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and a good deal of their oil goes to China.”
 - **Saudi-China comprehensive strategic partnership:**
 - Xi Jinping’s three days visit to the Saudi Arab in December 2022.
 - Signed 35 memorandums of understanding and deals worth \$30 billion.
 - “The partnership supports the Kingdom’s development and serves its interests.” Prince Faisal.
 - Signed the harmonization plan between the Kingdom's Vision 2030 and the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative.
 - China is Saudi Arabia’s largest trading partner. According to Reuters news agency, bilateral trade between the two countries hit \$87.3 billion in 2021, with Chinese exports to the Kingdom reaching \$30.3 billion and China’s imports from Saudi Arabia totaling \$57 billion.
 - Cooperation in the automotive industry, supply chains, logistics, water desalination, infrastructure, manufacturing, mining, and the financial sector.
 - Hydrogen energy, the judiciary, Chinese language education, housing, direct investment, radio and television, the digital economy, economic development.
- **China-Gulf Summit for Security and Cooperation: held at Riyadh in December 2022:**
 - **First China-GCC Summit attended by the Head of States of GCC countries.**

- They adopted a five-year joint action plan to develop their partnership in 15 key areas.
- Non-interference in internal affairs, respect for political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and resolving disputes by peaceful means.
- Stressed the need to address destabilizing regional activities, of whatever source, end support for terrorist and sectarian groups, prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles and drones, and ensure the safety of international shipping and oil installations.
- Resolution of Palestine Issue through UN resolutions.
- End of Yemen war.
- Prevention of proxy warfare.
- **China-Arab Summit: held in Riyadh in December 2022:**
 - “It will be an epoch-making milestone in the history of China-Arab relations.” a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Mao Ning.
 - First summit between the China and Arab world.
 - Digital technology, renewable energy, labor-intensive industries and entrepreneurship projects.
 - Timing of the Summit: Multipolarity, end of unipolar world order, Chinese increasing influence.
 - Saudi Arabia has put forward the “Vision 2030”, the UAE has put forward the “National Development Strategy for the next 50 years”, and Oman has put forward the “Vision 2040”
 - The development hub of the Suez Canal and the new administrative capital in Egypt.
 - The NEOM project in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia within the Kingdom’s Vision 2030.



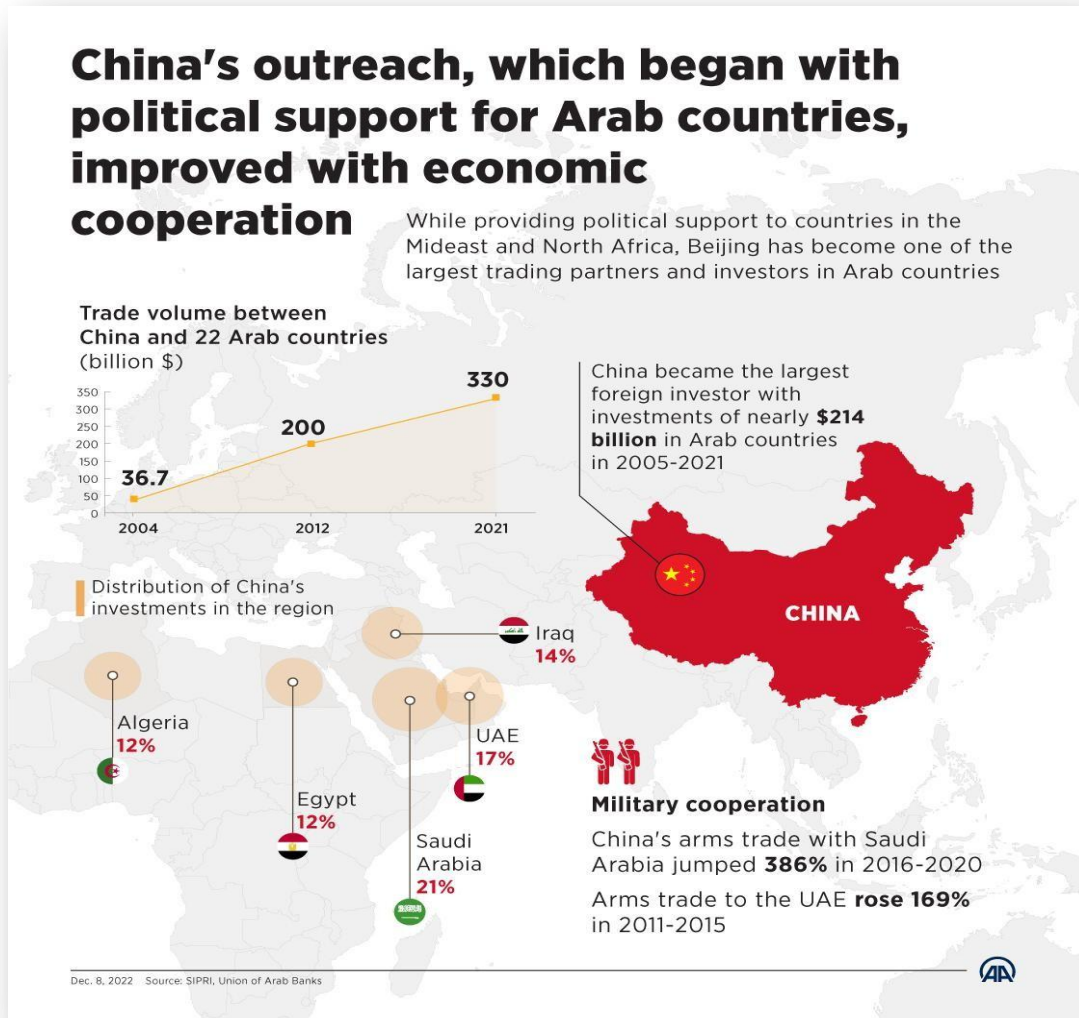
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- This summit comes in light of developments in the international arena:
 - ❖ The US withdrawal from the Middle East,
 - ❖ Passing through the war in Ukraine
 - ❖ Ending with the Chinese-American tensions.
 - ❖ The US is containing China as the strategic enemy of the United States according to the recently approved US National.
- Inclusion of Arab Countries in the BRI project:
 - 19 Arab countries and the Arab League are the part of BRI.
- Chinese support of Palestine: calls for the resolution of Palestine issue through UN resolutions.

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- **Declining influence of the US in the Middle East region:**
 - Saudi-US strained relations: NOPEC Bill, MBS-Biden clash, Jamal Khashoggi issue, Yemen War, Biden's failure to enhance the oil production.
 - "The US will not walk away and leave a vacuum to be filled by China, Russia, or Iran" Biden.
 - Russia-GCC strategic relations.
 - UAE abstained to vote against Russia.
 - Saudi-Iran rapprochement.
 - Syria-Arab detente: Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act of 2023
 - "China represents the most consequential geopolitical challenge we face today" Antony Blinken.

- Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Algeria and Egypt have requested to join BRICS.
- UAE is improving its strategic relations with the India, France, China, Iran and China.
- In a 2022 poll conducted by the Doha-based Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in 14 Arab countries, 78 percent of respondents believed that the biggest source of threat and instability in the region was the US.
- **What steps US is taking to curtail the influence of China in the Middle East:**
 - **India-Middle East- Europe Economic Corridor:**
 - ✚ MoU has been signed between Saudi Arabia, European Union, India, the UAE, France, Germany, Italy and the US.
 - **I2U2 Agreement: India, Israel, US and UAE.**
 - **Biden is weighing a Saudi-Israel Mutual Security Pact.**
- **Saudi-Iran rapprochement: a catalyst of changing order of the Middle-East:**
- **Syria-Arab Detente:**
 - Bilateral diplomatic trips between Syria and Saudi Arabia:
 - ❖ Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan met with Mr Assad in Damascus.
 - ❖ Resumption of Syrian participation in the Arab League and Assad's entry in the League after 2010.
 - ❖ The Syrian-Turkish rapprochement with the assistance of Russia: FMs of Russia, Turkey, Iran and Syria met in Moscow in May 2023.
 - ❖ Saudi-Syria to reopen embassies after a decade.
- **The Age of Arabisation: the emergence of new Middle East:**
 - ❖ MBS: A new Middle East on the pretext of EU.
 - ❖ Asad's Normalization.
 - ❖ Regional Connectivity.
 - ❖ Economic partnerships.

- ❖ Era of détente.
- **Qatar restoring ties with the Saudi Arabia and UAE:**
 - ❖ UAE and Qatar reopened their respective embassies.
 - ❖ Saudi Arabia reopened its airspace, sea and land borders with Qatar.
 - ❖ GCC members also restored relations with the Qatar.
- **Turkey's quest for the normalization of relations with the Middle Eastern nations:**
 - ❖ Egypt and Turkey reopened embassies after 2013.
 - ❖ UAE-Turkey rapprochement: On 24 November, 2021, the UAE's de-facto leader Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan's (MBZ) visited Turkey.
 - ❖ Saudi-Turkey rapprochement: MBS visited Turkey, Erdogan paid visit to Saudi Arabia.

2. Conclusion.



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CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES

For Workshop for Special CSS

Topic 4: Resurgence of Militancy in Pakistan

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Current Affairs Workshop for Special CSS

Ammar Gul

Topic 4: Resurgence of Militancy in Pakistan

Manifestations of recent wave of insurgency in Pakistan:

1. Re-emergence of TTP in Swat:
 - a) Calls for donation to people in Swat
 - b) A school van was attacked by terrorists and driver was killed and a child got injured
 - c) Human right commission of Pakistan condemned it.
 - d) **“We demand peace on our soil” (people of Swat)**
2. Attack on counter terrorist department
 - a) Terrorists attacked and seized the CTD.
 - b) 33 militants were there in the compound for investigation.
 - c) Army launched an operation in which 25 of militants got killed and 3 martyred.
3. Islamabad bomb blast in 23 December 2022
 - a) Suicide bomb blast martyred one policeman and injured 6 people. TTP claimed the responsibility.
4. Suicide bomb blast in Quetta targeting police:
 - a) Police mobile was destroyed which was deployed for the security of vaccination workers.
 - b) Four people killed and dozens injured.
 - c) TTP claimed the responsibility.
5. Burgeoning militant attacks on Pakistan Army in Waziristan:
 - a) Suicide bomber rams bike into Army’s truck in Miran Shah
 - b) Five soldiers were killed in September 2022 in encounter with the terrorists as ISPR.



- c) ZOHB military base attack = 9 soldiers.

- 6. Peshawar Police mosque attack:
 - a) 80 people killed in that incident.

- 7. Bajour attack:
 - a) 50 killed, 200 wounded. ISIS claimed the responsibility.

Reports on exacerbating insurgency in Pakistan

- 1. UN analytical support and sanctions monitoring team reports:
 - a) Insurgency has surged in Pakistan after domination of Taliban in Afghanistan.
 - b) TTP 5000 militants along with borders of Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- 2. Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS):
 - a) 51 percent increase in number of terrorists attacks in single year of 2022.
- 3. Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security studies:
 - a) 294 militant attacks in 2021 = 51 percent increase in militancy as compared to previous year.
- 4. The Think Tank's report:
 - a) According to think tanks report, the TTP attacks has increased by 27 percent in 2022 as compared to 2021 and 70 attacks have been witnessed since May 2023.

Causes of re-emergence of insurgency in Pakistan

- 1. Afghan Taliban's overtake of Afghanistan gave impetus to TTP.



- a) UNSC= Taliban should not let the soil of Afghanistan to be used for attacking Pakistan.
 - b) CENTCOM report on terrorism acceleration in Pakistan after Taliban's victory.
 - c) Noor Wali Mesud = took oath on hands of Mullah Hibtullah Akhund.
2. Afghanistan a hideout for terrorists who commit terrorists activities in Pakistan:
- a) TTP, BLA, BLF and other terrorists outfits' in Afghanistan.
 - b) Moed Yousaf sanctuaries to Afghan Taliban.
 - c) IS-K chapter
 - d) India.
 - e) Haqqani network expanded its reach beyond North Waziristan.
3. Pakistan efforts to establish peace through negotiations with TTP boosted the confidence of the terrorists:
- a) TTP-Pak negotiations failed
 - b) TTP unjustified demands
 - c) Reduction of army in FATA.
 - d) Reverse FATA merger.
 - e) Parachinar incident: TTP tried to incite shia-sunni violence but army brokered a one year peace agreement.
 - f) Violent terrorist's activities continued.
 - g) Allowance of the return of TTP members to home.
4. Emergence of terrorists nexus among the different terrorist outfits
- a) TTP-ISK nexus.
 - b) TTP-BLA-BLK nexus.
 - c) Exacerbated terrorism in Pakistan.
 - d) 22 new groups joined TTP since July 2020.
 - e) Expanded their geographical reach.
5. Hybrid warfare and increased insurgency in Pakistan:
- a) Dossier by ISPR and FM of Pakistan.
 - b) India supporting TTP.
 - c) Johar town and Anarkali bomb blast.= moeed yousaf



- d) Kuljushan yadav
 - e) Provocation of civil-sectarian war TTP
6. Separatist movement gave rise to terrorism in Pakistan:
- a) Balochistan = BLA, BLF.
 - b) KPK-TTP = merger of FATA with Afghanistan.
 - c) Sindh - anti-Pakistan forces and Jery Sindh movement.
7. US withdrawal from Afghanistan providing breathing space to terrorists.
- a) US forces
 - b) NATO forces
 - c) Operations
 - d) Elimination of terrorists.
8. Flawed policies of counter terrorism:
- a) Lack of implementation of NAP.
 - b) Development hindered in terrorist areas.(forensic labs in NMDS).
 - c) Dearth of funds to CTD, no headquarters.
9. Role of extremist mullahs or religious scholars to provide support to terrorists:
- a) Validation of terrorist activities
 - b) Provision of man power.
 - c) Hideout provisions
 - d) Promotion of Jihad culture to support militants.

What can be the impacts of emergence insurgency in Pakistan:

1. Loss of life and property.
2. Economic instability and collapse.
3. Negative perception of Pakistan around the world.
4. Halt in Tourism and sport activities.
5. Emergence of an environment of fear.
6. Bomb blasts and suicide attacks.
7. Rise of sectarianism and extremism.



8. Boost to separatist movements.

Recommendations to eliminate insurgency

1. Implementation of NAP as per its true spirit.
2. Launch of counter terrorism operation against terrorists on the pretext of Zarb-e-Azab and Rad-ul-Fasad.
3. Political coercion of Afghan Talibans to stop the afghan's soil use against Pakistan for terrorist activities.
4. Formation of robust counter-terrorism policy
5. Religious scholars should disown terrorists.
6. Strengthening security on borders to halt cross-border terrorism.
7. Mitigate hybrid warfare through developing vigorous policy.





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CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES

For Workshop for Special CSS

**Topic: Russia-Ukraine War and its implications on International
Energy**

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Current Affairs Workshop for Special CSS

Ammar Gul

Russia-Ukraine War and its implications on International Energy Politics and Economy

Causes of Russia Ukraine War:

- 1. Russia never considered Ukraine as an independent country:**
 - Fiona Hill wrote in an opinion in New York Times that Putin in 2008 told Bush, “George, you have to understand that Ukraine is not even a country. Part of its territory is in Eastern Europe and the greater part was given to us.”
 - Putin: Ukraine has no claim to independence, but it is instead integral part of Russia-its people are connected with us by blood and family ties.
- 2. Putin’s Vision of Reunification of Russia:**
 - Disintegration of USSR as the greatest crime in the history of mankind.
- 3. US ill-considered decision to expand NATO to East Europe even after the collapse of USSR:**
 - Poland, Romania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia joined NATO.
 - George Kennan, the architect of America’s successful containment of the soviet union, said to Thomas L. Friedman that NATO’s expansion to Eastern Europe is the beginning of a new cold war.
- 4. Ukraine’s eagerness to join EU and NATO:**
 - Georgia Invasion: 2008



- **Economic Deal of 2013**
 - **Crimean Invasion 2014.**
 - **According to John Measheimer, father of Offensive Realism, Russia-Ukraine war is the result of Western Nations' decision of April 2006 to make Georgia and Ukraine a part of NATO.**
- 5. Mild Western response to the Russian Invasion of Georgia in 2008 and Crimea in 2014:**
- **Fiona Hill opined that the West's muted reaction to the both 2008 and 2014 invasions emboldened Mr. Putin.**
- 6. Russian Strategy of driving the US out of Europe:**
- **The strategic objective of Russia is not Ukraine, but to clarify the rules of inhabitation with the NATO and EU: Emmanuel Macron.**
- 7. The Militarization of Eastern Europe:**
- **Military drills in Black Sea.**
 - **Military deployments in Eastern European Countries.**
 - **Putin is planning to plant hypersonic missiles in Cuba and Venezuela.**
- 8. Creating a New Political Order in the former Soviet Union region.**

Wagner Rebellion:

- **Mutinous Russian mercenary fighters**
- **Yevgeny Prigozhin: Head of Wagner Group**
- **Prigozhin says the "evil" of Russia's military leadership "must be stopped" and his Wagner mercenary force will lead a "march for justice" against the Russian military.**



- The rebellion marks the most serious challenge yet to Putin's long rule and Russia's most serious security crisis since he came to power in late 1999.
- Impacts on Putin's Leadership:
 - Depicts loosening grip on internal security
 - Putin emerged more stronger than ever.

Implications of Russia-Ukraine war on the global geopolitical scenario:

- 1. De-dollarization.**
- 2. Threatening the western led global order.**
- 3. BRICS expansion and rise of multilateralism.**
- 4. China-Russia no Limit Strategic Partnership**
- 5. Saudi-Iran Rapprochement**
- 6. Saudi-US declining relations and rise of Saudi-Russia Strategic partnership.**
- 7. Emergence of Bloc Politics**

Russia-Ukraine War and International Energy Politics:

According to World Economic Forum:

- 1. Higher Energy Prices: 140 dollars, 90% electricity cost increase.**
- 2. Changing trade flows and supply shortages: 80% cut to EU energy demands by Russia.**
- 3. Sanctions on Russian Energy Supply Companies generated energy supply disruptions: Gazprom, Rushydro etc**
- 4. Energy Policy Changes:**
 - **EU looking for alternative markets for its oil demands.**
 - **Qatar-Germany LNG Deal: 15 years deal.**
- 5. A shift to green and renewable energy:**



- **EU: Phased out coal-fired power plants.**
- **US: Inflation Reduction Act: Promote clean and green energy.**
- **China: New Plan for Renewable Energy Development.**
- **Australia: Climate Change Bill 2022.**

6. Saudi-Russia Oil Partnership

7. US outreach to Venezuela for securing oil deal.

8. Europe is looking towards Iran for its energy deal.

Impacts on world economy:

- 1. Wars of Subsidy in Europe.**
- 2. Supply Chain Disruptions.**
- 3. Higher Energy Prices: devastation for the economic growth of developing countries.**
- 4. Skyrocketing Inflation**
- 5. Impacted Tourism, Agriculture and Services Sector.**
- 6. Western imposed ban on Russian use of SWIFT hindered global trade.**

Solutions to Ukraine-Russia War:

1. Chinese 12 Point Agenda to Resolve Russia-Ukraine War:

- 1) Respecting the sovereignty of all countries
- 2) Abandoning the Cold War mentality.
- 3) Ceasing hostilities
- 4) "Resuming peace talks."
- 5) Resolving the humanitarian crisis.
- 6) Protecting civilians and prisoners of war (POWs).
- 7) Keeping nuclear power plants safe.
- 8) Reducing strategic risks.
- 9) Facilitating grain exports: China offers its support for the four-party "Black Sea Grain Initiative" (signed by Russia, Türkiye, Ukraine and the UN), calling for its continued



implementation. Meanwhile, Beijing states that its proposed “cooperation initiative on global food security” provides an alternative solution to the global food security crisis.

- 10) Stopping unilateral sanctions.
- 11) Keeping industrial and supply chains stable.
- 12) Promoting post-conflict reconstruction.

2. Zelenskyy’s 10 Points Peace Plan:

- Radiation and nuclear safety, focusing on restoring security around Europe’s largest nuclear power plant, Zaporizhzhia in Ukraine, which is now Russian-occupied.
- Food security, including protecting and ensuring Ukraine’s grain exports to the world’s poorest nations.
- Energy security, with a focus on price restrictions on Russian energy resources, as well as aiding Ukraine with restoring its power infrastructure, half of which has been damaged by Russian attacks.
- Release of all prisoners and deportees, including war prisoners and children deported to Russia.
- Restoring Ukraine’s territorial integrity and Russia reaffirming it according to the UN Charter, which Zelenskyy said is “not up to negotiations”.
- Withdrawal of Russian troops and the cessation of hostilities, the restoration of Ukraine’s state borders with Russia.
- Justice, including the establishment of a special tribunal to prosecute Russian war crimes.
- The prevention of ecocide, and the protection of the environment, with a focus on demining and restoring water treatment facilities.
- Prevention of an escalation of conflict and building security architecture in the Euro-Atlantic space, including guarantees for Ukraine.
- Confirmation of the war’s end, including a document signed by the involved parties.

3. An African Peace Initiative for Russia-Ukraine War:

- The delegation from South Africa, Egypt, Senegal, Congo-Brazzaville, Comoros, Zambia, and Uganda put forward a 10-point



proposal, including a recognition of Russia and Ukraine's sovereignty and continued unhindered grain exports.

- They also called for a de-escalation of fighting and for negotiations to commence with urgency, for the release of prisoners of war and for greater humanitarian support, among other requests.

Conclusion.s



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CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES

For Workshop for Special CSS

Topic: Saudi-Iran Rapprochement

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Topic 2: Saudi-Iran Rapprochement

A history of Cold War between Saudi Arabia and Iran:

2011 – Arab Spring

The Arab Spring saw protest movements against the status quo across the Middle East. Saudi Arabia accused Iran of inciting protests in Bahrain against the royal family and sent more than 1,000 soldiers to stop the demonstrations. Iran denied the accusation.

2011 – Syrian war

The rivals squared off again after the Syrian war erupted in 2011. Shia-ruled Iran backed President Bashar al-Assad and provided him with military forces and money to battle Sunni rebels. Sunni-majority Saudi Arabia backed the rebel groups but later joined a US-led coalition formed to fight ISIL (ISIS) from 2014.

2015 – War in Yemen

When the civil war in Yemen began in 2015, Saudi Arabia backed its internationally recognised government and targeted Houthi rebel strongholds. The Houthis are aligned with Iran.

2015 – Mecca stampede

A stampede in Mecca during the annual Hajj pilgrimage in 2015 further inflamed tensions. Iran accused the Saudi government of mismanaging the most important event in the Muslim calendar. About 2,000 pilgrims were killed in the crush, more than 400 of them Iranians.

2016 – Saudi Arabia cuts ties

Four months after the stampede in Mecca, Saudi Arabia executed prominent Shia leader Nimr al-Nimr, a critic of the Saudi government. Protesters in Tehran stormed the Saudi embassy, and Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned of “divine vengeance” for Nimr’s execution. Riyadh then cut ties with Tehran.

2016 – Iran suspends Hajj participation

That same year, Iran suspended participation in the Hajj, and Saudi Arabia launched a Persian-language television station covering the pilgrimage.

Riyadh said the 24-hour satellite channel would cover Hajj rituals and prayers from the Grand Mosque in Mecca. Khamenei slammed Saudi Arabia over how it runs the Hajj and suggested Muslim countries think about ending Riyadh’s control of the pilgrimage.

2017 – Qatar blockade

Another regional rupture took place in June 2017 when Saudi Arabia and its allies in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt imposed a blockade on Qatar. They said Qatar was too close to Iran and supported “terrorism”, allegations that Doha denied. Those ties were mended in January 2021.

2017 – Lebanese PM resigns

The prime minister of Lebanon, Saad Hariri, resigned unexpectedly on November 4, 2017 and bizarrely from Riyadh, citing Iran’s “grip” on his country through Hezbollah. He later withdrew his resignation. The move plunged Lebanon into a political crisis seen as part of a Saudi effort to counteract Iran’s influence in the country.

2017 – Missile intercepted over Riyadh

Hours after Hariri’s resignation, Saudi Arabia intercepted a ballistic missile over Riyadh International Airport. It asserted that the missile was supplied by Iran and launched from territory held by Houthi rebels in Yemen. In comments reported by the state-run Saudi Press Agency, the crown prince told then-British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson that Iran’s actions “may be considered an act of war against the kingdom”.

2018 – US pulls out of Iran nuclear deal

In May 2018, President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from the Iran nuclear deal, a move praised by both Saudi Arabia and Israel. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman warned in a US television interview that if Tehran gets a nuclear weapon, “we will follow suit as soon as possible.”

The prince also referred to Iran’s supreme leader as “the new Hitler”.

2019 – Attacks on Saudi targets

A year later, Saudi Arabia blamed Iran for a series of attacks on targets in the kingdom, including one that struck the heart of the country’s oil industry, temporarily halving the kingdom’s crude production. Iran denied involvement. Yemen’s Houthi rebel group claimed responsibility for the attacks.

2020 – Qassem Soleimani killed

When the Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani was killed in a US drone strike in Baghdad, official Saudi media celebrated the attack.

2021 – Iran and Saudi Arabia hold talks

In April 2021, Iran and Saudi Arabia held their first direct talks since they cut off official ties. Baghdad was the host.

2022 – More talks

Between April and September last year, four rounds of talks were held, mostly mediated by Iraq and Oman.

After Iran and Saudi Arabia held a fifth round of talks, a top adviser to Khamenei called for Saudi and Iranian embassies to be reopened.

Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Saudi Arabia for talks with Mohammed bin Salman.

2023 – Agreement to restore ties

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi visits China to meet Xi in February. The following month, Riyadh and Tehran announce they have decided to re-establish ties.

Rapprochement:

Brokered by China on 10 March 2023.

Restored diplomatic relations and pledged to reopen embassies.

Riyadh, Tehran and Beijing “expressed their keenness to exert all efforts towards enhancing regional and international peace and security.

Terms of the rapprochement:

Reactivation of the cooperation and security agreements signed in 1998 and 2001.

No interference in the internal affairs of each other.

Iran to stop further attacks on Saudi Arabia

Iran would curtail support for militant groups

Interests of Iran:

Ending its political isolation from the region.

Eradicating Israeli propaganda to destabilize Iran.

Neutralizing the US burgeoning role in the Middle East.

Gaining economic opportunities.

Interests of Saudi Arabia:

Securing its security interests.

Promoting its idea of a Middle East on the model of European Union.

Finding policies options other than the US and Its allies.

Promotion of its economic diversification agenda: Vision 2030.

Interests of China:

Countering US hegemony in the West Asia.

Promoting Belt and Road Initiative.

Protecting its Oil trade.

Threatening the Liberal Order.

Promoting Multilateralism.

World Reaction:

China:

The restoration of ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia is “major good news” in the current turbulent world and a “victory” for dialogue and peace.

US:

“With regard to the agreement reached between Saudi Arabia and Iran with China's involvement, from our perspective, anything that can help reduce tensions, avoid conflict and curb in any way dangerous or destabilising actions by Iran is a good thing,” US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

"We'll see. It really does remain to be seen whether the Iranians are going to honor their side of the deal. This is not a regime that typically does honor its word." John Kirby.

Iraq:

“A new page has been opened in diplomatic relations between the two countries,” said a statement from the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

UAE:

The UAE believes in the importance of positive communication and dialogue among the countries of the region towards consolidating the concepts of good neighborliness and starting from a common ground to build a more stable future for all.

Oman:

“This is a win-win for everyone and will benefit regional and global security,” said Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi.

Turkey:

The Turkish foreign minister welcomed the agreement in a phone call with his Saudi counterpart, according to the Saudi state news agency.

Pakistan:

"Pakistan firmly believes that this important diplomatic breakthrough will contribute to peace and stability in the region and beyond," the Foreign Office

We commend the role played by China's visionary leadership in coordinating this historic agreement which reflects the power of constructive engagement and meaningful dialogue. We laud sagacious leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran for this very positive development.

Regional Implications of Saudi-Iran Rapprochement:

Burgeoning Role of China in the Middle East:

China's prestigious accomplishment vaults it into a new league diplomatically and outshines anything the U.S. has been able to achieve in the region since Biden came to office. Amy Hawthorne, deputy director for research at the Project on Middle East Democracy, a nonprofit group in Washington.

The Chinese, who for years played only a secondary role in the region, have suddenly transformed themselves into the new power player. Peter Baker

Declining role of the US in the Middle East:

The Americans, who have been the central actors in the Middle East for the past three-quarters of a century, almost always the ones in the room where it happened, now find themselves on the sidelines during a moment of significant change. Peter Baker

"I think it reflects the way U.S. partners have leaned into their growing ties with China," said Mr. Kurtzer. "Is it a direct threat to the United States? That is debatable. But the regional order is changing."

Eradicated Israel's hope for framing nexus with the Saudi Arabia against Iran:

Israel finds its hopes for an anti-Iranian coalition with Saudi Arabia evidently dashed.

Israelis, who have been courting the Saudis against their mutual adversaries in Tehran, now wonder where it leaves them.

US wanted a deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

For opening formal ties with Israel, the Saudis have asked the United States for security guarantees, help developing a civilian nuclear program and fewer restrictions on U.S. arms sales.

Yair Lapid termed the development as "a total and dangerous foreign policy failure of the Israeli government,"

Naftali Bennett called it "a serious and dangerous development for Israel, a political victory for Iran and a fatal blow to the effort to build a regional coalition against Iran."

End of Proxy war in the region.

Lebanon

Syria

Iraq

Yemen

A decisive end to the Yemen War.

Major players: Saudi and Iran.

Ending Houthi rebellion.

Stoppage of Human rights violations.

Elimination of Sectarianism and political consolidation of the Ummah.

Brighter prospects of the regional development and economic prosperities.

Enhance the role of Russia in the Middle East.

Supporting the Syrian Normalization process.

Implications for Pakistan:

1. Help Pakistan promote its policy of geo-economics:

Regional Connectivity: INSTC, IMEC, Middle East and Central Asian Countries.

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani (Caretaker FM): Saudi-Iran Rapprochement will open new horizons of regional connectivity for Pakistan.

2. Pakistan can secure investments from Iran and Saudi Arabia in CPEC.

Saudi Arabia to Invest 10 Billion Dollars in building the Largest Oil Refinery at Gwadar.

According to Ministry of Planning and Development, Pakistan and Iran have agreed to collaborate in CPEC.

Investments in Special Economic Zones.

3. Iran and Saudi Arabia also enjoy cordial relations with Pakistan and India and could use their influence to ease tensions between the two South Asian countries.

Saudi-India growing relations.

Iran-India amicable proximity.

SCO, India, Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia (Dialogue Partner).

4. Elimination of Sectarian and Proxy wars in Pakistan:

Shia: Iran

Sunni: Saudi Arabia

Battle ground Pakistan.

5. Development of Chabahar Port and Gwadar Port as Sister Ports:

China-Iran Strategic Partnership.

Saudi-China Strategic Partnership.

6. Pakistan can embark a new path of diplomacy and cooperation:

Iran-Saudi Cold War.

Pakistan's diplomatic constraints.

Hard to strike a balance.

7. Pakistan-Iran-Saudi trilateral partnership in terms of counter-terrorism cooperation.

Sharing of Intelligence Information

Eliminating ISIS and AL-Qaeda.

8. Saudi Arabia and Iran can contribute in the Energy Security of Pakistan.



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For Workshop for Special CSS

Topic: SIFC a New Remedy for Economic Woes of Pakistan

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Current Affairs Workshop for Special CSS

Ammar Gul

Topic 3: SIFC a New Remedy for Economic Woes of Pakistan.

Causes of Pakistan's Economic Crisis:

1. Inconsistent Economic Policies:

No Economic Policy for first Nine Years.

The Harvard Trickle-down model of Ayub Khan.

Nationalization of Bhutto.

Barrowed Economic model of Zia.

Short term economic policies in Benezir and Nawaz Sharif era:
dependent on IMF and WB loans.

Consumer Credit Model of Musharraf: loans to all educated
people who had business ideas to run small enterprises

Crony Capitalism: Nawaz Sharif: an economic system
characterized by close, mutually advantageous relationships
between business leaders and government officials.

Welfare Based Economic Model of Imran Khan.

2. Heavy External and Domestic Indebtedness:

The IMF has projected an increase in Pakistan's external debt
to reach \$130.850 billion in 2023-24 up from \$123.574 billion
in 2022-23.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data, total
external debt liabilities stood at \$125.726 billion by March
2023.

The interest payments for the fiscal year 2023-24 are projected
to reach Rs7.3 trillion, with Rs6.43 trillion allocated for
domestic debt and Rs872.25 billion for foreign debt.

Balance of payment crisis, Fiscal deficit etc.

3. Lack of Foreign Direct Investment:

According to the State Bank of Pakistan's data released on Tuesday, Pakistan received \$1.456 billion in FDI from July to June 2023, which is \$480 million lower than the \$1.936 billion received in the previous fiscal year (FY22).

Developmental projects, foreign exchange reserves, employment etc.

4. Burgeoning Imports and Declining Exports (Trade Deficit)

PBS: 27.55 bn \$ in 2023 which was 48 bn \$ in 2022.

Lack of diversified products etc

5. Dwindling Foreign Exchange Reserves:

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves reached \$9.746 billion: PBS, 2021: all time high \$27.228 billion.

6. Devaluation of Currency:

Bank of America (BofA) Securities has predicted that Pakistan's currency could devalue to Rs340 against the US dollar due to high domestic borrowing, substantial interest payments, and the need to restructure unsustainable debt in 2024 and 2025.

Current 1 dollar equals to 296.22 rupees.

7. Low Tax to GDP Ratio:

By the end of last working day of fiscal year 2022-23, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) provisionally collected Rs7.144 trillion in taxes against the target of Rs7.640 trillion.

Tax to GDP Ratio: 18% needed for growth rate of 7 to 8 percent.

8. Loss Incurring State Owned Enterprises:

World Bank report titled "Pakistan Federal Public Expenditure Review 2023" ranks Pakistan's SOEs as the least profitable in the entire South Asia.

The latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan showed that the credit to state-owned firms reached Rs142.3bn during the first eight months (July to February) of the current fiscal year.

The first half-yearly report of the State Bank shows that Pakistan International Airline (PIA) was the biggest borrower with Rs186.6bn until the end of December.

9. Prevalence of Informal Economy:

According to the [World Bank](#), the informal sector, which accounts for more than 60% of the total workforce and 71.3% of the non-agricultural labor, is estimated to be more than 1/3rd of the country's GDP.

The Small and Medium Enterprise Development

Authority ([SMEDA reported](#)) that more than 40% of Pakistan's GDP comes from the informal sector.

The informal economy is estimated to be 35.6% of Pakistan's GDP.

10. Rising Poverty, Unemployment and Inflation:

38.3 percent of the population in Pakistan (88,701 thousand people in 2021) is multidimensionally poor while an additional 12.9 percent is classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty: UNDP.

Unemployment Rate in Pakistan is expected to reach 6.80 percent by the end of 2023, according to Trading Economics global macro models and analysts expectations.

37.97 inflation rate: PBS.

11. Polarized Politics.

12. Amnesty Schemes and Tax Exemptions to Land Lords: Mehboob ul Haq.

Special Investment Facilitation Council: Attracting Foreign Direct Investment and Privatisation of State Owned Enterprises:

On 20 June 2023, the Government of Pakistan approved the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

A facility to act as a "single window" to facilitate investors, establish cooperation among all Government departments, and fast-track project development.

Amendments to the Board of Investment Ordinance 2001 by adding Chapter II-A with regard to SIFC's establishment.

Under the Patronage of Military Establishment.

Aim: The Government established the SIFC to shorten lengthy business processes through a cooperative and collaborative whole-of-the-government approach with the representation of all stakeholders.

Key Sectors: Defence production, agriculture, mining, information technology (IT) and energy through domestic and foreign investments.

Projects approved: SIFC approved 28 projects to offer to the investors:

Saudi Aramco Refinery, TAPI Gas Pipeline, Thar Coal Rail Connectivity, hydropower projects of 245 MW in Gilgit-Baltistan, handing over of 85,000 acres of land to a single investor, the establishment of cloud infrastructure, and telecom infrastructure deployment.

The construction of Diamer-Bhasha dam and mining operations at Reko Diq in Balochistan's Chagai district.

In agriculture sector: including a plan to offer 85,000 acres to a single investor. Corporate farming in Cholistan includes 50,000 acres, establishment of a corporate dairy farm on 15,000 acres for 30,000 animals, establishment of a corporate feedlot farm on 10,000 acres for 100,000 animals, and the establishment of a corporate camel farm on 10,000 acres for 15,000 animals.

New Visa Policy under SIFC:

Amendments in Visa Policy for 103 Countries.

Pakistani missions will now be obligated to issue business visas for 5 years within 24 hours.

A short-term investor visa of one year will also be issued within 24 hours.

A 3-year investor visa will also be issued within 24 hours.

The Ministry of Interior is mandated to issue 5-year investor visas in just 10 days.

"If Pakistan's chambers of business or business organisations issue a document to a foreign businessman, easy visas will also be issued to them," the statement quoted caretaker Prime Minister Kakar as saying.

A Legislative Plan for Cooperate Contracts and Cooperate Farming on Private Land:

Provincial legislation to safeguard land rights and dispute resolution.

Establishing a special unit at the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).

Special courts to settle disputes, tax holidays, incentives, and risk mitigation.

Special authorities at provincial levels, and pilot models at all provinces.

Amendments in the Provincial Legislations for

Cooperate Farming: The Contract Act 1872, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tenancy Act 1950

Pro-Active Diplomacy:

Pakistan's relations with China, the United States and other Middle East countries.

Pakistan's Look Africa Policy.

Attracting Western Nations.

A Nation Wide Programme to help Freelancers:

600,000 freelancers earn \$5 to \$10 per day

Programme would generate around \$3 billion annually

Zero Tolerance for Smuggling:

Crackdown on the smuggling of sugar, dollars, oil, fertiliser, wheat, etc.

Operation against Energy Theft.

How SIFC will help to eliminate Economic Crisis:

Attracting Foreign Direct Investments.

Employment generation and increase in buying power.

A new wave of Industrialization.

Generation of Business Friendly Environment.

Eliminating the menace of dwindling Foreign Exchange Reserves.

Privatization of Loss incurring State Owned Enterprises.

Strengthening of Pakistani Currency.

Other Suggestions to Mitigate Pakistan's Economic Crisis:

1. Development of Long term and far-sighted policy:

USA: Liberalism: Capitalism.

China: Socialism with Chinese Characteristics.

2. Implementation of Knowledge Economy:

The World Bank defines knowledge economies according to four pillars:

Institutional structures that provide incentives for entrepreneurship and the use of knowledge

Availability of skilled labor and a good education system

Access to information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructures

A vibrant innovation landscape that includes academia, the private sector, and civil society.

What Pakistan is doing:

Technology Parks

Technology driven task force

Presidential Initiative for Artificial Intelligence and Computing

Pakistan Vision 2025.

State of the art Universities to enhance research and development: Pak-Austria fachhochschule university of applied sciences

3. Boosting Economic Growth through Blue Economy:

Thailand, Maldives, Sri Lanka etc

Marine Tourism, Fishing Industry, Ship Industry, Ports etc.

Blue Economy Policy 2020.

Inclusion of Blue Economy i Pakistan Vision 2025

Sino-Pak Blue Partnership under CPEC.

4. Privatization of Loss Incurring SOEs

5. Restructuring of FBR to enhance tax base of Pakistan.

6. Regional Connectivity and Geo-economic policy.

7. Incentivising Industrial sector to diversify Export products.

8. Formalizing the Informal Economic Structure.

Conclusion



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Topic 7: Multi-dimensional US-China Relations: Rivalry, Competition and Cooperation.

According to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, US relations with China are multifaceted, comprising elements of cooperation, competition, and systemic rivalry.

Multi-dimensional US-China Relations:

Adversarial dimension of Sino-US Relations:

China poses the “most serious long-term challenge to the international order: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

1. US-China Trade War:

It’s now clear to U.S. officials that China, once considered a possible economic and political ally, has become an emerging threat to national security, U.S. companies and American workers, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo.

China-U.S. trade fell by 14.5% in the first half of the year 2023: China’s ambassador to the U.S., Xie Feng.

Decoupling of economies: Trump imposed 360 billion tariffs on Chinese goods.

Xie claimed that average U.S. tariffs on Chinese products were 19%, while the Chinese tariffs on U.S. goods averaged 7.3%.

Trump and Biden imposed tariffs on Chinese goods and China retaliated in the same manner.

Biden’s “de-risking” Strategy: intends to narrowly tailor restrictions to prevent China’s military advancement and protect U.S. national security

New Executive Order 2023: declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat of advancement by countries like China “in sensitive technologies and products critical to the military, intelligence, surveillance, or cyber-enabled capabilities”.



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The US treasury secretary to prohibit or restrict certain US investments in Chinese entities in three sectors: semiconductors and microelectronics, quantum information technologies, and certain artificial intelligence systems.

2. The US-China Tec War:

China banned Face book, Google, Apple and You tube to operate in China.

US CHIPS and Science Act 2022: Designed to boost US competitiveness, innovation, and national security. The law aims to catalyze investments in domestic semiconductor manufacturing capacity.

The act invests \$280 billion to bolster US semiconductor capacity, catalyze R&D, and create regional high-tech hubs and a bigger, more inclusive STEM workforce.

US-China Chips war: US is concerned that China is using chips to advance its military technology, Xi's vision of "world class" military by 2049, Semiconductors., Semiconductors are used to produce hypersonic missiles, and using artificial intelligence (AI) for a range of applications, including electronic warfare.

US banned China's access to US-origin semiconductors and their related products.

US sanctioned Chinese largest chip maker: Semiconductor Manufacturing International Cooperation.

US have banned the sale and import of new communications equipment from five Chinese companies, including Huawei and ZTE, amid concerns over national security In March 2023, when Japan and the Netherlands announced that they were also adopting new export controls on advanced semiconductor manufacturing equipment. Combined, the U.S., Japan, and the Netherlands provide roughly 90% of all the equipment that is used in computer chip factories worldwide.

China's anti-trust authority has effectively blocked any and all corporate mergers involving a U.S. semiconductor company that operates in Chinese markets.

China initiated a cyber security review of Micron, the leading U.S. producer of memory chips. In late May, China's regulators banned purchases of Micron chips in China's critical infrastructure sector.

3. Geopolitical and geostrategic rivalry between US and China:

China is the biggest threat to the US interests and security: National Intelligence Report.

China Containment Policy.

China-Russia no limit strategic partnership

AUKUS, QUAD, I2U2etc.

China-Iran Strategic Partnership.

IMEC versus BRI in Middle East.

China-US rivalry in Indo-Pacific

BRICS, SCO, NATO, Partners in Blue Pacific

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework versus
Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

4. US-China Strategic Divergence on Taiwan, Hong Kong and Tibet.

5. Authoritarian versus democratic political order of the world:

According to the US Director of National Intelligence, China poses the greatest threat to democracy and freedom world-wide since World War 2.

6. Chinese model of Multilateralism and US model of Unipolarism:

GDI, GSI and GCI

7. De-dollarization and the rise of Petroyuan.

Competitive Mode of US-China Relations:

1. Strategic competition of building infrastructural corridors:

BRI versus B3W.

IMEC, I2U2 etc.

Chinese Participation in the Greater Eurasian
Partnership.

2. Technological Competition between US and China:

Competition in Generative Artificial Intelligence: OpenAI ChatGPT.

Chinese AI Development Plan calling for Chinese AI
to be the world's undisputed leader by 2030.

Competition in communication networks: Huawei launched 5G later T-Mobile
Launched 5G across the US.

Technological competition in modernizing military: Xi's vision of a "world-class"
military power, capable of "fighting and winning wars" by 2049.

3. US-China Competition in Cyberspace:

Eternal Blue VS Dubbed Daxin

4. US-China Competition in outer Space:

Tiangong Space Station vs NASA's International Space Station.

Beidou satellite navigation system vs Global Positioning System.

Chinese anti-satellite Missile SC-19 ASAT vs US anti-satellite missile RIM-161-
Standard Missile-3.

Cooperative Phase of US-China Relations:

1. To Mitigate Global Conflicts:

Israel-Palestine Issue.

Kashmir Issue

Yemen Civil War

Civil Wars in Horn of Africa.

2. Global Cooperation to Counter-Terrorism:

IS-k, AL-Qeada, ETIM, TTP etc.

3. Global Cooperation to Counter Global Warming:

4. Global Cooperation on Natural Disasters.

5. Global Cooperation on Nuclear Proliferation.

6. Global Cooperation on developing health, educational and innovative infrastructure

Conclusion



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Topic: Why America failed in Afghanistan?

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Topic: Why America failed in Afghanistan?

“You are not going to win the war, and you are not going to transfer Afghanistan” (ASHFAQ PERVAIZ QIANI).

1. Trying to win the unwinnable war

- Britain failed
- Moscow failed
- US failed = what are we doing here? GEN DOUGLAS LUTE (ADVISOR TO BUSH AND OBAMA)
- Afghanistan papers, reveal how American public was misled by claims of winning an unwinnable war.
- Terrain, determination of Afghans etc.

2. Lack of feasible strategic planning and decisions.

- “We had no long term strategy” GEN DAVID RICHARD.
- The loss in Afghanistan was a cumulative effect of 20 years of wrong decisions and bad planning. (GEN Mark A. Milley)
- Letting Osama bin Laden escape from Tora Bora.
- Changing too many generals. (command changes)
- Taking the enemy easy without knowing his capabilities and strength.
- Focus on short-term security goals.



3. Shifting focus from Afghanistan to Iraq in the early stages of the war.

- Bush began the Iraq war in 2003 shifting his focus from Afghanistan to Iraq
- Frank Mckenze said “it was a major strategic blunder, in which we pulled our troops from Afghanistan and placed them in Iraq”.
- **PULLING OFF INTELLIGENCE ADVISORS, BLINDED US.**

4. Reliance on Afghan military to secure Afghanistan after US withdrawal

- Ashfaq Pervaiz Kayani in a white paper which Pakistan to US President Obama warned him that do not try to blind up Afghan Army. You will fail. They will turn into militias.
- Vali Nasr advisor to Richard Holbrooke, who served as US special Representative for Afghanistan, wrote in his book, The Indispensable Nation, that they plan to build an army of 400,000 strong soldiers by 2014 and it was their great strategic mistake.

5. The frequent change in command:

- Shuja Nawaz in his book, the Battle for Pakistan, opines that the major reason for US failure in Afghanistan was frequent change of command.



- From Robert Gates to Gen .Mcchrystal no one had the proper time to frame and implement their strategies as per their planning due to swift changes in the command.

6.No strategy to end the war.

- Military strategists are taught never to start a war without having a plan to end it.
- Craig Whitlock = Afghanistan papers = Bush nor anyone else had proper plan to meet the war with its conclusion.

7. American desired results were not achieved

- President Bush merely voiced two objectives of the war in Afghanistan: “to disrupt al-Qaeda’s use of Afghanistan as a terrorist base of operation and to attack the military capability of Taliban regime.
- Both not earned
- Later, objectives changed = Install Democracy project Human rights, empowering the woman etc.
- All not achieved.

8. Overstretched war = (2001-2021)

- 20 years
- 3 trillion dollars



- 100000 people killed
- “I have no visibility into who the bad guys are in Afghanistan after investing much time and energy, he questioned, Who are our enemies, I do not know.

9. Inability to provide political stability and social coherence

- Civil war
- Turmoil
- Corruption
- Northern Alliance vs Taliban Pathan, Uzbek, Tajik, Hazara etc.
- Tried to establish democracy but failed.

10. Lack of credible local partner and failure to win Afghan hearts and minds:

- Hamid Karzai administration and Ashraf Ghani administration
- Self-centred, corrupt, dysfunctional, divided. SIGAR report.
- Northern Alliance
- Afghan military collapsed within days.
- Growing popularity of Taliban, corruption and bad governance turmoil Afghan hearts and minds from US. =



Drone attacks = killing civilians, changing their tribal traditions and customs.

Outcomes of Afghan war for America and Afghanistan

The brown university costs of war project

- The human cost
- American service member killed = 2448
- US contractors = 3846
- Afghan national Army and police = 66000
- NATO members = 1144
- Afghan civilians = 47,245
- Taliban and other fighters = 51,191
- Aid workers = 444
- Journalists = 72

2. Economic cost:

- More than 3 trillion dollars

The implications of US withdrawal from Afghanistan on South Asia or the region



1. Power vacuum after the US withdrawal can call a power struggle between the international and regional players that would destabilize the region.

- China = Wang Yi visit to Afghanistan
- India = India – Taliban dialogue in Doha. (India central Asia summit)
- Russia = Taliban-Russia dialogue
- Pakistan = Pak-Taliban relations.
- Central Asia = Summit of the Afghan neighbors

2. The looming threats of civil war in Afghanistan pose greater security perils to the regional countries

- Pakistan = mass exodus of refugees to the Pakistan
- Growing terrorism = Russia is concerned for the security of central Asian countries
- China = Xinjiang province
- Iran = Shia – Hazar = borders
- Central Asian countries = Uzbekistan and Tajikistan

3. Afghanistan a base of terrorists and military

- Pak = TTP, ISIS, AL-Qaeda.
- China = East Turkmenistan Islamic Movement
- CA = IS, Al-Qaeda, Tajik and Uzbek militants.
- India = Kashmir, TTA etc.



- Russia = IS, Al-Qaeda.

4. Burgeoning narcotics supply and drug trafficking

- Russia = Putin SCO summit = halt narcotics supply
- Pak= drug trafficking via Balochistan and KPK
- CA= similar concerns
- India and Bangladesh
- Afghanistan opiate trafficking report of United Nations office on Drugs and crime = large quantity of drugs and, heroin and opium supplied to other countries

5. Spread of fanatic ideology and fundamentalism in the region

- Taliban resurgence will reboot fundamentalism in the region
- The major concerns of Tajikistan on Taliban's control over Afghanistan is , that it would hurt their liberal life style and promote extremism in the society
- It can provide breathing ground for radical elements and separatists groups in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh etc.
- US generals estimated that terrorist groups can reconstitute in Afghanistan sooner than expected.

6. Regional integration and the Taliban

- CPEC and Central Asia
- Regional pipelines = TAPI, CASA-1000 etc



- Regional corridors = Quad, PAK-AFUZ railway project
- China-Iran deal
- Chaos and instability would hamper it all
- Peace, inclusively and cooperation would bolster the economic prosperity

7. Mass exodus of Refugees in the region

- Pak=refugee crisis
- CA=refugee crisis
- UNCHR= 35400 Afghan refugees have arrived in Pak, Iran and Tajikistan.

US withdrawal from Afghanistan and Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan-implication on Pakistan.

Positive implications or impacts on Pakistan can be:

1. End of pro-Indian regime in Afghanistan

- NDs bases in Afghanistan
- “India had brought together several terrorist organizations to fulfill its evil designs” Qureshi
- Indians invested 3 billion dollars in Afghanistan



- Kuljhushan Yhadav also confessed Indian involvement in Afghanistan against Pakistan
- Ashraf Ghani- pro-Indian
- RAW-NDs nexus

2. Peace in Afghanistan will curtail the pressure of refugees in Pakistan

- Stability in Afghanistan will compel Afghan refugees to go back to their homes
- Pak= According to UNCHR, 1.4 million Afghan refugees are in Pakistan. Unregistered are in tens of thousands.
- Economic pressure and political stability.

3. Forward its geo-economics agenda

- CPEC and CA
- TAPI, CASA-1000, UzAffPAK railway project.
- CPEC and Eurasian economic partnership
- Moed Yousuf = Peace in Afghanistan is essential for our geo-economic policy
- China – Iran deal and CPEC
- Easter side hostage to Kashmir issue and so attention to Western border
- Andrew Korybko concept og CPEC



4. Overcoming the TTP conundrum

- Pak-TTP negotiations mediated by Taliban
- Taliban assured Pakistan that its land would not be used to attack Pakistan
- “ Pakistan will be faced with a serious threat to its stability if civil war erupts in Afghanistan and spills over into its border areas” Maliha Lodhi

5. A peaceful western border would enable Pakistan to focus on chaotic Eastern border

- Indian threat
- Kashmir

6. The provision of strategic depth

- Friendly govt: in Afghanistan can provide Pak with its long-term desire of strategic depth in Afghanistan

Negative implications on Pakistan

Three major conundrums for Pak: as per PM and NSA after US withdrawal

1. Burgeoning terrorism in Pakistan



- According to Pakistan Institute for peace studies (PIPS), after Taliban established govt: in AFG there is an increase of 42% terrorist attacks in Pakistan
- TTP re-structuring and regrouping itself
- BLA, BLF and TTP synergy
- Moeed Yosuf after holding talks with Taliban in Kabul said that Taliban had assured is that Afghan soil will not be use against Pakistan
- Peshawar Imam-Bargha attack, Johar town attack, Quetta Blast, Karachi attack etc. The UN report says that “a significant part of AL-Qaeda leadership is based along the Afghan-Pak border”

2. Mass exodus of refugees in case of civil war and humanitarian crisis:

- According to IMF, possible Afghan refugee crisis could cost Pakistan 500 million dollars annually
- UNCHR = worsening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan can cause millions of Afghanistan displacement
- Pakistan cannot bear this burden

3. Instability in Afghanistan can hinder Pakistan vision of regional connectivity:

- Expansion of CPEC = CPEC + concept by Andrew Korybko



- Vision Central Asia policy
- TAPI, CASA-1000, UzAfPak railway project
- Integration of Eurasian greater partnership and BRI through CPEC
- Policy of geo-economics

4. Rising extremism and fundamentalism Maleeha Lodhi

- Taliban's victory in Afghan can provide impetus to extremism elements in Pakistan
- Rising incidents of killings and moblynching on the pretext of blasphemy is its manifestations. Srilankan man, priest in Peshwar etc

5. Growing voices of separatism after Taliban victory in Afghanistan

- Their victory against USA boosted the confidence of separatist elements in Pakistan
- Baloch separatist insurgency increased = Anarkali Blast, Karachi Blast, Dasu dam attack.
- Noor Wali Massod= TTP head said, " We want to separate the regions comprising FATA and some parts of KPK and establish our own autonomous terrorists there"



6. Proactive diplomacy for gaining international recognition for Taliban can adversely affect Pakistan's image:

- World community can isolate Pakistan in a reaction to support Taliban gain recognition
- However, FM Qureshi said "Pakistani's recognition of Taliban regime depends on its recognition from the regional countries."

Deteriorating relation with the US

1. Blaming Pakistan for US chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan.
 - Wendy Sherman = We do not see ourselves building broad relationship with Pakistan
 - Scott Perry = "Stopping Pakistani Terror Act"
 - Antony Blinken = We see our relations with Pakistan on what role it will play in Afghanistan
 - "Afghanistan counter terrorism, oversight, accountability Act 2021"
 - Social and economic consequences on Pakistan: past experiences fall out = hinder trade and investment

Taliban- Pakistan relations



1.Regional integration policy of Pakistan and support of Taliban

2.Pakistan's diplomatic efforts for the recognition of Taliban regime as the de-jure authority

- SCO summit, 17th extraordinary session of OIC
- Imran Khan statements
- Convencing extended Trioka and regional countries.
- World need to engage with Taliban

3.Providing humanitarian assistance to Taliban in these appalling times

- Pakistan pledged about 28 million dollar worth og humanitarian aid to Kabul. Al-Jazeera.
- 50,000 metric tons of wheat, winter shelter and medical supplies

4.Pakistan hosting millions of Afghan refugees

5.Pakistan played a pertinent role in US withdrawal from Afghanistan

- Zalmay Khalizad = success in negotiating peace deal would not be possible without Pakistan's sincere and unconstitutional support

6.Pakistan urging world to unfreeze the economic assets of Afghanistan



- US froze Afghanistan's 9.5 billion dollars of Afghan central Bank deposited in US.
- Later, Joe Biden signed an executive order to unfreeze them and split them between humanitarian Aid and the victims of all attacks
- PM Imran Khan repeatedly urged the International Community to unfreeze Afghan assets to avert economic meltdown to avoid economic meltdown
- Pakistan even garnered China and Russia support over it through the platform of SCO.

7. Taliban mediating between Pakistan and TTP:

- Afghan Financial minister Amir Khan Mutaki confirmed that Taliban mediated between Pakistan and TTP.
- Taliban's Pro Pakistan and Indian evacuating from Afghanistan

Divergences:

1. Long lasting during line 2600 km issue:

- Skrimishes between Taliban and park Army over fencing the Durand Line
- matter resolved by Taliban officials

2. Cross border in filtration

- drugs Supply illegal trade and illegal immigration



3. Terrorist attacks on Pakistan emanating from our soil

- Peshawar attack, TTP, Blf, Bla equal to Johor town, Quetta attacks
- Pakistan Army crossed Afghanistan borders and bombed the terrorists which also killed dozens of refugees
- continuous terrorist and bushes from Afghanistan to park Army check posts

4. Taliban's close Affinity with TTP

- Pakistan wants the surrender of TTP and Afghan soil should not be used by them
- Taliban have close relations to them
- Moeed Yosuf =Taliban

5. Taliban's rigid view over forming an inclusive government can cause tensions with Park Taliban's extremist perspective on women and women rights violations and Pakistan Taliban relations

Conclusion

Problems for Taliban regime and demands of international community

1. Gaining International legitimacy and recognition.
2. Dealing with terrorists outfits such as IS-k Al-Qaida and ETIM



3. managing humanitarian catastrophe in the country.
4. Eradicating the prospects of Civil War in the country.
5. Awarding economic Fallout and creating economic stability through institutions to international institutions were like World Bank IMF and economic assistance.
6. Expanding brain drain.
7. Providing women equal rights and opportunities.
8. Managing the relations between their Rank and files.
9. Formation of an inclusive government. International sanctions double.

Demands of international community

- Formation of an inclusive government.
- Afghans of soil should not be used for breeding terrorists and terrorists attacks in the world.
- Honor the commitments that you made in the agreement.
- Protect the human rights and women rights.
- Persuasion of moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policy.
- Humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan
- 23 million people facing hunger
- malnourished children overflowing in health facilities
- 70% of teachers are working without salaries



- excessive droughts chronic poverty for tea years of war covid-19 pandemic and natural disaster have left more than 18 million people in Afghanistan in need of humanitarian assistance according to the institution United Nations of coordination Affairs (UNOCHA)
- Undp = 97% of Afghans could Plunge in two poverty by mid 2022
- wfp = 14 million people you know understand are facing acute food and security
- UNICEF 3.2 million children under the age of five expected to suffer acute malnutrition by the end of the year

17th extra ordinary session of OIC Six point frame work presented by Pak, ratified by OIC

- The creation of financial vehicle for channeling Aid.
- Increasing investment in the people of Afghanistan.
- Facilitating Afghanistan's access to legitimate banking services and easing liquidity challenge.
- Improving food and security.
- Building the capacity of Afghanistan institutions to counter terrorism and combat illicit red and narcotics.
- Engaging Taliban for the establishment of an inclusive setup.



- Afghanistan humanitarian trust fund under Islamic Development Bank equal to 48 OIC Financial ministers conference.
- Special trust fund for Afghanistan = UNDP.
- World Banks Afghanistan reconstruction trust fund equal to transfer to 80 million dollars to WFP and UNICEF.

China's four way plan to deal with Afghan issue

- Humanitarian aid to Afghans.
- An open its an open inclusive path of development in Afghanistan.
- Lifting of unilateral sanctions of Afghanistan on Afghanistan.
- Zero tolerance attitude to ensure who understands stay away from terrorism



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