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Current Affairs

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Saudi-Iran Agreement:

Background:

The rivalry between Saudi and Iran is rooted in a combination of geo-political, religious and ideological factors. Both Iran and Saudi Arabia are major regional powers and sought to exert influence over the region. They have their close alliances with regional countries. Like Iran has close alliance with Syria and Lebanon through its support to Hizbullah. There is a sectarian divide between Shia and Sunni Muslims. Iran supports Shia population of the region against the Sunni Muslims and vice versa. On the other side, both Iran and Saudi Arabia see themselves as leader of the Muslim world. These were the factors that were making both unable to make an alliance and negotiate on their issues. The reason was US was supporting Saudi Arabia because she was worried that Iran may acquire nuclear weapon. The superpower was not playing the role as a negotiator but the instigator and

was trying to further worsen the situation and so that it should maintain its hegemony over both Iran and Saudi Arabia.

After the worsening of ties between China and US. The US tried to contain China in the Indo-Pacific region by making alliances with neighboring countries like Philippines, Taiwan and India. In order to limit Chinese expansion of economy. However, Chinese using its diplomatic skills and development and investment tactics. tried to convince Saudi Arabia and Iran to negotiate and end their differences.

Saudi-Iran Agreement and China as diplomatic clout:

Introduction:

The unexpected thaw between the Saudi Arabia and Iran is a major diplomatic triumph for China. In a rapprochement mediated by Beijing, the two archrivals, which had been engaged in a bitter proxy war in the Middle East for the past seven years, have agreed to re-establish diplomatic ties and ease tensions. This agreement demonstrates

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the growing assertion of china's
clout in one of the world's volatile
regions. It also highlights the
changing global order with china
playing the role of a mediator.

Over view of the Agreement:

According to the agreement the
two countries have agreed to
re-establish diplomatic ties and re-establish
re-open their respective missions within
two years.

The agreement also affirmed
the respect of sovereignty of the states
and non-interference in the internal
affairs of the other state.

This tri-lateral agreement also
mentioned the 2001 security agreement
and broader 1998 cooperation agreement
between Saudi-Arabia and Iran.

Reasons behind Reconciliation b/w Saudi Arabia & Iran:

① Dependency on Washington for security:

The kingdom of Saudi-Arabia
has remained on Washington for its
security. The shift of Saudi Arabia
towards China was because of the
Biden criticized the Saudi police

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for Jamal Khashoggi murder. In return the Saudi government gave frosty reception to Biden on his visit to Saudi Arabia.

② Crown Prince Vision of 2030:

The Kingdom wanted to diversify its economy from oil dependent economy to investment based economy. The Chinese are ready to make investment in Saudi Arabia.

③ Bilateral ties between Beijing and Riyadh:

The Chinese president Xi Jinping visit to Saudi Arabia and a warm reception by Riyadh have further deepened the ties. These ties are dictated by bilateral economic interest. Saudi export of oil to China are largest, while

④ Bilateral ties b/w Beijing and Tehran:

China considers Iran strategically important in the changing power dynamics / politics of the region. In 2021, China signed an investment of \$40 billion in infrastructure development in exchange of oil. The Iranian president was given rousing welcome when he visited Beijing.

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Changing Global order:

The agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran comes at a time of increasing rivalry between the two super powers, which threaten to push the world towards a new cold war.

Many analysts describe the agreement as a sign of declining US role in the world. The landmark agreement b/w Saudi Arabia and Iran reflects the shifting sands of regional geopolitics.

Proactive role of China to Contain US:

After the winning of elections by president Xi Jinping for the third time. It gives him absolute power to project the Chinese power at international sphere. It is now playing more pro-active role and that's why relations between US and China have worsened in recent time.

Conclusion:

China could be a good mediator than US because its only focus is prosperity of the region but not hegemony. China is not focusing on to gain interest in every region but it is working on win-win model. The above discussion proves that China is working on win-win model.

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For example, it is doing infrastructure development in exchange of oil from the Middle Eastern countries. It is going according to the agreement of development and connectivity in the world. The BRI (belt and road initiative) launched by China in almost every region of the world.

Q No: 3.

Introduction:

It has been said that the greatest danger to peace is because of two leading super power. The two superpowers in a cold conflict between themselves since a long time. Both are trying to decrease the power of the other while other wanted to maintain its balance of power. The two nuclear powers are in conflict with each other in middle politics and Asia-pacific region.

US- China and taiwan:

China claims taiwan as part of its territory while US is supporting the taiwense government

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because of their interest in the country. The Chinese military encircled while US navy deployed its naval destroyer to threat China. The tensions further increased when Nancy Pelosi landed on Taiwan territory. The Trump administration signed \$14 billion deal with Taiwan on subsidized oak.

In return of these Chinese heavily militarized east China sea and encircled Taiwan, with complete naval fleet, aircraft carrier, submarines. China tested its ballistic missile from above Taiwanese air space. It showed a military muscle to US and Taiwan.

Why Taiwan is important:

Taiwan has immense economic importance for both China and US. It is producer of semiconductor and chips and its export to China are 90% and to US 50% only. Both are largest investor in Taiwan because their IT industry run on Taiwanese chips.

The other importance of Taiwan is Strait of Formosa which is busiest trade route of US, China, Japan and New Zealand.

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Both countries have different policies over taiwan because of their strategic and economic interest in taiwan. US is also trying to contain china in the Indo-pacific ocean.

In order to contain china to stop her to not expand its influence in south Asia and south-east Asia. China has US has partnered with India in the to become his eye and ears. It is formed QUAD (Japan, India, Australia, US) whose focus will be to keep an eye on China in the region. India has tried to escalate tension in the pakistan area of Balochistan in order to damage CPEC (China Pakistan economic corridor) so that it should become greater power in the region.

Danger to International Peace:

Both US and china are nuclear powers and both have advanced weapon carrying technology. The escalation between two powers can become a threat to international peace.

Ways to solve issue:

- ① The chinese military should stop drills in taiwan.
- ② US should end deployment in indo-pacific region.

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- ③ China should continue its policy of one country and two system.
- ④ US should follow its 1979 policy.
- ⑤ Both should abstain from giving statements against each other.
- ⑥ Both should carry regular diplomatic missions in order to maintain peace.
- ⑦ Both should abstain from block-politics.



QNO: 4.

Introduction:

There is rise in the militancy in the merged districts (FATA) and KP and other parts of Pakistan. This rise in militancy has many triggering factors in KP and other parts of Pakistan.

(1) The change of government in Afghanistan:

The withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan on 31st of August gave militants free hand to move across the border. There was a huge displacement of people from Pakistan to Afghanistan and from Afghanistan to Pakistan to meet with their relatives.

after so many years. This free movement led to the free movement of militants towards the districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The TTP fighters made agreements with the state of Pakistan to release their friends and demanded compensation for the ones who lost their homes in the war zone areas during the US war on terror. This led to an increase in the militancy in the province of KP.

(2) Lack of education :-

Due to the lack of education in the merged areas of KP and Balochistan, there is a rise in militancy in these areas. This has increased the people's attention towards other sources like militancy.

(3) Rising Unemployment:

There can be seen a rise in unemployment in the merged areas. This has led to earning money by participating in militant activities by the population.

(4) Less infrastructure development:

The population of merged areas are deprived from

development. The roads, hospitals, educational institutions and public institutions ~~are~~ ~~not~~ have not been developed. This has led to increase the negative feelings among the citizens of merged areas about other / developed part of the country. This deprivation has led to increase in the militancy in the region.

Ways to address militancy:

There are certain ways which address to decrease or end militancy in the region of KP and other parts of Pakistan.

① Negotiations with the militant groups:

The biggest tool that has the capacity to end any dispute is the diplomatic tool. The political negotiations with the militants can solve the issue in a good way. The use of hard power / military means will lead to further worsening of situation. The state can only win this war against militants is through the use of soft power. This use of political tool will bring political stability in the country. This political stability is

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the prerequisite for foreign direct investment and economic growth of the country. Hence it is important for state to negotiate and end militant activity in the areas of KP.

(2) Investment in Skill based education:

The other important factor that can help end the militancy in the region is the establishment of skill learning institutions. These skill learning institutions equip the local populations with skills than go weapons. This will help them to end their poverty in their areas. The education will also help them to distinguish between right and wrong.

(3) Promote Infrastructure development:

The government can build roads, hospitals and modern institutions for the local population in order to benefit them. The development of roads and hospitals will help them to promote their standard of life. The ~~inst~~ establishing of parks in those areas will help in social integration among citizens that will create bond of brotherhood and erase differences. This social integration will help in

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ending the militancy in the merged areas of Pakistan.

Conclusion:

There can be seen the rise in militancy in the merged areas of KP due to TTP rise and its operation hideouts in Afghanistan. This safe house of terrorist have provided them an opportunity to carry attacks in areas of KP and other districts of Pakistan and run towards Afghanistan.

This has happened after the increase withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan.

There are many other internal reasons which have cooperated in the increase of militant actives. But However, if the states focus on diplomatic engagements, infrastructure developments and investing on education can become successful in curbing the rise of terrorism.

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Introduction:

The country is facing with many economic, political and constitutional challenges. These challenges are linked with each other. The political crisis dictate the economic and constitutional crisis.

Economic Crisis:-

The country is facing the worst economic crisis in its history. The rate of dollar to PKR is highest ever which has led to increase in the foreign debt. This increase in dollar price has led to increase in the inflation in the country. There is a long list of economic problems that country is facing. The important one is balance of payment crisis that include exports and imports, where we find exports are less as compared to imports. This has left the country to current account deficit. The decrease in the remittances has hit the lowest in past five years. The remittances fall to \$28 billion from \$34 billion.

The foreign direct investment ~~is~~ has been decreased.

Solutions:

Pakistan should focus on developing its industry for that it should do massive industrialization and import substitution; this means the products which are imported should be produced in our own country. This will lead to decrease in outflow of dollar.

In order to increase remittances, the government can work on skill development and better transfer channels of money from outside world. Like Roshan digital account, taxes ~~and~~ relaxation can be introduced for overseas Pakistanis and introducing effective banking channel.

Moreover, in order to increase foreign direct investment. The government can improve the ease of doing business in the country. The political instability should be there and policy continuity. The investor's confidence should be increased in the country.

All in all, the economic crisis can only be solved with transparency and accountability in the ~~to~~ country.

Political Crisis:

The country is also going through the worst political

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crisis in the history. The increase of political rift between the political parties have ^{resulted in} increased the lack of trust among the population. This political crisis ~~are~~ ^{is} the reason of economic and constitutional crisis of Pakistan. The country's economy is suffering worst crisis because there is no political stability. It is important for state politicians to bring stability in order to run the country on economic track.

Solution:

The political crisis can only be ended when there will be free and fair elections according to constitution of Pakistan. The other way is that politicians should sit on one platform by keeping their interests aside and ~~look~~ think for the prosperity of the country. The blaming on other party should be stopped and revenge taking phenomenon should be stopped ^{once} for all.

Constitutional Crisis:

The country of Pakistan is also facing worst constitutional crisis. This constitutional crisis has promoted political and economic instability.

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The non-implementation of constitution will lead to further crisis. If the constituent elections not held in according to country within 90 days of given time. This create a crisis situation like The supreme court ordered that punjab assembly elections should be held on May 14, 2023, but it didn't happen which led to crisis in the country.

Solution:

The constitution is the supreme document of the country. Every institution should work under their own domain according to constitutions. This crisis can be ended if executive not interfere in judiciary affairs and vice versa.
