

Mock - 5

Current Affairs

Subjective Part - II

Q.2.

Answer. Saudi-Iran Negotiations Brokered
by China :

1. Introduction : Saudi-Iran negotiations brokered by China shows that Beijing is ready to adopt the role of mediator. China wants peace in the region, because it is in their ^{economic} interest, she wants to make Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) successful. Besides, it is a positive development that could bring peace in the Middle East. Hence, this patch-up is significant in the context of evolving geo-politics. Moreover, China could be a better mediator ~~than~~ than USA. And some reasons include lack of biasness of China, peace making gesture of China, not a member of US-led coalition against Iran and so on. Therefore, China could be a better mediator than USA.

2. Saudi-Iran Negotiations : An Overview

Both, Saudi-Iran are involved in a ~~has~~ rivalry dates back in history. Saudi is a ^{Sunni} Muslim majority while Iran has a Shia Muslim majority. There is

sectarianism, extremism, and terrorism issue in the region. And it had adopted into a New Cold War in Middle East in which Saudi Arabia supports Sunni regimes while Iran favours Shia regimes. The various battlefields between the two powers are Yemen, Syria, Qatar, Iraq and so on. However, in recent times both countries agree to

3. Critical Evaluation of the Statement :

It is the fact that China is going to be an economic super power in near future. To materialize this dream, regional peace and stability is sine qua non in this regard. Furthermore, China contains USA influence in the region. Therefore, mediation between Saudi-Iran is not only beneficial for China growth but also for regional prosperity and stability.

4. Analysis on How China could be a Better Mediator than USA :

Some of the key arguments are as follows

(1) China has a good relationship with both KSA and Iran :

Both sides trust on China

and see it as a neutral party. In contrast, USA is being biased towards KSA, which make it difficult for it to mediate the conflict.

(2) China is a rising Economic Power:

China's BRI can offer good terms to both countries, as China is growing economically; on other hand, USA has imposed sanctions on Iran.

(3) China is soft power, not a military power in middle east:

There is no threat to either party from China, while USA is a major military power in region and is difficult to be seen as neutral mediator.

(4) China experience in mediating conflicts

It has mediated conflicts in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. This experience could be helpful here too.

(5) China is not anti-Iran:

China is a credible mediator because it could not be seen to come under pressure and favor KSA over Iran.

(6) China maintains a policy of neutrality

China is unbiased towards both parties, and it is easier for Iran to trust China and negotiate in good faith.

(7) A merged economic interest of China and both countries:

China's BRI and regional economic activities would collaborate, and thus it makes China more favorable than USA.

(8) Historical and cultural understanding:

China understands the Middle East potentially better than USA due to its long and cultural understanding of ME. USA is culturally insensitive to ME. (Middle East)

(9) Evolving global dynamics and multi-polarity:

The perception of USA unilateral super power is a hinder to mediation approach, while world order has changed from unipolarity to multi-polarity in China's favor.

(10) Peace and stability in the region:

China is more near to the Middle East region than USA, and thus it is more favorable for China to have peace and stability in the region. Resultantly, China is better option than USA.

5. Conclusion:

China's willingness to broker negotiations is better option than the USA due to its perceived impartiality, economic interest, cultural understanding, diplomatic stance and so on. However, time will

tell that how successful is China's mediation than USA and it will depend regional situation, past relationship, and the nature of the conflict.

Q. No. 3.

Answer. US and China : The Greatest Threat to International Peace

1. Introduction: USA and China are the most powerful countries in the world, and they have the world most complex relationship. Both are super-power. There is a great rivalry between the two countries and is still increasing. In fact, it is a threat to global stability and peace. However, there are ways out for diplomatic settlement of bilateral and regional conflicts which include effective diplomacy, reducing economic tensions, encouraging cooperation on issues, and many more. Both the countries need to support each and respect each other stance. There should be the desire to prevent conflict and promote economic growth. On other hand, these growing rivalries could have devastating consequences for the world.

2. China - USA Relationship : An Overview

China - USA relationship is complex and follows different patterns. At some point of time, there is both conflict and cooperation. During cold-war era (1945-1991), China maintain a slight tilt to former USSR. Since 2001 WOT, China is challenging USA global hegemony with its rising economy. Now, there is a great competition, sort of new cold war, between the two powerful countries.

3. Critical Evaluation of the Statement

It is a fact that the relationship poses greater threat to the international peace and prosperity. It has certain reasons, such as the rising trade war between the two countries; Biological warfare and blame game over the issue of Covid-19; USA - India tilt against China in Indo-Pacific; containment and resistance to China's BRI; alliances and counter alliances like AUKUS, QUAD, SCO, BRICS; new great game in middle east; Politics on climate change and so on. In short, several issues exist between the two, which can be a threat to international peace.

4. Ways out for Diplomatic Settlement of Bilateral and Regional Conflicts:

Some of them are explained as following

(1) Increased dialogue and communication

The USA and China needs to enhance dialogue and communication at various levels that is from higher level to general public level. This will help in the resolution of conflicts.

(2) Reducing Economic Tensions

Both the countries need to reduce economic tensions with respect to each other. This could be the elimination of trade barriers and reduction of trade tariffs.

(3) Engaging in Multilateral Diplomacy

Both countries need to engage in diplomacy with other countries on global issues such as climate change, nuclear proliferation, poverty etc. It will help in building peaceful world

(4) Favoring Global interest over national interest:

Both countries need to

adopt policies to favor global interest like reducing North-South gap, combating terrorism, eradicating poverty etc. This will create a stable world.

(5) Encouraging cooperation on regional issues :

Regional issues include Korean Peninsula, South-China Sea conflicts, Taiwan issue, Uyghur Muslim issues etc. Both China and USA need to resolve and cooperate over these conflicts.

(6) Track II Diplomacy

Engaging in official, informal dialogues through track-II diplomacy can provide a platform for them to resolve their dispute without the constraints of official positions.

(7) Involving conflict Resolution Experts

Involving neutral third-party mediation can be helpful in facilitating talks. UN and other multi-lateral organisations can play role in this regard.

(8) Public diplomacy :

There should be a non-stop public to public interaction. Both countries have various corporations, companies, businessmen, politicians etc, which

can promote mutual understanding and peace.
(9) Confidence Building Measures.

It includes cultural exchanges programmes, educational cooperation, enhancing trade related measures, policy of cooperation and collaboration etc. Both countries need to take each other in confidence with respect to any untoward situation.

5. Conclusion :

In conclusion, characterizing the USA and China as the greatest dangers to international peace oversimplifies a complex relationship. While tensions exist, both countries have significant role in maintaining stability, diplomacy, communication, and conflict prevention mechanism. The international community also have to play role in encouraging constructive engagement between these two major powers. Otherwise, devastation of the world is possible due to their extreme conflicts. However, diplomatic settlement means of their conflicts is the ways out to peace, stability, and prosperity.

Q.No.4

Answer.

Outline

1. Introduction

2. Unprecedented rise in militancy

3. Reasons

4. Ways out

1. Introduction :

The unprecedented rise of militancy in the merged districts, KP and other parts of Pakistan is an alarming and threatening issue. Several attacks have been witnessed in recent months of 2022 and 2023. It is like terrorism is reviving again in Pakistan. There is fear in public minds regarding the repeat of same terrorism episode. Just after Taliban have taken control of Afghanistan, TTA rise is also visible. This rise in militancy has certain reasons like sectarianism, extremism, illiteracy, role of foreign agencies, economic interest of insurgent groups etc. However, solutions does exist to this menace which include peaceful border with neighbour countries, eradication of poverty and unemployment, strict action and policy of state and so on. The rise in militancy is not something like insurmountable, rather, addressing its root causes can create peace and secure future for the country.

2. An overview on the Unprecedented Rise in Militancy :

Several attacks have been witnessed and reported in recent times, some of them are Attack on Police Line Mosque in Peshawar, attack on Bannu police station, attack on Kadal Swat police station, attack on police in various parts of merged districts of KPK, and attacks on security forces in Balochistan different areas. These rise in attacks frequency shows that militancy and terrorism is not eradicated but it is rising despite. There is a massive need of taking action in this regard as soon as possible. Otherwise, there will be no use of crying over spilt milk.

3. Reasons of Rising militancy :

(1) Ongoing conflict in Afghanistan
The porous borders between the two countries is the cause of rise in attacks in Pakistan. Taliban insurgency has given safe haven for militants operating in Pakistan.

(2) Spread of Sectarianism :

Religious sects like Shia-Sunni conflicts has given rise to mistrust and militants attack.

(3) Poverty and Unemployment :

This problem can be seen in Balochistan and parts of KPK. People become more vulnerable to radicalization and recruitments by militants.

(4) Extremism and illiteracy :

People are more susceptible to extremist ideology and thus leads to cause of militancy.

(5) ~~The~~ State failure to act proactively :

People have grievances that state is unable to provide basic security and services and thus militants message becomes more dominant.

(6) The Geographical Factor

North of Pakistan alongwith border areas in Afghanistan and parts of Balochistan favors Guerilla warfare and provide hideouts for terrorist. As a result, these areas suffer more.

4. Ways to Address the Rise in Militancy : Are as follows

(1) Improved Governance :

Strengthening governance and rule of law in merged districts is crucial. This includes providing

basic infrastructure and facilities.

(2) Economic Development :

Investment in economic development projects could uplift the militancy from these backward and under-developed areas.

(3) Community Engagement :

Local community must be engaged to reduce support for militancy.

(4) Enhanced Security Measures

Strengthening security forces and border control to prevent the flow of militant. Border fencing is a good option in this regard.

(5) Regional and International Cooperation :

Collaborating with neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, India and Iran on issue of terrorism and militancy. International organizations platforms can be used in this regard as well. It will help in eradicating militant groups combinely.

(6) Dialogue and Reconciliation :

There should be

diplomatic negotiations with non-hardline militant to de-escalate conflicts.

(7) Education and Awareness

Promoting education, particularly for girls, and creating awareness among the vulnerable communities regarding the hazard of joining extremist groups.

(8) Positive Role of Media

Regulating the media regarding the dissemination of extremist propaganda and hate speech is crucial.

(9) Avoiding extremism, ^{and Sectarianism} ~~Sectarianism~~ and

The locals should be educated enough to avoid extreme measures and step extremist ideologies.

(10) Projecting a soft image of Islam

Projecting a positive image of Islamic religion and teaching can diminish militancy.

(11) Strengthening the state: It must provide basic facilities and security to its citizens. It needs to create trust and confidence in public

(12) "Interprovincial harmony, cooperation and long-term policy/strategy to eradicate militancy?"

These shall be a cooperation and united mechanism between provinces regarding terrorist and militant activities. The combine efforts can bear fruits to eradicate militancy.

5. Conclusion:

To conclude, it can be said that the rise of militancy is a serious challenge to Pakistan, but it is not something out of control. By addressing its root causes, the menace can be brought under control. It is necessary to eradicate militancy, so that peace and prosperity prevail in the country.

Q. No. 7

Answer: Outline

- 1- Introduction
- 2- Current Situation of Pakistan and Crises.
- 3- Various Crises faced by Pakistan
- 4- Recommendations
- 5- Conclusion

1- Introduction :

Indeed, Pakistan is faced with a plethora of unprecedented socio-economic, political, and economic crisis. The challenges are multi-faceted and complex in nature. The country is faced with political instability, sky-rocketed inflation, judicial activism, record high loan, rampant corruption and so on. These all things have put Pakistan in backward direction. It is high time that these ~~main~~ ills can be taken into consideration through some measures.

2- Current Situation of Pakistan and the Crises :

In a span of just one year, super rise in prices of various commodities have been observed. Also, there is political uncertainty regarding the upcoming election. The role of judiciary is partial.

as there been different verdicts of judges regarding different cases.

3- Economic, Political, and Constitutional Causes: Are as follows

(1) Trade deficit: Pakistan is faced with almost more than \$35 Billion trade deficit.

(2) Inefficient Tax collection: A large informal economy and tax evasion led to significant revenue shortfall.

(3) External Debt: The debt burden has surpassed over Rs. 60 Trillion (Pakistani Rupee).

(4) Inflation: Inflation rate is almost 40%.

(5) Political instability: No Prime Minister has ever completed five year tenure.

(6) Corruption: Pakistan rank 143rd out of 145th country in TI Index.

(7) Election disputes: Various parties have different opinion regarding it.

(8) Tension between institutions: Cause bad governance and lack of transparency

(9) Judicial Activism: High

Peaceful judicial intervention is not good.
(10) Political Polarization:

Political parties are completely antagonistic over various issues.

4- Recommendations to the Council:
Are as follows

(1) Balance in trade: Import-export gap must be reduced to minimum level.

(2) Tax Reform: Improving tax collecting mechanisms, broaden the tax base, and combat tax evasion.

(3) Export diversification and Import Substitution;

Export - import gap needs to be reduced.

(4) Foreign Direct Investment promotion:

It is good for economic activities in the country

(5) long-term Economic Planning and Policy:

It is need of the hour for economic prosperity and development.

(6) Strengthening Institution:

To curb corruption and other mal-practices.

(7) Anti-corruption measure :

Improving transparency and accountability for all.

(8) Political dialogue :

Consensus building to address the key national issues

(9) Electoral Reforms :

To enhance transparency and credibility of elections.

(10) Respect for separation of Powers

Different branches of government should respect other.

(11) Conflict Resolution mechanisms

Especially between federal-provincial and inter-provincial conflicts.

(12) National interest over personal interest :

Everyone must consider more importance to the national interest over personal interest. Thus, all issues could be resolved.

5- Conclusion :

To conclude, it can be said that Pakistan face a set of economic, political and constitutional crisis. It requires a

stringent measures to overcome these issues. National as well as international support and cooperation can play a significant role in navigating through these crises.
