

Current Affairs.

Q2 China as a mediator. Critically analyze and Evaluate.

I Introduction :-

On March 10, 2023, Iran and Saudi Arabia - the two ideological rivals, signed a historic agreement to resume diplomatic ties after 7 years. This agreement was signed under the mediation of China. This agreement has not only improved China's diplomatic credentials, but has made many commentators to believe that China can play a better mediator role than USA.

II Why China is adopting the role of a mediator :-

i. The unstoppable rise of China :- "Let China sleep, for when she wakes up she will shake the world" - (Napoleon)

China has experienced an unbelievable rise after Deng Xiaoping's liberalization of the economy. The break neck growth rates of 10% and above for 30 straight years have made it an economic juggernaut. Now it is challenging USA's hegemony. In order to defeat USA, it has to prove to the world that it is a viable alternative.

ii. Increased economic influence.

Through projects such as BRI China has asserted its economic dominance in many regions of the world. In case of KSA & Iran, China is K.S.A's largest importer of oil. On the other hand China has signed a \$450 bn deal with Iran under BRI. By being the biggest trade partner of these nations, it has virtually

acquired the luxury to influence their policies. Therefore economic influence has allowed China to become more politically assertive.

iii. China is creating good will and gathering support at international stage :-

The United States and its allies often malign China at international level for its human rights abuses in Xinjiang and authoritarian style of government. To counter this narrative China is cultivating good will and creating a soft image at world stage.

China's policy to fill the void created by USA :- China is filling the vacuum created by USA. After USA withdrew

from JCRC. China stepped in and partnered with Israel. On the other hand by becoming the biggest trading partner and importer of USA's oil it has reduced USA's influence in the middle East.

III Why China is a better mediator than USA :-

i. China's history of Non interference :- In contrast to the US ideal of manifest destiny, China has historically known for non interference in domestic affairs of other nations.

Henry Kissinger's "World order" ~~is~~ illustrates this fact that "Since the time China was known when China was known as the ~~the~~ Middle Kingdom it did not export its ideals to other nations." In fact it was other nations who came

came to China to learn about its culture. On the other hand USA has been known for its interventionist attitude, Marshall Plan is a glaring example.

ii. BRI has created good will :- China has been accumulating political influence through its win-win ideals. BRI's worth is more than \$1.5 trillion, and it spans over 3 continents. In comparison USA has launched its own project B3W. It is still not known how much is known about B3W so far.

iii. China's approach is collectivist while USA is individualist. China with its Confucian ideals of harmony and

balance can be a more effective mediator. It can provide a more holistic and collectivist approach. In contrast USA's style is more individualist, materialist and transactional.

IV. China has no historical baggage:- on the Global arena China has not been embroiled in any military conflicts, while USA has a history of wars, invasion and interference. For example USA's interference in Syria, Iraq, Libya and other parts of middle east disqualify it from being an unbiased mediator.

V. China's style is persuasive while USA imposes its will. Instead of strongarming, Chinese use the art of persuasion more effectively while USA

(2)

It is known for imposing its will.
For example, the Abraham accords
is an apt example, it tried
to normalize the relation between
Israel and Arab, while completely
disregarding plight of the
Palestinians

Conclusion :-

China's unstoppable
rise has led it to become
increasingly assertive on the
global stage. The improvement
in its diplomatic credentials
reinforce the idea that it
can be a viable alternative
to USA

Q Rise in Militancy, reasons
and way out.

1 Introduction :-

On July 30, 2023
a bomb blast during a political
rally killed at least 63 and
injured more than 200 people.

⑧

such events have been on the rise recently. The hydra of terrorism is against raising its head. If it is not put down now, it may consume the whole country.

2. Reasons for the rise.

i. Establishment of Taliban government in Afghanistan.

Since the establishment of EIA government, militancy is on the rise in Pakistan. In 2023 alone, there have been 368 attacks which have killed more than 652 people.

ii. Afghan^o government's failure to take action.

Despite making promise in the Doha agreement, the Taliban government has failed to take action against militants on its soil. It was explicitly agreement

(9)

that Afghan soil will not be used to conduct terrorist activities in the region.

iii. Resurgence of TTP and alliance with other militant organizations:-

The TTP has established an alliance with militant groups such as IS-K and Al Qaeda. More-over its presence in Baluchistan is also increasing after the establishment of Tehreek-e-Taliban Baluchistan.

iv. Failure of talks with TTP:-

The mixed signalling by Pakistan's government has created confusion. The PTI government was in favour of talks while the PDM government finally ended the talks and decided to take action against the terrorist. The indecisiveness provided TTP with the time to regroup.

v. Failure of Counter terrorism efforts:- Recently the TIP has been attacking police and other law enforcement agencies. It seeks to drive a wedge between the LEAS and the army. Secondly the counter terrorism department of KP lacks the capacity training, funds and equipment to fight the insurgents.

③ How to counter the growing wave of militancy
i) Pressure Taliban government. Pakistan needs to put diplomatic pressure on the Taliban government to take action against the TIP operating from its soil. It needs to remind EIA that Pakistan is the only friend they have in the global arena. The pressure has recently been some fruit in the shape of a decree by Taliban Emirs

Mullah haibatullah which bans "Mujahideen" from conducting operations inside Pakistan.

ii. Diplomatic and regional pressure
UNSC should formulate a monitoring committee ~~with~~ to observe militant activity in Afghanistan. The international recognition of the Taliban should be attached with its ability to put down militant organizations on its soil.

iii. Last resort - Surgical strike:
If the EIA fail or refuse to take action against TTP militants dwelling in Afghanistan then as a last resort Pakistan will have to conduct surgical strikes in Eastern Afghanistan.

iv. Keep the pressure by conducting IBSOs in Ex-FATA and settled areas:- The intelligence based operations have been successful in curbing the rise of militancy. They should be continued with increased coordination between law enforcement and security forces.

v. Reinvigorate NAP:- National action Plan should be implemented in true letter and spirit. This should be done before another APS type attack takes place.

vi. Strengthening CI efforts:- The government should provide all the necessary tools and resources to the counter terrorism departments so that they can perform their duties effectively.

Conclusion :-

The resurgence of terrorism poses a grave threat to Pakistan's integrity and security. The TTP should not be allowed to regroup. For this purpose decisive action against terrorism is needed.