

General Knowledge - II  
(Current Affairs) Mock-4.

Subjective Part - Part-II.

Q.2.

Answer: Increasing Reapproachment  
Between Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran:

**Introduction:** The increasing rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran is interesting development. As both the powers have a history full of tensions. However, the recent developments have potential benefits and challenges. The socio-political implications of this development leads includes impact on regional powers, influence on proxy wars, and potential for stability or further tensions. Therefore, Islamabad needs to act accordingly and it must follow recommendations like assessment of potential benefits and risks; engagement in diplomatic efforts; strengthening ties with both powers; and monitor situation closely to adopt policies accordingly.

How KSA and Iran reapproachment occur?

China plays main role in bringing both regional powers into dialogue. Both countries ministers met with each other with help of Chinese Foreign minister



How A Glance on KSA - Iran relations : Past, present, and Future.

Both countries are involved in centuries old religious sectarianism i.e Shia - Sunni conflict. Both are oil-rich countries, alongwith other natural resources, and there a sort of cold' war between the two powers in the Middle Eastern region. Libya, Syria, Yemen etc are its example. Presently, this reapproachment is way of hope to establish peace between them. However, its future is uncertain depending upon the interest of these super powers.

Socio-Political Implication in the Middle-East : Are as follows

(1) Stable and Peaceful Middle East :

The main benefits of this reconciliation is bringing stability and peace in the region. Now, several conflicts can be reduced due to this engagement.

(2) Economic Implications :-

There are some positive concerns regarding economic growth of a region. It includes enhancement in trade and connectivity. China BRI can flourish easily and economic activities will uplift.



(3) Reduction in Terrorism, Extremism, and Sectarianism: As peace and stability prevail in the region, hence, there will be no more disengagement, tensions, proxies and wars. And thus situation can improve further.

Socio-Political Implications on Pakistan:  
Are as follows

(1) Opportunity to Pakistan to act more proactively for regional peace and stability:  
Pakistan wants peace in the region and it is the regional interest as well.

(2) Choosing a side for rivalry and for a trade: Pakistan is faced with the challenge that how to maintain trade with both these countries after rapprochement.

(3) Challenge of <sup>growing</sup> religious Sectarianism:  
Since both countries have different sects, and due to peace these sects will grow further, which will have negative implications on the future of the region.

(4) Future of oil price: Now, it's upto both these powers that



how they will main fuel prices - It is indeed a challenge for Pakistan.

**Critical Analysis:** The reapproachment has have both positive and negative implications on region as well as Pakistan. However, Pakistan needs to main its foreign policy based on its national interest.

**Recommendations for Islamabad to follow:** Are following

(1) Assessment of potential benefits and risks for Pakistan:

Islamabad need to assess the situation closely and deeply. It could have a benefit for Pakistan in shape of uplifting socio-economic status. On the other hand, there is a risk that how long this reapproachment will be maintained.

(2) Engage in diplomatic efforts to support the reapproachment:

Pakistan, in the past, must maintain its diplomatic efforts to maintain peace in the region. Pro-regional diplomatic efforts is the need of hour.

(3) Observing the role of China and USA: The role of



(3)

China and USA is almost opposite to each other. USA fight for tension in Middle East, while China wants to enhance trade and connectivity in the region.

(4) Strengthen ties with both countries:

Pakistan must maintain a neutral and independent stance in case of any conflict and reconciliation. As, different powers in the region look for their own interests.

(5) Make policy according to the situation:

Islamabad needs to act proactively and make their plan and policies according to the future by analyzing the current scenario.

Conclusion:

The increasing reattachment between ISSA and Iran is a positive development. As it has both positive and negative implications on the region and Pakistan. However, Islamabad needs to act proactively and according to the situation. As, one is not sure, what is going to happen in near future.



Q. No. 3

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Revival of

Answer: Militancy in Pakistan:”

Militancy in Pakistan was almost negligible in period of (2016-2021).

But, since, Taliban came into power in Afghanistan in August 2021.

Militancy and attacks again revive in Pakistan. Several attacks in Pakistan

were claimed by non-state actors such as TTP, Lashkar-e-Taiba and so on. Some

of its attacks include Peshawar mosque attack and attacks on several police

headquarters etc. The revival has several

reasons like regional conflicts, political instability, rise of NSAs etc. And

its implications include impact on

national security, economy, social fabric and international relations. However,

Islamabad needs to follow certain possible recommendations, such as strengthening counter-terrorism, good-governance, diplomacy and rehabilitation programmes.

Reasons for revival of Militancy in Pakistan: Are following

(1) Rise of NSAs (TTP + TTA + other organizations).

These organizations and their frequent attacks have led



military to take action back.  
(2) Polarized politics and instability :  
Politicians are involved  
in the fight for their vested  
interest and does not regard national  
interest at all.

(3) Disparities and conflicts in  
the region :-  
Conflicts between Pakistan  
and India, USA and China,  
KSA and Iran in the region  
have led to growing militancy.

Implications of the revival of  
militancy : Are as follows.

(1) Undermining national security  
and terrorism.

National security fabric  
has been deteriorated due to these  
militancy and terrorism.

(2) Growing economic crisis :  
Rate of unemployment  
has increased alongwith inflation  
and debt.

(3) Poor image of Pakistan at  
international level : International  
media and enemies of Pakistan port portray

harsh image of the country and termed it a terrorist state.

Recommendations for Islamabad to follow: Are as following

(1) Eradication of terrorism from its root: Pakistan needs to strengthen its counter-terrorism efforts through intelligence sharing, law enforcement, and border control.

(2) Promoting Socio-economic development, education, health, through good governance: Pakistan needs to address the root-cause of these threats and cut it off by prevailing good-governance.

(3) Enhancing regional cooperation and political stability:

Cooperation in region and political stability will break the backbone of terrorism.

(4) Central cross-border military:

Countries in region, especially Pakistan with its neighbours such as India, Afghanistan and Iran, should work jointly.

(5) Diplomacy, deradicalization, and rehabilitation programmes for militants.



Also, militants need to be trained, educate and rehabilitate to work for better purpose of the country.  
Conclusion:

The revival of militancy in Pakistan is threatening for its national security, economy, and international relations. However, it can be reduced to minimum level through the suggested measures.

Q. No. 4:

Answer: "Global Financial Super Cycle"

It refers

Introduction: It refers to rise in price of commodities in a sustained manner. It led to the peak inflation world wide and affected the economies of various countries in many ways. Some of the major reasons include US-China trade war, Covid-19, Russia-Ukraine War, disrupted supply chain, and so on. However, it has a major socio-economic and political implications on Pakistan, such as, political instability, peak inflation, economic crisis, trade deficit, IMF loan, low FDI etc. But,



Islamabad needs to take certain measures like diversifying its economy, promoting domestic industries, improving bilateral relationship with neighbour countries and so on.

Reasons for the Global Financial Super cycle : Are as follows

(1), The trade war politics between USA and China : China and USA are in some sort of new cold war and the politics in between these two countries have affected global economy which led to global financial super cycle.

(2), Lockdown due to Covid-19 : In from 2019 end to almost 2022, most states/countries of the world remained lockdown and thus global financial super cycle occurred.

(3), Russian - Ukraine Crisis :- Russia on 24 February attack Ukraine, and thus it affected not only European but global economy.

(4), Excessive loan :- Different countries have taken massive loan and are unable to pay back.



Implications on Pakistan due to global financial Super-cycle:

Are following

(1), Peak inflation led to increase in poverty and unemployment rate ranging between 30-45% in these testing times due to global financial Super-cycle.

(2), Instability of political governments:

In April 2022, PTI government failed to manage inflation and economic crisis and thus vote of no confidence passed.

(3), Increasing trade deficit:

The trade deficit has reached to an alarming figure of \$35 Billion and more due to global financial Super cycle.

(4), Low Foreign direct Investment (FDI):-

The cycle has dropped down investment in developing countries like Pakistan.

Possible recommendations for Islamabad: Are as follows.

(1) Diversification of economy:

Pakistan needs to make its industries strengthened, so that export



based economy is achieved.

(2) Controlling money-laundering and corruption:

Control over corruption and bad governance is key to improve in socio-economic situation.

(3) Improving regional and bilateral trade:

If Pakistan improves its relations with India, Afghanistan, Iran then inflation and crisis can be minimized.

(4) Minimize dependency on dollars economy:

Pakistan needs to trade in its own currency, or in that currency which of trading partner.

(5) Uplifting domestic industries by improving export led economy:

Industrialization is the need of hour to grow economy size and thus import can be reduced and export can grow.

Conclusion: The global financial super cycle has far reaching negative consequences not only on Pakistan but also on the whole world.



However, it is the need of hours that Pakistan should act and comb according to their national interest and combat the situations effectively.

Q. No. 7

Answer: US-India growing Strategic Partnership to contain China;

Introduction: It is a fact that a growing US-India tilt and strategic partnership is mainly aimed at containing China's economic growth. As China is becoming World economic Super power in 2030. Hence, US-India tries their best to stop it from this achievement. On other hand, it had a negative implication on Pakistan such as increased regional competition and potential security threats. However, Islamabad needs to adopt certain measures, like diplomatic engagements with both USA and India, strengthening regional alliances and focusing on internal security and development.

Negative implications on Pakistan : Are follows.

(1) Threat to security of Pakistan:



India is adversary to Pakistan and its USA defense alliance with India is a threat to Pakistan.

(2) Increased regional competition :

The alliance of USA-India with ~~it~~ has led to China led alliance in the region such as SCO, BRI (a project).

(3) Increasing security threats :

To maintain balance of power and security, threats have increased.

(4) Making of alliances and counter-alliances :

China tilt to Pakistan increases as India tilt to USA increases.

Policy options for Islamabad :-  
Are following

(1) Engagement with both USA and India

Pakistan needs to take on board its relationship with both countries. However, Pakistan must express its reservation on security challenges.

(2) More tilt to China :

China cannot be contained if it maintains its relationship with Pakistan and other



regional countries through BRI and CPEC  
 (3) Staying neutral by keeping independent foreign policy :-  
 Pakistan must not take side due to some country's interest.

(4) Focusing on national interest, development and security :-  
 Pakistan needs to use these developments for the prosperity, stability and development of its own country.

Conclusion: The growing US-India Pacific and Strategic Partnership is mainly to contain China but also a threat for Pakistan's future security dilemma as well. Therefore, Pakistan must take a stance based on its national interest. Pakistan can keep the balance between USA-India and China. For this purpose, proper diplomacy is the need of the hour. Pakistan needs to develop its strategic partnership not only with China but also with USA-India as well.