

Current Affairs Mock

(Q2) After almost a decade of fight against terrorism, Pakistan was finally able to see a decline in militancy. Operations such as Zarb-e-Azb were the key factors that disintegrated militancy. However, the peace was short-lived and now Pakistan is facing the threat of militancy once again. Since the beginning of 2022, Pakistan has been experiencing the resurgence of militancy. This is evident by the growing number of suicide attacks, targeted attacks of para-military and other strategic attacks such as the attack on CDT office in Bannu, that lasted for over 40 hours. The growing terrorist activities in North Waziristan and other rural areas were already concerning, but now the terrorists are trying to enter into Islamabad, the recent ~~suicide~~ car bomb detonation is a testament to that. These are the core reasons for the revival of militancy related to the withdrawal of US from Afghanistan. Ever since the US left Afghanistan, the Taliban have taken control of Afghanistan; which is Afghan Taliban and TTP are considered ideological brothers, the two have fought side by side against the ~~USSR~~ invasions of US and their allies. ~~TTP~~ TTP is using Afghanistan as a launching pad to conduct cross-border ~~and~~ and other infiltration insurgencies. The negotiations between Pakistan and TTP have also failed. These negotiations were mediated by the Afghan Taliban, however, the demands put forward by TTP were unacceptable to Pakistan. These

Included, reversal of the 25<sup>th</sup> amendment which therefore revives *Ex Fatwa*, Release of all TTP prisoners and implementation of TTP version of shariah.

### Recommendations:

Proper training of and equipment should be provided to para military and other CTD department. The areas where the army has conducted operations to purge out the terrorists are being handed over to police and para military. However the inability of these forces creates a vacuum, an opportunity that the terrorists could exploit. Therefore, proper training & equipment is necessary for these forces to establish complete control over these areas. Fencing the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan can help in reduction of military insurgencies. Around 80% of the border has already been fenced. However, the rest is a hilly belt which makes it very difficult to fence. Fencing is a long process that involves digging trenches. Moreover some of these fences are being stolen by Afghan people therefore proper security installations are required to prevent this. Pakistan should approach all the neighbors and develop a collective policy that persuades Afghan Taliban to take serious actions against such terrorist organisations dwelling in Afghanistan.

Q3) The issue of Taiwan has once again revived ~~the~~ after the visit of ~~the~~ Nancy Pelosi (speaker of the lower <sup>house</sup> US ~~parliament~~ congress) to Taiwan. Taiwan is an island situated in East China sea, and is of great economic and geo political importance. It is the largest producer of semi-conductors in the world. Its economy is deeply interlinked with both China and US. China has drawn 9 dash lines (9 imaginary lines) in the South & East China sea and claims all the islands and territories within this. According to China these ~~the~~ territories were once all part of the great Chinese empire and therefore are part of China. Taiwan is located within these 9 dash lines, and hence this is where the issue arose. US, in 1950's ~~has~~ cleared its policy pertaining to Taiwan, that it would defend it; however, in 1970's US had to ~~revisit~~ <sup>revisit</sup> its policy. The aim was to engage ~~with~~ China ~~in a~~ through economic collaboration in order to contain USSR. For this purpose, in 1979 US accepted Taiwan as a break away region of China, and consequently, China agreed to the one country two system policy. This ~~is~~ was an agreement between China and Taiwan and according to this, China composed of two parts, one was the People Republic of China which was governed by the Communist party. The other was the Democratic Republic of China, which was Taiwan. The Agreement stipulated that Taiwan would accept China's suzerainty on the condition that it would have complete internal autonomy and that it

would follow the western democratic model. However, the recent visit of Nancy Pelosi has cleared the US policy towards Taiwan. The invitation to Taiwan to participate the Democratic Conference, the defense deal of 18 bn \$ and statements of President Biden to defend Taiwan ~~and~~ ~~speech~~ ~~as~~ ~~acts~~ ~~of~~ are all seen as a threat China. ~~and~~ China has responded by ~~stationing~~ ~~troops~~ ~~Def~~ heavy deployment of military including naval fleet, aircraft carriers, warships around Taiwan. Such actions can instigate war between the two most powerful countries in the world, which could have dire repercussions ~~is~~ for the world.

The issue should be solved through diplomacy. ~~The~~ The President of China Xi Jing Ping should stop aggression policies towards Taiwan. US should stop interfering in issues pertaining to Taiwan. The Chinese and Taiwan official should hold talk to continue the One country two systems policy and to improve the tense diplomatic ties. Taiwan should also be careful and should refrain from policies that could result in Chinese aggression.

Q5) The 21<sup>st</sup> century is witnessing the resurgence of Russia. The USSR disintegrated in 1991 leaving USA as the sole power in the world. However commencing 21<sup>st</sup> century, Russia has worked towards growing its influence and establishing itself as a global power. Attack on Georgia, involvement in the Syrian issue and Annexation of Crimea in 2014 are all evidences of the growing power of Russia. ~~Ukraine~~ ~~being~~ ~~an~~ ~~erstwhile~~ ~~state~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Soviet~~ ~~empire~~ ~~is~~. The growing relations of Europe with Ukraine, an erstwhile state of the Soviet Union, is not acceptable to Russia. Despite once being a part of Soviet Union, the population in Ukraine is mostly pro-west. The same is the situation in Parliament where Vladimir Zelensky, on the basis of pro-west slogans, was able to secure 2/3 majority. Furthermore, growing trade relations with Europe, ~~increased~~ increased in border relaxations with European countries, increased military purchases from NATO countries ~~have~~ and the NATO expansion towards east ~~have~~ have posed a threat to Russia. On February 24, 2022, Russia began the invasion of Ukraine, deploying 200,000 troops including Navy, Artillery, Airforce. The attacks were made ~~at~~ ~~east~~ on East and South East fronts and also from Belarus. Russia was able to capture ~~the~~ Kherson, Dnubusk and Most of the coastal belt including ports, inflicting heavy losses on ~~the~~ ~~Ukrainians~~.

Ukraine. This attack proved beneficial to Nato ~~at~~ as after the invasion many countries ~~have~~ are inclined towards Nato membership. The idea of collective defense have encouraged countries to approach Nato. This collective Defense is stipulated in Article 5 of Nato which states "An armed attack against one or more of Nato allies shall be considered an attack against all." Nato's strategy to equip Ukrainians with weaponry ~~have~~ has proven successful, as they were able to take back Kherson. Furthermore, Nato ~~prescription~~ ~~can~~ ~~so~~ initiative of joint sanctions have also affected Russian Market. However, such measures have not been able to create a profound impact on Russia. Russia has increased its exports to China and India. The sanctions imposed by Europe has ~~impacted~~ affected itself, as the inflation in Europe has rapidly increased. Moreover, many European countries are ~~re~~ considering lifting the sanctions they have placed on Russia. Nato ~~is~~, albeit successful in persuading these countries to impose sanctions, has failed to land a significant blow to Russia. Sanctions on Russia have just revealed to the Europeans about their dependency on Russian oil and Gas. ~~Nato~~ Nato as an organisation has also failed to ~~take~~ ~~any~~ take any drastic measures, this is evidenced by its approach ~~to~~ to not directly confront Russia, ~~at~~ and by not accepting Ukraine's application for Nato, since it would in violate article 5. Russia has ~~successfully~~ succeeded in ~~the~~ overcoming sanctions imposed by

The West and also made clear that it can keep up with this ongoing war. Considering these facts, one can acknowledge that this war has shown the world ~~was~~ capability of Russia and their growing power.

Q6) Expensive Electricity and ~~load shedding~~ is definitely an impediment to the economic growth of the country. Pakistan produces the most expensive electricity in Asia and 3<sup>rd</sup> most expensive in the world. This is primarily due to hydrocarbons used in generating electricity. Pakistan generates 60% of electricity from hydrocarbons. In the calendar year 2022, Pakistan produced 5800 MW electricity from coal, 6000 MW from Gas and around 8000 MW from oil. ~~Part~~ Most of these hydrocarbons are imported, ~~which is~~ ~~where~~ the more over the devaluation of Pakistani rupee against dollar is what further exacerbates the situation. The outdated transmission lines are another reason for expensive electricity. Pakistan has the highest line loss in South Asia of 17%. The expensive agreements between Pakistan and Independent Power Producers (IPPs) is another factor. These IPPs produce around 70% of the ~~the~~ electricity in the country. According to these agreements Pakistan is liable to pay the capacity payment ~~to these~~ of 33%. This means that in winter when the demand is low and the state reduces its purchase, they still have to make these

capacity payments. The load shedding negatively affects the industries. The production is halted during these breakouts which reduces the production capacity. As a result the prices of products has to be raised, making it hard to compete in international market. The solution to these energy crisis is to develop means of generating renewable energy. If Pakistan can generate electricity through solar, hyder and wind energy that would ~~not~~ drastically alleviate the expenditure on importing hydrocarbons. Pakistan spends around 14 billion dollars on hydrocarbons, saving this amount can help towards economic growth. Pakistan should also revisit its agreement with IPPs and should negotiate to ~~lay~~ lay off capacity payments. Moreover the local owned IPPs should be paid in PKR not dollar.