

Name :- Noor ul Hudda

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Subject :- General knowledge - II

Q No 2 :-

BRICS expansion and its geo-economic and political implications :-

Introduction :-

BRICS is the organization of global south. It was originally comprised of 5 nations led by China and Russia. But in 2023, 6 more nations are added to the organization from middle East and south America. This would have a far reaching geo-political and political-economic implications.

Members :-

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa. + 6

Expansion-

Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Argentina, Ethiopia and UAE New Development Bank was also established in 2014, which now have far more capital due to new induction.

Geo-economic and political Implications -

Brics was originally comprised of about 25% of world GDP but now it has expanded upto 31% of world GDP.

The addition of more countries of global South will lead to more south-south cooperation and will provide more chances for bilateral trade among the member countries, especially hydro-carbon trade.

With the new induction the financial capacity of Brics will also expand.

The expansion of Brics Bank would challenge the hegemony of IMF and World Bank in the future. US has control over the world Economic order through IMF and World Bank and after Brettonwood system the world trade is also in dollars.

New Brics Bank, led by China is challenging this hegemony of dollar and USA while ADB is being challenged by AIIB.

Brics Bank will provide Bail out packages, Investment packages and social welfare funds to its members states on very relaxed terms, this will promote development and progress in the global South.

Currency Swape Agreements initiated by China will be a major step in the dedollarization. All members nations of Brics do trades in their own currencies or yuan. This is a major development in the expansion of Brics. By 2030, 40% of the world trade would not be in dollar if China is successful in the formation of new Brics currency.

→ Other than economic expansion, Brics also have to pay attention to the socio-political factor to have a smooth sailing expansion. All the Brics nations have different political systems and have different religions in their countries. All nations

have different National languages which could become a major hurdle in the expansion of BRICS.

So, for the organization to become a successful entity, conversion of economic interests only is not enough. Socio-political elements are of equal importance.

QNO:-6

Hamas-Israel war and its implications on regional & global politics:-

The attack of Hamas on Israel was unprecedented. It was in 1973 when Egypt crossed the border of Israel and targeted multiple locations. Since then

no countries has ever attempted to attack Israel. But Hamas has done so in Oct 2023.

More than 2000 Hamas freedom fighters crossed Israel borders at multiple locations, targeting multiple points. They did ground attacks, Aerial attacks as well as sea attacks.

More than 1200 Israeli soldiers were killed during the attack. While 150-200 Israelis were captured by Hamas freedom fighters.

More than 5000 mortars were fired, of which about 50% was stopped by the Iron dome of Israel while the rest were successfully hit.

Regional Implications:-

The probable deal going on between Israel and Saudi Arabia has been suspended if not cancelled.

In 2020, 5 Arab nations has recognized Israel as a state and Saudi-Arabia has played great role in it. This happened through Abraham accord.

At the time of the attack, Wall Street, Washington Post are saying that, the foreign delegations of both countries were in each others capitals.

But now, due to the war crimes committed by Israel has hurt the Muslim sentiments of public and Saudi Arabia and the government

has said that there will be no negotiations with Israel. Qatar and UAE has also condemned Israel
→ Iran seems to be the major beneficiary of this war as it could not afford any possible deal between Saudi Arab and Israel. Iran has threatened to jump into the Hamas-Israel war and could activate Hizbullah.

→ The general populace of all the Middle East Muslim countries has turned against Israel and Iran will be benefited by this

Global Implications:-

USA has announced unflinching support of Israel as always. Aircraft carriers, defense weapons as well as military support has

been provided to Israel by USA. 100 B\$ amount Bill was presented in the cabinet of USA to provide aid and support to Ukraine and Israel.

The key allies of USA, Egypt and Jordan had a meeting with Biden with Palestine president. But now they have refused to meet Biden.

The possible defense deal between Saudi Arab and USA, where KSA might be coming under the umbrella (nuclear) of USA, has been suspended.

Antony was made to wait for 2 hours before meeting Muhammad Bin Salman. Saudi Arabia has also speed up the normalization

of ties with Iran
USA has supported the
use of force against
Hamas, while Russia and
China have outrightly rejected
the use of force. They
believe in a two-state
solution. This war can be
a platform for China to
project its soft power.
So, both regional and
global power politics is
implicated and is continuously
changing due to Hamas -
Israel war.

Q no 7:-

Taiwan and implications:-

One China, Two Systems:-

Deng Xiaoping developed
the One China, Two System
concept. It provided that

there would be only one China, but the regions of Taiwan and Hong Kong could retain their own economic and administrative systems, while rest of the mainland China will use the socialism system.

Policy of USA on Taiwan and China's response.

Taiwan is one of the largest producers of semi-conductors. 45% of its semi-conductors are imported to China, while 40% of the semi-conductors are imported to USA. So, Taiwan has great economic importance to both USA and China.

Taiwan also has great geo-strategic importance to China as it is China's route to Middle East through South China Sea.

According to TRA, USA is required to provide Taiwan with Arms of defensive character only. USA has also proclaimed that it has no formal ties with Taiwan.

But during Trump government USA has started to increase its influence in Taiwan. USA included Taiwan in the military alliance of SEATO, and has started to provide weapon to Taiwan at subsidised rates.

China was antagonized by this extreme intrusion of USA in Taiwan. China has always considered Taiwan as its own state and this intrusion was

considered a direct attack on the sovereignty of China.

So, China heavily deployed its military around Taiwan and did its largest military drill in the history of country in the East China Sea around Taiwan. Many aircrafts flew in the air space of Taiwan and China also blocked the Naval Base of Taiwan.

China sent a clear message to the world and USA that Taiwan is its sovereign territory and if anyone interfered with its territory, China will retaliate beyond imagination.

Implications:-

USA always had some concerns regarding China

and its continuously increasing economic influence in the world Trade and its intentions in the Indo-Pacific region. Now this incursion has consolidated the concerns of USA regarding China.

So, USA has increase the militarization of the Ind-Pacific region through Naval deployment, formation of Air bases and multiple Alliances

China has also started its military expansion in East and South China Sea and Bay of Bengal

Though the chances of war are negligible due to the complex economic interdependency of both countries, if war occur it will lead to mutual

destruction of both sides

So, there might not be any physical or conventional war but due to development of AI, there might be a virtual war of economy and technology between the USA led alliances and China led alliances.

Q No 81-

US-India Strategic Partnership:-

In Jan. 2015, during the visit of President Barrack Obama to India, the two sides issued a declaration of friendship and showed their resolve to actualise the long-awaited cooperation in various areas

of Interest including the nuclear deal.

Implications,-

The Deepening defense cooperation between USA and India have significant implications for Pakistan, which has always been a victim of Indian ambitions for hegemony in the region.

Though, Pakistan faces many other challenges, its threat perception is mainly Indian-centric. Pakistan's national security policy has always revolved around India's military as well as technological and nuclear development.

The Indo-US strategic partnership shall have far-reaching implications

For Pakistan's security as the emergence of India as a counterweight to China will not only tilt the balance of power between China and US, it will also affect the power equilibrium between India and Pakistan.

Moreover, the Indo-US Strategic Partnership may bring "transition" in the power structure of South Asia, as "US is determined to make India the 'Pivot of Asia'."

Due to this, Pakistan has also hasten its military development, which can be seen from its shift to Full Spectrum Deterrence in Capability Range.