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Q NO: 02

BRICS Expansion, its geo-economic and political impacts, and hurdles in way of Organization.

BRICS is an emerging grouping of economies its initial membership was of Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) later on with the addition of South Africa in 2016 it became BRICS. This grouping aimed at resolving the challenges faced by the emerging economies posed by the western led financial system. In its recent historical summit which held at Johannesburg - South Africa, it had announced the expansion of BRICS with addition of six new members.

Expansion of BRICS:-

In its recent summit the decision of BRICS to add Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (U.A.E), Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and Argentina, in its membership.

whose formal recognition as member would be done by January 2024.

Geo-Economical Implications:-

By addition of these states, especially the oil producing states of KSA, UAE and Iran, Egypt, BRICS economic clout would be enhanced both in terms of share of world's GDP and oil controlling power. These oil producing countries already or had made distance from the USA which can be evidenced from the 'OPEC' decisions of oil production cuts during the pandemic despite the warnings of the U.S.A. Russia and China being the main members of BRICS and also both are the rival to the U.S.A. China in terms of trade war and Russia in terms of Ukraine war. So, these members would augment the economic interest of the ~~US~~ Russia and China while go against the interest of USA so following geo-economic gains BRICS would garner from this expansion

- **Rising BRICS hold upon world oil trade.**

BRICS along with new six members would expand their supermacy on oil of middle east which would go against US's interest

- **BRICS vision of trade in local and regional currencies and De-dollarization**
As this economic membership was looking for de-dollarization by following alternate route from Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT). BRICS by declaring western-led financial system as unfair to emerging economies of South so wanted to trade in local and regional currencies i.e. Yuan, Dirham etc. This expansion of BRICS would help it to adopt more effective de-dollarization.

- **Western-led Sanctions upon Iran and Russia would be weakened.**

Iran is under US sanctions because of US unilateral withdrawal from Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Russia is also facing economic sanctions by US-led West because of Ukraine war. So By BRICS decision of enhancing membership would relieve both from US sanctions by doing trade in outside western-led financial system.

- **Impact upon China's economy:**

China has been remained in constant trade war with the U.S.A since Trump's protectionist policies and now facing chip war with

USA. By expanding Group (BRICS) membership, China would enhance its already strong economic strength as counter weight to USA. This would augment the 'Beijing Consensus' and debilitate the Washington Consensus.

Geopolitical Implications:-

BRICS⁶⁺ would have far-reaching geopolitical impacts in the region in general and worldwide in particular which are as follows.

• China enhanced role in Middle East.

Already China had become an important strategic player in Middle East through its Belt Road Initiative (BRI) and later on when it had played a diplomatic role in rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran. By BRICS expansion with including of major middle Eastern powers like KSA, UAE and Iran, China's strategic strength would enhance at the cost of US influence in Middle East.

• Rising multipolarity

World order, which was already undergoing dynamic shift from unipolarity to multipolarity, would

further attain pace toward the rising of other powers along with USA. A Western led world order would undergo change along with its financial institution involving IMF, WB to change their role to incorporate the rising power say.

Hurdles in Way of Organization of new members.

BRICS which had been remained an effective and efficient grouping in its decision making may face following hurdles in expansion.

- Ineffectiveness in its decisions and role:-

By incorporating new six members BRICS may have to face ineffectiveness in terms of inclusiveness and unanimity.

- Brazil and India's resistance to expansion:-

Some analysts are of the view that Brazil and India were hesitating to expansion of BRICS, while Russia and China were eager to involve new members to counter western led financial system.

- New members' already in US club may pose hurdles

Both U.A.E and Saudi Arabia are U.S allies and had remained in USA club after the cold war. USA has strategic partnership with U.A.E, KSA, Argentina on many fronts. Their joining of BRICS may alienate the USA and create hurdles in performance of their role in BRICS.

Conclusion:

BRICS expansion by admitting new six members would pose both geo-economic and political implications in various ways as discussed above and results in rising multipolarity. Alongwith it BRICS itself still have to organize its new members and still has to show the way for organization of new members.

QNO: 08

US-India growing strategic partnership to contain China, massive negative implications on Pakistan and policy options for Pakistan:-

The US-India strategic partnership is part of Indopacific policy of the USA which was started from Barack Obama's Pivot Asia policy. The U.S. hegemony is challenged by China both in economic and military designs. With the passage of time, USA has strengthened its containing power for China in Asia through alliances with Japan, Australia, UK in general and with India in particular.

US-India Strategic Partnership:-

USA has made strategic partnership with India through various security and economic pacts along with its other allies to contain China which are as follows.

LEMOA:

(Logistic exchange memorandum of Understanding) LEMOA which strengthens India and US military relations.

BECA:-

BECA (Basic Exchange and Communication agreement) b/w USA and India to exchange intelligence information

QUAD:-

It is a strategic alliance b/w ~~the~~ USA, India, Japan and Australia to counter China.

~~IMEEC~~

IMEC:-

India-Middle East-Europe (IMEC) Economic Corridor, which was announced on the sidelines of the latest G-20 summit held in India by the American president Joe Biden and its allies. which is a network of railways and sea ports connecting India with Middle East via Israel Saudi Arabia and UAE and then to Europe. Analysts are considering it to counter China's Belt Road initiative (BRI).

All these strategic security and military pacts led by the US with India are to counter China.

Negative Implications on Pakistan:-

Growing India-US strategic partnership have both political and economical implications for Pakistan which are as follows.

- US-India partnership ^{has} enhanced India's militaric and economic strength, which is against regional stability of South Asia :-

US is continuously enhancing partnership with India to contain China with considering the Indian hegemonic designs which it is posing to become regional hegemon. Indian regional hegemony would destabilize South Asia stability in general and pose serious threat to Pakistan's security in particular.

- Indian nefarious designs to isolate Pakistan at global stage
Unchecked growing partnership of US and India would provide India more diplomatic and strategic strength to isolate Pakistan. Indian nefarious designs to isolate Pakistan can be evident from India's role during Pakistan's inclusion in Financial Action Task Force (FATF)'s gray list, and then Pakistan's efforts to restore its position in FATF white list.

Policy Options for Islamabad:

Amid superpowers rivalry i.e. US-China Islamabad has to opt wisely its policy making steps which are as follows.

Pakistan has to follow balanced approach by avoiding bloc politics.

Pakistan should follow policy of neutrality by protecting its national interests by avoiding bloc politics.

Pakistan has to strengthen its ties with US in economic context.

Islamabad has to diversify its relations with Washington especially in trade maximization as we are IMF dependent due to weak economy.

Islamabad has to diversify its relations with regional powers and with other powers.

Along with China which is regional power we have to strengthen ties with other ~~power~~ powers like Russia, Iran to gain strength against India.

Islamabad has to take steps to achieve political stability which is imperative for economic stability which is then essential for military strength for security.

QNO: 06

Hamas- Israel War:-

Hamas- Israel war began on October 06 2023 when Hamas launched an aerial strike on Israel surprisingly which resulted in killing of 1200 Israelis involving both civilians and security forces members. Israel in response to this declared war on Gaza strip by aerial strike and land invasion in retaliation which resulted in killing of 11000 and more Palestinians involving mostly children and women.

Israel retaliated with collective punishment with the support of its allies in west led by US especially. War ended with the temporary truce of four days for prisoners exchange between Hamas and Israel which was brokered by Qatar.

This war has far reaching regional and global implications which are as follows:

Regional Implications:-

→ Israel's security vulnerability

Despite Israeli claims of its powerful security under its Iron dome Hamas has remained successful in its aerial strike, which has shown Israel military security vulnerability.

→ Normalization of relations b/w Israel and Arab States came

under stress:-

Israel normalization of ties with Arab states which was started under Abraham Accord brokered by former American president Donald Trump and resulted in normalization of relations of Israel with UAE, Bahrain. The final and major outcome of this Accord was the normalization of relation between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

By this war this came under question which was evident by the pentagon officials remarks which claimed that KSA-Israel normalization was put to ice. However, Muhammad Bin Salman may remain on his decision of normalization of ties with Israel and it is to be seen in future.

→ Palestinian statehood question's revival.

During war Israel was embarked up cruel action, did genocidal crime under collective punishment has alarmed the world community through social media captures.

It has promoted the Palestinian cause among world community which was evidenced by the different protest occurred in whole world in general and

in Europe in particular.

Implications on global politics:-

Hamas - Israel war has far reaching implications on global politics which are as follows.

- US unquestioned support of Israel

The US has provide unquestion support to Israel both militarily and economically, despite later genocidal war crimes in Ghaza. US-led west who considered themselves champions of human rights, have supported the genocidal killing of civilians in Ghaza by Israeli forces. This would put a black spot on US history which already have many black spots.

- US stance on Ukrainian war is questioned by its support to Israel.

US which is staunch supporter of Ukraine against Russia in their war, calling Russian president Putin as doing war crimes in Ukraines and has violated the International laws.

On the other hand US is supporter of Israel which had committed war crimes in Ghaza.

- Failure of United Nation in Preventing war crime in Ghaza.

The United Nations whose history is already full of failures in conflict resolutions mostly, this times too, UN has failed on both fronts. Firstly it has not resolved the Palestinian issue as per its resolutions since 1967 which is the major cause - statehood - of this war, secondly UN has failed to stop genocidal crimes committed by Israel in Ghaza.

- War has strengthened blocs formation World which has already been undergoing blocs formation under US-China rivalry at one hand and the rising multipolarity on the other hand will be further polarised due to Hamas-Israel war in form muslim's rising hate against US led Israel. This has also shattered world peace.