

## Current Affairs

### QNO8

## Expansion of BRICS and its implications

### ► Introduction :

In its 15<sup>th</sup> summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa and it was attended by the head of states of members countries, BRICS got expansion. Member countries of this emerging group has increased which also enhancing the essence of this group. This expansion has long lasting geoeconomic and geopolitical implications.

### ► BRICS formation and its expansion:

BRICS came into being in 2001. At that time it had 5 members

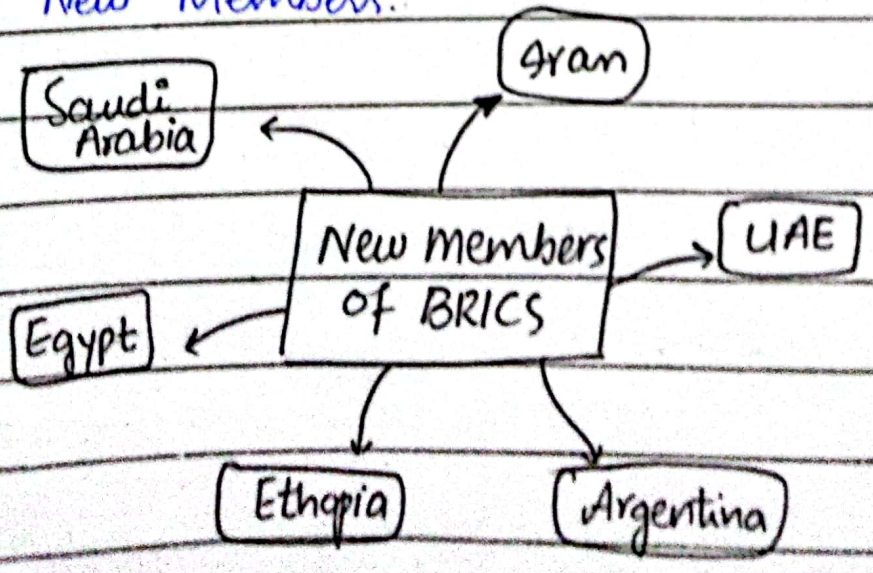
India, China, Russia, Brazil. But later on in 2008, South Africa also joined.

- B → Brazil
- R → Russia
- I → India
- C → China
- S → South Africa

This group was formed after the global financial crisis of 2008.

Now in 2023, BRICS got expanded and 6 new countries became its part. So, now total member countries are 11.

New Members.

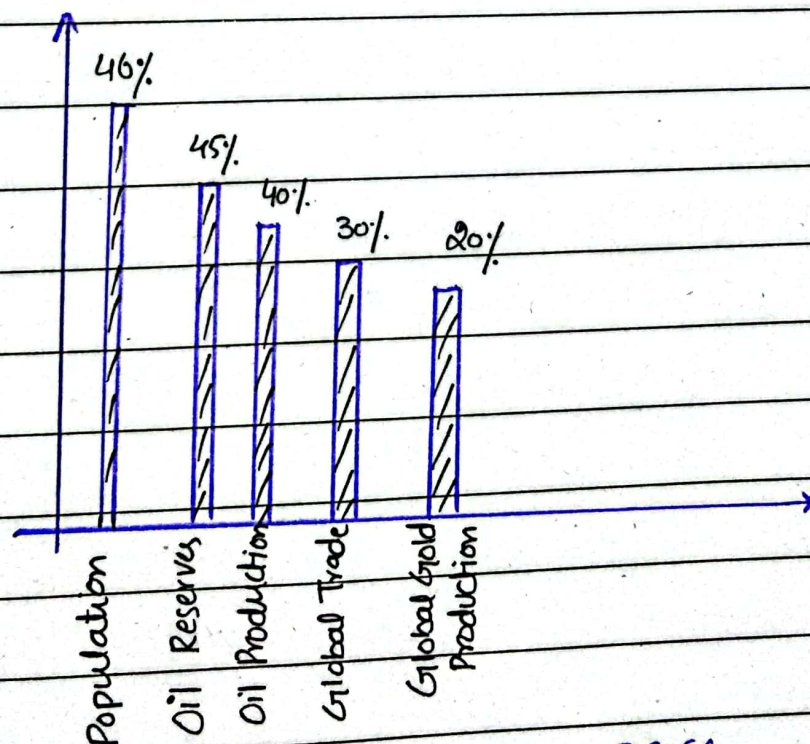


This expansion has many implications:

## ▷ GEO-POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

i) Global influence of member countries has increased:

All the members of BRICS are important global players. So, the expansion has increased the influence of BRICS across the world.



Graph shows the hold of BRICS countries in the world. Their influence has implications on geopolitics.

## ii) Increasing Multipolarity due to expansion of BRICS:

The BRICS expansion is directly impacting the unipolarity and hegemony of US and West. These countries are shaping a new multipolar geopolitical order.

## iii) Enhancing role of Global South:

For so long, Global West has controlled the whole geopolitical decisions. But now this expansion of BRICS is challenging the hegemony and dominance of Global West.

BRICS expansion has given a chance to the nations of Global South to have a 'say' in geopolitics and to raise voice for the developing nations of Global South.

## iv) Lobbying Capabilities:

BRICS expansion has also increased the lobbying capabilities of members. Now these countries can impact any geo-political matter by making a lobby against other countries.

## v) West problems are the <sup>not</sup> problems of whole world:

So far, west has worked only for western interests and to solve western problems. But now global south has given a clear stance that problems of west are problems of west if they do not consider the problems of south.

## ▶ GEO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

### i) New Development Bank:

BRICS has its own Bank 'New Development

Bank' which is an alternative to world's Bank. So far this bank has invested \$ 11 bn in 42 projects in member states.

## ii) De-Dollarization: a threat for US and West:

BRICS expansion has strengthened the debate of de-dollarization. US for so long has used dollar as a ~~the~~ weapon to exploit other countries. But BRICS members are working over de-dollarization

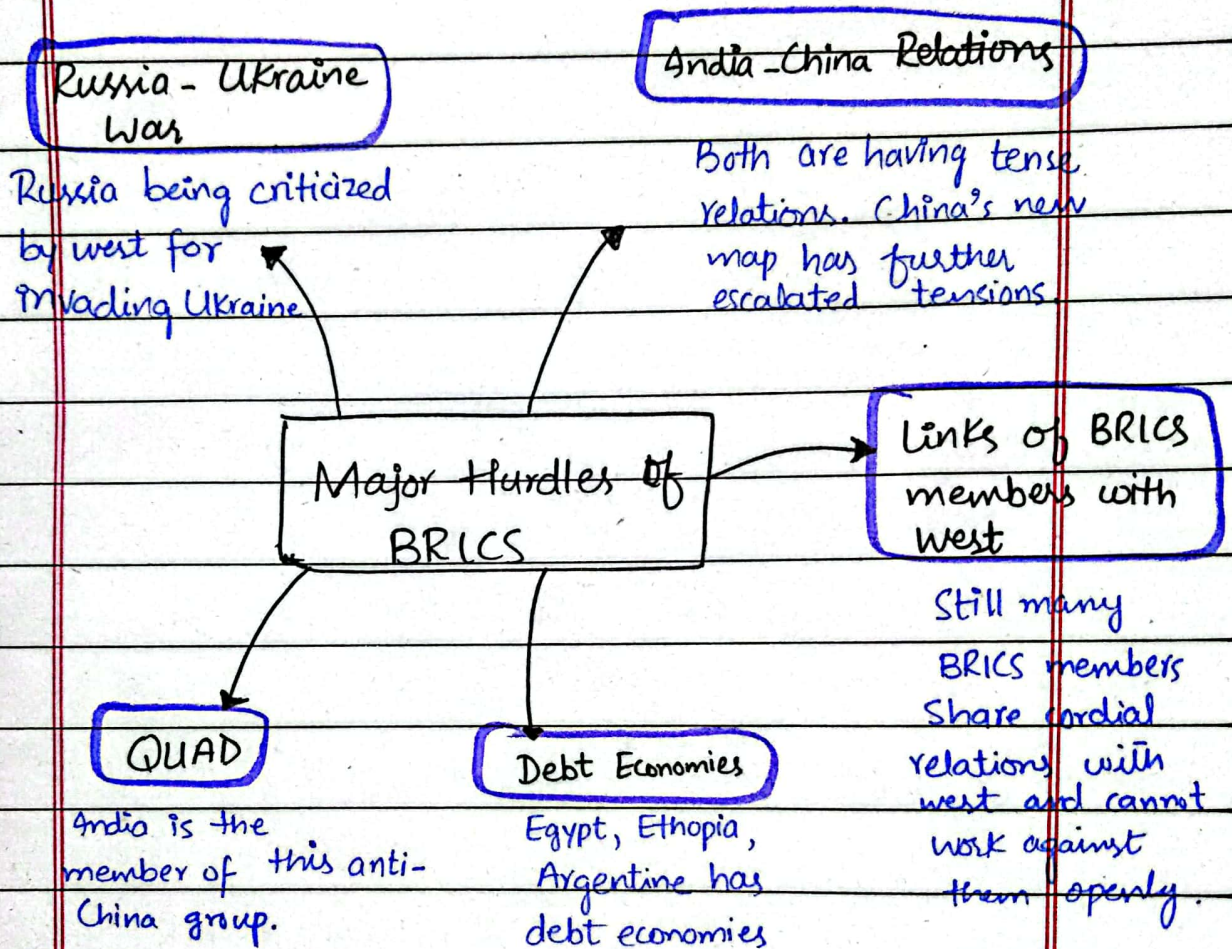
"The process of de-dollarization is irreversible and gaining pace."

(Vladimir Putin, 15<sup>th</sup> summit of BRICS).

## iii) Oil Giants and trade power of BRICS:

The involvement of Saudi Arabia in BRICS has given BRICS much global importance because of its oil reserves. So, BRICS has long term geo-economic implications.

## ➤ Major hurdles in the way of organization :



## ➤ Conclusion

The expansion of BRICS has increased the global influence. But yet it has to work a lot to overcome its hurdles and to achieve its goals.

## QNO4:

# Taiwan Crisis

### ► Introduction

Taiwan is a new clash point between US and China. For the number of reasons and interests, both countries are having tense relations over Taiwan issue. This issue is further escalating the horror of a new cold war. Although this conflict has potential to start a new full fledged war because of worldly interests of US and China in Taiwan.

### ► Taiwan:

Taiwan is a small island near China, separated by Strait of Taiwan.

In 1949, when Communist party of Mao won then military



dictator who was ruling China fled to this island and established his Government there.

Taiwan claims to be the real China while People's Republic of China considers Taiwan as its integral part.

### ► China's stance on Taiwan:

China's claim are historical. China claims that Taiwan has been the part of Chinese empire, so still it is the part of China.

### ► US stance on Taiwan:

US has assured Taiwan, every kind of assistance to save it from Chinese aggression.

The visit of US official Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan shows US strong stance on Taiwan issue.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
China → Reunification of Taiwan

USA → Defending Taiwan.

Why Taiwan is important for two global powers: US and China:

i) Taiwan's Economy:

Taiwan has world's <sup>17<sup>th</sup></sup> largest economy. So US fears, if China takes over Taiwan this can further strengthen China's growing economy. So US is supporting Taiwan. And this is a clash point of between US and China.

ii) Taiwan's Skillful labour:

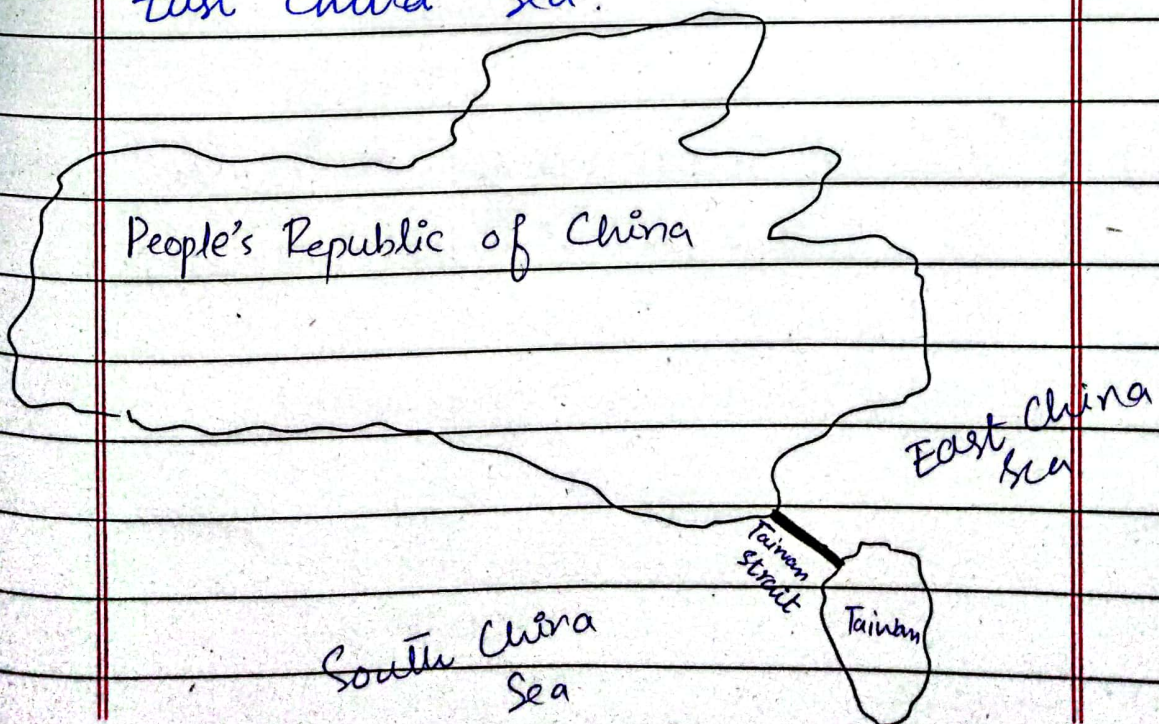
Taiwan has educated and skillful

labour. Both countries want their skills to use them for their benefit. Therefore, this has become a clash point between US and China.

### (iii) Taiwan's infrastructure and its geostrategic location:

Taiwan has most modern and developed infrastructure. Also both US and China are fighting <sup>over</sup> Taiwan because of its geostrategic location.

This little island connects South China Sea and East China Sea.



So to have hegemony in South China Sea, Taiwan is a source of US-China strained relations.

#### (iv) Politics in south China sea:

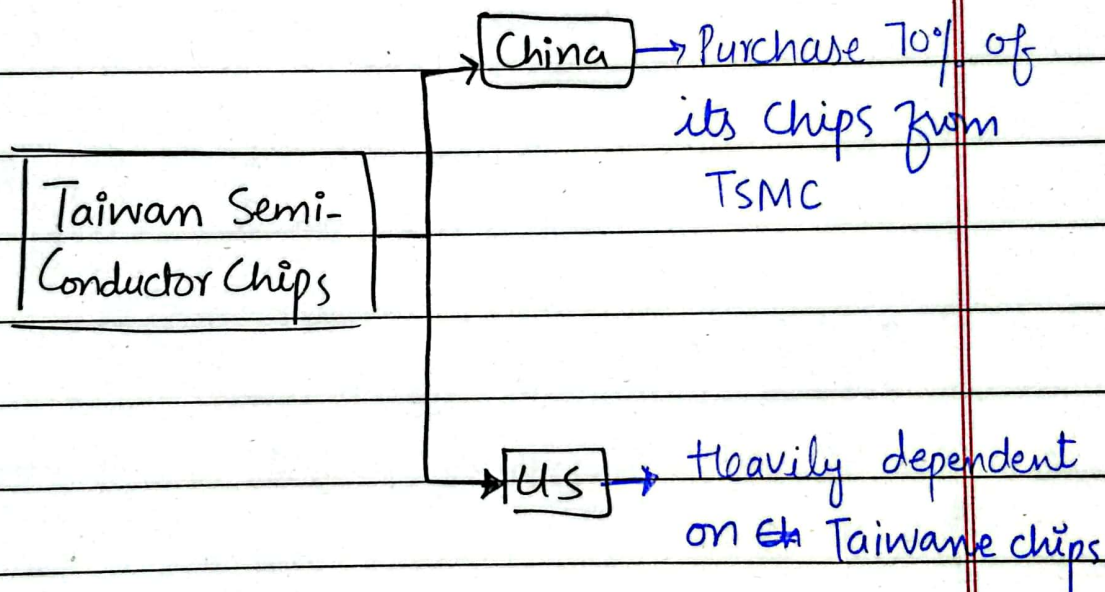
China wants to control Taiwan to safeguard its interests in South China sea. As China's whole oil <sup>in</sup> exports pass through this sea. While US wants to counter China in south China sea and to keep an eye on Chinese activities it has deployed military and naval bases in Taiwan. This is how Taiwan is a clash point between US and China.

#### v) Silicon Supremacy: A battle of technological dominance:

Taiwan => World's top contract manufacturer of semi-conductor ~~chips~~ chips.

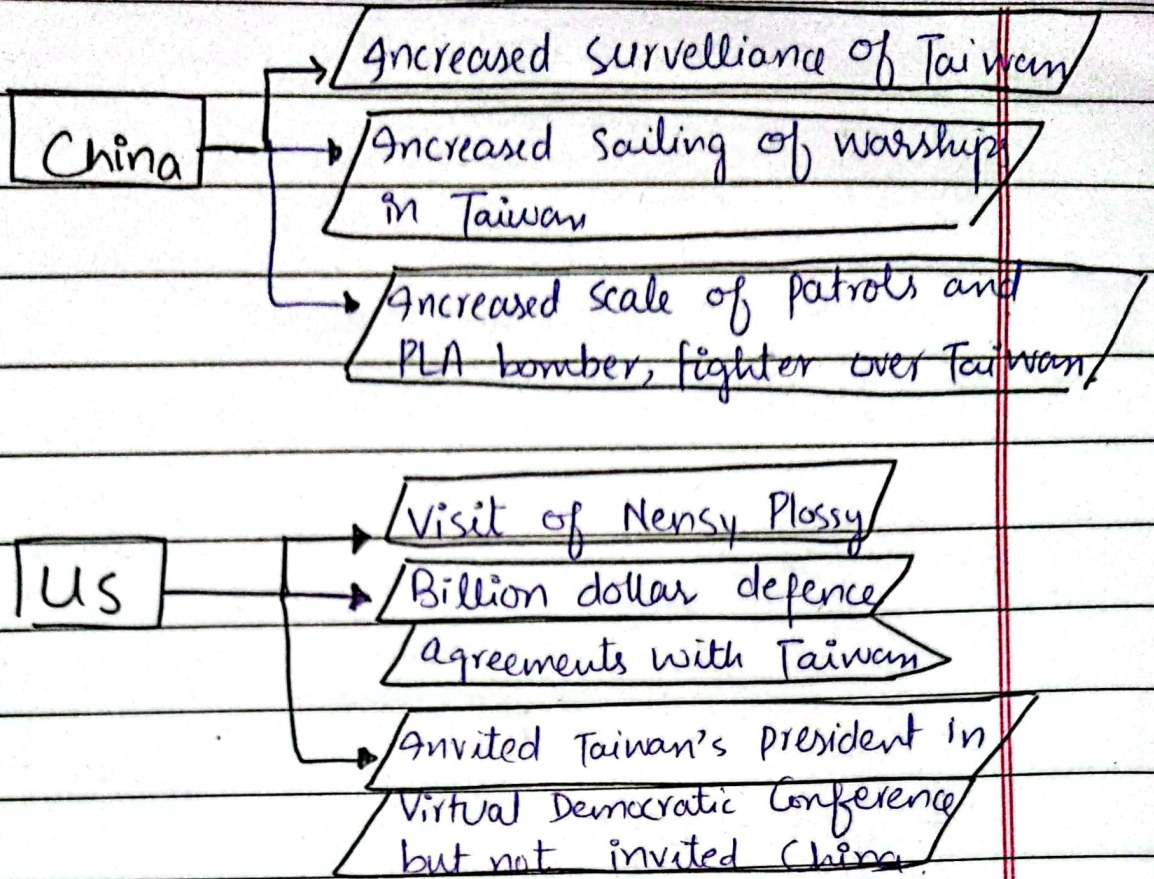
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company TSMC → world's largest contract chip maker.

All chips of laptops, computers, and other electronic devices are manufactured in Taiwan.



So, this battle of Silicon Supremacy and technological dominance, Taiwan has become a new clash point between US and China.

➤ Aggressive Actions taken by US and China over Taiwan issue:



## Way Forward

- Will of Taiwan's people must be respected.
- Both US and China should not militarize the region.
- A neutral body must be involved to solve the conflict.

## Conclusion :

This conflict is a clash point between US and China, but both should wisely resolve this instead of increasing fears of war.

## QNO2 :

# US-India Strategic Partnership and Pakistan

### ► Introduction

The growing strategic partnership between Pakistan's hostile neighbour India and US is severely hampering the interests of Pakistan. Pakistan is already facing tense relations with all of its border countries (except China), so in this scenario, US-China growing partnership can further escalate regional problems and regional interests of Pakistan.

### ► US-India Strategic Partnership:

Both India and US are increasing their strategic ties. This is because of number of reasons.

Both US and India have their interests in increasing strategic ties.

i) To counter Chinese influence in the region:

Both US and India are having tense relations with China. US wants to counter Chinese regional influence. Therefore it is increasing strategic ties with India to have a credible ally in the region.

ii) India's growing economy: a new market for US.

India is now the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy of the world, having largest population. So US for the economic leverage, is increasing strategic ties with India.

iii) India and Israel Collaboration:



India is increasing its defence ties with Israel. While US always support Israel. because so to enhance the influence of Israel in South Asia. both are collaborating.

#### iv) US foreign policy towards south: India an ally

To make its foreign policy successful, towards south, US wants an ally in the South which can be helpful for US in case of any situation. So US sees India as a credible partner.

#### v) G20 Summit and India - Middle East - Europe <sup>visit</sup> Co-~~operation~~:

President Joe Biden visited G20 Summit in India and announced a project to connect India with Europe and middle east. This is how they are enhancing ties.

## ➤ How US-India Strategic partnership hampering Pakistan's interests?

### i) US India defence collaboration, a threat to Pakistan's security

Pakistan is already facing a new wave of terrorism in country. Pakistan spends 60% of budget on defence just to ensure safety. But if India continues ~~is~~ to strengthen its military capabilities, it can further put pressure on Pakistan's teetering economy.

"Andus X has potential to be a catalyst for India to achieve its target of \$ 5 bn in defence exports by 2025 and for India to diversify its defence supply chain."

(US Chamber of Commerce.)

### ii) India's desire to counter Pakistan's ally China,

China has been a perennial friend of Pakistan. China's support means a lot to Pakistan. But if US and India work together and affect Chinese influence this can hamper Pakistan's interests of Chinese support.

iii) US support and India's desire to become permanent member of UN ~~SC~~ <sup>SC</sup>:

India wants to become a permanent member of UN Security Council. If US continues its support to India like this, then this can hamper Pakistan's stance over Kashmir issue.

iv) India false propoganda against Pakistan would get importance on international forum:

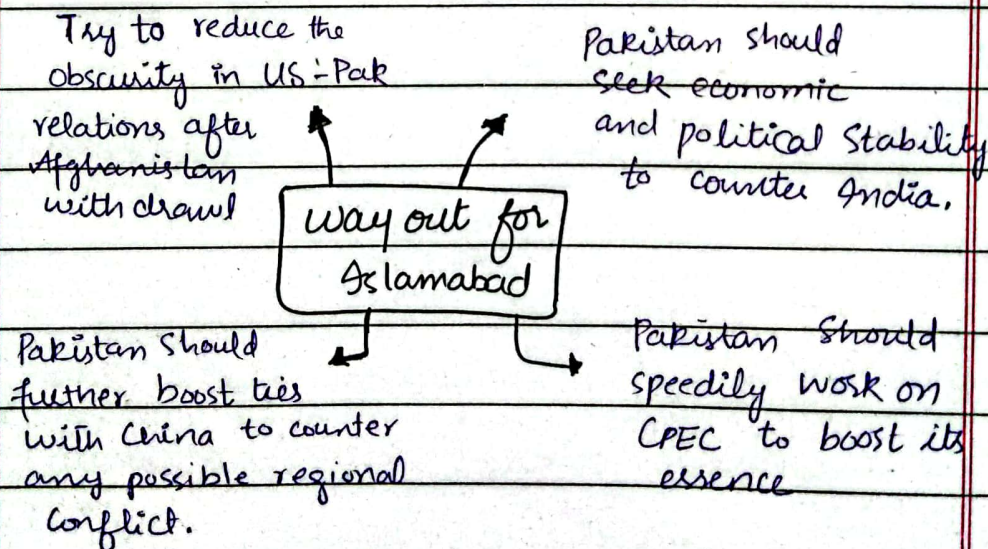
If US continues its support to India irrespective of human rights violation, then it would be difficult:

for Pakistan to counter Andia's propoganda of 'Terror financing' on international forums.

v) **India - Middle East - Africa an alternative of Chinese BRI:**

US co-operation with Andia ove I-ME-A project to counter BRI is hampering Pakistan's interests as CPEC is a flagship project of BRI. So US-Andia partnership can affect economic interests of Pakistan.

## Ways out for Islamabad



## Conclusion :

US - Andia growing

Strategic partnership can be disastrous for Pakistan. So Pakistan should wisely make foreign policy and should seek stability at home to counter this.

## QNO7

### Increasingly Multipolar World:

#### ► Introduction

With the advent of 21st century, unipolarity has decreased and multipolarity has gained pace. Due to this increasing multipolarity, many countries are now playing their role in geopolitical affairs. This multipolar world is challenging US' hegemony and unipolarity. Because of this there has been a decline in US hegemony and it is losing its role as a global leader.

# Rise of Rest and decline in US Hegemony.

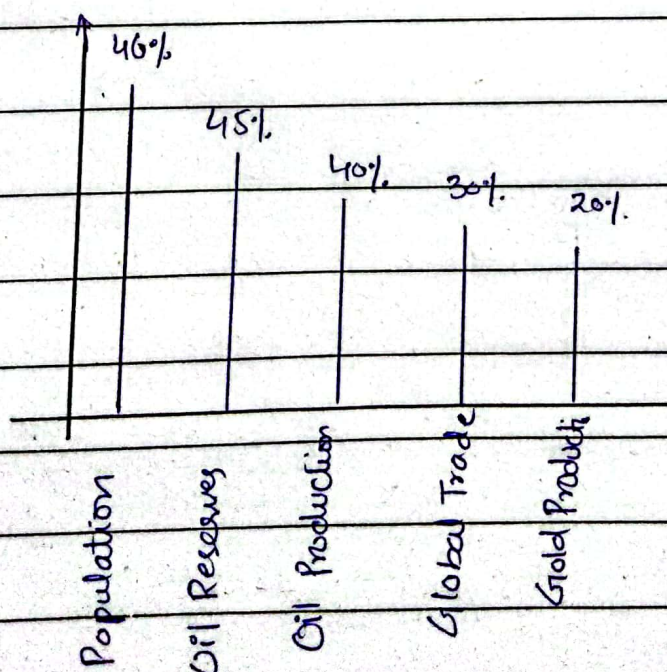
i) BRICS: a new multipolar platform challenging US hegemony.

B R I C S  
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

Brazil Russia India China South Africa

BRICS has become a new multipolar platform, where 11 member countries, no US and no any western country, are challenging the unipolarity.

These countries account



a big chunk of global trade and population.

This platform has shown the rise of rest and decline of US hegemony.

## ii) Shanghai Co-operation Organization: a platform of nations advocating multipolarity.

SCO is an organisation where countries mostly favour multipolarity.

Under this platform, member countries met and work on their own agendas of development.

This organisation is reducing the US hegemony in Asia.

## iii) Iran-Saudi rapprochement and declining role of US in middle east:

The way China

played its role to restore peace in middle east is a perfect example of rise of rest. US has been in middle east for a long time, but could not restore peace in middle east. Iran Saudi rapprochement also identifies that there are other countries which can play a better role than US.

iv) **Russia-Ukraine war, US Sanctions on Russia, but still trading with world:**

When Russia invaded Ukraine, US put sanctions on Russia and asked for global cut off with Russia. But still number of countries are trading with, importing oil from Russia.

Many countries did not even opposed Russian invasion but stayed 'Neutral'. This shows that world is multipolar. and other countries have their own say



This shows decline of US as a world leader.

### v) Saudi Arabia's drift from US camp to Chinese camp:

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a big oil giant, is now drifting from US camp to Chinese camp. This is a major blow to US hegemony and petro-dollar. Saudi Arabia's lean towards China is a glaring example of declining US hegemony.

### vi) US sanctions on Iran, Iran still became part of BRICS and BRI:

Multipolar world is challenging US hegemony at every forum. Although US has imposed sanctions on Iran but still with Chinese help it became part of BRICS and BRI. This shows US decline as a global leader.

## vii) Declining<sup>in</sup> hegemony of US in Africa:

African continent has suffered a lot from poverty. But as a global leader, US has failed to restore peace and prosperity in Africa. But now due to the rise of rest, other countries are increasing their dominance in Africa.

For example:

- Russia announced to provide free grain to African countries.

- People in Nigeria are now waving Russian flags.

So Rise of rest has reduced US hegemony across the globe.

## ➤ Conclusion

With the rise of rest and multipolar world, US has lost its hegemony. In future it will further decline in its role as a global leader.