

Nba Mock-6 Test

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Date: 19th Dec-24

Subject: Current Affairs

Subjective Part-II:-

Q2:-

The HTS Islamist rebels - - - - -
- - - - - change in Syria.

Ans 2:-

The recent toppling of Bashar al-Assad's regime on 8th December 2024 by the HTS Islamist rebels marks a dramatic turning point in the Middle East politics. This unexpected event has far-reaching implications for middle east and the whole world. According to strategic analysts the following are the reasons of the events-

• Reasons of Change in Syria:-

• Internal Reasons:-

Internal Weakness:-

The Syrian military was unorganized

weak and poorly trained. Also, the intelligence agencies failed to predict the danger. Besides, the defection of a high ranking Syrian official led to large scale surrender of Assad's troops. Furthermore, the disagreement between Assad and his brother Maher on relations with Arab states also led to the internal weakness in Syria.

HTS strength:

The HTS, a powerful Islamist group have a capable leadership in the form of Jolani. HTS benefited from superior military tactics, strong alliances with other rebel factions and significant external support. In other words, HTS's ~~skilled~~ skillful and effective use of Drone Technology is one of the reasons of fall of Assad's regime. (Al-jazeera editorial)

Popular Uprising:-

The unpopularity of ISIS eventually led to growing popular support for HTS in Syria.

External Factors:-

States like Israel
First, Israel's decisive strikes against Hezbollah have led to instability and humanitarian crises in Syria. Second, Turkey's involvement in protecting its ~~border~~ land from Kurdish movement is another reason of Assad's fall, as Turkey is "supporting some regi rebels." Since Syria serves as the buffer zone between Iran and Israel, the involvement of ~~some~~ other states have led to the downfall of Assad.

Implications:-

The downfall of Assad has created a ~~vacuum~~ political vacuum in Syria. In other words chaos but chances are there that a Liberal Democratic System ~~will~~ can be established in near future. From the current scenario, one can predict ~~that~~ the establishment of a Theocratic Dictatorship. According

to Al-jazeera, analysts, future can unfold a less violent civil war with various factions getting control of their perspective territories. Some experts also suggests that there will be a shift from secular to religious tyranny.

Implications for Pakistan:-

The coming to power of HTS will have ~~huge~~ a great influence on the regional security ~~as~~ ^{the} of Pakistan and world. The network of ~~these~~ ~~of~~ such militants can further raise security concerns.

Q6:-

COP 29 - commitments.

Ans 6 :-

COP 29 represented an important moment in the global fight against climate change.

Commitments:-

According to a reported

published by IPRI, COP29 made the following commitments:-

1- Climate Finance:

A major highlight of COP29 was the commitment to provide developing countries with at least \$1.3 trillion in climate financing by 2035 in order to adapt to the impacts of climate change and transition to cleaner energy sources.

2- Global Stocktake:-

The summit acknowledged the need to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy resources, although specific targets and timelines were deferred to COP30 in Brazil.

• Failures:-

I. Fossil Fuel Phase-out:-

Despite growing call for a rapid phase-out of fossil fuels, COP 29 failed to deliver a concrete commitment on this issue. The lack of action

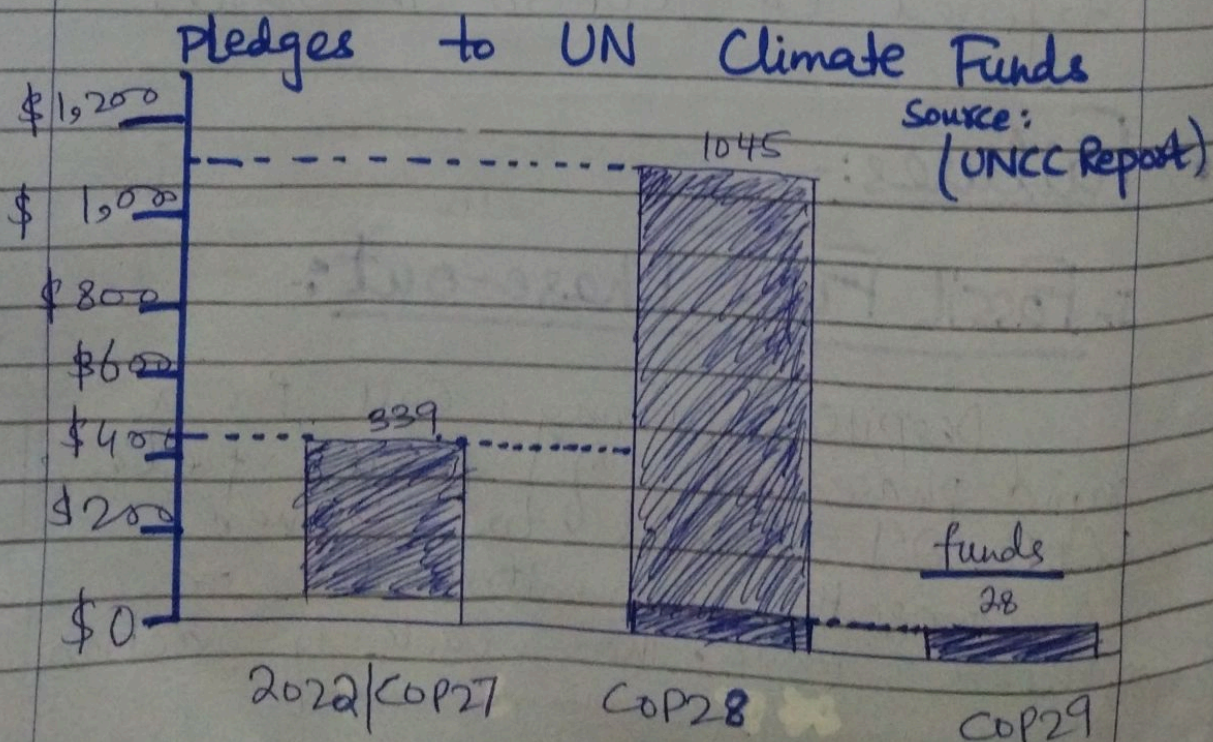
is concerning regarding the urgency of climate crisis.

II- Insufficient Ambition:-

The \$1.3 trillion climate finance pledge, while significant, falls short of the estimated \$2.4 trillion needed annually to effectively address the climate crisis.

III- Lack of Urgency:

The decision to defer key negotiations on fossil fuel phase-out at COP30 reflects a lack of urgency in addressing the climate crisis.



Implications for Pakistan:-

For Pakistan, COP29's outcomes signal both a warning and a call to action. Despite active participation in global climate discussions, Pakistan's domestic policies on climate remain insufficient to meet the climate needs. The country's financial constraints exacerbate its challenges, limiting its capacity to implement resilient measures.

Conclusion:-

COP29 underscored the incremental progress and persistent challenges in global climate negotiations. It laid a foundation for future progress. In short, the conference reinforced the importance of collaborative action, funding mechanism and an unwavering commitment to limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C. (UNCC Report)

Q8:-

Critically evaluate the
. . . . tangible reality?

Ans 8 :-

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a flagship project of China's BRI has faced a significant slowdown in the past few years. This slowdown necessitates a critical evaluation of its challenges and roadmap for revitalization to ensure the progress of Phase II.

Reasons for the Slowdown of CPEC :-

I- Economic Headwinds:-

• Economic Crisis of Pakistan:-

Pakistan's economic problems like trade deficit, foreign loans have created an unfavourable environment for large-scale infrastructive projects.

• Global Economic Slowdown:-

The Global economic slowdown, exacerbated by the COVID 19

pandemic and the war in Ukraine, has impacted China's economic growth and its ability to invest... heavily in overseas projects like CPEC.

2- Geopolitical Shifts:-

• Evolving Geopolitical Landscape:-

The changing geopolitical landscape, including increased tensions between US and China has created uncertainties for CPEC, potentially impacting its future trajectory.

• Security Concerns:-

Concerns like threat of terrorism (in KPK and Balochistan) and separatist movements in Kurram and Balochistan have posed challenges to the smooth implementation of CPEC projects.

Also recent attacks on Chinese citizens, is concerning.

3- Domestic Challenges:-

• Debt Sustainability Concerns-

Concerns about Pakistan's ability to repay its debts, including those related to CPEC projects, have increased making lenders more cautious about financing

new initiatives.

Environmental and Social Concerns:-

Growing concerns about the environmental and social impacts of some CPEC projects, such as the impact on local communities and the potential for environmental damage, have led to delays and increased scrutiny.

Recommendations:-

To reinvigorate CPEC and ~~ensure~~ ensure the successful implementation of ~~the~~ Phase II, Islamabad and Beijing need to adopt a multi-pronged approach:

1- Economic Reforms:-

Pakistan must undertake comprehensive reforms to improve its fiscal capacity, attract foreign investment and create economic stability for CPEC projects.

2- Debt Restructuring:-

Islamabad should explore options for debt restructuring and adopt a mechanism that can alleviate debt burden and enhance project sustainability. These include measures like improving tax base and broadening tax base and enhancing governance. ~~Also, it should not rely always on foreign loans~~

3 - Sustainable Development:-

Shifting the focus towards more sustainable and environmentally friendly projects such as green infrastructure can address environmental concerns and attract FDI.

4 - Building Trust and Transparency:-

Islamabad should ensure security to the Chinese workers in Pakistan. Also, it should conduct regular audits of CPEC projects. In this way, Islamabad and Beijing can build a cordial relation based on trust. ~~because~~

Conclusion:-

The success of CPEC hinges on ~~the~~ collaborative effort between Pakistan and China, addressing the multifaceted challenges and seizing the opportunities presented by this ambitious project.

Q7:-
Critically evaluate Middle East.

Ans 7:-

The dramatic toppling of Assad's regime at the hands of rebel forces could have far reaching consequences for the future. In other words, the fall of the Assad Dynasty after over 50 years in power has more ~~of~~ immediate global ramifications with Russia and Iran seen as 'losers' ~~from~~ while U.S, Turkey and Israel are viewed ~~among~~ among the main beneficiaries from regime change.

According to Holger Schmieding, Chief Economist at Berenberg Bank,

Beneficiaries :-

The major immediate geopolitical "winners" are Israel, Turkey, and US. According to **Wolfgang Piccoli**,

"Turkey is set to be the biggest external beneficiary of Assad's fall".

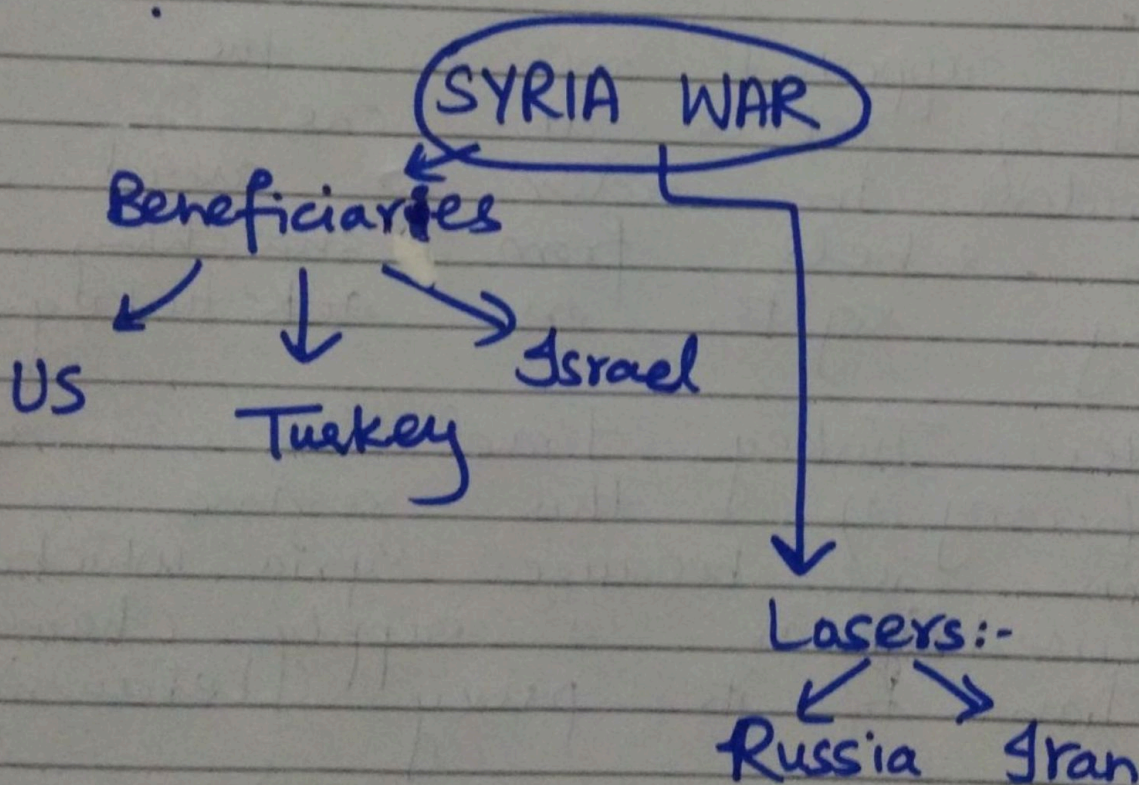
Turkey supported one of the fraction of rebels at one of the borders in order to avoid Kurdish rebels from ~~snatching~~ claiming rights on ~~ant~~ turkey.

After Turkey, Israel is seen as a beneficiary of this regime change. This is because Syria which ~~was~~ was used ~~as~~ as a supply chain (by Iran to its proxy (Lebanon)) has been severely weakened. Resultantly ~~this~~ it has benefitted Israel in its attempt to capture Golan Heights and attack Hezbollah group. In other words, Syria which is the **axis of resistance** has strengthened the

hands of Israel and US to continue to ~~effect~~ affect Iran's economic strength.

Losers :-

The most notable 'loser' from Assad's overthrow is his ally and backer i.e. Russia. This time Russia's involvement in Ukraine has limited the amount of military aid it was willing to give Assad's force.



Effects of Regime Change of Bashar al Assad

Conclusion:

In short, the toppling of Assad's regime has left a political vacuum, which has led to a chaos regarding security concerns for the whole.