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Batch #065

Current Affairs

## Q No. 2: Regime Change in Syria

### 1: Introduction:

The HTS Islamist Rebels have toppled down Bashar-ul-Asad regime in Syria in December 2024.

The main reasons behind the unprecedented change are; dictatorship of Bashar-ul-Asad, Dynastic politics and civil war for more than a decade.

The masses under the leadership has thrown the crown and forced Bashar-ul-Asad flee to Russia.

Turkey, Iran and Russia are in support of Asad's Regime. This Regime shift can have domestic and regional implications such as impact of vision of extremist group HTS, increased political instability, humanitarian crisis

and security within the state and security issue affecting the whole region.

2: HTS Islamic Rebels have toppled down Bashar-ul-Asad Regime in Syria:

HTS stands for **Hay'at ul Tahrir Al Sham** is an extremist Islamic Rebellion group which is led by **Muhammad al-Jolani**. HTS has kicked out Asad's dictatorship and saved the Syrians from a decade long civil war.

This group is officially named as **terrorist group** by U.S.A and U.K but unofficially off the record this group has gained support of west, therefore, this group got able to topple down the Asad's Regime. Civil war started in 2011

against Asad's injustice and dictatorship. Gradually it got rooted in the whole country and after a decade in 2024- December they occupied the capital Damascus and kicked-out Asad.

### 3: Reasons of Unprecedented Change In Syria :

Some major reasons that contributed in Syria's unprecedented change are;

#### 3.1: Dictatorship of Bashar-ul-Asad:

Bashar-ul-Asad was a dictator in the so called democratic state of Syria. He always ruled according to his will. His only lust was the power and authority over the nation. Democracy

### 3.2: Dynastic Politics of Syria:

Syria has been a victim of dynastic politics. Bashar-ul-Asad ruled Syria for more than thirteen years. Before him, his father ruled the country for more than twenty-five years. The civilians had been frustrated by their dynastic politics and their tyranny.

Aristotle said:

"The perverted form of monarch is Tyranny"

### 3.3: Civil War since 2011:

Syrians have been bearing their

dictatorship since almost fifty years. In Asad's so-called democratic state no-one has the freedom of speech and expression. Masses of Syria got united against the oppressions of Bashar-ul-Asad in 2011.

The Syrian Civil war was triggered by **pro-democracy Arab spring protests** in March-2011.

These protests spread throughout the country and transformed into civil-war resulting in millions of muslim effectees.

#### 4: Implications of Regime Change in Syria:

This unprecedented change will have effect not only Syria but the whole region of Middle east.

#### 4.1: Ambiguous Vision of HTS:

The extremist group HTS has so far working for the civilians but their vision is ambiguous, they have not cleared their intentions.

West has called them a terrorist group but they are supported by west under the cover. So they could be right hands of super powers to influence the power over the middle east.

#### 4.2: Political Instability In Syria:

Talibi led Islamic Rebellion group has overthrown the Assad's government and established an Interim government by HTS but

it will further instigate the political instability in the country. The solution to curb this instability is only choosing new democratic government through elections.

#### 4.3: Humanitarian Crisis In Syria:

Regime shift provoked the humanitarian crisis. These crisis started from pro-Arab spring protests dating back in 2011. Throughout the civil war humanitarian crisis was a major flaw but this abrupt change has fueled this crisis until the selection of further new government.

#### 4.4: Security Challenges in the Region:

This regime change will result in security challenges throughout the Middle east.

Israel has already attacked the six districts along with her border - Golan heights so that terrorist can not settle their. Israel captured that area to secure its border. The neighbouring countries are already in war zone and this shift increased the war zone territory.

5: Conclusion: The regime change of Bashar-ul-Asad by HTS group may caused by tyrannic dictatorship of Asad, political dynasty and pro-Arab protests. This change



have freed Syrians from a dictators but may welcome political instability, humanitarian crisis or foreign invasions. But hopeful for the peaceful power transfer to new government.

Q No. 6

COP-29

1: Introduction.

Conference of All Parties organized its 29<sup>th</sup> summit in Baku-Azerbaijan. In COP meetings all heads of state, International and non-governmental organizations and environmental institutions stakeholders attended the annual meeting from 11 November to 22 November 2024.

The main theme of this year's summit was **climate financing**. The OECD developed countries have to pay for the climate change mitigation to the developing countries, but unfortunately, it was a failure the financial goal was not set and many countries even didn't attend the meetings.

The COP agreed on \$3bn dollars climate financing to poor developing countries to curb the climate changes.

## 2: COP-29 Commitments:

COP-29 held in Baku-Azerbaijan was planned to do many commitments such as;

## 2.1: Strategies to tackle climate change:

United Nations Framework for Climate Change Convention UNFCCC arranged 29th meeting in Baku for all the countries to participate and purpose suggestion to mitigate the effects of climate change because the climate change is adversely effecting the developing countries which are least carbon emitters.

According to UN;

"Pakistan's global emissions are less than 1% but it is the 8th most vulnerable state to climate change disasters."

## 2.2: Carbon Trade:

Since Industrial revolution the developed countries have gained so much and their carbon emissions are highest in the world. Developing countries have not as such established industries so they are least carbon emitters. The Rio-declaration and many environmental treaties have assigned carbon units to every state. Developing countries such as Pakistan has not met their emission target so, they can earn through selling carbon-units to developed countries.

### 2.3: Climate financing to curb climate change disasters:

The main agenda of COP-29 was the initiation of climate financing by the developed states to tackle the disasters and crisis caused by global climate change. Such as Pakistan is facing severe smog issues due to climate led disasters.

### 3: COP-29 Failures:

This 29th summit was almost a failure because it can not meet its goals and it was unable to bring the countries at one page.

### 3.1, No-consensus on climate financing:

The stake-holders who conducted and attended the meeting became failed in making consensus among the developing and developed state to finance for the climate change disasters.

Eleven-days were un-fruitful no negotiations brought them on one page to contribute for developing countries which are bearing the brunt. The proposed finance collection was \$700bn. But developed countries did not agreed on it. After the summit they agreed on \$300bn dollars finance for developing countries to handle the menace of climate change disasters.

### 3.2:- Escape of Major stakeholders from COP-29 :

Some major stakeholders such as U.S.A, India and France did not participated in COP-29.

In U.S.A Biden has been busy in his domestic politics while president-elect Trump is not interested in this matter. He has denounced from Paris Agreement also. He is unwilling and calls it rubbish to talk about climate change.

Narendra Modi and Francis Marion have also not attended the meeting - impacting the too-low importance of the meeting.

### 3.3. Azerbaijan's Dual vision and Strategy:

Azerbaijan being situated in the middle east is the largest hydro-carbon exporter. Hydro-carbons are exploiting the environment resulting in climate change. Azerbaijan has promoted its energy resources in the summit and invited their energy specialists at the event - which severely impacted the summit because all they we gathered to shun the use of hydrocarbons to save the world.

Another factor of failure was low geo-political position of Azerbaijan.



#### 4: Critical Evaluation of COP-29:

Critically, it was a major failure can't meet the goal set for the summit and was unable to collect finance for developing countries. Some positive points were also observed because the major developing countries showed the climate change effects on environment, its impacts and proposed strategies.

#### 5: Conclusion:

In a nutshell, we can say COP-29 was not so successful due to lack of consensus on climate financing and no-participation from major stakeholders, made it more unattractive. Conference of parties may work well for climate.

QNO. 8 :-

## CPEC - Project

### 1: Introduction:

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It was started in 2015 and will be completed in 2030 in 3 phases. II phase was the establishment of commercial economic zones in different cities but this phase slowed down due to security issues to Chinese national working in Pakistan. Increased warmth in India and Russia relations through BRICS and Belt and Road Initiative is too large project to overrule the western impact on global south.

This coldness and delay can be tackled with provision of security, military operations against terrorists and re-negotiations on agreement between China and Pakistan.

## 2:- Reasons For Slowing Down CPEC Phase II.

CPEC consisted of following three phases.

Phase I: (2015-2020) - connecting Grawadar and Kashgar through Highway.

Phase II: (2021-2025) - Development of commercial economic zones in different cities.

Phase III: (2026-2030) - Establishment of an International city of Grawadar.

Now, the time limit for the second phase is near to end but China has not been established commercial economic zones due to following reasons;

## 2.1: Security Issues Faced by Chinese Nationals in Pakistan:

TTP - Tehrik Taliban Pakistan's insurgency has made security conditions more vulnerable. There had been two terrorist attacks on Chinese National in six months in Karachi and Balochistan. These casualties of Chinese official made the CPEC progressive passive and China was angry about the incidents.

Xi-Jinping;

"We will not bear any Chinese loss in Pakistan."

## 2.2 :- China's developing relations with India and Russia.

BRICS is newly emerging south globe organization to overcome the global North's hold. China is now busy in making cordial relations with China India and Russia. China is seeing their economic interests aligning with India and Russia so mainly focusing on that.

## 2.3: Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

China has started a giant BRI project. CPEC is part of that project. China has connecting South Asian countries, CARs and Russia through BRI. So the

main focus of china is basically BRI. So china is busy in reconciliation for its own interests.

Palmestron said;

"There are no permanent friend, no permanent enemies in International community. The only permanent thing are ~~international~~ interests."

### 3: Options For Islamabad And Beijing to Re-invigorate the Project to make it tangible:

Here are some options for Islamabad and Beijing to re-invigorate the project.

#### 3.1: Resolve Security Issues, Pakistan

should resolve security issue and provide Chinese officials fool proof security at their working places in Pakistan.

### 3.2:- Pakistan Launched Military operation to counter Terrorism.

Pakistan has launched military operations in tribal areas on the request of China to counter terrorism. Insurgent terrorist groups such as TTP has been involving in many terrorist activities and attack on Chinese so countering these groups with military operations such as "Operation Azam-i-Istihkam."

### 3.3 :- Re-negotiation between China and Pakistan:

Pakistan and China should renegotiate the project and should speed-up the work.

Pakistan's chief of Army Staff has visited China cleared Pakistan's intensions and ensured security therefore high-way project has been re-started.

### 3.4 :- Ratifying the Agreements between both the countries:

China and Pakistan should ratify all the agreements and should re-start work with warm relations because it is beneficial for both the countries.



#### 4: Conclusion.

CPEC Phase II has been slowed down due to Pakistan's negligence and China's other interest but the the phase II can be made a tangible reality by resolving security challenges, re-negotiations and ratification of treaties because CPEC is beneficial for both the countries.