

Current Affairs

Question no. (7)

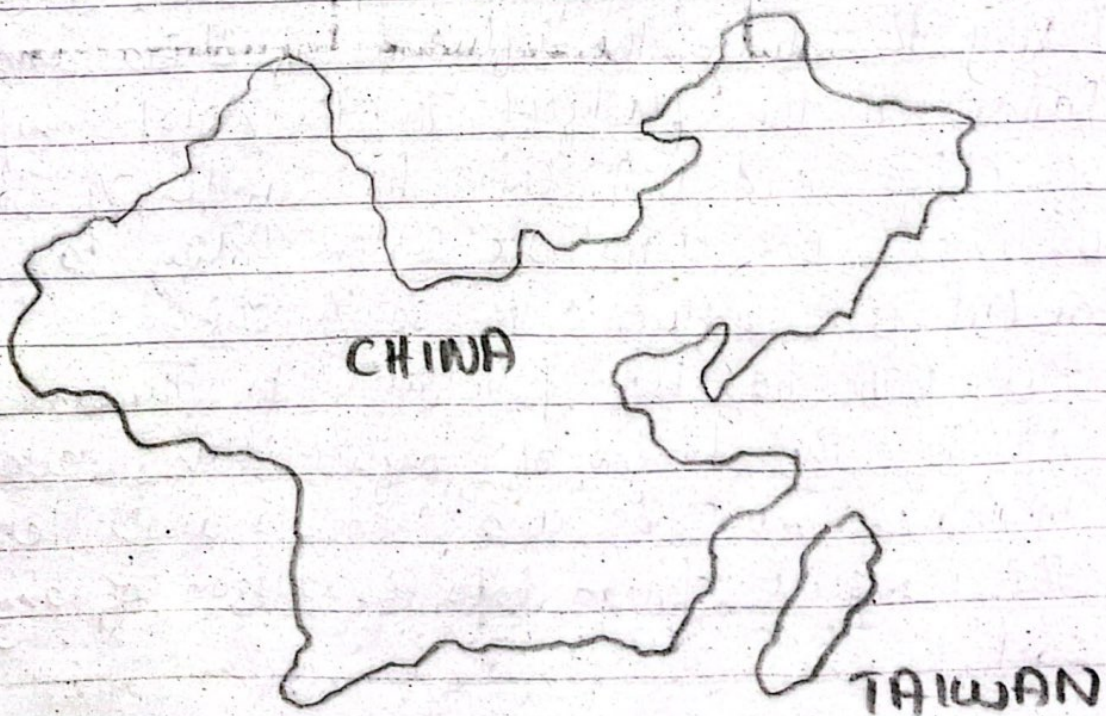
Introduction :-

China and USA have been potential rivals of each other since 1990s when at most China's GDP was only about 1.5%. However, since the last 30 years, China had unprecedented growth in GDP and today it contributes 19% of world's GDP and serve as a potential threat to USA. Therefore, USA has been trying to dodge the influence of China and Taiwan is the flashpoint in the relationship of China and USA. China has, under Xi Jinping utilized 'One China One System Policy' to curtail USA influence in South China Sea.

But, USA has been penetrating in Taiwan raising the danger of conflict. Thus, certain measures must be considered to avoid letting this conflict spread into escalation of any sort.

China - Taiwan Historical Ties :-

Historically, Taiwan had been a colony of Japan and gained independence post world war II. In 1949, when china converted into 'People's Republic of China' claimed that Taiwan and rest of the islands belong to china by making 9 dash lines and claimed that if any country holds separate ties with Taiwan, china would retaliate.



One China Two System Policy :-

China adopted One China Two System policy for Hongkong, Macau and Taiwan in which mainland China would be ruled by Communist party and Taiwan would be 'Democratic Republic of China' (DRC). China provided ultra autonomy to Taiwan. China allowed three important element to Taiwan to run on their own :-

Currency

Defense Forces

Foreign Reserves

However, China made it clear that foreign policy of Taiwan would be dealt by Mainland China and Taiwan's diplomatic relationship with other countries would be through consent of China.

USA Policy Towards Taiwan :-

In 1952-1954, USA reaffirmed the defense of Taiwan against China and founded SEATO (South East Asian Treaty Organization). There was a drastic change in USA's policy, mediated by Henry Kissinger to open up economy of China and transform

China's economy from Communism and towards Capitalism. Along with this, in 1979, USA accepted China's model of One China Policy.

- China's Territorial Expansion :-

China since 21st century has been engaged in territorial expansion in South and East China sea along with attacking USA's areas of influence. Therefore, USA started to attack the policies of China in Taiwan.

- Strategic Ambiguity to Strategic Clarity of USA :-

Following are the measures taken by USA to hurt China's claim and influence in Taiwan:

(1) Defense Deal with Taiwan :-

After Trump presidential era, there is a major change as USA signed a major defense deal with Taiwan about supply of weapons.

(2) Invitation to Democratic Conference :-
USA president invited Taiwan's president to virtual democratic conference in USA which antagonized China.

(3) Nancy Pelosi Visit to Taiwan :- Nancy Pelosi, leader of USA Representative, visited Taiwan without China having prior information about it.

(4) Biden stance on Taiwan :- Policy of president Joe Biden to defend Taiwan in case of any unprovoked war by China.

- Counter Retaliation by China :-

(1) Deployment of Navy around Taiwan :-
In counter retaliation, China deployed its navy around Taiwan and in 2022 and 2023, largest military drills were around Taiwan in South China sea.

(2) Ballistic Missiles :- Ballistic missile testing from sea to sea across Taiwan

(3) Deployment of Chinese Naval Fleet :- China deployed Chinese naval fleet near Taiwan and announced that China would retaliate in any case of interference by USA.

Possible Implications about US - China Standoff in Taiwan :-

Escalation of Full Fledge war

USA and China have been potential rivals of each others in aspects of geo-strategic and geo-economic. Amidst this, if USA and China would not stop from using Taiwan as flashpoint, it would lead to escalation of war.

Regional and International Conflicts

Potential war between China and USA would lead to the environment of Cold war where countries would be expected to align with

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a bloc leading to emergence of various regional and international conflicts.

Recommendations to Diffuse the Tension :-

- (1) China needs to reconsider its policies of One China One System. It should lead Taiwan with its former peaceful policy 'One China Two System Policy'.
- (2) Authoritarian claim and rule over administrative units of China such as Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan would further push them towards west.
- (3) China should engage in peaceful co-existence with neighbours and focus on economic engagement. At the same time, China's threshold over dash lines should be sustained without antagonizing Taiwan.
- (4) USA, on the other hand, cannot afford war with China due to its involvement in Russia - Ukraine war. It would burdened USA to take on over

top adversaries.

(5) USA and China have massive economic leverage over each other. Therefore, the better option for both of them is to maintain status quo.

Conclusion :-

China has historical claim on Taiwan and gave it ultra autonomy.

However, China exercised One China Two System policy where it kept hold on Taiwan's foreign policy. China's expansion in South China sea and in USA's areas of influence has led

USA to hunt China's policies on Taiwan

by signing defense deal and deployment of military. It can lead to full fledged war.

Therefore, both USA and China must deescalate tensions and positively contribute to world peace and economic engagement.

Question no. 3

Introduction :-

Organization of Islamic cooperation, the biggest organization of Muslim countries, is 57 member organization. OIC was made with the objectives of safeguarding the common interest of member states and to restore the territorial sovereignty of member countries. However, OIC remained a fail organization because of internal rifts, and unprecedented influence of USA on members. Since the USA and Iran rapprochement, OIC could be seen as a potential organization and could play a role as a successful organization to truly represent the muslim world. Therefore, OIC must play its due role to carry out its functions for which it was established.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) :-

Organization of Islamic Cooperation is 57 member intergovernmental Muslim organization with the slogan of "collective voice of Muslim Ummah"

OIC was founded in 1969 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia after the arson attack of Masjid Al-Aqsa.

Objectives of OIC and its Critical Aspect :-

Following are the objectives of OIC and the the critical analysis of its success criteria :-

- 1:

To Enhance and consolidate the Bonds OF FRATERNITY and BROTHERHOOD

Critical Aspect :- OIC could not realize this objective due to internal rifts among member countries.

2: To safeguard the common interest of member states

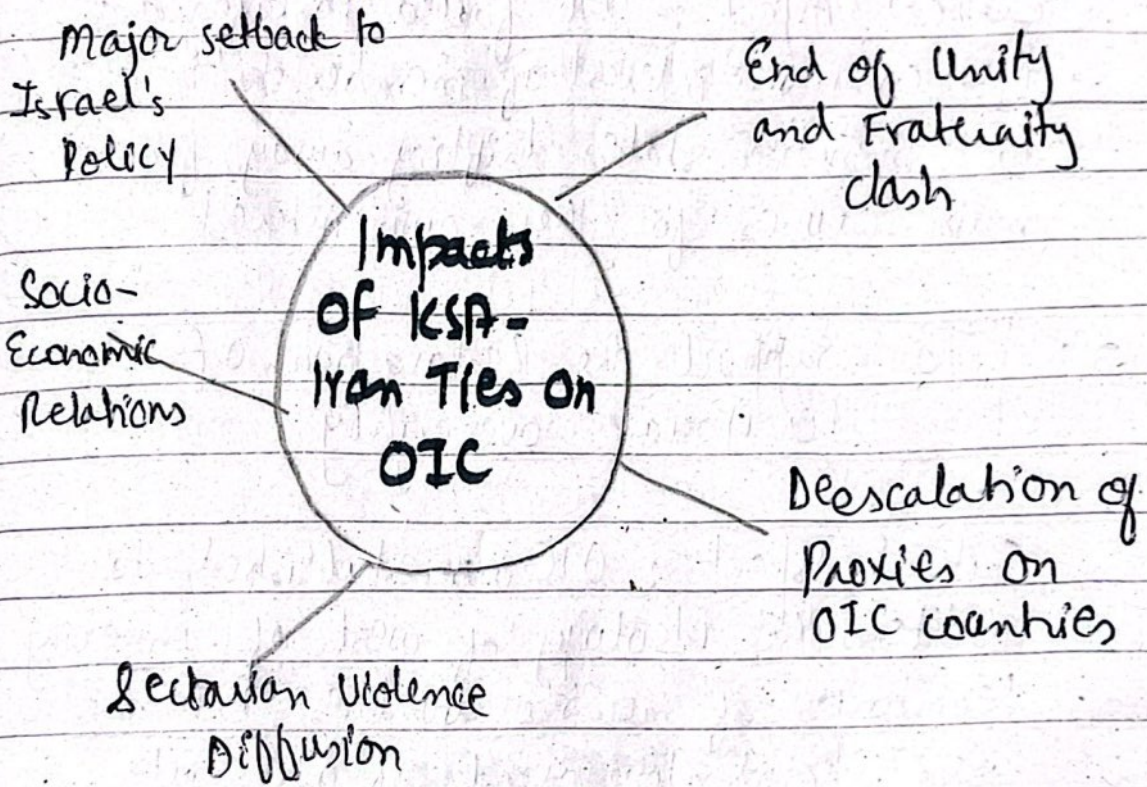
Critical Aspect : OIC failed to safeguard the common interest of member states due to member states drifting away from main causes for their own interest.

3: To support the restoration of Territorial sovereignty

Critical Aspect : OIC was established to counter the ideology of west of annexing territories of member countries. Palestine was stand alone agenda of OIC but member countries slowly drifted away from from it. For example, Abraham Accords of 2020 where UAE, Bahrain and Morocco normalized ties with Israel and current Saudi Arab of accepting Israel is a major blow to the objective of OIC restoring the territorial sovereignty of its member states.

Possible Implications of KSA -

Iran Rapprochement on OIC :-



(1) End of Unity and Fraternity Clash :-

There is always a geopolitical and geo-strategic clash between Saudi Arab and Iran which never let OIC to fulfill its potential of unity. Thus, if KSA and Iran starts to work on clashes, there would be end of unity clash among member countries.

(2) Descalation of Proxies on OIC Countries :-

Iran - KSA normalization of ties has already deescalated the proxy war on various OIC countries such as Yemen, Syria, Lebanon etc.

(3) Sectarian Violence Diffusion :-

Both the countries have exploited sectarian ideologies to pursue geo-political interest and supported sectarian hate literature.

The rapprochement would help diffuse sectarian violence to create unity among member countries

(4) Restoration of Socio-economic Relations :-

KSA - Iran rapprochement would help to engage member countries in restoring socio-economic relations and engage in trade.

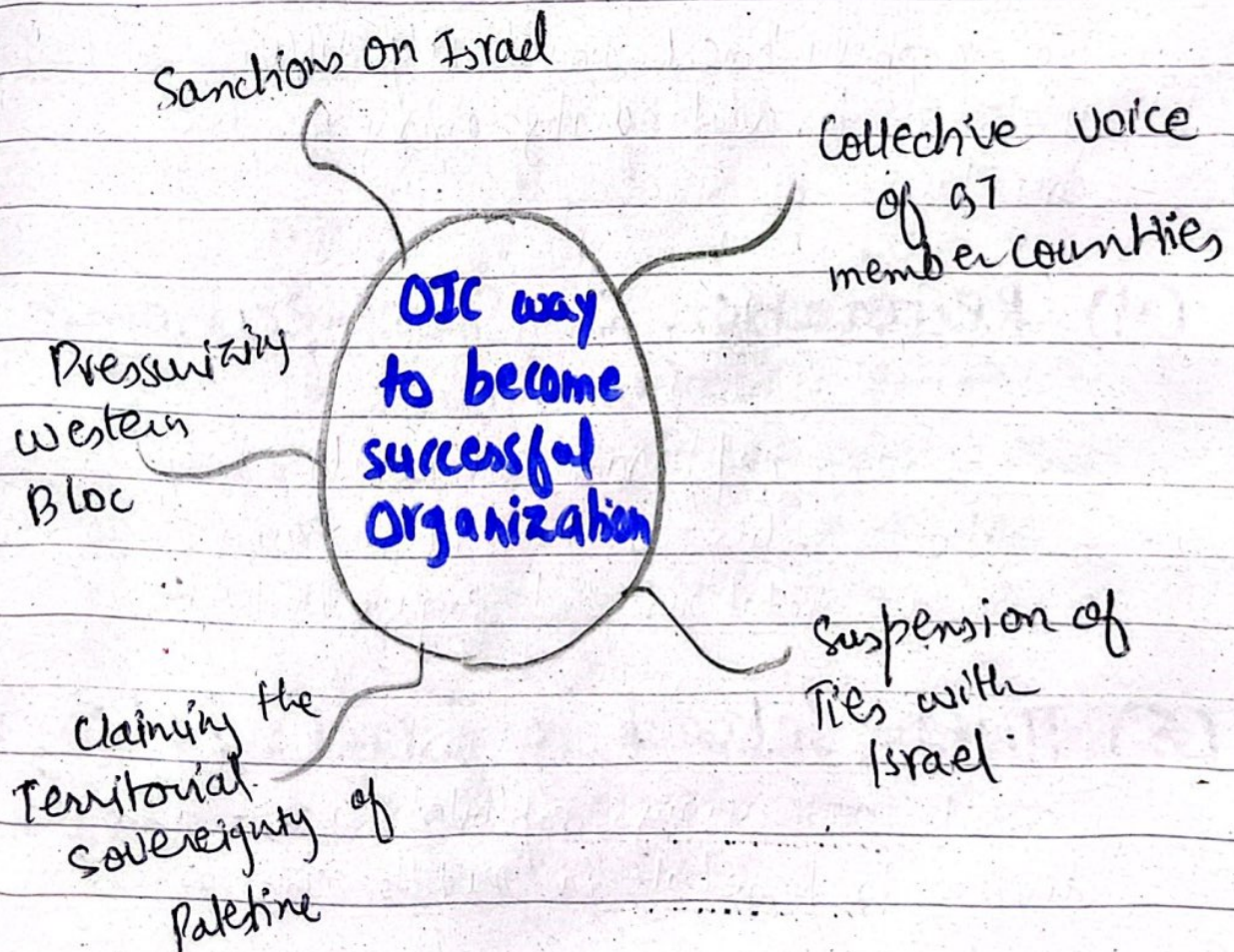
(5) Major Setback to Israel's Policy :-

Israel has always exploited Saudi - Iran divide to penetrate in middle East which

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did not let OIC to be united and hold Israel accountable for its war and genocidal claims and crimes in Palestine. Rapprochement would help to claim back the territorial sovereignty of member countries.

Potential Opportunity of OIC to Emerge as Successful Organization

Amid Hamas - Israel war :-



On the wake of Hamas - Israel war where already 30,000 people have been killed with 70% of them being children and women as documented by 'Al-Jazeera', OIC can emerge as a successful organization. OIC must take following several steps to emerge as a leading Muslim bloc :-

(1) Collective Voice of 57-member Countries Against Genocide :-

Along with rapprochement of KSA and Iran, OIC can emerge as successful bloc on the wake of Hamas - Israel war. OIC and its 57-member states should unanimously condemn the genocide of Israel and let the west know about active functioning of OIC as a Muslim bloc.

(2) Suspension of Ties with Israel :-

OIC can pose a serious threat to Israel with all its 57 member countries along with those who already have normalized ties by suspending all socio-economic and diplomatic ties with

Israel.

(3) Sanctions of OIC countries On Israel :-

Just like USA had put sanctions on Iran and Russia for war crimes and terrorism, OIC should also take an initiative to shut down all economic ties with Israel. This way OIC can hit the economy of Israel just as USA hit the economies of Iran and Russia followed by European Union (EU).

(4) Pressurizing the Western Bloc :

If all member countries unite to take action against Israel, all western countries including USA and Europe would be under intense pressure to remove their backing from war.

(5) Claiming The Territorial Sovereignty of Palestine :-

OIC was established with the stand alone

agenda of restoring the territorial sovereignty of Palestine. OIC must adhere to its objective to claim the territories back and let the world know about the real objective for which OIC was established.

Conclusion :-

OIC, an intergovernmental muslim bloc, has remained dormant for many years except for formally condemning any unforeseen event. There were many hurdles to realize the potential of OIC including strain ties of Iran-USA, disunity among member countries and geo-economic interest. However, the normalization of ties between USA-Iran and Israel-Hamas war have increased the potential scope of OIC. Therefore, it is chance for OIC to emerge as a successful organization and realize its essence and true potential.

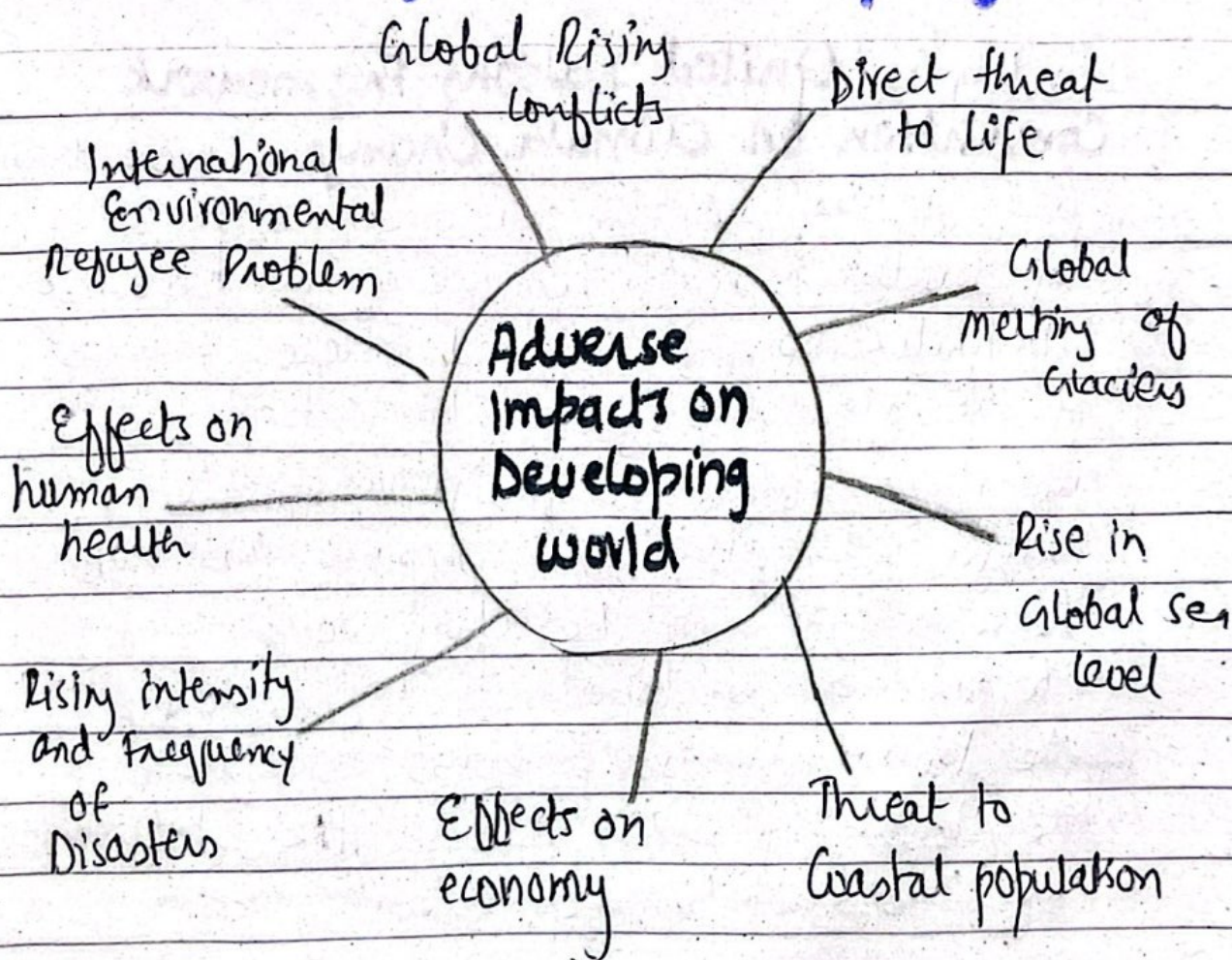
Question no. 6

Introduction :-

Climate change is a global problem and abnormal rise in heat temperature has endangered the world habitate. The pertinent reason of adverse climate effects is more and more carbon emissions. However, the more role of instigating climate change has been placed on the developed world but impacts have drastically affected the developing world. Loss and Damages Fund was, therefore, called upon in COP 27 and finally established on first day of COP 28 in Dubai, UAE. Pakistan was forerunner to demand the establishment of Loss and Damages Fund to place the responsibility of climate change on the developed world.

Adverse Impacts of Climate

Change on Developing world :-



The Stance of Developing World on Climate Change :-

According to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, more than 67% of the overall emission till date is by developed world because of the process of industrialization in USA and Europe occurred in the later half of the 19th century. They are responsible for instigating climate change and all drastic impacts that have been analyzed in developing world is because of developed world. Therefore, the developed world must compensate the developing world through the establishment of "Loss and Damages Fund".

COP 27 and the Establishment

Of Loss & Damage Fund :-

(1) More than 50 affected countries who were victims of climate change persistently protested for increasing and diversifying funds allocation. They asked for funds by major emitters to help the worst affected to deal with the crisis they are faced with because of climate change.

(2) The two important problems of climate change they are faced with are :

Floods Resulting in Devastation	Droughts Resulting in Famine
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(3) These climate hit countries must get immediate help because these countries are facing devastation for their own faults but by the more carbon emission by major emitters.

(4) As a result of this, **Loss & Damage Fund**

was established. But the criteria of the disbursement of the fund was not decided.

COP 28 and the Establishment OF Loss and Damage Fund :-

(1) COP 28 : The Anticipated COP :-

The COP 28 which kicked off on 28 November 2023 was one of the most anticipated Cops.

Firstly for being held in UAE - one of world's largest oil producer country and secondly for great expectations being hung upon the COP to pave a way for a resilient preparedness to combat climate crisis.

(2) Establishment of Loss and Damage Fund :-

Key feature of COP28 included the landmark kickstart of COP28 in Dubai, UAE, as on the very first day, there was a development of Loss and Damage Fund which was a key agenda set for COP28.

Delegates agreed to formally establish a loss and damage fund to support especially vulnerable countries dealing with the effects of climate change. Countries which have been facing the brunt of devastating floods, drought and sea-level rise.

(3) Contribution of Countries to Loss and Damage Fund :-

The goal set for loss and Damage fund was \$ 100 billion which actually stood at \$ 71M with UAE being the highest contributor of about \$100 million to the fund.

UAE	=	\$100 m
Germany	=	\$ 100 m
European Union	=	\$ 245.39 m
Britain	=	\$ 51 m
USA	=	\$ 17.5 m
Japan	=	\$ 10 m

Source: Reuters

Benefits For Pakistan From Loss and Damage Fund :-

Pakistan is one of the worst affectedes of climate change facing with adverse impacts of climate change.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said that Pakistan is worst affectede of climate change not because of its own faults but because of developed world.

Pakistan secured a position on the board of the Loss and Damage Fund demonstrating its commitment to address the impacts of climate change.

(1) Transformation in the Energy Sector

Pakistan could benefit from the loss and damage fund to transform the energy sector of Pakistan to keep the country stable and secure in longer run.

(2) Resilient Infrastructure :-

Pakistan has witnessed the rising intensity and frequency of disasters which have caused Pakistan the loss of \$30 billion as reported by **WORLD BANK** in 2022 floods. Therefore, the fund of loss and damage could be utilize to build the resilient infrastructure which can bear the changing environment and disasters.

(3) Improving the Disaster Management

Pakistan could not save itself from the wrath of 2022 floods as the disaster management system collapsed. Therefore, the fund can be used to strengthen the disaster management and get the means of transportation like tents, helicopters, cranes ready.

(4) Compensate the Economic Loss :-

Pakistan faced adverse impacts on its economy due to climate crisis and specifically the agricultural sector of Pakistan suffered with wheat crisis experienced in 2021

Therefore, Pakistan can invest to newamp its economy and revive the agricultural sector of Pakistan.

Conclusion:-

Climate change is a global problem and developing world must shoulder its responsibility to compensate the loss bear by the developed world. Loss and Damage Fund was, thus, established in COP28 which hailed COP28 as a success. Pakistan is among worst affectedes of climate crisis and Pakistan should get its due share in compensation for the losses and damages being faced by Pakistan due to climate change by major emitters. Therefore, Loss and Damages Fund is essential for countries like Pakistan to face the climate crisis.