

Question no: 08

I INTRODUCTION

Political stability is key for the socio-economic progress of a country. But, in Pakistan there is political unrest and instability which has drag the country to socio-economic problems. Political instability has halted the foreign direct investment, boosted the negative business confidence and affected the growth in economic sector. This has impacted the social life by posing threats like inflation, poverty unemployment and to name a few! However, still we have the opportunity to create a conducive environment by having fair and free elections, a national dialogue, restricting the interim government for crossing its limit and by creating a democratic legislative Parliament.

II. Political Instability and its concept

Political instability is harmful for the economic performance of a country. According to **World Bank**,

"The collapse of a government either because of conflict or competition between various political parties and also there is subsequent changes of government in short time"

III. Pakistan's current instability, polarization

Although Pakistan has a history of political instability and no prime minister has completed his tenure, the recent instability occurred after the ousting of former prime minister Imran Khan

in April 2022, and then we saw political unrest during the government of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), a coalition of multiple parties. Although Pakistan was already in economic crisis, it further leads the country to socio-economic crisis.

IV. How Political instability leads to socio-economic crisis

-1 Foreign Direct Investment is halted under Political instability

The investment from the foreign investors demands a conducive environment for business. However, due to political unrest; the investor find it difficult to invest in a country where it is struggling with its political stability.

According to State Bank of Pakistan

Pakistan received \$1.4 bn in FDI from ~~Jan~~ July 2022 to Jun 2023, which is \$480.8 million lower than previous fiscal year.

-ii Political instability a driving force behind negative business confidence

Business confidence is highly dependent on the political and economic environment. As Pakistan has experienced high volatile environment of political instability it has gained a negative business confidence. Basically business confidence indicator provides information about future development. According to Overseas Investment Chamber of Commerce, Pakistan business confidence drops to negative 4 after the political unrest, before it was positive 17.

iii Cabinet changes and their negative effects

Political instability lowers the predictability of government policies. As cabinet changes, it is harder for them to commit to aggressive plans for investment and

consumption. According to IMF a additional cabinet change a year reduces annual real GDP growth by two percentage points.

and according to Economic Survey of Pakistan 2022-23, the GDP growth for FY 2023 stands at 0.29%.

iv. Security challenges associated with instability can affect trade and commerce

Due to the political instability the volatile or extremists groups

poses a serious challenge to the security and it results in law break activity. According to **US Business Council report**, Pakistan-economy suffers directly or indirectly a loss of **\$35 bn** due to security challenges posed by extremist groups. If there exists political instability they will take more space.

V. Decrease in Remittances and exports

Due to political instability, the overseas national lose their confidence to send or invest money in their homeland country. According to **State of Pakistan Bank**, Pakistan remittances fell by **13.6%** in 2022-23 after the country saw political turmoil. Moreover, there has been decrease in exports, since this political turmoil. The country has missed her exports targets by nearly

84 bn in the fiscal year 2022-23.

V. Impacts on Social life

i. High inflation

Due to these political instabilities and economic turmoil, Pakistan saw its all time high inflation of about **37.97%** in May of 2023. This halted the purchasing power of local people.

ii. Unemployment

The unemployed rate has also increased due to the economic crisis precipitated by political instability. Pakistan unemployment rate stood at **8%** in January 2024 (IMF).

iii. Increase in Poverty rate

Poverty has also increased during this political turmoil. According to the **Friedrich Naumann Foundation**, Poverty rate has gone upto **39.4%** in 2022-23 with over 12.5 million

people falling below poverty line.

VI - Measures to achieve Political Stability

i - Free and fair elections need of the hour

To ensure political stability, free and fair elections are necessary. This can navigate the instability and new government should ensure that it frames the policies which are beneficial for the country.

ii - After free and fair elections it must be ensured that government and opposition parties have good working relationship.

A good relationship between the

Political parties and the ruling government is necessary. They should play a constructive role in the parliament and serve for the interest of country.

iii- Need of a national dialogue ~ including institutions, stakeholders, establishment, judiciary

There is certainly a need of national dialogic to look at the factors which hamper economic growth, factors which stop the institutions from performing and a strong governance model is the need of the hour. This can be done by including all the political stakeholders, judiciary, establishment and the national institutions.

-iv To avoid conflicts among parties increase the criteria of forming a

a political party

We have seen ^{how} ~~new~~ ^{new} and ~~new~~ ^{new} political parties ^{are} emerging. To counter this and to avoid conflicts and political crisis, increase the number of people criteria to form a political party. Let's say increase the registered members to about 30,000 for forming a political party.

v- Eliminate interim government practices

Interim government somehow make policies which are not meant to be devised by them. For example, interim prime minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar called all the stakeholder to devise economy policies which is not their right. The right is of the democratic political parties. So in order to avoid these, Pakistan should eliminate interim government practices.

vi - Making a Democratic Legislative Parliament

The term and family limits for parliamentarians must be introduced. There should be a more democratic culture rather than a kingship culture. There should be limits on number of terms and family limits to be a part of parliament.

VII Conclusion

Political stability is key for ensuring socio-economic progress. Both are inter-connected and if there is political stability there will be socio-economic progress. Political stability can be achieved by fair and free elections, dialogue between all the political stakeholders and institutions, reflecting the interim government for making policies and making a democratic legislative parliament.

Question no: 05

I. INTRODUCTION

BRICS, an acronym of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa and along with its five new members is shaping the future of International Relations. It is enhancing cooperation in the field of economy, political and social domains. It possesses all the factors which is needed by an organization to be successful. These include: cooperation, partnerships, expansion, equality, equity and diversification to name a few.

Although the organization is facing some hurdles, still it has a bright future. BRICS can control the world's energy, can change the geo-political world order, can influence the western institutions, and can also move the world towards de-dollarization.

II. Factors needed for an organization to become a success story - BRICS have these factors

1. Cooperation in multiple fields
The success of organization depends on cooperation in multiple fields like social, economic, culture and political. BRICS with its expansion have all these indicators. Each member of BRICS contributes and collaborate in multiple fields and in diverse ways.

For example, Brazil a leader in agriculture, Russia a major energy exporter, India a fast growing market of information technology, China with world's second largest economy - and to name a few all cooperate in multiple fields to ensure diversification and collaboration.

ii. Enhanced Partnerships

The success of an organization depends upon enhancement of partnership with other regional groups as well. BRICS has also done that. It has enhanced partnership with **ASEAN, African Union, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** and to name a few.

iii. An organization is successful if other wants to join it too.

The success of organization depends on how the non-members see it and whether they are willing to join it or not. In case of BRICS, most of the countries want to join it like **Turkey, Nigeria, Mexico, Indonesia, Malaysia**, and to name a few have showed interest in joining it.

-iv Success of an organization depends upon its resources

Any organization can be successful if it has the necessary resource potential. **BRICS** certainly have the resource potential and have the capacity to fund projects through its New Development Bank (NDB).

v- Success of organization depends upon equal distribution of power

An organization is successful if it has the capacity to share power equally. Certainly **BRICS** have the capacity. Its aim is to provide a multipolar world order where all the member countries have equal distribution of power and also equal rights and opportunities

vii Success of an organization depends on diversification of regions, culture and political system

BRICS with its expansion has more diverse region, political system and culture. It has democratic as well as authoritarian political systems along with different cultures, regions and to name a few. Success depends on the diversification and BRICS have been able to achieve that.

III. Hurdles Faced by BRICS

1. India-US Strategic Partnership

India and USA are engaging more and more with each other in terms of political and economic cooperation. USA is signing multiple

economic deals with India in terms of defence, trade, ^{and} technology and to name a few. Moreover, China being part of BRICS, can also cause USA to exert its influence on China through India. India might find it difficult to engage with China more openly and more freely. This can hamper the policies and strategies of BRICS.

-ii China-India Tussle

There is a strong rivalry between China and India. Both have confronted each other at a number of occasions. Decision making will be tougher and it will be interesting to see how both of these countries go along with each other.

-iii New Development ~~Bank~~ Bank (NDB) faces tough challenges

NDB will have to face tough challenges as it is a complex geopolitical environment. Moreover due to the economic turmoil worldwide it is also facing potential challenges for funding. But with expansion and inclusion of new members it can be curbed.

iv. Absence of structure of constraints and limitations

BRICS conduct discussion without depending upon any formal structure. BRICS holds its discussions in annual summit only and only on the will of its members.

v. Not Clarified expansion strategy
According to Interlink and Monetary

First, 40 members have showed interests in joining BRICS but criteria for expansion hasn't been set. Whether this would be consensus based or solely by choice of few member - this would be a challenge for BRICS.

Despite this hurdle, BRICS have a brighter future

IV- Why BRICS has a bright future

i- A New order of multipolarity would ensure equal distribution of power rather than a hegemonic power

BRICS has certainly a bright future because it has created a system of multipolarity and given the world a new

world order. This would mean the
decisions of the world would be
evenly distributed and world will
no longer be dependent on single
hegemonic power like the USA.
It will certainly be a voice
for the global South.

ii- BRICS can counter the
western financial institutions

With the failure of western financial
institutions like IMF and World Bank,
As they are labelled by the third
world "too risky to invest" BRICS
would strongly counter these financial
institutions with creation of new institutions
like the New Development Bank
whose aim is to fund the projects
in developing countries.

-iii BRICS can also influence
the mechanism of western
donors

With its expansion, BRICS can also strongly influence the donor institutions like World Bank and IMF.

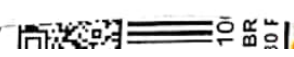
According to Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, after expansion

BRICS share of quota will be 15% of total share of IMF, and also it will represent total of 14% votes of World Bank.

-iv BRICS can control oil and gas supply of energy markets

With the inclusion of Saudi Arabia and Iran and UAE, BRICS can control the world's energy markets. As there is of energy and socio-economic progress is highly dependent on energy,

BRICS being a contributor of 42% of global oil supply (IMF) will definitely control the world energy markets.



v. Largest contributor to world's economy - will surely be a voice of Global South countries

BRICS will certainly be a voice for the global south countries.

According to IMF projection data tillth end of 2024, BRICS will

contribute **8566** billion to world's economy which will be highest than any other alliance. More BRICS also represent **42%** of world's population. It will benefit the development of Global South.

vi. Dependence on US Dollar by the world may reduce drastically

BRICS has initiated the cross-border inter bank payment system. In this system the ~~country~~ countries will trade through local currency. As

BRICS represent world's 42% of total population (IMF), we might see countries dependence on USA dollar reduce drastically. It's influence would be all over the world and we might see BRICS emerging as the influential organization.

Conclusion:

In short, BRICS has all the necessary elements which make its future brighter. Despite of some hurdles, it can surely change the complex of the world by pursuing a multipolar world order, controlling world's energy, controlling and influencing major western institutions, and may move the world towards de-dollarization.

Question - 04

INTRODUCTION

Israel and Hamas have been fighting a war since October 7, 2024. The war began when Hamas led Palestinian group launched attack on Israel and Israeli retaliated with some brutal force killing thousands of Palestinians.

This war has the chances of expansion especially the rising tensions between the Iran backed Hezbollah and also the backing of USA can escalate tensions between Middle East and USA. This would impact the global politics as well especially the stoppage of normalization between KSA and Israel, China and Russia being the major beneficiary exposing hypocrisy of USA after it vetoed the UN resolution.

II - Chances of expansion of Israel-Hamas war into the whole region

i - War could expand North ~
Israel Hezbollah tussle

After the attack of Israel on Hamas, the Iran backed Hezbollah has exchanged fire with Israel.

And moreover Israel has struck Syrian military targets and airports.

This is a serious concern. If more and more lives are exchanged the war could expand to the North.

ii - War could expand to the South as well ~ Yemen Houthi Rebels and Israel tussle.

Similarly Israel and Houthi Rebels have also exchanged fires. Houthi rebels have launched

dozens of missiles at Israel and in return Israel has also launched rockets on the Yemen Houthi rebels. This is a sign that war could expand to the South

iii - Egypt fears that Houthi fighters could enter Egypt and trigger a new war in Sinai

Millions of Palestinians have been displaced from their homes and have been asked to either go to Egypt and Jordan. Egypt's former foreign minister has said there are chances that Houthi fighters could enter Egypt and launch a war on Israel through its Sinai Peninsula.

This would further destabilize the region as Israel would also retaliate.

iv USA backing Israel may spread this conflict worldwide

USA has been the major supporter of Israel. Recently Joe-Biden has approved \$14.7bn military aid for Israel and also Pentagon have sent its two potent missile defence system to the Middle East. According to Wall Street Journal report, USA has given Israel a range of munitions, bombs, artillery shells. This report has also said that blockade attack on Gaza Strip has involved use of big US-made bombs. This can spread the conflict worldwide.

a. could be an indirect war of Iran and USA

This support of USA may trigger Iran to indirectly increase attack on

Israel and the US officials but Iran has denied these that they are backing Hezbollah or Hamas. Moreover there has also been attacks against US troops in the Mediterranean sea. And if the situation worsen there could a direct confrontation between Iran and USA.

III How the Hamas-Israel war impact global power politics

i - Saudi Arabia normalization of relations with Israel seems less likely

The Saudi Arabia and Israel normalization prospects seemed less likely due to the concerns about the Palestinian rights.

On October 14 Saudi Arabia suspended talks on possible

normalization (Al Jazeera) They have
told Washington that they have
frozen Normalization talks. So
there is a delay in talks and only
time will tell.

-ii USA opportunity to push back
China's rising power in the
Middle East has been halted.

Due to the pause in Saudi-
Israel normalization, USA opportunity
to push back China in the
Middle East has been halted.

China along with KSA has strongly
condemned the war and has
labelled USA responsible for this
war.

iii Strained relations between
Israel - Egypt and Jordan

Due to the war, the relations
between Egypt^{and} Israel and
Israel and Jordan has been

deteriorated. Jordan has termed this as war-crime while Egypt President has called it collective punishment.

Moreover both Egypt and Jordan have withdrawn diplomatic staff from both Amman and Cairo. Moreover with influx of refugees and potential wider security concerns Egypt may find it difficult to counter the influx of refugees.

iv- Advantage to China to expose the hypocrisy of USA

China may gain sympathy of the Global South against the US hegemony. Moreover USA vetoed Gaza's resolution has exposed the hypocrisy of USA and China may get benefit of that because the Middle Eastern countries are strongly dejected by USA's veto.

This will provide China the opportunity to spread its influence in the middle east and global south through its economic projects and diplomacy.

-v Russia's advantage: shifting of attention from its war in Ukraine

Due to this war, the world has turned its focus from the Ukraine war War in Gaza has made Ukraine a local European conflict. Ukraine's survival depends on the International community support. Moreover Russia's gravity ties with Iran also poses threats to USA. Putin wants USA to spend all of time, energy and military and economic might in Middle East so that world ^{can} refrain from Ukraine invasion to war in Gaza.

Conclusion:

In short, the Hamas-Israel war have chances of expanding especially in the North and South of the war region due to escalating tensions between Hamas Rebels, Hezbollah fighters and the Israeli military. Moreover with USA involving in it and Iran being supporter of Hamas can also escalate the war further. Moreover, it will also impact the global politics especially giving more advantage to China and Russia along with strained relations between Middle Eastern neighbour countries.

Question no: 07

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan foreign policy is facing serious challenges regarding the rising tensions with neighbours and slowing down of CPEC. This has resulted in Pakistan's being facing severe socio-economic crisis. The security threats from TTP, Indian abrogation of article 370, rising tensions with Iran and slowing down of CPEC should Pakistan's policy failure. However by pursuing an active diplomacy, Pakistan can overcome these hurdles.

II. Increasing tensions with neighbours - hurdles in the foreign policy of Pakistan

i- Afghanistan - threats from TTP

With Afghanistan, there have been tensions regarding the security of the country. Tehreek-e-Taliban

Pakistan (TTP) is attacking Pakistan using Afghanistan land and according to Pakistan former interior minister

there has been increase in attacks from the TTP about 67% from the previous year. and according

to Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS),

there have been 664 attacks in the country of varying nature.

These attacks have increased since the ~~Afghanistan~~ Afghan Taliban take-over of Afghanistan.

Pakistan's reaction

a- Sending back illegal migrants to

Afghanistan

Pakistan ordered to send back

1.5 million illegal migrants

back to their home country.

Pakistan ex interior minister said

there have been reports of illegal
immigrant being involved in ^{violat} attacks

-ii India - Indian Supreme
court verdict on abrogation of
article 370

The Indian Supreme court
upheld the abrogation of
Article 370. This posed a
serious threat to the sovereignty
and autonomy of Kashmir.

Article 370 granted special
status to State of Kashmir
allowing it to have own
constitution and autonomy.

Pakistan has always supported
the cause of Kashmir and
has always fought for the

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people of Kashmir.

a. Pakistan's reaction

The caretaker Foreign Minister said "International Law doesn't recognise India's unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019. Kashmiris have right to self determination in accordance with UNSC resolutions."

This abrogation of article 370 also poses a significant challenge to the Pakistan's foreign Policy objective.

- iii) Rising tensions with Iran

In the mid of January 2024, Iran conducted missile and drone strikes in Pakistan's Balochistan province. Tehran said they targeted Jaish al-Adl a Sunni Muslim armed group

9. Pakistan's reaction

i. Retaliation

Pakistan retaliated by striking hideouts of armed group in a series of attacks a day after Iran struck Pakistan.

Moreover, Pakistan

~~Pakistan's reaction~~

also recalled its envoy in Tehran and also departed Iran's Ambassador.

This was a serious setback to the Pakistan's sovereignty and posed a significant challenge to the foreign policy of Pakistan. Although after few days tensions were eased but still it ~~is~~ denied Pakistan's hope of achieving foreign policy objective as its sovereignty was taken a major blow.