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CURRENT AFFAIRS.

QNo3. OIC remained predominantly....?

• INTRODUCTION:

In November, 2023 a joint summit of OIC and Arab league took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The agenda of the summit was to discuss the Israeli aggression in Gaza Strip. The Furthermore, the summit called for ~~cease~~ ceasefire in Gaza Strip. By looking at the history of OIC, we can see that the organization has predominantly failed in achieving its objectives due to internal rift of member states.

But the summit of OIC in response to Israel Hamas <sup>and rapprochement of Iran KSA</sup> was "has created the possibility that the organization is a true representative of muslim Ummah. It can achieve its objectives, if all leaders keep aside their internal rift and work for betterment of muslim Ummah.

• ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION:

The OIC was created in 1979 to protect the in the backdrop of arson of Al-Aqsa mosque. Its charter was adopted in 1972. It has the honour to galvanize 1.5 billion muslims. It has 57 member



states. Its purpose is to promote human rights, fundamental freedom and democracy and good governance in all member states.

## • REASONS FOR FAILURE OF OIC:

OIC has failed due to the internal rift of the member. It has failed due following reasons:-

### 1. Internal Rift of member states:

There is a clash of two ideologies in the middle east. One of them is the Wahabism and another is Shiite school of thought. Both ideologies are promoted by Saudi and Iran, respectively. Both states have their own rift after 1979 when the Iranian Revolution took place. Secondly Iran has rift with Bahrain and Syria. Saudi had rift with Qatar and Yemen. If we can quote the famous quotation of Thomas Hobbes

"war of all against all"

It would be very apt to explain the situation of member states of middle east, where there is war of many states and non state actors.



### a. Lack of Conflict Resolution:

There are multiple state and non state actors in middle east, who are involved in conflict. Secondly some foreign countries have vested interests in middle east and they are fueling the fire in middle east by sponsoring proxies and weapons and weapons to non state actors.

### 3. Unprecedented influence of US on member states:

United states, the leader of global north is ~~has~~ interested in middle east due to two reasons i.e presence of huge reserves of fossil fuels and suz canal. It controls the policies of OPEC by its ally i.e Saudia. The influence on US on the member states of OIC has created a sense of chaos in middle east.

## • ISRAEL HAMAS WAR AND IRAN-KSA RAPPROACHMENT CAN PROVIDE AN OPPURTUNITY FOR OIC:

### o ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR.

Hamas is a non state actor, a proxy force which is funded by Iran. Its purpose is to get independent Gaza it



is working to counter the influence of Israel on Gaza Strip

#### • OPERATION AL AQSA FLOOD:

In October, 2023, the Hamas posed an ~~an~~ ~~was~~ attack on the Israel. It used aerial, ground and sea routes to wage the attack. The attack resulted in a number of Israeli citizens death. Secondly, the Hamas militants brought hundreds of Israelis as captives of war.

#### • THE RESPONSE OF ISRAEL:

The Israel state in response of attack declared an all out war on the Gaza strip. It besieged the Gaza strip. It bombarded the citizens and infrastructure of Gaza. It also targeted the refugee camps, which resulted in a number of casualties. The borders to Gaza were controlled by the IDF which resulted in shortage of food, fuel, medical supplies and other things to Gaza strip.

#### • THE ACTION OF OIC:

OIC called a joint summit with Arab League. All representatives of member states met and a resolution which called for ceasefire was launched.

The member states of OIC have different stance about the state of



Israel. Some member states, including Egypt, Bahrain, UAE, Morocco etc have recognized the state of Israel. While some Muslim states do not recognize it as a sovereign state. Like for example Pakistan is a member of OIC but it does not recognize Israel. The Muslim member states of OIC are divided upon the status of Israel. So until and unless Muslim states do not address their internal differences about Israel. So until then, they can not succeed in resolving the issue of Hamas and Israel.

## IRAN - KSA RAPPROACHMENT:

- Role of China in resolving conflict of both states:

China has geopolitical and geoeconomic interests in the Middle East. So it tried to bring peace in the Middle East. As both Saudi and Iran had internal rifts and they were funding proxy forces and non-state actors, so conditions were hostile in the Middle East. But due to the efforts of China, the Saudi and Iran have set aside their differences and signed an accord to resolve their conflict.



## IMPACT OF RAPPROACHMENT ON OIC:

After the conflict of the Iran and Saudi was resolved, the Yemen was allowed to attend the summit of OIC after many years. So this can be seen as a direct impact of their conflict resolution on OIC.

Secondly, as these two states had internal rifts and due to which the member states of OIC were divided in 2 blocs. So when both states will resolve their issues, it ~~to~~ may be a sign for the resolve of 2 blocs within OIC.

↳ The rapprochement can further lead to reduction of the influence of proxies and non-state actors in the middle east. But as long as the issue of Israel is present, the Iran can not completely ~~resolve~~ stop the funding of its proxies i.e. Hamas and Houthis in Gaza and Yemen.

This can be a point of concern for Saudi.

The results of both the Saudi-Iran rapprochement and Israel-Hamas war can provide a new opportunity for OIC to become effective. But first of all, the Muslim states need to set aside their differences. They need to bring their house in order, so that their voice can be heard.



QNO: How do you see Pak-Afghan relations in wake of repeated attacks by TTP and ISKP in Pakistan using Afghan land against Pakistan and in return Islamabad decided to pull out Afghan refugees?

### INTRODUCTION:

The bilateral relations of Pakistan and Afghanistan have been facing ups and downs <sup>due to</sup> after the repeated terror attacks by TTP and ISKP, by using Afghan soil. The impact of deteriorating relations can be witnessed due to the <sup>recent</sup> closure of trade activities at Torgham border, increased border crossing restriction and repatriation of Afghan Refugees from Pakistan. In January 2024, a delegate from Pakistan met with Afghan counterpart in Kabul Palace to resolve the issues which are affecting the relations between both states.

## REASONS OF TENSION IN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN BILATERAL RELATIONS

- Pakistan and Afghanistan are both muslim majority countries. They even have individuals with same ethnicity



i.e. Pashtuns. Thus Afghanistan has been a centre of great game of world powers, which led to creation of instability in Afghanistan. Pakistan is a neighbour of Afghanistan and share about 2100 km long border. The instability in Afghanistan have domino effect on the stability of Pakistan.

### • REPEATED TERROR ATTACKS OF TTP AND ISKP IN PAKISTAN:

The Tehreek Taliban Pakistan and Islamic state of Khorasan Province are two militant organizations who are working from Afghanistan soil.

• The Ambassador of Pakistan, Munir Akram at UNSC, have recently given statements regarding the working of TTP in from Afghanistan soil against Pakistan.

• Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies: have reported that in 2023 about 20 suicide attacks took place in Pakistan. They are recorded as highest number of attacks in last 9 years.

• Taliban Regime has failed to fulfill its promise of not allowing its land to be used by militant groups.

After coming into power in 2021 the Taliban regime had vowed to not let its country to be used against



any other countries. But unfortunately its soil has become a breeding ground for non state actors working against Pakistan. This has upset Pakistan and Islamabad has repeatedly asked the Kabul to look into this ~~mea~~ problem and take strict action.

### Repatriation of Afghan Refugees by Islamabad:

Pakistan is a developing country which hosts about 2.7 million documented refugees. (source: UNHCR). Pakistan has been facing some economic challenges in last few years. To aggravate the situation, the resurgence of terror attacks have caused further problems. According to reports by law ~~me~~ enforcing agencies, the undocumented <sup>Afghan</sup> refugees are involved in a number of illegal activities. They are involved in hoarding, smuggling of goods, smuggling of dollars, sheet crimes and terror activities. They are damaging peace and order of Pakistan. So in October the Islamabad ~~at~~ created a policy for repatriation of undocumented Afghan Refugees.

### • Concerns of Kabul Regarding Repatriation of Refugees:

The ~~Af~~ Kabul authorities expressed concern over the removal of the



Afghan refugees from Pakistan. They asked Islamabad to ~~show~~ reconsider their decision.

## ISLAMABAD GAVE VALID REASONS FOR REPARATION.

Islamabad gave valid reasons for repatriating the refugees. A report published by UN Committee on Anti state activities highlighted that some of Afghan refugees were in link with non state actors of Afghanistan. They ~~were~~ <sup>may be</sup> involved in facilitating the terror attacks.

## CRITICAL ANALYSIS:

Although the relations of Pakistan and Afghanistan are not in very good condition due to repeated terror attacks of ISKP and TTP and repatriation of Afghan Refugees. But the Islamabad and Kabul are trying to resolve their issues. Islamabad had sent a delegation to Kabul to try to address the issues and remove any misconceptions. The attempt of the ~~Pakistan~~ Islamabad to increase the border security, visa checking on borders ~~and~~ can help in reducing the ~~terror~~ terror attacks which are created in Pakistan. SCO - Shanghai Cooperation Organization can play an effective role in resolving



The tensions between Pak-Afghan relations. Pakistan and Afghanistan should work realistically to address the issue of non state actors and militant groups. Because Peace in Afghanistan is vital for Pakistan.

Q6. What is Losses and Damages concept...

### INTRODUCTION:

The COP-28 meeting successfully took place in Abu Dhabi. The meeting became the first meeting in which the term for phase out of fossil fuels was used. Secondly it achieved in materializing the concept of Losses and Damages fund, which was floated at COP 27 meeting in Sharm Al Sheikh, Egypt. This fund serves as a potential for the developing countries who have faced economic damage and infrastructure loss due to climate change related events.

## "LOSSES AND DAMAGES"

### A CONCEPT FLOATED IN COP-27

The COP is a series of meetings which are initiated by the UNFCCC - United Nations Framework Convention for Climate



Change. The purpose is the UNFCCC is to curb the impact of and control the climate change. Climate change has resulted in change in weather and rain patterns, contributed to melting of glaciers and resulted in floods. The COP-27 meeting had floated the idea of the arising the developing countries in the damages caused to them due to climate change related events. The framework for losses and damages funds was created but it wasn't made functional.

## COP-28 AND ITS COMMITMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- COP-28 took place in Abu Dhabi. It was attended by ~~m~~ heads of governments, states, non governmental organizations and advocacy groups. It took the global stockade of COP 21. It further renewed the activities and progress of previous meeting.



It's major commitments are following:-

### 1. TRANSITION FOR FOSSIL FUELS:

This meeting was the first time in history when the leaders had agreed and drafted a commitment to transition away from fossil fuels.

### 2. CLIMATE FINANCING:

It created a fund for the climate change related events. The fund will have about \$2 billion and affected countries will apply to it, so that they can obtain funds.

### 3. ADAPTATION FROM COAL ENGINE:

The French companies have created a new engine, which runs on a new technology. It does not run on the coal energy. The French company had vowed to transfer this technology to other countries.

### 4. FOCUS ON RENEWABLE AND NUCLEAR ENERGY:

The COP 28 meeting has made a pledge to transfer from fossil fuels to renewable energy in coming years. Secondly, it has said to use the nuclear energy in addressing the needs of energy.



## 5. FUNCTIONALIZATION OF LOSSES AND DAMAGES FUND - AN ACHIEVEMENT OF COP-28:

COP 28 had succeeded in functionalizing the concept of damages and losses fund which was given in COP-27. The World Bank will serve as a mediator. It will hold the fund, which would be then transferred to the developing countries, who have faced economic and infrastructure loss due to climate <sup>change</sup> related events.

## PAKISTAN CAN BENEFIT FROM THE LOSSES AND DAMAGE FUND.

### ◦ PAKISTAN FLOODS OF 2022:

Pakistan faced floods in 2022, which impacted approximately 2/3<sup>rd</sup> area of Pakistan. Pakistan faced ~~ec~~ loss of human lives, infrastructure, agriculture and economic losses. The floods put a strain on the economy of the developing country.

### ◦ ROLE OF PAKISTAN IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING IS NEGLIGIBLE:

Pakistan is an agro based economy, where



the use of fossil fuels is not very much. Our GDP is mostly dependent on agricultural and services related activities. But so the fossil fuel emissions from our country are about less than 1% in global emissions. But due to our geographic location, we are prone to receive massive damage from climate change induced adverse activities.

#### ◦ PAKISTAN CAN APPLY FOR THE DAMAGES AND LOSS FUNDS:

Pakistan is a developing country with lack of resources. It has faced severe weather events due to climate change in past decade. It is therefore eligible to apply for funds. The funds can be used for compensating the economic losses due to extreme weather related events.

#### ◦ OPTIMUM USE OF FUNDS SHOULD BE DONE TO CONTROL THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE RELATED EVENTS IN FUTURE

Islamabad needs to create effective policies regarding extreme weather events in future. The NDMA should be strengthened for dealing with such events in future. Secondly funds can be used to provide shelter for flood affecteds and to deal with infrastructure loss.



Pakistan is a country which is by default affected the most from climate change related events. It should make use of its diplomatic channels to highlight this issue, so that appropriate measures can be taken by developed countries of global norm to deal with the climate change related events in Pakistan.

Q7. What is "One China two System"?

#### INTRODUCTION:

Taiwan holds an important place in the policy making in Peoples Republic in China. Recently the results of elections in Taiwan had upset the Beijing, who wanted a conciliatory party to win the elections. But unfortunately Mr Lai had won elections. Secondly the increasing involvement of US with Taiwan is making China hurt and a reaction can be expected from China. Both China and US should act rationally and try to take calculated steps, so that the any sort of conflict can be avoided.

Peoples Republic of China's Taiwan Affairs put out a statement after outcome of Taiwan elections:

"Whatever change take place in the Taiwan, the basic fact that there is only one China in world and Taiwan is part of China will not change, the Chinese government position of upholding one China and opposing Taiwan



Independence, separatism, one China and one Taiwan will not change!!

## • ONE ~~SYSTEM~~ CHINA TWO SYSTEMS POLICY:

The China revolution took place in 1949, after which few members of Chinese government fled and settled in Taiwan. Taiwan is a small island, near China. China has a territorial claim on Taiwan and nearby neighbouring islands. Taiwan is of immense importance to both US and China. It is the largest manufacturer of semiconductors, which are the materials needed for a number of industries including telecom, electronic, automobiles etc. Taiwan has its own government, who can take its internal policy related decisions. But China has not allowed it to take strategic and foreign policy related decisions on its own. China says that it is one country and Taiwan is its part. But it has allowed Taiwan to have its own system of affairs. This is known as one ~~of~~ China - two system policy of China.



# US POLICY TOWARDS TAIWAN IS HURTING CHINA:

United states considers itself as the leader of the western Capitalistic liberal democracy. It intervenes in affairs of other countries, which it feels are under the influence of any other state. Taiwan is extremely important for US due to its industry of semiconductors. US would never want Taiwan to become a member of China, as it ~~would~~ may influence the availability of semiconductors to US.

In recent times, Washington is trying to develop relations with Taiwan. In 2020, the President Trump had done a defense deal with Taiwan. The visit of US speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan had infuriated the Beijing. Beijing was infuriated upon the visit of delegates of G7 countries to Taiwan after the results of elections were announced.

China considers it as a breach of its sovereignty. It does not approve of the growing US-Taiwan relations. The deployment of US navies near Taiwan have further made China more upset and concerned. China is a growing economy with a lot of industrial potential. It has need for semiconductors for fulfilling growing needs of its industries. So it can not afford to allow



The interference of US in Taiwan.

## POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF CHINA-TAIWAN ISSUE:

1. China can wage a war on ~~Ch~~ Taiwan.

China is a ~~sq~~ becoming an economic power of the world. It has a fast paced economy and fast growing GDP. It can not allow the interference of any foreign country in territories which it claims to be its territories. So China can wage a war on China in the way ~~Ukr~~ Russia had waged war on Georgia and Ukraine due to the western liberal democracy's influence on them.

2. China can annex Taiwan:

China is a super power and it can follow Russia in annexing Taiwan. It ~~has~~ can follow the way in which Russia had annexed Crimea due to ~~influence~~ interference of US in Ukraine.

3. ~~Impit~~ war can have negative impact on China and US - so both countries should refrain from it:

The China can face sanctions like the sanctions faced by ~~Ukr~~ Russia when it attacked Ukraine. It can impact the economic growth of China. Furthermore



both China and US are dependent on the Taiwan's semiconductor industry. In case of the war, their semiconductor supply can be disrupted so their economies can face difficulty.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

Following recommendations are suggested for avoiding any future conflict in US-China and Taiwan. The US should stop interfering in the matter of Taiwan because it is already involved in debt crises and supporting war in Ukraine and Israel. So if it starts a third war and funds it, it will be very difficult to manage it. Furthermore, the US is already having strained relations with an important country - Russia. So it can afford to deteriorate its relations with China.

Taiwan has immense importance for the industrial sector of US and China. The disruption in its supply can lead to a shortage of electrical, IT, ~~and~~ and other goods which are dependent upon it. So the important action China and US should both act rationally and by to avoid situation and actions which can lead to an escalation between Taiwan and China.