

Current Affairs

Test - I

Q # 3

Taiwan Crisis

Introduction

Taiwan which is formally called Formosa, is an island. It is located in East China Sea.

Before 1916 it was under the control of China. But after 1916 it was captured by Japan.

After World War II, Japan surrendered and Taiwan was returned to China after conclusion of

Portsmouth Declaration. After 1945, civil war got started in China between socialist and nationalist

groups. Socialist group was supported by Mao Zedong and

Nationalist group has the leader of Kai-shek. In 1949, the socialist group succeeded and established its government in China so, the People's Republic of China (PRC) was established.

The Nationalist group went to exile on Taiwan and declared their government in Taiwan.

They have the stance that nationalists are the true representative of China and they have the government in exile.

China's Stance on Taiwan

China considers Taiwan as integral part of it. China's claim is based on the history because 1895 it was under the jurisdiction of China. From 1895 to 1945, Japan has

territorial jurisdiction on Taiwan.

China claims its sovereignty over it (Taiwan). After 1980s, the China's policy toward Taiwan became lenient and gives its "One China Two systems policy." According to this system China would be sovereign in its domestic affairs but it would depend on mainland China for foreign affairs. Similar policies were put forward by China for Tibet, Sinkiang Province and Hong Kong.

Taiwan's reaction to this policy

Taiwan severely rejected the China's One China two systems policy. China's claims on the sovereignty of Taiwan was rejected by Taiwan.

Taiwan wants full sovereignty and independence in this regard.

After 1980s some governments of Taiwan kept normal relations with People's Republic of China, but after 2016 the elected government has harsh relations with Mainland China. The Prime Minister of Taiwan met with US president Donald Trump after 2016 and discuss their problems with US president.

US Stance on Taiwan

US as an ambassador of capitalist and liberal view point, supported Taiwan after world war II. The

following four crisis were encountered in the US China relations over Taiwan

1- Relations during 1952

In 1952 US recognized Taiwan (de-facto recognition) and

Taiwan was made member of United Nations ^(UN). Taiwan used to represent China in UN. The People's Republic of China have no representation in ~~China~~ UN. During 1957 US and China relations

In 1957, other 20 nations from North Atlantic Treaty (NATO) recognized Taiwan as sovereign state. China retaliated that the Chinese diplomatic relations will cut off with those nations who will recognize Taiwan.

1972 US-China relations

During 1972, USA made relations normalize with Iran.

USA President Nixon stated that they accepted China and decline the support for Taiwan. The Ping-Pong policy the USA and China came close to each other.

1987 - USA semi-conductor industry

After recognition of PRC and giving China seat in the UN the USA played an economic card. USA established the largest industry of semi-conductors in Taiwan and the whole world became dependent on Taiwan. This industry also offset the relations between USA and China as China made to import semi-conductors from Taiwan for its electronic industry needs.

Joint Military exercises of USA with Taiwan.

In 2021, both countries have joint exercises of military in Pacific ocean which infuriated China. Because it is considered as threat for USA.

USA Speaker's visit to Taiwan

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of USA Parliament visited Taiwan in 2022. China reacted severely to this act.

China's reaction

↳ China considers it hurting for sovereignty and claims on it. China cut off talks on different matters ^{with USA}.

↳ China made military exercise and even enter into the maritime water/boundary of Taiwan.

↳ China also fired missiles over Taiwan.

USA Reaction

USA academia claims it as routine visit of USA officials to Taiwan.

Joe-Biden Statement

Joe-Biden has a statement "we will defend Taiwan"

in 2022, it offended China severely. Some interpreted it as the assistance in military ^{to Taiwan} and others claims that it would be military intervention by USA.

Critical Analysis

China has given its One China Two System policy which is severely threaten by the actions of USA.

The further interference of USA will be make the situation fatal for pacific countries. As already the South China Sea is disputed and militarily occupied by big powers of the world. USA's interference hurt the interest of China in Taiwan generally and South and East China Sea specifically.

Implications of this Crisis

This crisis has severe implications for the peace in Pacific and South and East China Sea.

Following are the some implications in this regard.

1- Cut-off Talks on several matters

China had a telephonic contact with USA and cut-off several matters such as climate change and other human rights issues.

China as becoming the leader of climate related matter will be infuriated. Furthermore, as

a global emitter of producing 10,000+ million CO₂ in air will no more obliged or ready to cut CO₂ emission.

2- It will intensifies bloc politics

The bloc politics will be enhanced. China would be shifted toward Russia and

USA will be more tilted toward Japan and other Pacific nations. It will further become fatal for the peace of the region.

3- Threat of Nuclear War

USA and China both are nuclear powers. Any of the misdeeds will bring destruction for the world. China is too possessive for Taiwan and the USA's interference would bring about destruction to China-USA relations.

4- Escalated situation in South and East China Sea

South China Sea was militarized by powers. China claim according to the 9 dash lines which are imaginary lines drawn in history. Other nations like Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, Vietnam

~~and~~ claims it according to the maritime laws of international law. The Taiwan crisis would further escalate the situation.

Recommendations for the crisis

1. Dialogue between Taiwan and China

Dialogue or the table talk is the best solution to every problem. The negotiation between China and Taiwan would lead to peaceful settlement of the dispute.

2. ^{China's} Trade relations with USA

China and USA should intensify their trade relations in order to make dependency on each other. This dependency would decrease the confrontation between China and USA.

3. United Nation should play its role
United Nations should play

Its role in peaceful settlement of the dispute. China as a member of UN should be forced in order to solve the problem.

Q#2

COP-28

Introduction

After industrial revolution, the greenhouse gases got increased in atmosphere. The greenhouse gases include, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane and other pollutants. The addition of increased carbon dioxide (CO_2) in atmosphere caused greenhouse effect as heat enters the earth but not leave it proportionally. It leads to global warming and global

warming intensifies the climate change on the earth. The climate which remain in a specific pattern from 30-40 years become change. Now the weather patterns changed. There is drought, heat waves, intensified rainfall and destructive floods. Climate change bring havoc on the universe. After 1950s, struggles were intensified in order to mitigate the effects of climate change. For this purpose Intergovernmental Panel for climate change (IPCC) was established. Along with this the United Nations Framework ^(UNFCCC) Convention on Climate Change was put forward. In accordance with UNFCCC, Conference of Parties (COP) were held and COP was its 28 Conference of Parties. Among them COP21

of 2015 was famous for its Paris Climate Accord.

The COP27 held in Egypt Sharm-el-Sheikh, had talk about different matters related to climate change and its implications. Among these, Loss and Damage Fund was proposed which gained attention. It was not accepted in COP27 but it got acceptance in COP28.

The Loss and Damage Fund is a positive step taken from the platform of COP28.

Loss and Damage Fund COP27

In 2022, COP27 was commenced and the idea was put forward for Loss and Damage Fund. This idea was basically presented by the most vulnerable and high risk countries to climate

Change adversaries. Among them Pakistan is also an active role because due to 2022 floods Pakistan was more affected.

This flood cost 30-40 billion dollar loss to Pakistan. According to Global Risk Index

"Pakistan is among the five countries which facing high risk due to climate change".

The loss and damage fund is the fund in which developed nations will contribute money.

This money will be used to compensate the adverse effects of climate change on developing countries.

In COP 27 100 ^{bn} billion Fund for climate change was established in which all developed states such as USA, Brazil, China,

European Union nations and UK will contribute. USA pledge to pay 80+ million dollar, although before COP 28 only pay 13 million dollars. China, India, France, Germany, UK and other global emitters did not contribute their specified amount in fund.

The developed countries are major emitter and contributed a lot in global warming and climate change. Although it affected the developed countries in lesser extent. The developing countries, already struggling with their poor economies are the adverse affectees of the climate change. So, the establishment of such fund is the moral duty of developed world.

Loss and Damage Fund and COP28

The Loss and Damage Fund proposed at COP27 became operationalized in COP28. The Loss and Damage Fund was **US\$800 million**. The funds should be paid by the developed nations. It is a sort of compensation for developing and more vulnerable people. In 2022, Pakistan and Nigeria saw the most devastating floods of the history. In Pakistan 1700+ people lost their lives which in Nigeria 600+ people ~~lost~~ lost their lives. In this context such an effort is the dire need of the hour.

Opportunities for practical materialization

Practically the Loss and Damage Fund can be pa

materialize and implemented because the developing world is facing severe consequences. The implementation of the fund is possible due to given assurance of 200 countries representatives. The developed world is under pressure due to the deteriorated condition of the modern world. The increased protests either in Glasgow, Sharm-el-Sheikh or in Dubai further stressed on net carbon emission. As the developed world cannot hurriedly cut-off the carbon emission and cannot able to transfer/shift to renewable resources, they became agree for this fund. Because if they become not willing for contribution it will

^{Economic}
hamper development due to
use of fossil fuels.

Hurdles in implementation and
materialization of Loss and
Damage Fund

Although the countries
became agree for this fund
but a lot of hurdles are
ahead of this. Firstly, some
countries like developed countries
would not agree because
the contribution of the countries
is less and the impact of
climate change is more than
that. For example Germany
pledge for 100 million dollars
although the loss in only
Pakistan is about 30-40 billion
USA dollar. So the contributed
money would be less than
the damage caused.

Secondly, the developed world has a worry that if they contributed once in funds it will become obligatory for them. And in case of greater damage they will be bound to pay sufficient amount. It will hamper the effective use of funds for development of vulnerable nations.

Thirdly, the ongoing conflicts in world such as Russia, Ukraine war, Palestine and Israel war can bring diplomatic and political unwillingness between different blocs of the nations. It will create obstacles in proper implementation and usage.

Pakistan and its benefit from Loss and Damage Fund

Pakistan, according to Global Climate Risk Index is a fifth most affected country due to climate change. Pakistan and other developing countries stressed on the fact that "we are demand our right not an aid." After 2022 floods, Pakistan actively engaged in climate related funds.

In COP 27, for the activation of Fund there is a requirement of submission of some money. As Pakistan is already suffering from severe economic crisis cannot able to submit such amount of money. The activation procedure should be kept simple in order to give

maximum benefit to developing nations.

Beside this hurdle, the Fund ~~and~~ ~~can~~ ~~be~~ bring a lot of opportunities for the development and prosperity of the country. It will facilitate in the rehabilitation of the displaced people, building of infrastructure and development of agriculture. On the whole the fund will revolutionize the whole trajectory for Pakistan