

Question 5

Answer

Hamas - Israel War - Regional and Global Implications

1. Introduction

Nine months after the start of Israel - Hamas war, Israel has numerous war crimes in Gaza which resulted in death of more than 36000 people in Gaza. The echoes of this war is also being heard in neighbouring countries and have ~~an~~ significant impact on global power dynamics too. With only few solutions like 3 phase solution being proposed by Biden available on table, regional and global political implications of the war can escalate.

2- Expansion of War to the Region

1- Yemen

Houthi rebels in Yemen, backed by Iran blocked the Bab-al-Mandeb Strait which is a passage of major oil trade. US-Nato nexus attacked Houthi targets in Yemen to counter it. If the war prolongs, the chances of it spilling to Yemen can increase.

2- Lebanon

Israel's neighbouring country of Lebanon has the presence of Iran backed Hizbullah group that actively supports Hamas. Israel attacked Hizbullah targets which can exacerbate into full blown war if the peace is not restored in Gaza.

3- Syria

Israel attacked Iran consulate in Damascus

which resulted in death of high military command of Iran. It also prompted Iran to launch a direct attack on Israel which could have resulted in wider regional conflict.

4- Pakistan

The chaos in Gaza can present intelligence agencies of west to implement their blue prints in Middle East. An example of it was seen when Iran attacked alleged Jaish-al-~~ad~~ targets in Pakistan, suspecting them for planning an attack in Iran in January this year. Pakistan's prudent response, prevented this episode from converting in a full blown conflict.

5- Saudi - Arabia

Iran and KSA recently signed a peace treaty brokered by China. While KSA is showing restraint in criticising the militant actions by Iran, a

prolongation of the conflict, can derail the peace process between Iran and KSA.

6 - KSA - Israel Relations

A lot progress had been made on peace process and a deal was on the cards between KSA and Israel. But that came to a halt when Israel-Hamas war started. Due to increasing public pressure, the relations between these regional players can deteriorate, leading to increased conflict in region.

7 - Iran

Israel hold Iran responsible for supporting Hizbullah and the Houthis against it. It even attacked Iranian embassy in Damascus which prompted Iran to strike back. If the war between Israel and Hamas prolongs, the conflict can extend to direct war between Iran and Israel too.

3 - Impact on Global

Power Politics

1 - US - China Dynamics

In Middle East

After making economic inroads in middle east through mutual trade and sponsoring development projects in middle East China also showed its diplomatic muscles when it brokered a deal between Iran and KSA. This deal also highlighted "dwindling" US influence in M.E. The peace deal between KSA - Israel was US plan to gain influence in M.E. again but it came to halt after the war started. As the war prolongs, public opinion in Arab countries is swaying more intensely ~~towa~~ against Israel and US, it further diminishes their influence in Middle East.

2- China's Hold In

South East Asia Can

Increase

While US and allies are busy in fighting genocidal war in Gaza, China can take benefit of their distraction to strengthen its hold in South and East China Sea; The increased security mobilization in Taiwan and high level delegation visits are precursor to this.

3- Russia Can Also

Benefit from Distraction

of Western Bloc

Russia is engaged in a war with Ukraine which is dependant on western bloc

for funding its war expenses. With Israel getting huge military packages and US facing economic constraints and Debt crisis, the space for Ukraine's aid is shrinking. In con benefit, Russia which can make further inroads in Ukraine.

4- Conclusion

The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas is prolonging due to stubbornness of west and Israel. If a viable solution is not reached, it can spill to neighbouring countries further exacerbating the already volatile conditions prevailing in M.E. It also has profound implications for Global Power Politics as US-China tussle for increased influence in M.E and South China Sea, while Russia can also get more space for its expansionist blueprints as the attention of global watchdogs is diverted to Hamas-Israel conflict.

Question 7

Revival of Insurgency

In Pakistan and Pak-

Afg Relations

1- Introduction

In past year and half Pakistan has seen a significant rise in terrorist attacks specially in neighbouring areas of Pakistan with Afghanistan. This spike in militant activity is due to emboldening of TTP after Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan, their access to weapons left by US forces, their backing by Taliban, their reorganisation and their strong propaganda machinery. Pakistan has tried to increase pressure on Afghan government by blocking transit trade route, expelling unregistered refugees, and even direct military actions

inside Afghanistan. However, the resolution of the conflict requires a prudent approach involving: keeping diplomatic engagement robust to avoid any miscommunication, convincing Afghans to move the TTP away from borders and addressing socio-economic issues of periphery areas.

2- Reasons of Revival of Insurgency

1- Emboldened TTP

After US Withdrawal

The defeat of US and their withdrawal from Afghanistan emboldened TTP. They also believe that they can defeat the state of Pakistan and this resulted in increased attacks on Pakistan's state institutions and law enforcement agencies. Bombing in Peshawar mosque in police line last

Year is an example of it.

2- Protection by Afghan Taliban

With Afghan Taliban coming to power and having ideological similarity with TTP, they gave space to TTP to expand their operations. This was backed by a United Nations report that stated that TTP enjoys Taliban's patronage.

3- The Breaking of Deal Between TTP and Pakistan Government

The peace deal brokered by Afghan Taliban between Pakistan and TTP broke due to political uncertainty in Pakistan. The TTP got organised in that period and started launching attacks after the deal broke.

4- Lack of Capacity to Counter Terrorist Attacks

Due to sanctions by US, Taliban does not have resources to curb rise of TTP. Pakistan is also facing economic crunch so it is unable to train Police of KPK, Balochistan and new merged erstwhile FATA. Lack of capacity to deal with conflict with TTP also results in increased terrorist attacks.

5- Socioeconomic Deprivation of Periphery Areas, Make Youth Vulnerable to Propaganda of TTP

Lack of education and job opportunities in periphery areas, dishearten the youth of periphery.

They became vulnerable to propaganda by using propaganda machinery of TTP i.e. Umar Media, and end up joining TTP.

3- Affects on Pak-Afg Relations

1- Direct Military Con-

- frontations

The tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan government sometime results in military engagement. Frustrated by lack of effort by Taliban government, Pakistan launched direct strikes inside Afghanistan. Border clashes between both nations are also common.

2- Affect on Trade Ties

In order to apply pressure on Afghan

Government, Pakistan closed trade route with Afghanistan at Torkhum. This also contributed to tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

3- Affect on Diplomatic

Ties

Pakistan officially does not recognise Afghanistan's Taliban government. Its approval is dependent on efforts Taliban make in containing TTP. Afghanistan also accuses Pakistan of creating rift between itself and China as Pakistan published report on Bisham attack which held Afghan residents responsible for killing of Chinese engineers in a bus attack.

4- Way Outs

1- Adopting a Pragmatic

Approach

Due to

ideological similarity Pakistan should not expect Taliban to take full blown action against TTP. They should instead convince them to move TTP away from Pakistan borders atleast.

2- Increasing Diplomatic

Engagement

Increasing diplomatic engagement and opening direct lines of communication on strategic issues can prevent miscommunications and direct attacks on each other's soil.

3- Combined Pressure of

Neighbours on Afghan

Taliban spokesman's statement regarding Pakistan trying to sabotage its relations with China shows how important China is for Afghanistan. The statement

Russian Foreign Minister to Russian News agency that source of militancy is Afghanistan also shows a potential for effectiveness of a combined diplomatic pressure of neighbours on Afghanistan.

4- Building Capacity of

Forces

Pakistan should train its police to effectively engage in counter terrorism operations to curb the rise of militancy. Intelligence sharing between Pakistan and Afghanistan is a way forward in this regard too.

5- Conclusion

Rise of militancy in Pakistan stems from inability of Afghan and Pakistan's government to deal with emboldened TTP. Pakistan's internal political instability also hinders in ability to deal with rising terrorist attacks. By

social and economic development
of its youth, it can stop them
from falling in trap of ITP.
Combined diplomatic and strategic
effort with Afghanistan and neighbouring
countries can be a way forward
in solving this quagmire.