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Paper * Current Affairs

Part = II

Question * 2

There are some challenges due to the Pak-Afghan relations due to the rising TTS and ISKP that are using Afghanistan soil against Pakistan.

The TTS attacks ^{as a} Threat: state institutions and military installations have implications for Pakistan's national security. eg: Bajour attack, Khyber attack, Peshawar Bomb blast, etc.

The Afghan Taliban and Pakistani Taliban had long-standing connections, but Pakistan previously denied their interaction, attributing the TTP's growth to foreign intelligence agencies' support through the former Afghan govt. Many Pakistanis militants did return from Afghanistan, but they redirected their focus towards the TTP's war against the Pakistani state, particularly in the tribal belt adjacent to Afghanistan.

The TTP celebrated Taliban's return to power as a victory for the Jihadi cause and pledged alliance to the Taliban's emir, supporting the stability of the Taliban regime. The Taliban's takeover led to the release of TTP members from Afghan prisoners, including senior commanders, boosting the TTP's strength.

The TTP's resurgence includes members with other militant groups, adoption of centralized organizational structure like the Afghan Taliban, increased operational activity, and enhanced media operations.

TTP a real threat for Pak-Afghan relations:

The Taliban's control in Afghanistan and the TTP's focus on Pakistan allowed it to enjoy "strategic depth" that enhances its resilience. The TTP's reforms under its new leader, Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud, motivated anti-state militants to trust and join the group.

The TTP's mergers strengthened its insurgency capabilities and extend its organizational foothold, particularly in strategic important areas like Balochistan and North Waziristan.

A series of military operations, launched by Pakistan like Rah-e-Rast, Rah-e-Nijat, etc. The strong hold of TTP were dismantled. The writ of the state was insulated, but it was a short term victory because TTP were not killed, but flew to Afghanistan. Now TTP is using Afghan as a launching attack. TTA never fought against TTA

ISKP as a threat to Pakistan:

ISKP (Islamic State of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province) is also a threat to Pakistan and Afghanistan relations because it uses Afghan land for the attacks on Pakistan.

In fifty provinces, ISKP presence is there in Afghanistan. It is targetting

Hazar (Shia), Afghan Taliban officials, and strategic installation. And Afghanistan is not successful to defeat it.

ISKP and other terrorists organizations are using Afghan land as a launching pad for land for terrorist attacks against the neighbors.

ISKP has annexed annexes with regional terrorist organizations like:

- i - TTP of Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Tajik of Pakistan.
- ii - Jundullah and Jeshuladal of Iran
- iii - ETTM of China East Tajikistan
- iv - IMU of Uzbekistan.

Thus, ISKP is becoming threat to all neighbor countries, especially for Pakistan.

Suggestions for Islamabad to overcome the crisis and improve relations with Afghanistan:

- 1 - Afghanistan should ensure its land not be used against Pakistan in terrorist ground

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- 2 - To pressure TTA for the closing of border and transit
- 3 - Pakistan should encourage Russia to exert pressure on Afghanistan.
- 4 - As there is Afghan repatriation, so Islamabad should slow down the process of refugee, and it should be done on mutual consensus.

Question * 3

Ans:

"Failure of OIC"

OIC:

OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) is an Islamic organization i.e. the collective voice of the Muslim world.

Its objective is to strengthen cooperation and solidarity among the member states, to protect the rights and interest of each other states.

OIC remained predominantly a failed organization primarily because of internal rifts, lack of a conflict resolution mechanism and ~~4~~ unprecedented influence of the US on the member countries.

Reasons of OIC Failure:

The following reasons are the cause of OIC failure.

i - Internal Rifts:

OIC failed

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to bring peace between Iran and Saudi Arabia i.e. ICSA - Iran Rivalry.

There is also geopolitical rivalry in Syria.

There is sectarian rivalry between the Islamic state members

Iran is promoting Shia Islam while KSA is promoting Sunni Islam. OIC is not a strong organization to stop this rivalry.

ii - No Bilateral Conflict Resolution:

There is no intra-organizational conflict resolution mechanism. Internal rift has adopted sectarian method.

iii Unprecedented influence of US on the member countries:

US has put pressure on countries (OIC members). US has put its stance that in the favor of middle east that it would not go against Israel, as there is war between Hamas and Israel,

because of US growing relations with the Arab world.

Thus, OIC conference will be just on papers, they cannot attack on Israel.

US has vetoed 3-times the membership of Palestine in United Nations Security Council.

" Hamas - Israel war and the normalization of the relationship between Iran and USA "

x (Yes, due to Hamas - Israel war,) x

Yes, Hamas - Israel war provides an opportunity to the successful organization of Muslim world.

In 2020, five Arab nations recognized Israel as a sovereign nation i.e. UAE, Bahrain, Oman, Sudan, and Morocco. They also established diplomatic relationship with one another. Furthermore, KSA also probably and secretly started normalization between UAE and Israel.

KSA allowed its real space for transport between UAE and Israel.

At the time of attack (Hamas-Israel conflict), Israeli delegation was in Riyadh while KSA delegation was in

Tel Aviv. It was claimed by major media groups and not denied by both the countries.

But there is unprecedented response from Arab population in favor of Palestine against Israel after attacks. Jordan,

Lebanon, UAE, KSA, Bahrain, etc protested against Israel.

KSA announced to have no negotiation with Israel.

First there was a rivalry between KSA and Iran, but due to Hamas-Israel conflict, the muslim world is becoming

united. ^{provided} ~~proved~~ Hamas-Israel war has provided Iran to increase interaction with the Arab world. For example, President of

Iran was invited to the OIC conference held in Riyadh.

Now, all the muslim countries are united against Israel.

In recent OIC conference, Pakistan also talked about ceasefire in Hamas. In UN Security Council, many countries ~~were~~ are also in the favor of Palestine and against Israel. Islamabad condemned human rights violation in Gaza and sent humanitarian support. Across the world, many countries are sending food to the Gaza.

Conclusion:

Thus, OIC is not so strong to stop the conflict between muslim world. However, Hamas-Israeli war has provided opportunity to the muslim world to unit together and become a successful organization.

"Question 4"

Ans: "

IMEEC's Potential:

- 1- IMEEC can enhance India's strategic position by deepening economic ties with the Middle East and Europe, reducing its dependence on China.
- 2- The corridor can boost economic growth by promoting trade, investment along its route, benefiting the participating countries.
- 3- It can stimulate infrastructure development, including ports, roads, and railways, improving connectivity and facilitating oil and gas trade between the Middle East and India, reducing the cost of transportation and risks.
- 4- It offers an alternative to BRI. It provides other countries for the further infrastructure development.

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IMEC'S Future prospects:

- 1- IMEC faces risks such as political instability in the region and security risks.
- 2- There is a need for ~~the~~ good implementation to strengthen regional cooperation and effective management to overcome these risks/challenges.

BRI'S potential:

- 1- BRI aims to improve infrastructure connectivity that includes roads, railways, ports, and energy pipelines. Thus, ^{it} promotes economic and trade development.
- 2- It can also enhance trade and investment opportunities for countries like in Asia and Europe.
- 3- BRI project can stimulate economic growth by creating jobs etc.

BRI's Future Prospects:

- 1 - There are concerns about the debt sustainability of BRI projects because some countries are facing challenges in repaying loans.
- 2 - BRI faces competition from initiatives like IMEEC.

Conclusion:

Thus, both IMEEC and BRI have the potential to significantly impact trade, regional connectivity, and economic growth.