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Part-II

Q = 5

On Oct 15-16, 2024, Pakistan hosted the 23rd SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Islamabad. They tried to focus on mutual cooperation b/w different countries and connections in Europe. Prime Ministers of China and Russia, leaders of other countries and observers attended the meeting.

In his address, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted issue of climate change as a existential crisis. While also discussing the need for stability in Afghanistan. and also said that genocide 'going on in Gaza' cannot be ignored.

Takeaways for Pakistan

1) High Security at the SCO Summit:

Pakistan hosted the ~~top~~ SCO conference with unprecedented security following a terrorist attack in Karachi that killed two Chinese engineers.

2) First High-Level Indian visit in Nine years,

Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar's attendance was significant, marking

the first visit by a top Indian diplomat in nearly a decade despite strained relations.

3) **Constructive Diplomatic Gestures:**

Both sides showed restraint, with Pakistani and Indian leaders avoiding direct criticism of each other in their speeches. The handshake b/w PM Shahbaz Sharif and Jaishankar, along with informal discussion, make a positive shift in body language and diplomatic tone.

4) **Mutual Effort to Low Rhetoric**

The SCO conference served as a platform for Pakistan and India to moderate their rhetoric, a departure from past multilateral engagement that often saw heated exchanges.

5) **Potential Diplomatic Openings:**

Jaishankar's tweet thanking Pakistan for hospitality indicates the possibility of further diplomatic engagement, though significant hurdles remain.

Recommendations:

1) **Maintain Diplomatic Channels:**

Both countries should continue to engage through multilateral forums, using event like the SCO to build trust through

Informal discussion and constructive gestures.

2) Encourage Confidence Building measures,

Initiatives that promote understanding, such as people to people exchanges and cultural diplomacy, could help improve public perception and ease tensions.

3) Strengthen Security Cooperation:

Pakistan and India should consider cooperating on shared security concerns within SCO framework, as regional stability is critical to both nations.

4) Avoid Escalatory Rhetoric

Leaders on both sides should refrain from using hostile language especially in international forums, as this can stall potential diplomatic progress.

5) Establish Mechanism for Crisis Management.

Creating clear protocols for managing incidents can prevent misunderstanding from escalating and ensure that both nations have a path to de-escalation.

Conclusion:

While the SCO Summit in Islamabad featured positive diplomatic gestures and a notably restrained tone, underlying issues b/w Pakistan and India remain understated. The Summit's atmosphere

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was largely shaped by the presence of major power China and Russia, whose influence may have tempered the rhetoric more than any genuine diplomatic breakthrough b/w the two neighbors. Future engagement through SCO offers opportunities, but both countries must be prepared to engage in meaningful dialogue beyond gestures to achieve long-term stability and cooperation in the region.

Q=3

The US's unconditional support for Israel profoundly affects its image in Arab countries, creating a complex perception and consequences.

1) Perceived Bias and Loss of Credibility:

One-Sidedness: US backing of Israel in conflicts, particularly during military escalations, is often interpreted as a disregard for Palestinian rights and sovereignty. This perception undermines US credibility as a neutral mediator, alienating not only Palestinian leaders but also other Arab governments that seek a more balanced approach.

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Negotiation Impact:

The lack of perceived impartiality hampers the US's ability to facilitate peace negotiations as parties view US involvement with skepticism.

2) Strengthening Anti-American Sentiment.

Public Discontent:

Unconditional support for Israel exacerbate anti-American feeling in the Arab world. Many perceive US policies are contributing to the suffering of Palestinian, leading to protest and increasing hostility toward American interests.

Radicalization:

US support for Israel leads some view it as complicit in injustices against Muslim, fostering extremism.

3) Decreased soft Power:

Favoring Israel weakens US influence, as Arab population may turn to non-western allies that understand their grievances.

4) Changing Alliances:

Discontent with US policies drives Arab nation to seek partnerships with neutral countries like China and Russia, further reducing US influence.

5) Geopolitical Ramifications:

Increased engagement from China and

Russia can undermine US interest in the middle East particularly in energy security and counterterrorism.

China and Russia to Penetrate the Middle East by:

1) Neutral Positioning:

As Arab nations perceive U.S bias they turn to China and Russia, who present themselves as a neutral partner willing to engage without conditions related to Israel.

2) Economic Investment

Both countries increase their economic presence through infrastructure projects, attracting nation seeking development without political strings.

3) Military Partnerships:

Russia expands its military cooperation, offering alternatives to U.S defense system, while China enhances its cultural and diplomatic ties, boosting influence.

This shift reduces US influence in the region.

(Q = 1)

The Taiwan Conflict represent a significant flashpoint in US - China relations, rooted in its historical territorial and geopolitical complexities.

Reasons of Tension

Territorial Claims:

China views Taiwan as a part of its territory insisting on reunification. Conversely, Taiwan considers itself a sovereign entity with its own governance.

US Support for Taiwan

The United States maintains a policy of strategic ambiguity, offering military assistance and political backing to Taiwan. This support is perceived by China as interference in its internal affairs.

Geopolitical Rivalry:

Taiwan's strategic position makes it central to the broader US - China rivalry as the U.S. seeks to counterbalance China's influence in the Asia-Pacific region.

Economic Importance:

Taiwan plays a crucial role in global supply chains, especially in semiconductor

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manufacturing, heightening its significance for both nation.

Recommendation to Avoid Conflict

Dialogue and Diplomacy:

Engaging in direct talks to address mutual grievances can help build trust and reduce misunderstandings.

Crisis Management Mechanism:

Establishing frameworks to manage incidents could prevent accidental escalation during military exercise or naval encounters.

Cooperative Agreements

Exploring joint efforts on economic, environmental, and security issues can create a foundation for improved relations.

Respect for Sovereignty:

Acknowledging Taiwan's existing political status while promoting a peaceful resolution that considers the interests of all parties involved is essential.

International Involvement:

Encouraging multilateral dialogues involving regional stakeholders can balance power dynamics and provide a broader platform for conflict resolution.

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Conclusion:

By Prioritizing communication and cooperation, the ^{US} and China can work towards a Peaceful resolution regarding resolution regarding Taiwan, reducing the risk of conflict in this strategic vital region.

(Q=4)

The turnaround of Pakistan's economy is contingent upon implementing comprehensive structural reforms across several key sectors.

1) Industry

Modernization and Diversification:

This sector need to adopt modern ~~tech~~ technologies and diversify production. Emphasizing value-added products can enhance competitiveness in global markets.

Investment in infrastructure:

Improved infrastructure, including transportation and logistics, can facilitate efficient supply chains and lower production costs. Pakistan's manufacturing sector has potential to grow by 6% annually if these improvement are made.

2) Agriculture:

Sustainable Practices

Introducing advanced farming techniques and sustainable practices can increase yield and reduce environment impact.

Food Security:

By enhancing agricultural productivity, Pakistan can ensure food security for its population and decrease reliance on import.

→ Agriculture employs about 38% of Pakistan's labor force and contributes around 20% to its GDP.

3) (IT)

Growth of the tech Sector

Expanding the IT industry can attract foreign investment and create high-paying jobs.

Skill Development

Investing in education and training for workforce in IT can help bridge the skill gap.

→ The Pakistan IT sector is expected to reach \$10 billion by 2025.

4) Power Sector

Energy Reforms:

~~It~~ This sector must address inefficiencies and focus on renewable energy sources to provide a stable and sustainable energy supply.

Reducing Losses:

By reducing energy theft and improving distribution systems, the sector can enhance profitability and reliability.

→ Pakistan's power sector suffers from 20-30% loss rate, significantly impacting energy availability.

5) Tax System:

Broadening the Tax Base

A reformed tax system should aim to include more taxpayers and reduce reliance on indirect taxes, which disproportionately affect the poor.

Improving Tax Collection:

Streamlining tax collection processes can increase government revenue, enabling greater investment in public service and infrastructure.

→ Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio stands at 9%, one of the lowest in the region.



Conclusion:

In conclusion, without comprehensive structural reform in industry, agriculture, IT, Power Sector and tax system, Pakistan economic turnaround will be unattainable. A multi-faceted approach addressing these critical areas is essential for sustaining growth and development ultimately leading to improved living standards for the population.