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Mock Exam for CSS-2025 October 2024 (Mock-5)

Batch # 059

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Current Affairs

Q2. Taiwan is a potential conflict between China and USA. Critically evaluate the reasons and why and how the two countries must avoid the conflict?

The Taiwan Strait has long been a flashpoint in relations between China, Taiwan, and the United States. Here's a critical evaluation of the reasons for potential conflict and why and how the two countries must avoid it.

- Reasons for Potential Conflict:

- China's Perspective -

Sovereignty China views Taiwan as a renegade province that must eventually reunify with the mainland.

National Security Taiwan's proximity to China's coastline and potential US military presence threatens China's national security.

Economic Interests Taiwan's strategic location and economic influence in the Asia-Pacific region.

- US Perspective -

Security Commitments the US has a long-standing commitment to Taiwan.

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Security through the Taiwan Relations Act (1979).

Democracy and Human Rights Taiwan's democracy values align with US interests. Strategic Interests Taiwan's location near key shipping lanes and China's growing military presence.

- US-China Conflict Triggers.

Taiwanese Independence: China would view Taiwan's formal independence as a *Causa belli*.

US military intervention China would respond forcefully to US military intervention in a Taiwan conflict.

Escalating military tensions. Increased military build-ups, exercises, or incidents in the Taiwan Strait.

- Consequences of Conflict :-

Global Economic Disruption

Regional Instability

Humanitarian Crisis

Nuclear war Risk

- Why Avoid Conflict :-

mutual Economic Interdependence US-China trade and investment ties would suffer.

Global Governance: Conflict would undermine international cooperation on pressing issue (Climate Change, Pandemics).

Humanitarian Concerns: Avoid devastating consequences for civilians and regional

Stability.

- How to Avoid Conflict :-

- Diplomatic Efforts :-

Maintain open communication.
Regular dialogue between US, China, and Taiwan.

Conflict Resolution mechanisms: Establish frameworks for resolving disputes peacefully.
International mediation: Engage organizations like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) or the International Crisis Group.

- Military De-escalation :-

- Reduce military build-ups: Gradually decrease military presence and exercises.
- Confidence-Building measures: Implement transparency and trust-building initiatives.
- Crisis management protocols: Establish procedures for managing incidents.

- Economic Cooperation :-

Strengthen Trade Ties: Enhance US-China-Taiwan economic cooperation.

Joint Development Projects: Collaborate on infrastructure, energy or technology initiatives.

Regional Economic integration: Promote ASEAN-led regional economic integration.

Question # 03

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Q: Critically evaluate the unconditional support of US for Israel effects its image in the Arab Countries and how it provides a space to China Middle East?

The unconditional support of the US for Israel has significant implications for its image in Arab Countries and provides an opportunity for China and Russia to expand their influence in the middle East.

- Impact on US Image in Arab Countries :-

The US's unwavering support for Israel is perceived as biased and unfair by many Arab nations, leading to widespread criticism and distrust. This perception is fueled by the ongoing Israel-Palestinian conflict, which is seen as a major obstacle to regional peace and stability.

- China and Russia's Growing Influence :-

China and Russia have been capitalizing on the US's strained relationships with Arab nations to expand their own influence in the region. China has focused on its economic statecraft, investing heavily in infrastructure projects and energy deals, while Russia has pursued a more military-oriented approach, providing arms and military assistance to countries like Syria and Libya.

- Key Areas of influence :-

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- Economic Partnerships :-

China has become a major trading partner for many Arab countries, investing in strategic sectors, like energy, transportation and telecommunications.

- Military Cooperation :-

Russia has strengthened its military ties with countries like Egypt, Algeria, and the UAE, providing advanced weaponry and training.

- Diplomatic Engagement :-

Both China and Russia have increased their diplomatic engagement with Arab nations, participating in regional forums and mediating conflicts.

- Consequences for the US :-

The US's unconditional support for Israel has created an opening for China and Russia to challenge American influence in the middle East. This shift in the regional balance of power has significant implications for US interests, including:

- Reduced influence :-

The US's ability to shape regional policies and resolve conflicts is diminished.

- Increased Competition :-

China and Russia's growing presence creates new challenges for US diplomacy and security.

- Damage to Reputation -

The US's image as an impartial broker of peace is tarnished, undermining its credibility globally.

Question # 04

Q: The turnaround of Pakistan's economy is not possible without comprehensive structural reforms in industry, agriculture, IT, Power Sector and Tax System of Pakistan. Elaborate the Statement.

Pakistan's economy is facing significant challenges, and a turnaround is crucial for its future. Comprehensive structural reforms are necessary to achieve this goal, particularly in five key sectors: industry, agriculture, IT, Power, and taxation.

- Industry Reforms -

Industry reforms should focus on promoting competition, reducing regulatory barriers, and encouraging investment. This can be achieved by simplifying business registration processes, providing incentives for entrepreneurship, and investing in infrastructure development.

- Agriculture Reforms -

Agriculture is a vital sector in Pakistan, employing nearly half of the workforce. Reforms should aim to increase productivity, improve irrigation systems, and enhance crop diversification. This can be done by reallocating subsidies.

to focus on research, veterinary services, and promoting regenerative agriculture practices.

- IT Reforms :-

Information Technology (IT) reforms can boost Pakistan's economy by enhancing digital infrastructure, promoting e-commerce, and developing the IT industry. This can be achieved by investing in digital literacy programs, providing tax specialized IT zones.

- Power Sector Reforms :-

The power sector requires reforms to address inefficiencies, reduce transmission losses, and increase private sector participation. This can be done by promoting renewable energy sources, improving grid management, and incentivizing private investment in the power sector.

- Taxation Reforms

Taxation reforms are essential to increase revenue generation and reduce reliance on external borrowing. This can be achieved by broadening the tax base, reducing tax exemptions, and improving tax administration. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has already made efforts to detect tax evasion and encourage citizens to pay taxes.

Question # 5

Q: Pakistan Successfully Conducted SCO Conference in Islamabad. Critically evaluate the major takeaways for Pakistan. What measures would you recommend Islamabad to follow?

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Conference in Islamabad was a significant diplomatic achievement for Pakistan. Here are the major takeaways and recommended measures for Islamabad.

- Major Takeaways:-

Enhanced Regional Connectivity SCO's focus on regional connectivity aligns with Pakistan's vision for increased trade and economic cooperation.

Increased Geopolitical Influence Hosting the SCO Conference solidified Pakistan's position as a key player in regional affairs.

Strengthened Ties with Russia and China Pakistan's relationships with Russia and China were bolstered, providing opportunities for economic and strategic cooperation.

Counter-Terrorism Cooperation SCO's counter-terrorism agenda aligns with Pakistan's position as a key player in regional affairs.

Strengthened Ties with Russia and China Pakistan's relationships with Russia and China were bolstered, providing opportunities for economic and

Strategic Cooperation.

Energy Cooperation: SCO's emphasis on energy cooperation can help Pakistan address its energy crisis.

- Recommended Measures:

- Short-Term :-

- Implement SCO agreements, Ensure timely implementation of agreements signed during the Conference.
- Enhance Regional Trade, Simplify trade procedures and reduce tariffs to boost regional trade.

- Long-Term

- Diversify Economy, Invest in industries like textiles, IT, and tourism to reduce dependence on traditional sectors.
- Human Resource Development: Force on education, skills development, and capacity building.