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## NOA (Mock Exam)

### Current Affairs

#### Subjective - PART-II

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.

#### Introduction:

The USA and China are the two major global powers. Before 2016, USA was the sole global hegemon but now China is also in the way of becoming number one global power. The conflict between USA and China was initially started by USA when it imposed high tariff on the imports from china and then China retaliated it by imposing sanctions on the imports from USA including soybeans and other industrial products. Now, Taiwan is emerging as as a new conflict between these two.

## Chip war :

Chip is also called a semiconductor.

The US, Europe, Japan are the producers of chip but Taiwan is a central hub of chip producing.

More than 12 trillion dollars of world economy is dependent on chip. The electronic, transport industries are dependent on chip. More than 3 trillion dollars of world economy is chip.

## Taiwan's importance for the two states (USA and China):

Taiwan is the largest producer of chip. As chip contains huge amount of world economy then both these states want to hold control of chip or the chip producer.

China has a border with Taiwan.

If China gets control over Taiwan then China would get control of the chip industry. The USA is against it and it did not want

China's control over Taiwan.

## Policies of USA and China over Taiwan:

USA is increasing alliances with Taiwan, providing it military weaponry aid and helping it and protecting it from China's control. This enraged China and it is imposing its military on Taiwan.

## One state - Two system Policy:

China wants one state - two system policy which includes that the defence, foreign policy and currency of Taiwan would be under control of Beijing (China's capital) and other than that Taiwan would be independent in rest of the matters.

## Viewpoint of the people of Taiwan:

Taiwan's people have different viewpoints.

The 3 major viewpoints are.

1. People who want separation from

China.

2. People who want complete unification with China.

3. Those who want to maintain the status quo. Foreign policy under control of China, otherwise Taiwan would be free in rest of the matters.

Beijing is against the status quo. It wants the control of currency and defense also.

The two countries are on the edge of war.

Implications of War:

USA:

USA is not in a condition to start a war with China as it is already involved in two major conflicts of Middle East including the Israel - Palestine and Russia - Ukraine conflicts. USA is occupied

in giving military aid to their allies and it cannot afford another war.

### China:

China can also not afford to get involved in war with USA as despite of conflict USA and China are major trade partners.

If China involves in War, USA would impose sanctions on China that would be a huge loss for China.

### Solutions:

There should be negotiations from both sides. The presidents of both the countries should negotiate on mutual points that would benefit them. USA and China are the two major global powers, war between them can lead to disaster for all the world.

## Conclusion:

The conflicts between USA and China is because of the balance of power. The USA since 2016 is facing some trouble in the way of its sole hegemony. Taiwan is a central conflict because of the producers of chip, which is the biggest and most important part of all industries. In the acquiring of control over Taiwan, both states are confronting each other. They must avoid the conflict as it will not benefit anyone.

War is not the solution;  
negotiation is needed.

Q6. Expensive agreements with IPPs,  
overwhelming dependency on hydrocarbons,  
line and other .....?

## Introduction:

The energy crisis in Pakistan is a huge issue. There are a lot of causes behind the energy crisis.

including expensive agreements with IPPs, transmission, distribution issues leading to high electricity prices.

The energy sector and its issues cause huge burden on industrial and domestic sector.

### Generation of electricity through hydrocarbons:

The hydrocarbons include diesel, LNG. More than 60% of electricity generation is through hydrocarbons and most of the hydrocarbons are imported. In a 300 per barrel oil, half is imported. Another issue is that these hydrocarbons are imported in dollars which makes them more expensive. Hydrocarbon is the expensive most form of generating electricity.

### Role of IPPs:

The IPPs (Independent Power Producers) installed in 1994 - 2002 are mostly relied on hydrocarbons. The capacity

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payments to IPPs is done in dollars. The escalating cost and role of IPPs are correlated. In FY25, the capacity payments are projected at Rs. 2.1 trillion. This is a huge load on domestic consumers as the per unit price has got a rise from 6.48 to 48.8 in the recent time.

### Transmission and Distribution issues:

Almost 33% of the issue of electricity lies in transmission and distribution. Transmission issue is 17% which include the damaged lines which are ~~are~~ unable to deliver smooth electricity to consumers. The lines are old and damaged.

Distribution issue is 16% which includes the theft system. Electricity theft is a common problem in our country. The famous one is the kunda system and this causes issues of true electricity



distribution.

## Role of IMF in Price hikes:

The dependency on IMF is a major cause behind price hikes.

IMF has SAPs which Pakistan have to follow in order to get approval for the loans. The recent 7 billion dollar Extended Fund Facility (EFF) also includes some policies which are demanding the government to increase electricity prices.

## Implications:

- **Industry:**

Industrial sector runs on electricity but due to the recent price hike more than 200 industries have been closed since 2015 which is a major set back to our industrial area. Industrialists are unable to allocate their resources because of higher prices of electricity.

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- **Agriculture:**

The agriculture runs on tube wells system. 30% of agriculture system is dependent on tubewells. The tube wells are not running properly due to the problem of load shedding. This is a major set back for the agriculture sector.

- **Domestic:**

People who use electricity for domestic purposes are under a burden of higher prices. All of their salaries go into paying electricity bills.

- **Commercial:**

The per unit price of electricity is more higher for commercial sectors and they also suffer with loadshedding and this impacts their work on a large scale.

## → Recommendations: For a sustainable future

- **Increased Reliance on Renewable energy**

Renewable energy which include solar, wind and water. These renewable resources are efficient financially, economically and environmentally.

- **Renegotiate with IPPs**

The agreement done with IPPs are majorly contributing to expensive electricity generation. So, they must be renegotiated.

- **lesser reliance on HC :**

The electricity produced from hydrocarbons such as oil, diesel and LNG is very expensive as they are imported in dollar. So, the reliance on HC must be reduced.

## • Future plans 2030:

These plans include generating electricity from hydel projects including Diamer Basha Dam, Dasu dam.

It also include 1320 MW electricity generation from thar coal power projects in which 4 projects of 320 MW each are already completed.

Moreover, the electricity generation from 4500 MW wind energy and also solar energy.

These projects should be implemented in a well organised manner and they will be of huge advantage.

Q7. Critically evaluate how Israel launched terror on Gaza has become a classic example of war crimes. How do you see -----?

### Introduction:

The launch of terrorism by Israel on Gaza is a devastating and worst war crime in modern history.

It has been a year since this all started and people in Gaza are living at worst with hundreds of deaths per day. All this human tragedy is very disturbing.

### When this Crime started?

It all started on October 7, 2023 when Hamas (a political organization of Palestine) attacked Israel. Around 1400 people were killed in that attack and 200 plus hostages were captured by Hamas. This attack was unprecedented for Israel and in response Israel launched an ~~and~~ unending war on Palestine.

### War Crimes committed by Israel:

Israel has caused an uncountable damage to Palestine, the infrastructure, the human loss, the health crises, the food shortages all are heart-wrenching.

Israeli Prime Minister "Benjamin

Netanyahu" has imposed a complete food and aid blockade on Gaza.

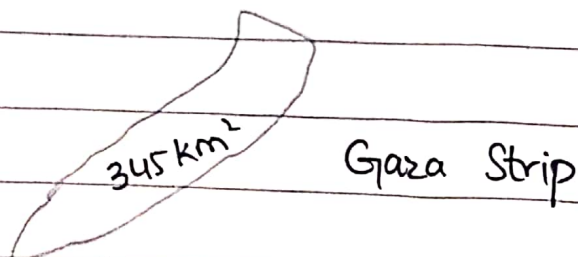
Gaza :

An open air prison

Gaza is an area called Gaza strip which is of  $345 \text{ km}^2$ . There are over 2 million people which are densely populated in Gaza strip. The Israeli forces have locked all people in that strip.

Gaza has one crossing called Rafah crossing with Egypt and 3 crossing with Israel. All these are under control of Israel.

Most of the Palestinian area is under the control of Israeli military and even Gaza where people are facing troubles is not even safe.



# War Crimes by Israel

Human loss

More than 42,000 people have died. Mostly women and children

Infrastructure loss

Bombarded buildings, mosques, churches

Health crises

Only 16% of hospitals of Gaza are partially working now. Before war there were 300 plus hospitals.

## A major Human Tragedy in Gaza:

The number of deaths in Gaza have increased and the human tragedy is worse at that level that

people in Gaza now do not even have coffins for their died loved

ones. The life in Gaza is worse but the death is even worse.

Out of 42,000 plus killed people, most are women and children.

Even the people do not have the availability to health services.

## Deaths of Hamas leaders:

Israel is attacking the people of Gaza and the leaders of Hamas, burying down the hopes of Palestinians. From Ismail Haniya to Yahya Sinwar all the hopes of Palestinians are going down.

## Role of International Organizations: ICJ

The International Court of Justice and major world leaders are demanding cease fire in Gaza.

The ICJ has also demanded it but Israel is not agreeing upon this because humanity has ended.

Israel wants its hostages back which were captured by Hamas and until that it is not agreeing upon cease fire.

## Response of US:

The US's unlimited support for



Israel is giving the later more power against Gaza/Palestine. The US is providing military weapons and advanced technologies to Israel. All of the missiles systems, advanced weapons of Israel are provided by US.

In the UNSC the resolution of ceasefire in Gaza is vetoed by USA and as it has the power and the ceasefire is not being implemented. This support of USA for Israel is making Israel more resilient.

**The war would not end any soon:**

The war in Middle East is a threat for other nations as well as Israel has started attacks on Lebanon and Iran. Palestine has 300-500 km deep ~~the~~ tunnels and hostages are captured there. So, this war is not seeming to end because Israel is making the tragedy more

worse.

## Relations with Arab World:

The Arab world is also demanding for ceasefire but US is not favour of it and also the Israel.

This is damaging their relations because they have trade deals with each other. The trade deficit is not in favour of all the countries.

## Conclusion:

The world powers can play a role in demanding Israel for ceasefire. Negotiations must be done between them. War and human tragedy should end now as it will have a lot of future impact on the rest of the Middle East ~~with~~ which are on the edge of war. This human tragedy must come to an end now.

Q5. Pakistan successfully conducted SCO conference . . . . . ?

### Introduction:

The SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) is a partner of UN on matters related to political affairs, security and peace. It conducts its annual grand meetings and this rotates for every country. This time the hosting chair was Pakistan. The conference conducted in Islamabad for two days with heavy security and concerns.

### Members of SCO:

There are total 10 members states of SCO. In 2017, Pakistan became the member of SCO.

### When the Conference held in Islamabad?

The SCO conference held on October 14 and 15, 2024 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

## Participation of Other Members:

All the representatives from member states joined the meeting including the PM of China, Russia. The Foreign Minister of India and the dignitaries from other countries.

The participation from India was controversial as the long rivalry between India and Pakistan. Before the conference it was thought that India might not attend it because of issues with Pakistan but then it was done peacefully.

## Successful Conduction:

The meeting / conference conducted successfully and smoothly as there were alot of threats roaming in Pakistan both Internal and External.

There are some political disturbances in Pakistan and the protests by PTI were a major threat but they were stopped by the government. The external threats

include the terrorism in Balochistan, the rising TTP and the recent incidents of terrorism. These all threats were difficult to manage but the government managed it well with ~~so~~ a lot of security.

### → Benefits to Pakistan:

As Pakistan was hosting the SCO conference it benefited Pakistan in many ways:

- **Rise in the soft image of Pakistan:**

Many western countries think that Pakistan is not a safe place, but the SCO conference proved that Pakistan is a safe country and it is capable of hosting such big events in future also.

- **Pakistan as the supporter of Peace:**

This conference should show that Pakistan is a supporter of Peace. The PM of Pakistan also delivered

showed that Pakistan wants peace in Palestine also. The behavior with Indian FM also showed that Pakistan is not in favour of rivalry, hence Pakistan is a peace loving country.

- **Global Representation:**

SCO is a platform where big countries meet and discuss issues related to politics, peace and security. It involves all the leading powers of the world and host a event of such a big hype gave Pakistan a good representation of global front.

- **Enhanced Cooperation with China:**

The Chinese PM visited Pakistan after long time. He came for the main purpose of SCO conference but discussed matters of other ongoing projects between Pakistan and China like CPEC (the flagship project of BRI)

Therefore, the discussion with China on the platform of SCO is of great benefit for Pakistan.

### Measures for Islamabad:

Islamabad showed the world beauty of Pakistan. Islamabad should now maintain this pace of peace and security from internal and external forces. Islamabad should build up more to get the chances for future events.

The political parties should sit together and discuss matters of cooperation, progress and prosperity of the country leaving individual interests behind.

If Pakistan gets successful in maintaining peace, then it will allow it to host other big events in future and can show the world that Islamabad is a point of peace and security.