

(General Knowledge - II)
(Current Affairs)

(Part-I)

1. Four
2. China-Pakistan B2B Matchmaking Conf.
3. Microsoft
4. Asad Majeed Khan
5. November 5, 2024
6. Xiaojin Fan
7. St. Petersburg
8. 10,000
9. Azerbaijan
10. Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now
11. Operation Defence of Golan
12. 08 December, 2024.
13. Akhtar & Sons Private Limited.
14. Alibaba
15. South Korea
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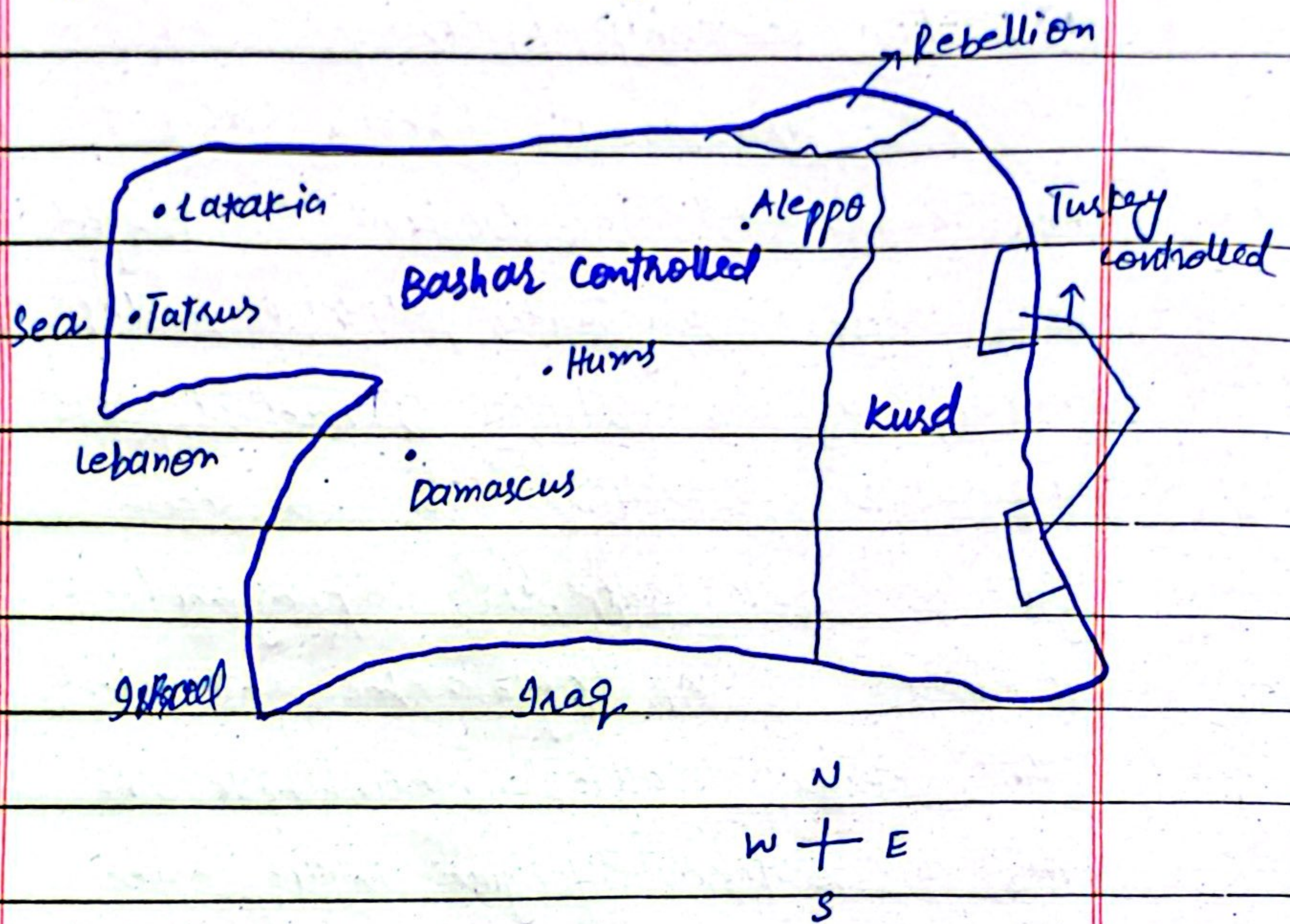
(Part - II)

Topple down of Assad's Regime by HTS :-

HTS stands for Hayat Tahrir Al Sham has toppled down the Assad's regime based on the five decades. HTS roots lies in the five years long war from 2011 to 2016 in which US and allies had supported the Islamist rebels while Russian and Iran had supported the Bashar - al - Assad. This long civil war caused a millions to be killed or badly injured several hundred thousand in the prison and in a decisive war, Bashar won and respread the rebellions to Iraq and on borders of Turkey. But in 2024, December, these HTS rebels started fight against Syrian Army.

regime by

capturing Aleppo, Hama and Damascus in just a week and toppled down the Assad's regime. The map of Bashar's control before fall is :-



Reasons behind fall of Assad's Regime:-

The major reasons behind fall of Assad regime is evolving leadership of HTS, Strategic Coordinations,

rebels Army,

Diminished External support of Assad and Interest of super powers and Global North. These are discussed in detail as below:-

1) Evolving leadership of HTS:-

Al-Shraa known as Abu Muhammad Al-Golani emerged as more pragmatic political leader instead of a radical Jihadist for which he spent time in American jail as well. But, this pragmatic behaviour of Al Golani has attracted the internal allies. Meanwhile, he has a positive figure in the eyes of citizens of Syria as well as in his army.

2) Strategic Coordinations:-

Turkey wants the refugees of Syria, which is a burden on its economy, to go back to

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their country which not possible under Assad's regime.

Israel wanted to cut the supply line of Iran through Syria. It allied with rebels against Bashar.

Ukraine wanted to weak Russia in middle by toppling down Russian backed Assad.

3) Interest of super power and Global North:-

USA and European countries see Iran and Russia as enemy countries because Russia opened war against Ukraine and Iran is countering Israel. Both USA and European countries helped rebels and Turkey, Israel, Ukraine in toppling down Assad to weak Russia and Iran in the middle east.

4) Diminished External support of Assad:-

Since, Russia is already in state of war with Ukraine and Iran is countering Israel through its proxies and directly as well. As the support to Assad is almost diminished. All strategic allies of Rebels came together at Assad resulting in its toppling down within a week only.

Implication of HTS control over Syria:-

1) Humanitarian concerns to Syrian People:-

According to the UN report, almost 90% of Syrian citizens are on the verge of food insecurity.

HTS Islamist have forgiven everyone residing in the Assad's prisons

which comprises of almost 50000 people. Moreover, Turkey started sending Syrian refugees in Turkey back to Syria. This has created a humanitarian crisis in the Syria for the newly formed Government.

2) Regional: Dynamic Changed:-

Turkey has emerged a regional power after the fall of Assad. HTS has also support of Turkey.

Israel has contained Iran by toppling down Iran backed Assad in Syria. Meanwhile, it's a victory for Ukraine who helped in toppling down Russian backed Assad, and put a setback to both Iran and Russia. Hizbullah is also contained after fall of Assad.

3) International Relations:-

Since, Al-Qolani has emerged

as pragmatic political figure. USA is directly in contact with HTS and with the acceptance of Govt. by USA, European Countries, Al-Gotani regime will be legalized by external countries. This will help Syria emerge as an economic strength as well by trade with developed countries.

4) Internal Stability:-

Since, HTS and Al-Gotani has a positive figure in the eyes of citizens of Russia^{Syria} as well. So, no chances of any more civil war. This will bring internal political stability in Syria which was diminished 50 years ago. This stability can help in bringing stability in the Middle East as well.

These are the reasons and implications of unprecedented change in Syria.

(QNO.3)

State-Owned Enterprises:-

State Owned Enterprises (SOE's) are the entities which are controlled by the Government and loss and profit belong to public sector.

SOE as burden on Economy of Pakistan:-

Pakistan has done nationalization in 1970's and taken a lot of banks, industries in the power of Government. But, after the passage of time, these enterprises started bearing loss to the economy of Pakistan and started serving as burden instead of profitable entities. There are multiple reasons and now privatization is only solution to overcome this burden. Few are below:

1) Inefficiency and Distorted Infrastructure

These enterprises infrastructure has been distorted with the passage due to no or very less accountability. Employees stay idle and no check and balance on their duties. This is the reason behind the inefficiency of employees of these enterprises.

2) Financial losses and Strain on Budget:-

Most of these enterprises are bringing a huge loss to the economy. For example:- PIA is bringing loss of 200 - 250 million dollars annually to the economy of Pakistan. While, Steel Mills is bringing loss of 150 - 200 million dollars to the economy annually. On one side this huge loss which

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is a strain on budget. Pakistan is unable to invest in the needy infrastructure such as Education and innovation.

3) Lack of Funds and Innovation:-

Pakistan is a developing country with a limited economy. Due to lack of funding, innovation is unable to bring in these institutions or enterprises. This has increased the financial losses to these enterprises annually.

4) Political Interference:-

Political Interference is one of the major causes of these distorted enterprises.

The General Managers or Managing Directors of these enterprises

are strongly under the influence of politics. Due to political instability and favouritism in appointment of chiefs of these enterprises rebuked them from implementing special policies.

Moreover, creation of more vacancies than what is actually needed has resulted in more number of employees than the required ones. This is also one of the major reasons of failing of these enterprises.

It is must to privatize them but under balanced approach. Here are few recommendations on the process of privatization of these enterprises.

1) Audit before Privatization:-

Government should audit before

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privatizing the enterprises. It will help the bidder to bid on the basis of facts and figures.

In this way, actual data can be seen by the bidder that how much profitable it can be for them. This might help govt. owned enterprises to be sold at higher prices.

2) Restructuring of Enterprises before Privatization:-

State should reconstruct the enterprises to look attractive for the buyer. As of now, PIA is restructured recently and started flights to France and there are hopes to start flights to EU and USA as well. These are better ways to be adopted before

privatization.

3) measures to Reserve Right of Employees.

Before privatization, state should ensure to reserve the right of employees so the result wouldn't be unemployment. State should encourage the buyer to hire the same employees and those who are must to be terminated must be compensated by the state so that they can start their own business or get other job without getting bankrupt.

4) Phasal Privatization or Public Private Partnerships:-

Phasal privatization is helpful in getting higher rates. State can sell 49% of shares at first phase and once buyer

would be able to handle to such a huge enterprise, then sell the entire enterprise in the second phase.

Moreover, state can also do the public private partnerships in which both Government and the investors get benefited.

On the past, privatization was helpful for the country like Pakistan. For example, selling of HBL has brought a capital to the country at once and on other hand it has helped in less financial losses. Now, the worth of HBL is around 1.4 B\$. Privatization will reduce burden on economy and help it in a positive way.

(QNO. 4)

Russia - China Relations - A Challenge to US led world order:-

Russia and China have increase bilateral terms in the recent decade more rapidly. Both countries are leading the Global South by collaborating in economic, strategic and geo-political terms. US China war trade is most debateable topic of the recent trade decade. The BRICS collaboration, SCO, BRI, Russia and China direct trade are posing challenge to the US-led world. Both countries want to make the world multipolar instead of uni-polar led by USA for almost four decades. The growing aspect of Russia

and China in terms of Economic collaborations are as following.

Economic Collaborations :-

1) Bi-lateral Trade :-

The bilateral trade of Russia and China has increased tremendously in the recent decade. As per the facts and figures of - 2023 - the bilateral trade was limited to 220 billion dollars which is expected to surpass 300 billion dollars by 2030.

2) Energy sector :-

In the energy sector, both countries are collaborating. China is the major importer of Russian gas and petroleum products. The Siberian Gas Line is providing natural gas to China. The Siberian Pipeline - 2 is still

engaging for increasing collaboration

3) De-dollarization policy:-

Both countries are in favour of de-dollarization so that they can increase the value of their local money or currency.

By 2018, the trade in Yuan of Russia was only 1% but by 2023 it has increased to 16%.

Strategic Collaborations:-

China and Russia have increased their strategic collaborations a lot. Few are some points:-

1) Joint Military Exercises:-

Russian and Chinese armies are more engaging in joint military exercises. They

have started influence in the Asian and Global South region. They are encouraging the policy of **A2** (Anti-Access) and **AD** (Area Denial) policies against the military bases of USA in several Asian and middle-eastern countries.

2) Arms collaboration:-

China purchases the most recent fighter jets Su-35 from Russia as well S-400 missile technology.

while, Russia purchases modern drones and cyber security technology from the China. In this both countries are getting benefit from each other.

3) Against USA in conflicts:-

Both countries repel USA in the conflicts such as in Syria and Ukraine. For example, USA supports Ukraine while Russia is repelling it back.

On the conflict of North Korea, China collaborates with North Korea in terms of missiles and other weapons against USA.

Geopolitical Collaborations:-

Both countries demand a multipolar world order against the unipolar world order of USA.

1) UN Cooperation against USA:-

In the case of Syria, Ukraine, Russia has vetoed multiple times against US backed

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allies. In case of Iran, Russia and China both support Iran and Palestine against USA and Israel.

2) BRI, BRICS:-

Both China and Russia are leading the politics of global south and helping global south get emerged to global north.

To break global north hegemony, China has initiated Belt and Road initiative in which Russia became part of it. As per recent plan, the road will pass to EU by Russia.

3) SCO (China and Russia leading):-

To break the hegemony of US and global north, recent

SCO summit in Islamabad, a lot of initiatives had been taken to uprise the global south.

Conclusion:-

The collaboration of Russia and China in terms of strategic, economic and geopolitical is to give an uprise to the global south. Its purpose is to break hegemony of global north and shift the world from uni polar to multi polar by challenging the US led world order. For this purpose, the collaboration is kind of successful as well.