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1) Introduction:-

Syria, a historic country, has always kept the attention of the world in throughout history of mankind. In Islamic history, it is a country where the Ummayyad Caliphate started. Similarly the Ayyubids also had a seat of government (capital) there. It has seen a countless of government, formed and fractured with a lot of chaos. In the modern history, world also see the rise of ISIS from there. World power Russia and regional power Iran had gained success in the establishment of friendly regime. Their involvement in their own ways have prompted other state and non-state actors to dismantle Assad regime and install their choice of group in the government. This was swiftly done, thanks to Assad government's popular

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2) An overview of the developments in Syria, past fifty years

1971 → 2000

[An installation of Hafiz - Al - Assad regime]

[Bashar Al - Assad, son of Hafiz Assad took control of Syria]



2011-2015
[civil unrest and insurgency against the Assad government]

2011
[Arab spring, affecting Syria]

2016
[Iran, Hezbollah and Russia came to help Assad regime]

2017-2024
[A time of calm and relative peace under Bashar government]

Nov 2024
[HTS started march to capital against Assad government]

3) HTS toppling Bashar ul Asad regime

HTS, Hayyat-ul-Tahrir - Al-Sham, a breakaway faction of ISIS, (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), led by Muhammad - Al - Shura. remained an important faction vying for power in Syria. Due to one reason or another they sensed that they can take control of the Syria. They started march in Nov and on 27th Nov they captured their first of cities. The world was surprised by the Syrian Army inaction against them. HTS swiftly moved and within 12 days they captured the capital city and successfully overthrew the Bashar regime.

4) REASONS FOR THE UNPRECEDENTED CHANGE IN SYRIA

4.1) Rising unpopularity of Assad's government.

The first and the foremost reason is the inability of Assad's regime to provide relief to the masses. The people of this war-torn country faced inflation, inequality, and instability in the country. People were also not happy with the foreign interventions. The rising unpopularity of Assad can be gauged by the common people celebrations soon after his ouster.

4.2) Russia, an important ally of Assad government was engaged into its own problem.

The Russia-Ukraine war, and subsequent sanctions against Russia had made it very difficult for it to come in help of Assad government, like in the fashion of military and other support in 2016.

4.3) Iran, an important player in 2016 was also at the back-foot

Iran which has, in past, actively supported the Assad regime was at the back-foot due to its war-like situation with its adversary, Israel. Further, its proxies were not in a better position to support Assad government as they were in 2016.

4.5) Hezbollah's fighters
difficulties in their
war against Israel.

Hezbollah, a para-military
organization of Lebanon,
in 2016 had provided
their fighters to Assad
government so that the
efforts to preserve Alawite
regime get protected.
Their protracted war against
Israel, and Israel's military
successes against them had
restricted Hezbollah to come
in rescue to Assad government

4.6) Turkey's crucial
support for anti-government
fighters

rebels Turkey supported
due to two main
reasons

a) Bashar-al-Assad deliberate
reluctance to act against
the Kurdish fighters

b) Turkey host million of Syrian refugees since the civil war broke out.

These reasons compelled Turkey to support anti-government rebels.

4.8) World astonished by the Syria's Armed forces complete inaction

All these reasons left the Syrian Armed forces to fight against the rebels group, but they proves to be a rope of sand as they also completely remained from fighting

5) IMPLICATIONS FOR The Unprecedented change

5.1) Power vacuum created in Syria.

Though HTS has taken control of the Syria's government and Russia and Iran are out of the power equation, but the possibility while viewing through the lens of Arab Spring impacts, it is very bleak chances that HTS ~~establish~~ presents its government. As Iran's Supreme leader, in his first address after Syria's regime change said "The youth of Syria will revolt against the regime change, for their right."

5.2) Possibility of further worsening humanitarian situation in Syria

Fighting for filling vacuum may result in making more worse the humanitarian situation. Already

14 million Syrians are ^{refugees} and the cost of them are also faced with different humanitarian challenges

5.3) A strategic setback for Russia and Iran

Both Russia and Iran has lost their strategic ally in the Middle East. Their strategic objectives, especially of Iran's to threaten against Israel will significantly hampered in achieving them.

5.4) Turkey's prospects of gaining strategic objectives

Another country, along with Israel, that benefitted the most would be Turkey, as ~~the~~ Turkey can better utilize their relation with the new

government to dismantle
the Kurdish freedom
fighter movements.

5.5) Israel benefitting
the most from regime
change.

Israel, soon
after the regime change
had conducted more
than 600 strikes against
Syria's Army, naval and
other military and defense
related infrastructure, along with
capturing the international
buffer zone of 1974. It
also has successfully
- make its border secure,
first by dismantling Hezbollah
in Lebanon and even
this regime change.

6) CONCLUSION.

In a nutshell, the swift and smooth fall of Assad government has shocked the entire world. Both Assad government and allies are engaged with their own problems, the advantage was taken by the HTS and gained success in establishing their government. The regime change has multiple implications for the country and region. Only the time would tell whether HTS preserve their government and maintain stability in Syria or the chaos will continue.

Q4

1) Introduction:

When the US government show their intentions of leaving

Afghanistan, it was the Pakistan's security experts who believe that we Pakistan would get the most of the benefits from the post-US withdrawal. Contrary to the expectations, it was now deemed to be as a big strategic miscalculation as Pakistan has suffered the most from the Taliban's government take over. The unwillingness of Taliban's government to act against the TTP has created ^{security} complexities, which in turn strained Pakistan's relation with Kabul.

2) An overview of the nexus between the TTP and ^{Afghan} TALIBANS:

TTP, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban share much common things with each other. The most common among them is the ideology. Both ^{had fight} ~~are~~ ^{had} ~~been~~ ^{fighting} ~~against~~ the state for the imposition of Sharia-based law and order. For this they, in past had not only fight commonly against their respective adversaries but had supported each other

3) TTP's use of Afghan land for terrorist attacks against PAKISTAN

"Among all the militant groups that are present in the Afghanistan, the TTP has benefitted the most"

SOURCE: UNSC Analytical Support & Sanctions Monitoring

In the same report it was noted that the presence of TTP fighters has swelled to 6,500 in numbers.

4) Rise of terrorist-related incidents in Pakistan

According to the report released by Center for ~~excellence~~ Research and Security Studies

"In 2024 alone, above 1600 ~~casual~~ fatalities were recorded from 444 terrorist related incidents. The military and other security personnels we bear the brunt of assault; as 686 fatalities were related to them. These terrorism related incidents were increased to 66% from the last year"

Source: CRSS report, DEC 2024

5) IMPLICATIONS FOR PAK - Afghan relationship

5.1) Afghan - Taliban's unwillingness to act against TTP despite Pakistan's repeated requests

Doha Accord has explicitly stated that Afghan soil would not be used against any other country. The UN's subsequent reports confirmed Pakistan's stance that Afghan soil is being used as the launching pad against Pakistan. Despite Pakistan's repeated requests Afghan's Taliban has not showed any willingness to contain, coerce, detain or to do anything against TTP. This has strained Pak-Afghan relationship.

5.2) PAKISTAN CONDUCTING CROSS-BORDER STRIKES IN AFGHANISTAN

Despite the repeated requests, Afghan Taliban has remained reluctant to act against TTP sanctuaries. Pakistan has successfully conducted air strikes on the TTP's safe havens in April, 2024. This has further strained mutual relationship.

5.3) Stalled dialogue situation between both countries

The issue of TTP has put both the countries in odds against each other. This has stalled dialogue b/w both countries as Pakistan ask for immediately act against TTP whereas Afghan Taliban is asking for time.

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5.4) Strained relations resulted in the border closure

Pakistan has closed its border in Oct 2023 for mutual trade. This is because of the strained relations between the both countries

5.5) Expulsions of undocumented Afghans: Pakistan move for security and pressurizing Afghan government

Pakistan has started its drive in Oct 2023 and expelled half-a-million un-registered Afghan refugees. It has also vowed to expulse more @ 6 million illegal refugees to Afghanistan.

6) Possible Recommendations for solving Islamabad-Kabul issues due to the TTP

6.1) URGENT AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF DOHA ACCORD

Pakistan must ask international communities, by leveraging its diplomatic channels to pressurize Afghan government to honour its commitment of not letting ~~using~~ ^{use of} Afghan soil against any other country.

6.2) Use of "Carrot-and-stick policy" is recommended recourse

Just as Pakistan has done in past of using stick and carrot policy like conducting strikes (stick), and resuming trade and dialogue (carrot). It is recommended way as it can help both ways, pressurizing them and motivating for dialogue also.

6.3) Gaining diplomatic support from China, Russia

China and Russia has shown interest of Pakistan working with Afghanistan must diplomatically work out with both the countries of asking them to put the conditionalities on Afghanistan that they will stem out all the terrorist organization from the country.

6.4) Use of the regional platforms: SCO (RATS).

One of the prime objectives of SCO ~~was~~ is to work against terrorism. Pakistan can successfully vow to Regional community that TTP a terrorist group must be stemmed for peace in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

6.5) FOR SELF-DEFENSE,
 PAKISTAN MUST CONDUCT
 CROSS-BORDER STRIKES
 WHERE and WHEN
Necessary

Pakistan for the
 sake of the
 continuous territorial
 defense for preserving
 national security interests
 must continue its
 harsh stance of
 attacking safe havens
 in Afghanistan

7) CONCLUSION:

Pakistan - Kabul
 tensions has lingered
 on the issue of
 TTP. Pakistan has
 to offer lucrative
 alternatives to Afghan
 government for forsaking
 their support of TTP.

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Meanwhile, Pakistan both through the friendly countries and regional organizations must pressure the Afghan government to abandon its support for ITP. Thus, through a comprehensive Plan of action Pakistan can mitigate this problem.

Q 6)

1) Introduction:

Rather implementing a long-term structural reforms Pakistan has always sought short-term redressal of their economic problems. This becomes the sole reason for the repeatedly boom and burst cycle. Thus, Pakistan

has failed to achieve its goal of sustainable and steady economic development

2) AN OVERVIEW OF BOOM AND BURST CYCLE due to

Short-term economic measures

Pakistan in its entire history has never achieved its economic growth led by exports. It always focused on the foreign aids, grants and other short-term measures. It has achieved impressive growth of around 10%pc during the military government, thanks to the foreign aid, especially

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Currently Pakistan's exports stand around just at \$36 bn, and FDI at \$2 bn. It is only the remittances that has become the reason for covering the import bill. Pakistan has mostly faced with the problems of foreign exchange reserves. In year 2023, it had dipped to a level where it barely covers an import bill of just three weeks.

3) NEED FOR STRUCTURAL REFORMS

3.1) STRUCTURAL REFORMS
FOR THE INDUSTRIAL
SECTOR.

Industrial sector accounted for nearly 40% of the GDP. It can be used to accommodate the new entrants by employments

How To do structural reforms in industrial SECTOR

Steps

- Improving ease of doing business
- Stable exchange rate & help for exports
- Work for cheap energy prices.
- Work on TEVTA sector to increase skilled labour presence.
- Economic diplomacy for increasing exports destination

3.2) STRUCTURAL REFORMS IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Steps

Use of AI and modern technology in agriculture

Provision of modern irrigation means for farmers.

Working for lowering the prices of fertilizers, Urea and pesticides

3.3) STRUCTURAL REFORMS IN SERVICES SECTOR.

Steps

- Improving business confidence.
- Improving security condition in the country
- Improving country's governance model

3.4) Structural reforms

regarding SOEs:

Steps

- Privatizing all loss-making enterprises
- Encourages Public-Private Partnership

3.5) Structural reforms in Energy sector

The TPPS are one of the major economic market problems for Pakistan. Also, the whole energy sector of Pakistan is very costly for the state. It must be restructured once for all.

3.6) Structural reforms in Governance model: REGULATOR FROM OPERATOR

4) CONCLUSION

For achieving sustainable development Pakistan has to do structural reform in all the key sectors of economy and energy structure while making governance model as an enabler of business.

Q 7

① Charter of Economy
by forming consensus
on core issues



2) Consensus-building
on core issues

3) Transparency &
public involvement

4) Post-implementation
measures devising

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5) Follow-up
mechanism.