

CURRENT AFFAIRSQ3(A) INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is facing multiple challenges today including political instability, security issues, brain drain, etc. But the most important of them all is the economic challenge. The economy of the country is struggling and the state owned enterprises facing persistent loss is making situation even worse. Their privatization is the need of the hour which is not only beneficial but also essential for the survival of the nation.

(B) WHY State owned enterprises should BE PRIVATISED?(1) Permanent Budget

Since these enterprises are owned by the state, a permanent budget is allocated to them. This places a huge burden on the economic budget of Pakistan.

(2) No Profit

State owned enterprises such as PIA, steel Mills, etc are persistently going in loss and producing no profit.

Therefore, they have become a burden for the country.

(3) Permanent Jobs for Employees

The employees of these enterprises have permanent jobs. Due to which, the employees are paid irrespective of the input. As a result, the employees exploit the job security and ultimately become a burden for the country.

(4) Low Productivity

As the workers are paid irrespective of their value additions, they do not feel motivated to work to the best of their potential. Resultantly, the productivity of the company declines.

(5) No checks and Balances

In these organizations, there are no checks and balances. Due to which, people are free to work as they wish.

(6) Lack of Accountability

Nobody is held accountable for not fulfilling their duties. As a result, a culture of lethargy spreads throughout the company.

(7) Decline in Quality

As a result of lack of accountability, the services of employees decline.

Resultantly, the quality of products deteriorate and their demand in markets decrease.

(8) Deteriorating Conditions

As the demand of products and services of these enterprises decline, their condition becomes even worse with time. As a result they become burden for the country.

(C) SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS

- permanent jobs
- permanent budgets
- property of state

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of checks and balances
- no accountability
- low productivity
- Reduced Quality
- unable to compete in national and international market
- deteriorating conditions
- workers exploit the perks

OPPORTUNITIES

- can become beneficial if privatised
- can attract foreign investment
- can help improve economy

THREATS

- Resistance from employees
- Political instability
- Security threats
- Compromised judicial independence
- Unfriendly business environment

(D) HOW TO PRIVATISE ?

(1) Outright selling

There are three main ways in which state owned enterprises can be privatised. One of these is outright selling which includes finding a buyer and selling the whole enterprise.

(2) Public-Private Partnership

The second method is public-private partnership in which both public and private sector would take joint ownership. The government is considering public-private partnership in case of PIA.

(3) Floating Shares

The third method is to float shares of the enterprise in the market and then slowly transfer the ownership over time. This would help in improving the enterprises, finding better ~~setters~~ buyers.

(4) Creating Business Friendly Environment

The government should create business friendly environment by lowering the taxes. This would encourage people to invest in the business sector.

(5) Improving Legal System

Improving the legal system would build public trust and encourage people to invest their money in business.

(6) Promoting national and Foreign Investment
The government should encourage national and foreign investors through incentives. This would help in expediting the privatization process.

(E) CONCLUSION

The state owned enterprises are persistently going in loss, placing huge burden on economy of the country. Therefore, these enterprises should be privatised to ease the burden and increase their output. The government should take adequate measures to ensure the quick and smooth transition of these enterprises.

Q6

(A) INTRODUCTION

Ever since the Taliban have gained control of Afghanistan, terrorists attacks in Pakistan have increased tremendously. Taliban coming to power gave TIP a chance to regroup and reorganise. The TIP has since then used the Afghan soil to launch attacks on security personnels of

Pakistan. As a result, 2024 became the deadliest year in ~~the~~ over a decade for the country. Swift political and strategic action is required to curb down the resurgence of terrorism.

(B) Revival OF TERRORISM

(1) Deep Ethnic ties of Taliban and TTP

The Taliban and Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) share deep ethnic ties. Due to which, they support each other. The Taliban coming to power after the departure of US was the reason behind the rise of TTP.

(2) Unwillingness of Taliban to stop TTP

The Pakistan government has asked the Taliban government to take strict action against TTP but they are unwilling to do so due to their deep ethnic ties. As a result, the TTP continue to use Afghan soil to launch attacks on Pakistan.

(3) Coercive Policy of Pakistan

The kinetic and coercive policy of acquired by Pakistan include taking military action against TTP without engaging in dialogue. This further

exacerbates the situation as the disgruntled TTP continue to attack Pakistan.

(4) Funding from India

Pakistan refusing to help Afghanistan to rebuild its nation creates a vacuum and space for India. The growing relations between India and Afghanistan are a testament of this issue: India funds TTP to launch further attacks of the soil of Pakistan.

(C) PESTEL Analysis

POLITICAL

- Growing dissatisfaction among public
- Increasing Polarization
- Uncertainty in Political Environment
- Tarnishing relations with other countries
- Reduced Impact on international Platform.

Economic

- Reduced Business Activity
- Reduced Foreign Investment
- Fiscal Deficit
- Trade Deficit
- huge budget allocated to security
- Devaluation of currency
- Inflation and stagflation
- Brain Drain

~~SOCIAL~~

→ Brain Drain

STRATEGIC

- Death of military personnels
- Requirement of more weapons

TECHNOLOGICAL

- Requirement of latest weapons
- Less attention towards other industries
- Unable to compete in International market

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Use of weapons release pollutants
- Environment degradation
- Global warming
- Climate change
- Unhealthy environment for citizens

LEGAL

- Civilian casualties
- human rights violation
- International law violation

(D) RECOMMENDATIONS for dealing with TTP

(1) Political Recommendations

(a) Bilateral ties with Taliban

Strengthening bilateral ties with Taliban is crucial for ensuring peace in Pakistan. Without the help of Taliban, terrorism in the country cannot be controlled.

b) Economic aid for rebuilding Afghanistan
Pakistan should provide economic aid to the Afghan government to help rebuild their country. In return, Pakistan should demand their assistance in dealing with TTP.

c) Regional Collaboration

Pakistan should ask for assistance from other countries in the region as well as dealing with terrorists is a complex problem.

Pakistan through regional collaboration should enforce the Taliban to take adequate measures in dealing with TTP.

(2) Strategic Recommendation

(a) Carrot and Stick Policy

Pakistan should adopt carrot and stick policy which includes incentivising positive practices and discouraging non-compliance attitude through coercive means.

Through this policy, Pakistan can create a win-win relation in helping Taliban deal with TTP.

(b) Strengthening border Security

Pakistan should take adequate measures in strengthening the border security by deploying more troops and fencing the border with Afghanistan.

(c) Public Participation

The government of Pakistan should engage the public in dealing with the terrorists. Their cooperation is crucial for controlling the TTP.

(E) CONCLUSION

The revival of ~~Pakistan~~^{terrorism} has become a great challenge for the country as it has caused huge loss of life and economic instability. Swift measures are required to deal with TTP to provide a secure environment for the citizens of Pakistan.

Q2

(A) INTRODUCTION

The HTS rebels supported by Israel and US have toppled the Russian and Iran backed government of Bashar al Assad. Its reasons and implications will be discussed in detail below.

(B) REASONS FOR REBEL TAKING OVER SYRIA

(1) Public dissatisfaction with Assad Government

Bashar al Assad was an authoritarian leader. His cruel policies had led to great public dissatisfaction in the country.

(2) Fragmentation of Country

Before the rebels took over, the country was already divided into multiple fragments. Different rebel groups including HTS, SHF, etc. controlled small portions of land while Assad controlled the largest fragment.

(3) Growing Government Losing Power

As the public became increasingly dissatisfied, the hold of the government weakened and ultimately it lost power.

(A) Refusal of Military to fight

Even the military personnel were so dissatisfied with Assad regime due to meagre incomes and abominable conditions that they refused to put up a fight. As a result, the rebels quickly took hold of the country.

(B) Rebels backed by US and Israel

The rebels were backed by the US and Israel. As a result, they were equipped with strong weapons that helped them in toppling the Assad government and taking control.

(C) IMPLICATIONS OF HTS Takeover

(1) Weakening of Proxies of Iran

Assad was an ally of Iran. Iran used Syrian soil to fund its proxies in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Gaza.

As the Israel backed rebels have taken over the country, Iran would have to look for an alternate route. But for the time being the proxies of Iran have become weak and are unable to resist Israel.

(2) Increasing influence of Israel in Middle East

As the Israel backed rebels have taken over the country of Syria, the influence of Israel has increased in Middle East.

(3) Chance for Greater Israel

As Israel is increasing its influence in the region of Middle East, more room is being created for its ultimate goal of greater Israel.

(4) Increased Influence of US

Middle East is the energy hub of the world. The big powers are always trying to increase their influence in the region. US backed HTS rebels have taken over Syria which has given US an upper hand in the fight against Russia.

(D) CONCLUSION

The HTS taking over Syria has created an imbalance of power in the region with Israel gaining more influence than its arch-rival Iran. As a result, more instability in Middle East is inevitable.

Q4

(A) Russia China Collaboration

(a) Economic Collaboration

(a) BRICS

BRICS has become the largest growing organization and is a testament to the improving relationships between Russia and China.

(b) Economic Deals

China is helping Russia in its war against Ukraine despite the sanctions imposed on Russia.

(c) Hydrocarbons deal

When Russia attacked Ukraine, US imposed severe sanctions on Russia which restricted the European nations from importing hydrocarbons from Russia. As a result, China signed deal with Russia to buy its hydrocarbons on reduced prices. This helped Russia to maintain its economy in times of war.

(2) Strategic Collaboration

(a) Weapons deal

China and Russia have signed deals to buy weapons and missiles from each other.

(b) Joint military programs

Both countries have agreed to carry out joint military training programs. This would help strengthen the military of both nations.

(3) Geopolitical

(a) Increased talks between leaders

Both China and Russia have increased talks. These bilateral talks have given rise to multiple collaborations on different fronts.

(b) Collaboration on International Platforms

Russia and China have agreed to help each other on international platform. As a result the two countries have emerged as great powers threatening the US led world order.

(B) Threat to US led world order

(1) BRICS+ Currency

The BRICS+ countries, including Russia and China, are working on introducing a BRICS+ currency. This is a step towards dedollarization of international market, ultimately decreasing the influence of US.

(2) BRICS+ Banks

They have also decided to introduce BRICS+ banks which would work in parallel to Swift Banks. This would prevent US to exploit other countries by imposing sanctions.

(3) Revival of Multipolarity

The alliance of Russia and China has expedited their progress and has given rise to multipolarity, changing the world order and decreasing the dominance of US. The dedollarization and BRICS+ banks in international market would reduce the hegemony of US and give a chance for other countries, especially global south, to prosper.

(C) CONCLUSION

The alliance of Russia and China has expedited their economic progress, accelerating the revival of multipolarity. This has greatly threatened the US-led world order.