

Noa Mock Test

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Date: 20-Jan-25

Subject: Current Affairs

Part - II :-

Q4: Russia - China growing economic, strategic Discuss.

Ans 4 :-

The rapidly increasing economic, strategic and geopolitical collaboration between Russia and China presents a significant challenge to the existing US-led international order. This multifaceted partnership driven by shared interests and a desire to counter American hegemony^{which} has the potential to restructure the power landscape at global level.

1- Economic Interdependence and Diversification :-

The cornerstone of this challenge

lies in the deepening economic interdependence between Russia and China. Through initiatives like BRI and energy cooperation, both nations are seeking to diversify their economic relationships, reducing reliance on Western markets and institutions. The economic integration fosters a strategic partnership that can insulate them from Western sanctions and pressures, as demonstrated by the limited impact of Western sanctions on the Russia economy due to strong Chinese support. This economic interdependence can be analyzed through the lens of neoliberalism, emphasizing the importance of market forces and economic integration in shaping international relations.

2- Geopolitical Convergence on Global Issues.

Russia and China have increasingly converged on their views on key

global issues challenging the US-led international institutions and norms. They have formed a united front in opposing US-led interventions advocating for a multipolar world order and promoting alternative governance mechanisms such as Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Their opposition to US-led initiatives in areas like human rights and democracy further undermines the legitimacy of the existing international order.

3- Military-Technological Cooperations-

The military technological cooperation between Russia and China is a major concern for the US. Joint military exercises, arms trade, and the sharing of sensitive military technology have enhanced their military capabilities and challenge US military dominance. The development of advanced weapons systems such as hypersonic missiles and artificial intelligence powered weaponry further

strengthens their military posture. This military cooperation can be understood through the framework of realism.

4 - Challenge US Influence in Regional and Global Organizations

Both countries are active in challenging US influence within international organizations such as the UN, and the World Bank. They are seeking to reform these institutions to better reflect their growing global influence and to reduce US dominance. This include pushing for greater representation for developing countries and challenging the existing power structures with these organizations.

5 - Promoting Alternative Development Models:-

Russia and China are actively promoting alternative development model that challenge the

Western-centric model of development. They are emphasizing state-led economic development, emphasizing social and economic equality and promoting alternative forms of governance. This challenge to the Western development model will be effective.

6. Ideological Challenge to Liberal

Democracy:-

The rise of Russia and China presents an ideological challenge to liberal democracy and the values it upholds. Both nations advocate for alternative political systems such as capitalism and challenge the universality of liberal democracy values. This growing influence can undermine the appeal of liberal democracy in other parts of the world and encourage the rise of authoritarian regimes. This ideological challenge can be understood

through the framework of ideology which emphasizes the role of ideas and beliefs in shaping international relations.

Conclusion:-

In short, the growing economic, strategic and geopolitical collaboration between Russia and China poses a significant challenge to the US led world order.

Q3:-

State owned enterprises have been a huge and persistent burden on the budgetary economy of Pakistan. Why and how?

Ans 3g-

State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in Pakistan have long been a subject of debate. These enterprises often established with the aim of national development and social welfare have faced

numerous challenges including operational inefficiencies, lack of transparency and political interference.

1. Inefficiency and Financial Burden

SOEs in Pakistan often suffer from severe inefficiencies due to factors like political interference, bureaucratic red tape and lack of competition. These inefficiencies lead to operational losses requiring substantial government bailouts that strain public finances. This constant need for subsidies diverts resources from crucial sectors like healthcare and education.

• For e.g., the persistent losses incurred by Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) have placed a significant burden on the national exchequer, requiring repeated government bailouts.

2 - Lack of Transparency and Accountability:-

SOEs often lack transparency and accountability making it difficult to track their performance and identify areas for improvement. This lack of oversight can lead to corruption, mismanagement and a lack of ~~man~~ incentive for efficiency. Without proper checks and balances, SOEs can become breeding grounds for rent-seeking behaviours where individuals or groups seek to gain economic benefits without contributing to the overall economic growth.

3 - Stifling Competition and Innovations

SOEs often operate in sectors where they enjoy a degree of monopoly power, stifling competition and hindering innovation. This lack of competition can lead to

higher prices for consumers, lower quality services and reduced consumer choice. Furthermore, the ~~presence~~ presence of dominant SOEs can discourage private sector investment in these sectors, hindering the development of a vibrant and competitive market economy.

4 - Distorted Resource Allocation:-

According to experts, government resources are often misallocated towards propping up inefficient SOEs, diverting funds from more productive sectors of the economy. This misallocation of resources can hinder economic growth and development by preventing investments in areas with higher potential returns, such as infrastructure, education and research and development.

5 - Promoting Private Sector

Development:-

Privatizing SOEs can encourage private sector investment and competition leading to increased efficiency, innovative and economic growth. Private companies are typically more responsive to market forces and have stronger incentives to improve productivity and reduce costs. This can lead to better quality services, lower prices for consumers and ~~its~~ increased economic competitiveness.

Conclusion:-

Privatizing SOEs can bring significant benefits to the Pakistani economy by improving efficiency, enhancing transparency and accountability, fostering competition and promoting private sector development.

Q 6:-

Islamabad - Kabul
. recommendations.

Ans 6:-

The Islamabad - Kabul relationship remains fraught with tension, primarily due to the persistent use of Afghan soil by the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to launch attacks within Pakistan. This situation has serious implications for regional security and stability.

1- Security Dilemma :-

The situation exemplifies a classic security dilemma. Pak perceives the TTP operating from Afghan territory as an existential threat leading to increased security measures including border fortifications and counter-terrorism operations. These actions, however, can be misinterpreted by the Taliban as aggressive and provoke a defensive response escalating tensions.

2- Geopolitical Competition and Proxy Wars :-

The presence of various regional and global actors in Afghanistan complicates the situation. Some regional powers may be indirectly supporting the TTP or other militant groups to exert influence in the region. This creates a proxy war dynamic, where the

Conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan is exacerbated by external actors with their own interests.

3- Erosion of Trust and Confidence

The repeated violations of the Durand Line by the TTP and the lack of effective action by the Taliban government have eroded trust and confidence between Islamabad and Kabul.

This lack of trust hinders meaningful dialogue and cooperation on critical issues such as counter-terrorism, trade and economic development.

4- Humanitarian Crisis and Regional Instability

The ongoing conflict and instability in Afghanistan have led to a severe humanitarian crisis with millions of Afghans facing food insecurity and displacement. This crisis has

spillover effects on neighbouring countries including Pakistan, further straining relations.

Moreover, the presence of terrorist groups and the flow of illicit drugs from Afghanistan contribute to regional instability and pose a threat to international security.

5- Impacts on Regional Connectivity:

The tense relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has significant impacts for regional connectivity. The smooth flow of trade and commerce between Central Asia and South Asia is hindered by the unstable security environment. This has negative economic consequences for both countries and hinders regional integration efforts.

6- Recommendations:

Addressing the Islamabad-Kabul

tensions requires a comprehensive approach that includes diplomatic engagement, counter-terrorism cooperation, humanitarian assistance etc.

Q5:-

Dollar - - - - -

Ans 5:

The departure of Sheikh Hasina from Bangladeshi political scene presents both opportunities and challenges

1- Potential for Policy Shifts and Regional Realignment:

A change in leadership might can shift foreign policy priorities. For e.g., a new government might seek to diversify its policy leading to closer ties with other regional players like Russia and China.

2. Impact on Regional Security Cooperations-

Bangladesh has played a role in regional security & cooperations including counter-terrorism efforts and efforts to secure climate change.

3. Opportunities for Pakistan:-

A new Bangladeshi government might be more receptive to engage in dialogue and resolving issues such as trade disputes etc.

4. Islamabad's Approach:-

Islamabad should adopt a cautious and constructive approach towards ~~the~~ Bangladesh in order to ~~promote~~ resolve common issues, such as climate, trade etc.