

Current Affair - Full ExamQ2- Introduction

The commencement of Trump into the office of Presidency shook the whole world due to his unpredictability. ~~The~~^{He} view and treated the allies and foes alike, focusing on transactional relationship. This has given an opportunity to China to position itself as a reliable partner. ~~It is emphasized the statement,~~ China stressed on bilateral and multilateral relations, ~~free~~ trade liberalization, avoidance of coers coercion, working countries, cultural exchange, extending diplomatic influence, and strengthening its military.

How is China portraying herself as a reliable partner?

Trade liberalization with countries:
China considers itself a reliable partner

in trade. Being the highest economic growth country, it is lowering its barriers, reliable and modern products to enhance ties with other countries. Pakistan, for instance, has remained a trade partner due to free-trade agreement for a long time. Trump on the other hand has agitated his allies due to imposition of Tariffs.

Avoid exploiting weak countries like U.S.

China believes in sovereignty and national integrity of both smaller and larger countries. It has repeatedly stressed this position in various forums, such as BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Although propaganda were made by some such as Chinese debt trap, the country has provided loans on more lenient terms.

Extension of Chinese influence.

China continues using soft measures to extend its diplomatic influence. One such instance is thawing in relations of Iran and Saudi Arabia after decades of conflicts due to Chinese Mediation. Similarly, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and defence cooperations are utilised to strengthen Chinese influence and posit herself as a reliable economic and defence partner. The Chinese technology JF-17 Thunder fighter jets were played crucial role in Pakistan's air superiority over India.

Avoids using coercive techniques.

China avoids using coercive techniques over other countries. US has used coercion during tariffs, in wars, through sanctions and by international bodies. China, on the other hand use diplomacy to achieve its objectives.

Cultural Exchanges,

China develops a soft image through cultural exchanges and Chinese education.

For example, Confucius Institutes in many parts of the globe expose people to Chinese cultural and language. Similarly, Beijing International Education Exchange (BIEE) provides opportunities for people to interact with Chinese and explore China.

Chinese Capacity towards a parallel world order

China - The Next Superpower:

China is set to become the next economic superpower by 2030. The total trade value of China is in trillions and is engaged in trade to an extensive level. Moreover, projects like BRI has deepened its influence. Even U.S is indebted to China, valued at around \$27 trillion.

Strong economy extends influence, generates trust from other countries and give country the many opportunities to lead. China has used SCO and BRICS ^{forum} to lead the world into multipolar world order.

Increased defence expenditure:

China has accelerated its defence expenditure for a number of reasons.

First, it perceives security threat in Indo-Pacific Ocean, ^{and} South China Sea due to QUAD and ~~UKAUS~~ UKAUS. Second, it intends to annex Taiwan through historical claims. Hence, strong defence and advance technology automatically posits it as strong enough to lead the world into new global order.

Fostering trust and strategic partnerships:

Chinese foreign policy has developed strong ties with allies. Among them are key regional and nuclear players like Pakistan, North Korea and Russia. It has an all-weather friendship with Pakistan, a defence-economic relation with Russia and strategic relations with North Korea. Many countries perceive China as reliable and trustworthy, enabling the country to be a key global player.

Veto-Power in UNSC:

China has veto-power in United Nations Security Council, giving it an edge in international politics. This status position the country as strong and influential in determining the new world order.

Conclusion

China can be trying to project

itself as a reliable partner through trade diplomacy, cordial relations, extended influence as mediator, and cultural exchanges and using soft power approach. Since China has strong economy, robust military and deep strategic ties, it has capacity to lead the world into a new order.

Q3. Introduction

There is a rise in global armaments around the world. Countries like U.S, China, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, India and Israel are continuously expanding its weapons systems. There are many reasons for this trend such as Russia-Ukraine Conflict, Middle East Crisis, Pakistan-India crises, multipolarity and lack of accountability. This dangerous trend could increase wars, risk nuclear standoff, raise

humanitarian crises and weakens soft diplomacy, jeopardising international peace.

Reasons for increased armament globally

'New Normal' in conflicts:

Countries have established a new normal in conflicts through pre-emptive strikes, drones and attacks below nuclear threshold.

Following are few examples:

1- Ukraine-Russia conflict.

Ukraine and nuclear Russia are confronting each other since 2022. Russia is indirectly in trouble with NATO as well. Russia and Ukraine have used airstrikes, drone attacks and land assaults. Russia has threatened use of nuclear weapon if NATO got involved.

2- NATO's increased defence expenditure.

Trump has pressurised NATO to increase defence expenditure to 5% of GDP by threatening with demand. According to 7th NATO summit, it is agreed on this which will push NATO to trillions dollar defence budget by 2035.

3. Pakistan - India standoff - below the nuclear line:

India's attack in 2019 and then in 2025 has pressurised Pakistan to expand its armaments. It has started local development of JF-17 Thunder and enhanced defence cooperation through Saudi 'Defence Pact'. This will provide more economic support to Pakistan to enhance its defence.

4. Chinese 'Strings of Pearl' over India:

China is set to become a rising superpower by 2035. India, similarly, envisions itself as a regional and global hegemon. Also,

U.S. intends to undermine Jishi China
tough India. Hence, India has increased
its armaments, signed strategic defense
agreements with U.S like COMCASA
and BECA and enhanced its threatening
posture.

Middle East Crises:

Many instances like Israeli war
and Iranian threats have resorted
countries to expand its arms.

1. Threat of Israel and the concern of
Arab states:

Israel committed genocide in Palestine.
Similarly, it bombed Syria, Lebanon,
Iraq, Iran and Yemen. The agenda
of 'Greater Israel', enforced through
annexation of West Bank agenda and
Syria has driven many to increase
arms. Iran has intensified its nuclear
program while Saudi establishes cooperation

with regional players.

2. Saudi-Arabia and the Gulf states

Israel's unaccountability by U.S, followed by attack on Qatar, raised eyebrows among Gulf states. As a result, Saudi signed 'Defense Pact' with Pakistan. Recently, it established trade and defence ties with U.S by becoming a non-NATO ally and purchasing F-35s from U.S.

3. Iran's attempt to rise again:

Israel continues to be a lingering threat to Iran. Hence, it aims to strengthen its naval, air navy, missiles, and nuclear program. In the future, it may also increase arms to Yemeni Houthis.

Implications of increased global armaments

More Frequent Future conflicts.

Since there is lack of accountability, rise of regional powers, ^{and} weakened international organisations, there will be more frequent conflicts in the future. due to Increase armaments will risk South Asian conflicts, deepened Middle Eastern wars and NATO's direct involvement with Russia. Similarly U.S may indulge with China over Taiwan.

Risk of nuclear standoff.

High risk of conflicts is will increase the future of nuclear standoff more probable. Trump's recent announcement of nuclear test aggravates the issue. Pakistan may respond with nuclear attack upon ^{an} existential threat from India. Similarly, Russia may use

nuclear weapons or the 'Dead Hand' to deter NATO.

Increased migration and humanitarian crises:

Conflicts in Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Myanmar has aggravated migration crises. Future conflicts will worsen the situation, resulting in human right violations, loss of life and burden on recipient country. Similarly, humanitarian crises could accelerate as seen in Sudan and Palestine.

Diplomacy will become less relevant.

The exercise to restrain and the chance of external diplomatic pressure will lose its credibility. Countries will then resort to pressureize the opponent to defeat, negotiations or result in catastrophe. Hence,

rule of law will change to anarchy in global world order.

Conclusion

The lessons of rise in armaments was taken during catastrophe of world war. Multinationality, regional conflicts, lack of accountability, security threats and traditional warfare has given rise to armaments. This would worsen conflicts, risk nuclear standoff, aggravate humanitarian crises, increase migration, and disrupt global economy.

Q4-

Introduction

Trump's tariffs, and ^{in India} cordial relations with Pakistan drew the India away to warming ties with China. This has given China the opportunity to thaw its relations with India. This could impact Pakistan through number of ways. Positive impacts

may include Chinese mediation between South Asian rivals, extend Belt and Road Initiative to India, renew India Water Treaty and reduce proxy warfare through Afghanistan. Negative impacts may extend to reduced Pakistan's strategic edge, lesser support from China in case of war and greater Indian influence to prevent Pakistan from joining BRICS.

Positive impacts of Pakistan with China

Strengthened CPEC project:

China's cordial relations with India may help it gain Indian support for Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

This could extend further to Pakistan's China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Not only will it reduce security threat

but also connect it with India's Western region, boosting trade and investment from China and India.

Chinese mediation in India - Pakistan conflict:

Pakistan has reportedly given its stance of open doors to talks with India. China could use its warming relations with India and strategic relations with Pakistan to establish long-lasting peace. This will help Pakistan direct its resources to revitalise its economy rather than defence.

Reduced proxy warfare through Afghanistan.

China can pressure India to reducing proxy warfare to destablise

Pakistan and Sabotage CPSC. This may result in prevailing peace and stability. Economic stability will occur due to rising investment in mines and minerals resulting in a better Human Development Index and Standard of living.

Negative impacts of Pakistan-China relations

Weakened Strategic edge:

Pakistan is important to China in a number of geo-strategic ways. First, it provides an alternative trade route to Indo-Pacific trade region. Second, it strategically counters China India in the region. Warm ties with India will reduce threats of QUAD and increase economic trade through Indian ports. Thereby,

making Pakistan less relevant which will constrain relations.

Lesser Chinese Support in case of South Asian conflicts:

In case of better India-China relations, Pakistan will have weaker support to counter India. Since Pakistan is relatively weaker in strategic assets to India, it relies on Chinese strategic regional balance. India may increase conflicts, and intensify proxy warfare and destabilise economic framework. This may further weaken relations with China.

Weakened advocacy for Pakistan in BRICS:

BRICS has come out as a strategic force to counter Western

influence, including de-dollarization. Currently, Pakistan is attempting to join the organization as a member. However, India blocks Pakistan's admittance, being the key member. China, however, continues advocating for Pakistan. Warming ties between India and China will weaken Pakistan's stance to become a BRICS Member.

Critical Analysis

Pakistan is considered as an All-Weather Friend of China. Despite its warming relation with U.S, it maintained strong strategic ties with China. Similarly, China can balance relations with both countries, India and Pakistan, as it believes in win-win cooperation than zero-sum game. Moreover, it could

be fruitful in reducing Indian threat, revamping Indus Water Treaty and boosting CPEC. However, Pakistan must carefully calculate relations and continue diversifying its foreign relations.

Conclusion

In conclusion, China warming relations have both positive and negative impacts. Positively, it ~~will~~ may reduce conflict between South Asia rivals, reduce proxy warfare, increase cooperation of India & CPEC and revamp IWT. Negatively, Pakistan may lose strategic advantage, Chinese support and BRIC membership. However, China-Pakistan continue reinvigorating their strong relations. Furthermore, Pakistan must maintain strong relations with China and diversify its diplomatic reach.

Q5- Introduction

The strike on nuclear facilities by U.S along with Israeli attack greatly weakened Iran. The establishment of new Syrian government, weakened Hezbollah and destruction in Palestine greatly limited Iranian capacity. The negotiating table with U.S is filled with mistrust and the sanction continue to limit its economic outreach. Iran's options still include negotiation with U.S, continuing its nuclear program, and strengthening its missile arsenal and revamping its proxy networks.

U.S-Israel move has pressured Pakistan to ^{to have diplomatic} ~~main~~ relations with U.S, stance on Israel ^{to secure them} and threats of India.

U.S led Israel moves limited Iran
Middle East Role

Airstrikes and assassination in Iran.

Israel launched missiles, conducted airstrikes and assassinated top scientists and general of Iran. The attack on Iran's embassy in Damascus further weakened Iran's regional influence in Middle East.

Although it reduced Iran responded, it highlighted weak air sovereignty of Iran.

Attack on Nuclear Facilities.

U.S attacked Iran's nuclear facilities in Natanz and Isfahan. Although the B-2 bombers were sent to drop bunker busting bombs on these facilities. However, it did not stop Iran from pursuing its nuclear program. IAEA reports restrictions from Iran on its nuclear sites. Hence, it was short-term efforts to delay the

nuclear program, but it did not completely stopped it.

Iran's decline in its sphere of influence in Middle East:

Iran's proxy advantage in Middle East weakened for a number of reasons. First, the assassination of Hassan Nasrullah (Hezbollah's leader) and ~~Tamim~~ Ismail Haniyeh (Hamas leader) weakened the proxies. Moreover, fall of Syria's Bashar-al-Assad blocked land connection of Iran with Lebanon. Third, Syria lost Shia leader. ~~The~~ The new president Ahmed Al Sharaa is ~~was~~ way of Iran's influence.

Available options with Iran

Negotiation with U.S.

Although the June strike in Iran, tarnished trust on U.S, the leadership of Trump administration has still hold it as a potential deal to negotiations. Surprisingly, Trump is hinted Iran's possibility towards Abraham Accord. Negotiations with U.S and European Union can be taken on nuclear agreements and trade sanctions.

Increasing its armaments including Nuclear program.

After assessing the situation of conflict and tarnished trust with U.S, Iran can revamp its nuclear program and accelerate its production to create strategic deterrence. Moreover, it can increase its ballistic missiles stock pile and explore avenues of power through Yemeni Houthis.

Strong ties with Russia, China and North Korea:

The Europe has termed Iran, China, North Korea and Russia as 'Axis of Upheaval'. Iran can enhance deep strategic ties with these countries in trade, defence and strategic cooperation. Strengthening of this bloc will alleviate some economic and diplomatic suffocations of Iran.

Possible impacts on Pakistan

Continued stance over Israel:

Pakistan supported Iran during Iran-Israel conflict. The rogue state behavior of Israel continued Pakistan regarding the safety of its nuclear arsenal. Reports are

that Pakistan's nuclear weapons have always been on Israel's radar. Hence, Pakistan must be strategically ready for any incident. The Saudi 'Defence Pact' increases its scope in countering Israel.

Warming ties with U.S. and Abraham Accord:

Pakistan has revamped its relations with the White House. The reduced Iranian influence may pressurize Pakistan into recognising Israel. Since Pakistan maintains the condition of two State solution, it may negatively affect future ties with U.S.

Indian threat to its sovereignty:

India's increasing direct attack

mimics that of Israel on Iran. Since there is no accountability from globe as seen in Middle East conflict, India can initiate similar approach, risking nuclear escalation.

Conclusion

Tan lost its ~~strong~~ & strong proxy network, was weakened after attacks on its nuclear facilities and assassinations and is trying to ~~reinvent~~ revamp its nuclear program. Possible choices with Tan are negotiation on nuclear program with the West, increase nuclear production or strengthen ties with Russia, China and North Korea. Possible implications on Pakistan include possible attacks from India or Israel, increasing U.S. ties and pressure in signing Abraham Accord.