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Current Affairs-03 Day: _____

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Q2 :

"COP 30: Agenda, Outcome,
Role of Pakistan and The US'
Exit"

1- Introduction :

COP 30 held in Belem, Brazil from 10-21 November, 2025 highlights the global commitment to mitigate climate change through energy transition, food and agriculture and forest protection. However, the COP 30 was stressed to be 'implementation focused', taking measureable actions. Its outcomes are both positive and negative in nature. The positive outcomes include working program on Article 9, triple financing and climate adaptation. However, absence of phasing out of fossil fuel usage, the absence of United States weakens its nature. While, Pakistan advocated for global cooperation.

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2- Agenda of COP30 :

The agenda of COP30 expands on three axes which are as follows:

i) Implementation of the First Global Stocktake (GST-1) :

The agenda of COP-30 is to implement the long-standing goals adopted at Paris Agreement. It lays emphasis on 'measurable actions' across the mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer etc. It focus on following dimensions :

- Energy transition
- Stewardship of agriculture and forests.
- Food security
- Climate change mitigation

The COP30 is stressed to be implemented COP, not only planning.

ii) Just Protection and Forest Protection:

The agreement primarily focuses on the protection of Amazon rainforest - lungs of the Earth. It also proposes Tropical Forest Forever Fund to ensure

protection of forests. It also stresses on just transition of practices to lower burden on developing countries.

iii) Climate Adaptation :

COP-30 proposed an annual \$300 billion fund for developing countries by 2035 to deal with the effects of climate change. It aims to give a leverage to developing countries in adopting climate-friendly policies.

2. Outcomes of COP 30 :

Although a successful climate agreement, it has suffered from some weaknesses due to non-implementation. Some of the positive and negative outcomes are as follows:

A- Positive Outcomes :

i) Tripling adaptation finance :

The COP has successfully agreed upon tripling adaptation finance up to \$1.3 trillion. It will enable the developing countries to adapt to climate-

friendly infrastructure and technology, minimizing damages due to climate-related events.

ii) Working program Article . 09:

Article 09 stresses on the more responsibility of developed countries in contributing to financial obligations. Hence, COP 30's working program on Article 9 of Paris Agreement enables developing countries to be made resilient in face of climate change, funded by developed countries.

iii) Baku to Belem Roadmap:

COP 30 focuses on 'mapping' a roadmap from COP 29 till date to deal with climate change through international cooperation.

However, the aim of tripling finance and working on Article 09's implementation remains only in discussions and charting, not focusing on enforcement or binding agreement.

B- Weaknesses or gaps:

i) Phasing-out fossil fuels:

COP 30 has ignored any talks or discussion on phasing out fossil fuels usage which is leading to 1.5°C annual increase in the Earth's temperature. It weakens the plan's credibility.

ii) Non-binding commitments:

COP 30 is not binding in the sense that there are no compulsions in case of not fulfilling the responsibilities. Hence, it weakens the nature of commitments in absence of any binding article.

iii) Reliance on loans:

Despite developing countries insistence, the agreement has not reached on any principle of grant-based financing. It still focuses on reliance on loans which increase burden on the developing countries for debt repayment.

3- Pakistan's Participation :

The participation of Pakistan in COP 30 was active and assertive diplomatic role. Following are the major facts from Pakistan's participation:

i) Advocacy for grant-based finance:

Pakistan advocated for grant-based finance, instead of reliance on loans. It has cited the case of increased pressure of debt repayment which drives the country's development share to debt payment.

ii) Advocacy for change :

Pakistan cited its historical losses due to climate change led disasters which destroyed the country's infrastructure, agricultural land, leading to food, health and displacement crises. It has highlighted the effects of floods:

Floods of 2010, 2022, and 2025 causing a damage of more than \$30 billion in respective years.

iii) Effort to enhance resilience:

Pakistan has highlighted its domestic efforts to enhance resilience by investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, early warning system and disaster management system. It has also highlighted the initiation of rebuilding lost infrastructure, thus, calling for financial assistance.

iv) Pakistan's advocacy; A Global South diplomacy:

Pakistan's advocacy is a broader reflection of Global South diplomacy, as its insistence on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility encourages cooperation on the basis of capacity and capability.

4- The US' exit:

The exit of United States have broader implications for the region, some of which are as follows:

i) Leadership vacuum:

The primary challenge it poses

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is the creation of a leadership vacuum in climate-related agreements. Although the EU and other developed countries fill the gap, a difference in binding upon agreements is created.

ii) Financial constraints:

The US being a part of Paris Agreement earlier used to invest \$5 billion alone in mitigating climate change. Now, it creates a financial constraint in ^{Green} Climate Funds despite cooperation of other countries.

iii) Normative impacts:

The exit of a big power as well as highest global emitter like the US leads to adoption of compensatory approach by other emitters, weakening the binding nature of agreement and creating a policy inertia or roll back among other nations.

iv) Compensatory leadership:

Although the countries like China

fill the gap, but it becomes difficult to achieve a global consensus.

5- Conclusion :

COP 30 is one of the most successful climate-related binding agreement. However, its non-binding commitments, absence of phasing out fossil fuels clause despite insistence by developing countries and reliance on loans rather than grant-based finances weakens the outcomes. Moreover, the absence of United States create a leadership vacuum, enabling other global emitters to escape binding agreements and creating financial constraints. Therefore, a more adaptive and comprehensive binding agreement is needed to enforce UNFCCC and IPCC agendas.

Q.01

“Expansion of BRICS and SCO; Transition from ‘old’ to ‘New’ Multilateralism and Options for Pakistan”

1- Introduction :

BRICS and SCO are two most important organizations shifting the old multilateral order to new multilateralism. As old multilateralism was focused on the Western structure order and the hegemony of US and EU in trade, security and global diplomacy, SCO and BRICS through their multilateralism ensures Global South cooperation and incorporation in global diplomacy. Through trade infrastructure and institutions like ‘New Development Bank’, SCO and BRICS challenge ^{the} Western dominance. Therefore, Pakistan can benefit itself from these organizations to enhance its strategic, economic and security position, emerging as a multilateral global power.

2. Expansion of BRICS :

- Evolution and Origin :

Founded in 2009, BRIC transformed into BRICS in 2010 including: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Now, its expansion has led to integration of countries (UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia) forming an organization of 10 members.

- Global cooperation and potential :

BRICS has led to a multirange of cooperation with its potential of

- 50% global population
- 43% global area
- 25% global GDP

It has led to its expansion and strengthening economic and multi-lateral cooperation.

- BRICS Pay :

BRICS counter Western dominance and influence of their institutions (WTO/WB/IMF) by forming a

"New Development Bank" and introducing digital payment system and dollarization efforts.

- BRICS+ network:

BRICS has formed a wide-ranged dialogue and partner system by encouraging other countries to become a dialogue partner. Hence, a BRICS+ network is formed including countries from all over the world i.e. Nigeria, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela etc. countering Western dominance, particularly the US.

- Strategic agenda:

BRICS hold a strategic agenda

- To expand global multilateralism by incorporating voices of other nations in international decision making
- To reform the structure of international institutions, particularly United Nations Security Council.
- To ensure South-South cooperation and multipolarity.

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3- Expansion of SCO:

- Origin:

Evolved from 1996 Shanghai Five, SCO was formed in 2001, particularly focusing on security cooperation.

- Evolution and Expansion:

- SCO has now expanded with 10 permanent members and multiple observer states and dialogue partners.

- It has incorporated multiple goals rather than one goal of birth-time.

- Security cooperation:

SCO aims to tackle '3 evils' i.e. extremism, separatism, terrorism through the 'Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)'. In addition, it enables member countries to procure defense needs by joint exercises.

- Strategic agenda:

It includes 40% global population and 20% global GDP, hence, giving

it a strategic leverage.

- Economic imperative:

The organization serves to fulfill economic concerns of member countries by

- Proposing trade networks and market access through cooperation.
- Energy security providence by 'SCO Energy Club'.
- Increasing connectivity through International North South Transport Corridor and CPEC projects.

4. SCO and BRICS; Transition from 'Old to New Multilateralism':

Both the organizations mark a transition from old to new multilateralism.

Old multilateralism refers to:

- Dominance of the Western institutions i.e. IMF, WB, WTO etc.
- Hegemony of the US and the EU in decision-making.
- Global North leverage in trade and

development.

SCO and BRICS marks shift to multilateralism in following way:

- Multilateralism refers to the Global South cooperation in trade, economy and global decision-making.
- Alternative institutions that are more responsive and reactionary to needs of Global South in the form of 'New Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank' as initiated by these organizations.

5- Opportunities for Pakistan:

Pakistan can capitalize on SCO and BRICS to enhance the multilateral dimension of its foreign policy in the following ways:

A- Rationale for SCO Pakistan in SCO:

i) Security needs:

- Pakistan can benefit itself from SCO joint military operations and exercises to train security personnel.

- Pakistan can enhance defense infrastructure by leveraging SCO relations with China and Russia. In this way, it can procure its defense needs on which it spends highest percentage of its GDP.
 - Pakistan can ensure empowered efforts against counter-terrorism and drug trafficking by involving regional players.
- ii) Economic opportunities:
- Pakistan can get access to Central Asian markets by expanding trade networks.
 - By expanding CPEC into regional countries, Pakistan can seek benefit from enhanced strategic leverage and diplomacy.
- iii) Energy security:
- Pakistan holds \$2.3 billion circular energy debt which hinders industrial development and overall growth. Hence, by expanding ties with energy rich Central Asian states, it can fulfill its

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energy needs.

B. Rationale for Pakistan in BRICS:

Pakistan has applied for BRICS membership in 2023, and hopes for inclusion in 2026. China and Russia has supported Pakistan's request to join BRICS. It will ensure following multilateral options to Pakistan:

i) Economic support:

Pakistan can seek benefit from New Development Bank, overcoming its over-reliance on the Western institutions which limit development due to austerity measures and policy dictation.

ii) Enhanced role and strategic position:

BRICS membership combined with the strategic geographical position of Pakistan will enhance its role as a global member. Connecting South Asia with Central Asia and Middle East, it can cultivate additional benefits by linking with infras-

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structure and energy projects.

iii) Soft power and leadership:

It will enhance Pakistan's role as soft power, providing a leverage in global leadership. It will enable Pakistan to foster people-to-people and cultural ties, propagating its soft image which has been damaged due to longstanding war on terror.

6. Conclusion :

The shift from new old to new multilateralism challenges the US and Western dominance in almost all domains. It is done by enhancing global South cooperation and initiation of new institutions like New Development Bank and policy frameworks like dedollarization, transport corridors, energy clubs etc. Hence, Pakistan can transform its global position and reap benefits of its geostrategic position to emerge as a more stronger power.