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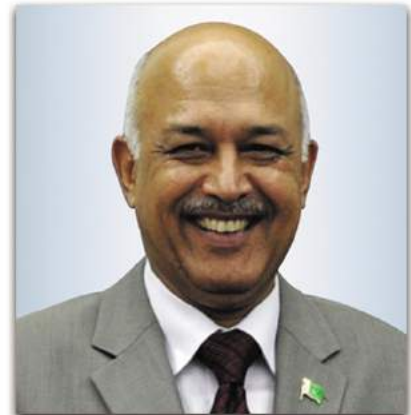
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ARTICLES

1- Implementing Green Shipbreaking regime in Pakistan, Capacity, performance and Hong Kong convention

In the early 1900s, shipbreaking yards appeared in many port cities around the world. These yards would buy up old ships, break them down for scrap metal, and recycle the material for use in other industries. The industry grew significantly during World War II, when the demand for scrap metal was high. After the war, the industry began to decline as ships became larger and the cost of breaking them down became too expensive. In the 1960s and 1970s, the industry experienced a resurgence due to the growing demand for oil tankers and other large vessels. This led to the development of new shipbreaking techniques and safety procedures, as well as the growth of specialized shipbreaking yards in countries such as India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Turkey. Today, shipbreaking is still an important part of the global maritime industry. Ship breaking is the process of disassembling a boat and recovering the salvageable components, such as steel and other metals, for future use. Workers in the very hazardous and deadly industry of ship breaking are exposed to poisonous and dangerous environments. The majority of the sector is located in underdeveloped nations like Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, and has also been linked to violations of human rights and environmental protection. Ships are owned by international shipping firms, who utilize them for commerce before selling them mostly to Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan (South Asian countries) for dismantling. These South Asian nations can provide ship-owners with appealing pricing since they lack the iron ore needed to meet their expanding steel demand. In order to cut costs, hazardous manual methods are used on open beaches in South Asian nations, however these methods actually damage the environment and put the lives of employees in the ship recycling and shipbreaking industries at risk.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) agreed in 2006 to create a comprehensive, legally enforceable framework for controlling hazards connected with

ship-breaking operations in light of the problem's global character. The International Maritime Organization adopted the Hong Kong Agreement for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, popularly known as the Hong Kong Convention, in 2009 in Hong Kong in 2009. The Basel Convention on the Regulation of Trans boundary Movement of Hazardous Materials and their Disposal, 1989



was the only international agreement in force prior to this (the Basel Convention). Breaking down a ship and reclaiming its useable parts is known as ship breaking. The Convention is the first international agreement to provide guidelines for the recycling of ships in a safe and responsible manner. The Convention focuses on the safe and responsible recycling of ships as well as the management of garbage created by ships. In addition to managing hazardous and non-hazardous materials, protecting employees and the environment throughout the recycling process, and safely disposing of trash produced by ships, it lays forth minimum requirements and procedures for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships. The Hong Kong

Convention is a crucial step in regulating the ship-breaking sector since it establishes requirements that must be fulfilled in order to ensure the safe and ecologically responsible. The Agreement aims to prevent the use of subpar, poorly run shipyards, which have been linked to violations of environmental and human rights. The Agreement establishes criteria for the implementation of these requirements



obliges states to guarantee that all ship recycling facilities adhere to them. It is envisaged that the Hong Kong Agreement would assist to lessen the environmental and human rights violations connected to the ship breaking business by supporting the safe and ecologically sound recycling of ships. The Convention aims to provide incentives for ship owners to employ ethical ship recycling facilities as well as to promote the development of responsible and sustainable ship recycling practices. The Convention aims to ensure the safe and ethical reuse of ship materials and components while minimizing the harmful effects of shipbreaking on the environment and human health. The practice of breaking down outdated or unneeded ships for their scrap metal is known as ship breaking. It contributes significantly to the worldwide recycling business, but because of the possible negative effects on people's health and the environment, it has grown more controversial. For the nations of South Asia, the shipbreaking business is a necessary economic activity. These nations get the majority of their steel scrap from the shipbreaking business, which also provides jobs for the locals. It produces between 10 and 15 percent of India's and Pakistan's total steel output, and 60 percent of Bangladesh's. One ship may be broken down for a profit of \$16,600 in Pakistan and \$921,400 in Bangladesh. The substantial profit margin from the shipwreck materials contributes significantly to tax income for the government. For instance, tax revenue from the shipbreaking sector brings in around \$86 million annually for the Bangladeshi government.

In 2016, the shipbreaking business in Bangladesh contributed roughly 15% of the country's overall tax income.

Implications of Hong Kong Green Shipping Convention in Pakistan

The implementation of the Hong Kong Green Shipping Convention in Pakistan is an important step towards protecting the environment and promoting sustainable shipping practices. The Convention is an agreement that sets standards for the safe and environmentally friendly management of ships, including best practices for pollution prevention, energy efficiency, and ship recycling. In order to implement the Convention, Pakistan must work with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to ensure that its ships meet all of the standards outlined in the Convention.

This includes ensuring that the ships have effective pollution prevention and energy efficiency systems in place, and that they are regularly monitored and maintained. Additionally, Pakistan must ensure that all ships within its waters are operating in compliance with the Convention, and that adequate enforcement measures are in place to ensure that any violations of the Convention are met with appropriate



penalties. The implementation of the Hong Kong Green Shipping Convention in Pakistan is an important step towards protecting the environment and promoting sustainable shipping practices for all vessels operating in the country. The shipbreaking yards in Pakistan are situated 50 kilometers to the west of Karachi, the biggest city in the nation, on the Arabian Gulf. On a tidal beach shoreline, they extend for a distance of many kilometers. While the remaining plots are run on government-owned land, the majority are leased from private landowners. After the explosion on November 1, 2016, the biggest catastrophe in shipbreaking history, the severe working conditions at Gadani were extensively publicized. Shipbreaking and recycling businesses contributed significantly to Pakistan's economy in the 1980s by providing a sizable amount of rerollable scrap steel to the iron and steel sectors. Also, Pakistan's shipbreaking industry has been paying the federal and provincial governments taxes annually. However, during the past 20 years, inconsistent government policies, rushed changes to the duty and other charges on the import of ships for scrap, and, most importantly, overall disregard for the shipbreaking industry, have negatively impacted employment at Gadani. Pakistan once served as the world's centre for the shipbreaking industry. Nevertheless, competition from two major South Asian shipbreaking yards in Chittagong, Bangladesh, and Alang, India, has also reduced its significant production. The nation's economy is currently suffering greatly as a result of the huge importation of iron.

The government must take responsibility for boosting this sector of the economy since it would boost Pakistan's GDP and employ thousands of people from all across the country. To reclaim its former greatness, Pakistan must give the shipbreaking industry top attention. With 30,000 employees, Gadani was the biggest shipbreaking yard in the world in the 1980s. It made significant contributions to Pakistan's economy, but due to several government policies and neglect, this industry slowly and steadily began to deteriorate.

Firstly, Pakistan's government has to develop and put into effect a thorough set of rules for the ship-breaking sector. As part of these rules, there should be requirements for using appropriate waste management practices as well as necessary health and safety standards. In order to guarantee that these laws are implemented, the government needs also establish a system of oversight and enforcement. This will make it easier to make sure the sector is running safely and responsibly.

Second, Pakistan needs to fund the creation of environmentally friendly ship-breaking techniques. This could entail creating cleaner and more effective techniques for disassembling vessels. . In place of using conventional methods, which can be more harmful to the environment, lasers might be used to more accurately split apart vessels. Research should also be done on more



environmentally friendly materials that might take the place of conventional metal components. Finally, the government has to fund a public awareness campaign on the possible effects of shipbreaking. Public education campaigns and community workshops might be used to accomplish this. Such initiatives might stimulate the use of environmentally friendly ship breaking methods and motivate individuals to dispose of their boats with more care. The government should also make investments in the growth of environmentally friendly shipbreaking facilities. More sustainably processing boats might be done in these yards. This could entail recycling materials that would otherwise be thrown away as well as the adoption of more effective technology for processing scrap metal. In conclusion, green ship breaking might be used in Pakistan to lessen the industry's negative environmental effects. Such actions would need both public and government involvement, but they may contribute to more sustainable industry operation.

Implementing the HKC in Pakistan has been a challenge, due to the lack of capacity and infrastructure in the country. The main obstacle to implementing the HKC in Pakistan has been the lack of a well-equipped ship breaking yard and the necessary infrastructure required to properly recycle vessels.

The majority of existing shipbreaking yards in Pakistan are small-scale operations, often located in remote areas, and do not have the capacity to properly handle and dispose of hazardous materials. In order to address this issue, the Government of Pakistan has taken several steps to promote the implementation of the HKC in the country. The government has developed a National Shipbreaking Strategy, outlining the objectives and framework for the implementation of the HKC in the country. The government has also developed a Shipbreaking Capacity and Performance Report, which outlines the capacity and performance of shipbreaking yards in Pakistan. Additionally, the government has provided incentives to shipbreaking yards to upgrade their facilities and comply with the HKC, such as tax exemptions, loans, and subsidies. The implementation of the HKC in Pakistan has been slow but steady, as the Pakistani government has taken steps to promote the safe and environmentally sound recycling of vessels. The government has established regulations and guidelines for shipbreaking yards, such as the requirement for yards to conduct a pre-docking inspection of vessels and to provide training to workers in handling hazardous materials. Furthermore, the government has provided incentives to shipbreaking yards to upgrade their facilities and comply with the HKC. Despite the progress that has been made in implementing the HKC in Pakistan, there is still a long way to go. The majority of shipbreaking yards in the country are still operating in substandard conditions, and there is a need for greater investment in the industry. Additionally, there is a need to create awareness among shipbreaking workers and the general public on the importance of implementing the HKC.

Green ship breaking is a type of recycling that is proven to be a more environmentally responsible, economical, and sustainable method of getting rid of old ships. Although Pakistan has been dismantling ships since the 1970s, it has only lately been apparent to the government that green ship breaking might open up new economic prospects. Pakistan's shipbreaking sector has the potential to bring the nation many economic advantages. The creation of jobs is one of the biggest



opportunities. The business is crucial to Pakistan's economy since it offers low-skilled employment to thousands of individuals engaged in shipbreaking yards. Due to the industry's potential to bring in hundreds of millions of dollars through the sale of scrap metal and other items salvaged from the ships, it is also a significant source of foreign cash for the nation. Green shipbreaking also provides low-cost raw materials for the industrial sector,

which is another economic potential. The availability of these resources at cheaper prices can assist to decrease production costs and increase the competitiveness of the manufacturing industry. The recovered materials are frequently employed again in the production of construction materials, vehicle parts, and other items. Lastly, green ship breaking can also aid in lowering the health hazards and environmental pollution connected to traditional ship breaking. Hazardous chemicals are typically used in the traditional method of dismantling ships, which can lead to worker health risks as well as air and water pollution. On the other hand, green ship breaking uses non-toxic chemicals to assist lower the dangers to the environment and human health. In conclusion, green ship breaking presents Pakistan with a wide range of economic potential. It creates thousands of employment, produces foreign exchange, and gives the industrial sector access to low-cost raw materials. Also, it aids in lowering the hazards to the environment and human health involved with conventional shipbreaking. These factors suggest that in order to optimize the green ship breaking industry's potential economic advantages, Pakistan should keep promoting and aiding it.

Has India And Bangladesh Learnt From Pakistan?

India and Bangladesh have both learned from Pakistan's mistakes in the shipbreaking industry. Pakistan is one of the world's leading shipbreaking countries, and its practices have come under fire from environmental activists. In recent years, Pakistan has been a leader in green shipbreaking, which is a process that involves recycling and reusing materials from ships that have been decommissioned.

India and Bangladesh have both studied the situation in Pakistan and implemented their own green shipbreaking policies. They have adopted a number of measures to ensure that their shipbreaking practices are as safe and environmentally friendly as possible. For instance, both countries require that ships be inspected for hazardous materials before they are broken down and that workers are provided with protective gear.



Additionally, both countries have implemented regulations to limit the amount of air and water pollution that is generated during the shipbreaking process. Overall, India and Bangladesh have both learned from the mistakes of Pakistan and implemented their own green shipbreaking policies.

Advantages Of Green Ship-Breaking:

1. Increased worker and environmental safety Green shipbreaking techniques increase worker and environmental safety. This is because safer chemicals are used, hazardous items are removed using better techniques, and trash is managed more effectively.
2. Lessened air and water pollution: The goal of green shipbreaking techniques is to lessen air and water pollution. This entails less emissions and wastewater discharge in addition to enhanced material recycling and reuse.
3. Increased economic opportunities: Using environmentally friendly shipbreaking techniques benefits all parties involved. This includes the possibility to generate innovative technology and services that may be sold to other nations, as well as the creation of employment and higher income.
4. Green shipbreaking techniques can aid in reducing the amount of garbage generated by the business and improve overall sustainability. Reusing resources, improving recycling, and lowering the demand for fresh materials and energy sources all fall under this category.
5. Reduce prices: Environmentally friendly shipbreaking techniques can aid in lowering industry-related expenditures. This is brought about through increasing reuse and recycling as well as enhanced reuse and decreased trash.

Capacity building:

Refers to the process of developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of individuals and organizations to carry out specific tasks or functions. In the context of implementing a green shipbreaking regime in Pakistan, capacity building is essential to ensure that the relevant stakeholders have the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively implement and enforce the regime.

The implementation of a green shipbreaking regime in Pakistan requires a significant amount of capacity building at different levels. At the national level, the government needs to build capacity in terms of regulatory frameworks, institutional capacity, and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with international standards, such as the Hong Kong Convention.

The Hong Kong Convention is an international treaty that sets out the standards for safe and environmentally sound ship recycling. It provides a framework for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of ships to ensure that they can be recycled safely and without harm to human health and the environment. Implementing the Hong Kong Convention requires significant capacity building in terms of regulatory frameworks, institutional capacity, and enforcement mechanisms.

Capacity building is also essential at the local level to ensure that the shipbreaking yards have the necessary knowledge and skills to implement the green shipbreaking regime.

This includes training in safety, health, and environmental management practices, as well as the use of appropriate equipment and technology.

Effective capacity building can also improve the performance of shipbreaking yards in Pakistan by reducing accidents, improving working conditions, and enhancing environmental protection measures. This, in turn, can help to increase the competitiveness of the shipbreaking industry in Pakistan and promote sustainable economic development.

In conclusion, capacity building is a crucial component of implementing a green shipbreaking regime in Pakistan. It is necessary to build capacity at the national and local levels to ensure compliance with international standards, promote safety and environmental protection, and enhance the competitiveness of the shipbreaking industry in Pakistan.

Green Shipbreaking Industry Global Trends and How to Implement:

The shipbreaking industry has long been associated with environmental and social issues, such as pollution, hazardous working conditions, and labor exploitation. However, in recent years, there has been a growing global trend towards "green shipbreaking," which aims to promote safe, sustainable, and environmentally sound ship recycling practices. Here are some global trends and strategies for implementing green shipbreaking:

International regulations and standards: The International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) have developed international regulations and guidelines for ship recycling, such as the Hong Kong Convention and the ILO's Guidelines for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships. Implementing these standards is essential to ensure that ship recycling practices are safe, sustainable, and environmentally sound.

Technology and innovation: The development and adoption of new technologies, such as cutting-edge dismantling equipment and innovative recycling processes, can help to improve the efficiency and safety of shipbreaking operations. For example, using robots and automated equipment to dismantle ships can reduce the need for manual labor and minimize the risk of accidents.

Building the capacity of shipbreaking yards and workers is essential to ensure that they have the necessary knowledge, skills, and equipment to implement green shipbreaking practices. This includes training in safety, health, and environmental management practices, as well as the use of appropriate equipment and technology.

Corporate responsibility: Ship owners and operators have a responsibility to ensure that their ships are recycled in a safe, sustainable, and environmentally sound manner. They can do this by selecting green shipbreaking yards that meet international standards and by implementing responsible ship recycling policies and practices.

Collaboration and partnerships: Collaboration between governments, industry stakeholders, and civil society organizations is essential to promote the adoption of green shipbreaking practices. Partnerships can help to share best practices, build capacity, and promote sustainable ship recycling practices.

In conclusion, implementing green shipbreaking practices requires a multi-faceted approach that involves international regulations and standards, technology and innovation, capacity building, corporate responsibility, and collaboration and partnerships. By promoting sustainable and environmentally sound ship recycling practices, the shipbreaking industry can play a vital role in promoting sustainable economic development and protecting the environment and human health.

Implementing a green shipbreaking regime in Pakistan requires the collaboration and involvement of various stakeholders, including:

Government: The government of Pakistan plays a crucial role in developing and enforcing regulations and policies that promote safe, sustainable, and environmentally sound ship recycling practices. It is also responsible for building the necessary institutional capacity to oversee and regulate the shipbreaking industry.

Ship owners and operators: Ship owners and operators have a responsibility to ensure that their ships are recycled in a safe, sustainable, and environmentally sound manner. They can do this by selecting green shipbreaking yards that meet international standards and by implementing responsible ship recycling policies and practices.

Shipbreaking yards: Shipbreaking yards are responsible for dismantling ships and recycling their components. They must implement safe and environmentally sound practices and ensure the safety and well-being of their workers.

Workers: Shipbreaking workers are on the front line of ship recycling operations and must be trained in safety, health, and environmental management practices to ensure their well-being.

Civil society organizations: Civil society organizations play a crucial role in advocating for the rights and interests of workers, communities, and the environment. They can help to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance in the shipbreaking industry.

Norway is a leader in promoting sustainable and environmentally sound ship recycling practices. The Norwegian Shipowners' Association has developed a set of guidelines for responsible ship recycling, and Norway is a signatory to the Hong Kong Convention. Norway has also provided financial and technical assistance to support the implementation of green shipbreaking practices in developing countries.

In 2020, Norway provided technical and financial assistance to support the development of a green shipbreaking yard in Pakistan. The project aims to promote sustainable ship recycling practices and improve working conditions for shipbreaking workers.

Norway's support for this initiative demonstrates its commitment to promoting sustainable and environmentally sound ship recycling practices and supporting the development of the shipbreaking industry in Pakistan.

2- Pakistan And Recent Energy Crisis

Pakistan now has among of the highest fuel costs in the area after recently increasing. The most recent hike in gasoline and diesel prices was in January 2023, following multiple price increases in the previous few months. Fuel cost increases are mostly a result of increased global oil prices. Since the beginning of 2020, oil prices have increased as a result of a number of causes, including the ongoing US-China trade war, the crisis in Russia and Ukraine, the coronavirus epidemic, and the production cuts by OPEC and its allies. Because of this, the price of imported crude oil has been continuously rising, pushing up the cost of fuel in Pakistan.

In addition to rising global oil prices, the government of Pakistan has also increased fuel taxes several times in an effort to raise revenue. The administration has underlined the necessity to raise money to support budget deficit reduction and infrastructure development. The Pakistani economy has suffered as a result of the rising fuel prices, which have raised the cost of other goods and services as well.



Because of this, consumer purchasing power has decreased, increasing inflation. In order to lessen the burden on customers, the government has implemented several steps, such as subsidizing fuel prices and establishing a fuel subsidy program. The government has cautioned that additional price hikes are inevitable in the near future, but these steps are probably not enough to counteract the spike in fuel prices. The Pakistani economy continues to face difficulties due to the rise in fuel prices, and these issues are anticipated to get worse over the next few months. To lessen the effects of rising fuel prices, the government will need to take additional steps, such as stepping up its efforts to decrease the budget deficit and looking for methods to boost revenue. Consumers will need to prepare for future fuel price hikes in the interim.

An energy crisis can arise from a lack of fuel in a number of ways. First off, a scarcity of fuel may result in less energy being available, which may raise costs and result in less energy being used. As a result of the inability of industry and other energy-intensive activities to function, this fall in energy consumption may result in a decrease in economic production. A lack of fuel can also cause power outages because power plants can't produce enough energy to fulfil the requirements of the people. Finally, a fuel shortage can cause an increase in emissions of pollutants, as burning of traditional fuels such as coal and oil releases more pollutants into the environment.

Numerous issues might arise in a nation due to a gasoline shortage. This may include rising fuel prices and more competition, heightened energy insecurity, and a potential recession in the economy. A fuel shortage can also affect other industries, such as transportation, and raise the likelihood of blackouts and other energy-related issues. The inadequate management of available resources has contributed to the energy crisis. Due to ineffective government management of the energy resources, there has been a decrease in resource efficiency and an increase in energy losses.



This has led to an increase in energy costs, as well as an increase in the cost of electricity. The lack of political will to address the energy crisis has also been a major factor in the crisis. The government has failed to implement the necessary reforms to improve the energy sector, resulting in a lack of investment and an increase in energy costs. The energy crisis in Pakistan is a serious issue, and the government needs to take action to address it.

It needs to invest in the energy sector and take steps to improve the efficiency of existing resources. In addition, the government needs to develop a long-term strategy to ensure that the energy crisis does not become worse in the future.

3- Climate Change And The Winter Weather

Climate change is causing winter weather to become increasingly unpredictable. As temperatures rise, winter storms are becoming more frequent and intense, leading to more severe flooding, blizzards, and other extreme weather events. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has found that winter temperatures in the United States have risen by 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit since 1895, and that the warming trend is expected to continue. Warmer temperatures mean that snowfall is decreasing, and snow cover is shrinking in many parts of the country.

This means that winter storms are becoming more intense and unpredictable. In addition to increased winter storms, climate change is also causing more extreme winter weather. Blizzards are becoming more frequent and intense, and they are lasting longer. This is because warmer temperatures are creating more moisture in the atmosphere, which leads to more snowfall.



Climate change is also causing more flooding in the winter. Warmer temperatures lead to more precipitation, which can cause rivers and streams to overflow. This can lead to property damage and even loss of life. Finally, climate change is causing more extreme winter weather events. In the past, extreme weather events such as blizzards and ice storms were rare. Now, they are becoming more frequent and intense. This is because warmer temperatures are leading to more moisture in the atmosphere, which can cause more extreme weather events. Climate change is having a dramatic impact on winter weather. Warmer temperatures are leading to more extreme winter storms, flooding, and other extreme weather events. This is why it is so important to take action to reduce our emissions and slow the effects of climate change.



Winter weather in Pakistan is highly variable from year to year. While some winters are mild and dry, others are cold and wet. Over the past few decades, the winter weather in Pakistan has been changing, with more extreme weather events occurring more frequently. The most noticeable change in winter weather in Pakistan has been the increased frequency of extreme cold weather events. Winters in Pakistan are now becoming colder and lasting

longer, with temperatures dropping below freezing in some parts of the country. This extreme cold can have serious impacts on human health, as well as on the agricultural sector. Another noticeable change in winter weather in Pakistan has been the increase in extreme rainfall events. Heavy rain and snowfall can cause flooding and landslides, leading to destruction of property and loss of lives. The frequency of these extreme rainfall events has been increasing in recent years, causing significant damage to infrastructure and livelihoods. In addition to the increased frequency of extreme weather events, Pakistan is also experiencing changes in its winter season.

Winters are now becoming shorter, with the cold season lasting only a few months instead of the traditional six months. This is leading to a decrease in the amount of snowfall in the northern parts of the country, and a decrease in the amount of rainfall in the south. These changes in winter weather in Pakistan are having a significant impact on the country's economy and environment.



The increased frequency of extreme weather events is leading to increased costs for the government and individuals, as well as increased risk of damage to infrastructure and livelihoods.

Additionally, the shorter winter season is leading to a decrease in agricultural production, as crops are not able to survive the shorter growing season. Overall, winter weather in Pakistan is changing, and these changes are having a significant impact on the country's economy and environment. It is important for the government and individuals to take steps to mitigate the risks associated with these changes and to prepare for the future. Also, there is already the shortage of gas globally and in



Pakistan as well and during winters it is indeed a complex issue with many contributing factors. The most significant factor is the increased demand for gas during the winter months due to increased heating needs. In addition, the production of gas can be hindered by colder temperatures, which can make it more difficult to extract gas from the ground. Additionally, the transportation of gas can be impacted by inclement

weather, which can lead to supply shortages in certain areas. Finally, the global demand for gas has been increasing in recent years due to the growth of the global population, which further contributes to the shortage of gas in the wintertime.

4- Blue Economy And Its Importance

Blue Economy is an emerging concept that has become popular in recent years as an alternative to traditional economic models. It's an approach to managing our relationship with the ocean and its resources in a sustainable and equitable manner. Blue Economy focuses on the use of the ocean's natural resources in ways that benefit society and the environment, while respecting the limits of the ocean's ecosystem. The blue economy is a new economic concept that is gaining traction as a possible alternative to the current economic system. It focuses on the sustainable use of the world's ocean resources, and is designed to create a resilient and sustainable economy that is better able to cope with the effects of climate change. By looking at the ocean in a holistic, integrated way rather than simply as an economic resource. It seeks to ensure the long-term sustainability of marine ecosystems and the people who depend on them. The core of the blue economy is the notion of 'blue growth', which seeks to identify and create economic opportunities that are based on the sustainable use of marine resources and the services they provide.

This includes activities such as sustainable fisheries, tourism, aquaculture, offshore renewable energy, shipping, and coastal and maritime infrastructure development. By taking a holistic view, the blue economy also looks at the social, environmental and economic benefits of these activities, in order to ensure that the benefits are shared across stakeholders. The blue economy is an ambitious concept but it has the potential to provide a significant economic boost to coastal and island nations, while also helping to protect the environment and reduce poverty. It is also an important concept for those countries that have already experienced



In Pakistan, the Blue Economy is of utmost importance. This is because the country has a large coastline of about 1046 km, which is home to a wide variety of marine and coastal ecosystems and resources. The country is also blessed with a large fishing and aquaculture industry, which is an important source of livelihood for many. Pakistan is also a major player in the maritime trade of the region. The Blue Economy is important for Pakistan for

several reasons. Firstly, it can help to sustainably manage the country's marine resources, which are vital to the livelihoods of millions of people. Secondly, it can help to reduce the pressure on the environment, as the use of sustainable practices can help to reduce pollution and the over exploitation of resources. Thirdly, the Blue Economy can help to create jobs and promote economic growth. Finally, it can help to promote the development of new technologies and services related to the ocean, such as marine tourism and renewable energy. The Blue Economy can be promoted in Pakistan through various measures. Firstly, the government should invest in research and development to better understand the ocean's ecology and resources. Secondly, the government should create policies that ensure sustainable management of the ocean's resources. Thirdly, it should promote the development of the fishing, aquaculture and maritime sectors, as these are key to economic growth. Fourthly, it should invest in the protection of marine ecosystems, through effective marine conservation and protection policies. Finally, the government should educate the public about the importance of the Blue Economy and its benefits, in order to create awareness.



The Blue Economy has the potential to be a great source of prosperity and growth for the people of Pakistan. It is thus important that the government invests in the right measures and policies to promote it. This will help to ensure that the ocean remains a source of food and other resources, while also creating jobs and promoting economic growth.

In conclusion, the Blue Economy is of utmost importance to Pakistan. It can help to sustainably manage the country's marine resources, reduce environmental pressures, create jobs, and promote economic growth. It can also help to foster the development of new technologies and services related to the ocean. Ultimately, the Blue Economy has the potential to bring economic and environmental benefits to the people of Pakistan.

5- United States Military Alliance with the Philippines to Counter China

Introduction

According to a joint statement from the defense departments of the two nations, the Philippines and the United States have agreed to strengthen their defense agreement, giving the United States access to four military bases in the Southeast Asian country, a highest level military presence in decades. It is said in the joint statement, "The Philippines and the United States are proud to announce their plans to accelerate the full implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), with the agreement to designate four new Agreed Locations in strategic

areas of the country and the substantial completion of the projects in the existing five Agreed Locations." The deal was announced by the United States Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin during his visit to Manila for negotiations with newly elected Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos. Despite the agreement not creating a permanent U.S. military presence, which is against Philippine law, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin termed it a "big deal."



While rotating in and out of the Philippines, the U.S. soldiers will have a check of two crucial locations, the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea disputed areas. The United States is increasing its military presence in Asia as part of a series of actions meant to counter Beijing, expand access to military bases near Taiwan and South-China Sea as well as reassure its support to Indo-Pacific allies against Chinese and North Korean threats.

Defense Ties between U.S. and the Philippines

The United States and the Philippines signed the U.S. and Philippines Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) in 2014. The EDCA is a component of the U.S. and the Philippines' long-standing security partnership agreement and permits a higher rotating presence of American personnel to move through five Philippine facilities including those close to contested maritime areas on non-permanent basis. It is because it is against the Constitution of the



Philippine for foreign forces to be stationed permanently in the country. Furthermore, the defense agreement permits the U.S. military to keep defense supplies and equipment on certain facilities. Former President Duterte urged for a review of EDCA in 2016 and delayed its implementation in 2018 but the improvement in relationship between the two countries resulted in 2021 with which work related to EDCA also intensified.

In accordance with the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), the United States and the Philippines are obliged to help one another against any armed assault. Representatives of the Biden Administration affirmed that MDT is applicable to "any armed attack on the Philippine military." There is a close relationship exists between the United States and the Republic of the Philippines which is characterized by a bilateral security alliance, military cooperation and a wide range of common strategic and economic objectives and interests. As a close and oldest security ally, the Philippines, located in east of the South China Sea and south of Taiwan have long been significant player in the United States' Asia policy and a key component of the Biden Administration's Indo-Pacific strategy. According to the joint statement released on the websites of the United States Department of Defense and on the Philippines' Department of National Defense it is said that the recent deal will "accelerate upgrading of our joint military capabilities," and make the partnership between the two nations "stronger and more resilient,"

China's Response

In the resource-rich South China Sea, China and the Philippines are also engaged in heated territorial and maritime disputes. Although Washington makes no claims in the strategic waterways but it has sent out its warships, fighter jets and surveillance aircraft on patrols that it claims support the rule of law and freedom of navigation, but this has enraged Beijing.

Military cooperation between the United States and the Philippines has long been viewed by Beijing as an effort to limit China's expanding influence in region. As a response to the new deal between the United States and Philippines, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said that the new agreement was "an act that escalates tensions in the region and endangers regional peace and stability," while accusing the U.S. of pursuing "its selfish agenda" with it. Additionally, she said the United States is increasing its military presence in the region while maintaining a Cold War mentality. To conclude, the U.S.-Philippines agreement is a sign of improving relations following a challenging six-year period between two countries. But, the agreement would have serious strategic consequences and implications if a conflict broke out in Taiwan or the South China Sea.

6- Haiti in Crisis!

Introduction

Haiti, a Caribbean country, is gripped by chronic violence and political instability. The situation has failed to improve during the previous months. Haitians have been dealing with an increase in gang attacks and kidnappings, fuel and electricity shortages, a worsening political deadlock and a lethal cholera outbreak. The political crisis has



worsened in the country as Senate terms expired officially which left the country without any democratic institution. The Senate was the last democratically elected institution in Haiti, but due to the country's failure to organize legislative elections in 2019 to fill vacant seats, its membership has been reduced to just 10 people. Since then, these ten senators were representing a nation of about twelve million people.

Background

The country has been suffering electoral and constitutional upheaval ever since President Jovenel Moise was assassinated in 2021. Haiti has not hosted free and fair elections since the 2019 elections and the country has been in instability ever since the 2010 earthquake that have killed up to 300,000 people. In case of political crisis in the country, international intervention in the country has also remained a reality. Currently, the famine is at its worst ever level, 4.7 million people are currently being hungry and facing extreme food crisis in Haiti. The situation is not getting in control after former President of Haiti, Jovenel Moise's death in July 2021 and a subsequent earthquake.

Moise was replaced by Ariel Henry, as an acting president who was viewed as illegitimate for the Government, therefore, he had to suffer legitimacy crisis.

Gang Violence in Haiti

Gang violence is something which is not new in the country but it has increased to new levels after the Moise's death which increased the political instability and has created a power vacuum in the country. The G9 gang coalition by using different tactics blockaded the main port and fuel terminal when Henry announced a cut in fuel subsidies in September 2022, escalating the crisis and doubling the prices. The blockade caused six weeks of shortage of water and energy across Port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti, including in hospitals trying to treat cholera patients. Each problem aggravated the others, and a United Nations representative warned that Haiti

was in danger of a "cholera time bomb" because of the violence and unrest that had cut off entire neighborhood. In order to fill the void left by the lack of a functioning Government, gangs have controlled the situation. Over 100 gangs control various areas of the country, they are in conflict with each other. This has resulted in a terrible war that has killed several civilians and caused numerous kidnappings in the capital of Haiti.



Latest Development

The Canadian Foreign Ministry said, "Canadian military aircraft made the delivery to the Haitian National Police in the capital of Port-au-Prince. Also, Canada has delivered armored vehicles to Haiti to help combat criminal gangs as the Caribbean nation faces a humanitarian crisis." Apart from this, Canada has also imposed sanctions on Haitian elites. Additionally, at the North American Leaders Summit (NALS) in Mexico City, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Joe Biden discussed the ongoing unrest in Haiti. The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau said that "We are all very aware that things could get worse in Haiti and that is why Canada and partners, including the United States, are preparing various scenarios if it does start to get worse." He emphasized that Canada will continue to offer assistance but the Haitian situation must be resolved domestically.

The White House said in a statement "The two leaders are committed to continue coordination with partners on the U.N. Security Council on next steps to support stability to Haiti, including support to the Haitian National Police."

The two leaders discussed the security and humanitarian crisis in the Caribbean nation and highlighted recent coordinated efforts to aid Haitian people, such as the delivery of armored vehicles that the Haitian government had purchased to help the police fight off gangs and the imposition of sanctions to hold those accountable who provoke violence.

The humanitarian situation in Haiti is getting worse at an unprecedented level that is why it requires immediate attention. Gangs have had a significant impact on Haitians' access to basic necessities and impacted their quality of life. A growing number of Haitians have left the country over the past years in search of safe environment in other parts of Latin America and the United States. To conclude, international organizations and other countries need to step up and consider options that can help Haiti and its people in overcoming challenges and crises.

7- North American Leaders' Summit

Introduction

The North American Leaders' Summit also known as "Three Amigos" Summit was held in Mexico City. At the trilateral summit, the leaders of North America including the United States, Mexico and Canada met in Mexico City and pledged to work together on issues such as trade conflicts, energy regulations and the region's rising migration flows. President Biden and Mexican President Lopez Obrador met after nearly two years of politically tense interactions between the two countries.

The first trip to Mexico by a U.S. president since 2014 was a crucial one with an aim to make efforts to warm up chilly relationship with a significant economic partner and improving the alliance as a mandate of U.S. foreign policy. The three-way meeting's and summit closed with a joint news conference and with a positive outcome as the three leaders intended to create a regional supply network in North America that is independent of other countries.



It is because the COVID-19 pandemic caused interruptions in the global supply chain for goods required in manufacturing which significantly hindered the North American trade.

Background

Following the cancellation of the triangular meeting between the regional partners by his predecessor Donald Trump, Biden resurrected the "Three Amigos" discussions in 2021 in an effort to normalize relations between the three countries.

Since the North American Free Trade Agreement was passed in 1994, the three countries have been formally trading partners, becoming an economic giant that accounts for nearly one-third of the world's GDP. In the first ten months of 2022, the United States traded goods worth more than \$3 million each minute with Mexico and Canada. Together, the nations can find solutions to mutual concerns including trade, immigration, human trafficking and other associated problems.

President Biden's Meeting with Canadian Prime Minister

At the sidelines of the North American Leaders' Summit, the United States President Joe Biden met with Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Mexico City. A wide variety of bilateral and global topics were discussed by the Prime Minister and the President. President Biden was invited to Canada by Prime Minister Trudeau. In March, the President will travel to Canada, the White House has also confirmed the news.

The crucial significance of North American trade, competitiveness and supply chains, particularly essential minerals and semi-conductors was discussed by the two leaders. The Prime Minister emphasized the advantages of free trade between Canada and the United States in particular with regards to trade. Moreover, the shared commitment of defense and security of North America also come under the talks.



President Biden's Meeting with Mexico's President

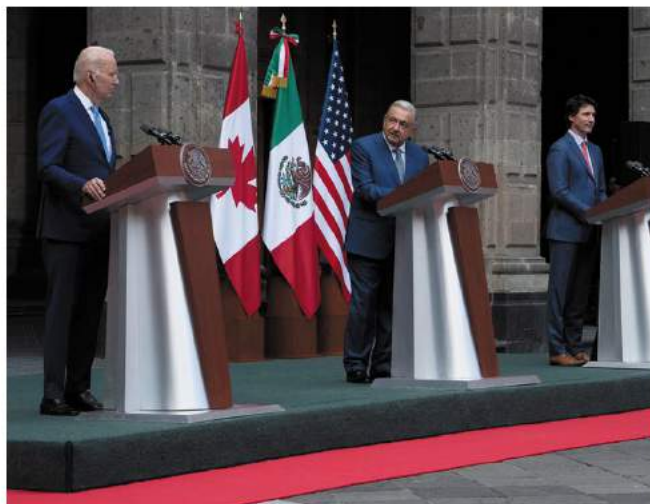
In order to improve bilateral ties between the United States and Mexico as well as to build a more economic and secure future for North America, President Biden also met with President Lopez Obrador of Mexico. According to the White House statement, the meeting was based on 200 years of bilateral ties between the United States and Mexico, a strong alliance that the reflection reflection of our shared ideals as well as the ties that bind the two nations familial and cultural bonds. The Bicentennial



Framework for Security, Public Health and Safe Communities was reviewed by the two Presidents and highlighted the importance of increasing collaboration to prosecute drug traffickers. The two leaders underlined their commitment to tackle the underlying causes of migration as well as to use effective strategies in order to deal with irregular migration.

Outcomes of the Summit

As per White House release, the three leaders look in to the options that promote a common vision for North America. In order to boost North America's economic competitiveness and encourage inclusive growth and prosperity, President Biden and other leaders has used North American Leaders' Summit (NALS) as a great opportunity. The three nations will strengthen their economic ties encourage investment and will support innovation, competition and adaptability in different fields with the help of private sector. Another important thing is, the need for quick, coordinated and ambitious action to create clean energy economies and address the climate issue is acknowledged by the United States, Mexico and Canada. The three leaders made a commitment to address the climate catastrophe at the NALS by devising Climate Action Plan and reducing gas emissions at least 15% by 2030. Additionally, efforts will be made to coordinate policies and activities to combat human, drug and arms trafficking which pose a threat to all three countries and regional peace and security.



8- The Role Of Technology For States

Technology plays an increasingly important role in the success of a state. Technology can be seen as a great equalizer, as it provides a level playing field to all citizens regardless of their background, wealth, or location. From the smallest local businesses to the largest global corporations, technology has enabled individuals and organizations to reach out to a larger audience and establish a larger presence in the marketplace. Technology has revolutionized the way we communicate and connect with one another. From the invention of the telephone to the development of the internet, communication has become more efficient and effective. This has enabled businesses to reach new markets and customers, while providing a means for citizens to stay connected with family and friends around the world. Technology has also provided access to a wealth of information. From the web, citizens can access news, entertainment, educational materials, and more. This has enabled citizens to stay informed and become more knowledgeable about their community, state, and country. Technology has also enabled states to become more efficient and effective in their operations. From the development of computer systems to the use of artificial intelligence, states can now automate processes and streamline operations, reducing costs and increasing efficiency.

Technology influenced every aspect of human life, including conflict. The economic study of capitalism and its connection to technology by Schumpeter provides evidence of the accelerated speed of technological progress. In his opinion, the Industrial Revolution's four extensive economic cycles resulted in fundamental shifts in the method of production in little more than a century. Technology has also changed the dynamics of wars and conflicts. In his theory of war, Clausewitz neglected to consider the significance of technology as a factor. One of the most critical writers on the

link between war and state, Tilly, was similarly doubtful about the role that technology played in this process and instead concentrated on the economics of going to war. The exclusion is acceptable given that the history of war has been marked by protracted periods of technical static mixed with sudden bursts of revolutionary change brought about by a number of factors. The threat to the state's ability to maintain its monopoly on



will be the most basic element of the technology-war relationship. It has been predicted that the state's monopoly on the use of force will eventually vanish, but the pace of technological advancement today makes this threat more real and imminent. Technology is enabling new chances and techniques to attack other governments, as well as enabling the state to try to resist internal threats to its authority. Developments in biology, materials technology, nanotechnology, and, of course, the information revolution. According to Stephen Graham, a key development in the fight against terrorism has been the blending of civilian and military uses of control, surveillance, communications, simulation, and targeting technology.



In conclusion, technology has revolutionized the way we communicate, access information, and operate. It has enabled states to become more efficient and effective in their operations, while also providing citizens with access to a wealth of information and opportunities. As technology continues to evolve, states will need to ensure that they are taking full advantage of its potential to maximize the success of their state.

The circumstances for conflict, especially civil war, have indeed been produced by technical advancement, but it has also increased this threat by globalising the use of violence and empowering non-state actors.

9- Israel Palestine Conflict Or The Israel's "Illegal Occupation And Violence Against Palestinians"?

International law is crystal clear: annexation and territorial conquest are prohibited by the Charter of the United Nations. Since 1967, Israeli forces have ruled over the occupied Palestinian territory. Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem are among the territories that have been divided. Gaza Strip is a little coastal region that shares a border with Egypt to the south. The kidney-shaped region to the east is known as the West Bank. It is named after the Jordan River since it is located west of its banks.

On the Palestinian side of the 1949 Green Line is East Jerusalem. In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, there are three million Palestinians living. Israeli settlements are Jewish neighbourhoods erected on Palestinian territory. In the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, there are between 600,000 and 750,00 Israeli settlers residing in at least 250 settlements. According to international law, Israeli settlements are unlawful because they infringe on the



Fourth Geneva Convention, which forbids an occupying force from relocating its people within the territory it occupies. Under Donald Trump's administration, the US announced in 2019 that Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian territory were "not necessarily unlawful," reversing decades of US policy. Compared to Israel's population, the number of Israeli settlers in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is increasing more quickly. In the West Bank there were 463,535 registered settlers as of 2020, while in East Jerusalem there were 220,200. More over five million Palestinian refugees are officially registered, the majority of whom live outside of these camps. The world's oldest unsolved refugee issue is the predicament of Palestinian refugees.



In the past, Israel has annexed two areas by itself. Israel refers to the territory it has annexed as "applying Israeli sovereignty". The annexation of the Golan Heights by Israel was recognized by the US in 2019. Israel has been enforcing a maritime and air embargo on the Gaza Strip since 2007. Israel has attacked the Palestinian territories three times since 2008, killing thousands of people—mostly civilians.

According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, Israeli soldiers murdered at least 170 Palestinians in the West Bank and the occupied East Jerusalem in 2022, including more than 30 children. There have also been at least 9,000 injuries. Observers, diplomats, and rights organisations have expressed alarm over Israel's excessive use of lethal force in the West Bank in 2022, which has resulted in the high death toll. Israeli soldiers frequently "use guns against Palestinians on mere suspicion or as a precaution, in contravention of international standards," according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Shireen Abu Akleh, an experienced journalist for Al Jazeera, was killed by gunfire on May 11 when she was documenting a military attack on the Jenin refugee camp. Abu Akleh, a 51-year-old Palestinian-American TV reporter for Al Jazeera Arabic, has spent more than 25 years covering Israel's occupation of the Palestinian lands. Her murder sparked a global uproar and caused shockwaves throughout the globe. Israeli legislative elections were



conducted for the seventh time in less than four years in 2022. The results have led to the formation of the most far-right administration in the nation's 74-year history, even if they appear to have momentarily put a stop to Israel's protracted political instability. 2022 marks the sixth year in a row that the number of Israeli settler assaults in the occupied West Bank has increased.

It is 2023 and very much clear that this cannot be called as the Israel-Palestine "conflict anymore". It is the unlawful act by the Israel and illegal annexation accompanied with the human rights violation. The world should no more remain silent.

10- Colombia-Venezuela Ties and the Reopening of Shared Border

Introduction

There is a great importance of bilateral relationship between the neighboring countries due to the shared concerns and security challenges. But, the relations between Colombia and Venezuela have remained strained for a number of years due to multiple factors including mutual accusations and an increase in the number of migrants from Venezuela who cross the shared border as a result of socio-economic and political crisis in the country. It is one of the major interstate conflicts in Latin America which resulted in greatest humanitarian crisis along the both sides of Colombia-Venezuela border.

With a length of more than 2,000 kilometers, the border between the two countries served as a point for organized crime and guerrilla movements, notably on the Colombian side. Additionally, clashes between armed groups including the National Liberation Army (ELN) and dissidents of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have also taken place along the border. Recently, the two countries have formally announced to fully reopen the border after a diplomatic conflict of three years.

Background

During the former Colombian President Ivan Duque's term, the leaders of Colombia and Venezuela have accused one another of involvement and interference across the border to support terrorism and create instability in their respective country. The ties were completely disintegrated between the two countries by Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in early 2019. As a response, Venezuela's President Maduro said in a speech



"Patience is exhausted, I cannot bare it anymore, and we cannot keep putting up with Colombian territory being used for attacks against Venezuela. For that reason, I have decided to break all political and diplomatic relations with Colombia's fascist government." On the other hand, Colombian diplomatic staff and ambassadors were also asked to leave Venezuela immediately after the announcement.

The ties started to improve when the Colombian President Gustavo Petro assumed office in August 2022, he pledged to rebuild ties with Venezuela and it was witnessed in the same month when two countries agreed to restore full diplomatic relations. Formal border opening was declared and for the first time in 9 years Colombian President made an official visit to Venezuela.

Prospects of Colombia-Venezuela Ties

According to the estimates by the Chamber of Venezuelan-Colombian Economic Integration, the reopening of border to vehicular traffic will result in a major increase in commercial trade, from \$406 million last year to \$1.2 billion this year. As a result of complete restoration of the border, the Venezuelan government predicts an increase of \$4 billion in economic activity within a year. The improved ties will help to attain peace and security along the border which was deteriorated significantly in both the countries, since the diplomatic ties cut in 2019. This resulted in state clashes with armed groups which brought on forced and voluntary displacement of people as well as lucrative trade in people and goods as a consequence of armed groups competition.

There is a hope for peace with armed groups along the border, if both countries make serious efforts and deal with the issues at negotiation table for the sake of people, country and regional stability. Until now, approximately seven million Venezuelans have left their country due to the deteriorating economic conditions and the vast majority of them travelled to Colombia. The formal opening of the border will aid in preventing the mistreatment of refugees and migrants. In addition, it will help with the effective management and administration of the migrant issue, enabling people with better economic opportunities in order to improve their livelihoods and wellbeing. Additionally, there will not be any fear of crossing the border illegally, which in the past made people exposed to killing, torture and forced recruitment by the armed groups.

Conclusion

Both Colombia and Venezuela have suffered greatly as a result of broken ties at all levels. Now it is the time that the two neighbors take the opportunity and act quickly to reduce the potential of escalating violence and instability along the border. For that matter, there is a need of greater action to avoid border miscommunications for avoiding fatal consequences. The border should be jointly monitored and controlled by Colombia and Venezuela, it can be done by developing a framework that effectively assist in resolving situations related to the shared border. The international community must take steps to settle the influx of Venezuelan migrants and refugees. In addition, humanitarian relief must be given to the people of two countries as they have suffered greatly because of social, political and economic crisis.



11- A Step for U.S. Border Security: Biden announced New Immigration Restrictions

Introduction

On January 5th, 2023, President Joe Biden announced that the United States would start immediately deporting individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela who attempt to enter the country without authorization along the border with Mexico. President Joe Biden said “these four countries account for most of the people now travelling into Mexico to try to start a new life by crossing the border into the United States of America.” The White House announced that it will grant two year work authorization to 30,000 individuals each month from the three countries

including Venezuela if they have sponsors in the United States and can qualify the background checks. Anyone attempting to cross the border illegally will not be eligible for the program and will sent back to Mexico. According to the data, a huge number of migrants from the above mentioned countries have been encountered more than 82,000 times in November only who tried to enter the United States through different means.



As a result of the new policy, almost 360,000 individuals from these four countries can enter the United States legally each year. Speaking about the security, Biden told the reporters, “We anticipate that this action is going to substantially reduce the number of people attempting to cross our southwest border without going through a legal process.”

Background

Since March 2020, migrants have been denied the opportunity to apply for asylum 2.5 million times at the U.S.-Mexico border as a result of Title 42 restrictions that President Trump enacted as an urgent health action to stop the COVID-19 outbreak from spreading. Republicans filed a legal action to defend the Title 42 limits against Biden’s motion to eliminate them. For the past few months, asylum seekers have been arriving in greater numbers at the United States’ southern border with Mexico for safe and better life in the United States. This resulted in Republicans call for more action from the Biden administration to secure the border. Biden made efforts to reverse the anti-immigration measures taken by his predecessor Donald Trump.

Biden Administration and Title 42

Biden has suffered a lot politically due to the border security and the immigration chaos. During his presidency, Biden canceled the Trump's declaration of a national emergency and halted construction on the southern border wall, additionally, the zero-tolerance policy was also abandoned formally. However, the Title 42, in spite of being controversial, remained in place during Biden administration so that border can be prevented from becoming unmanageable.

Despite criticism from rights groups who said the policy puts the lives of asylum seekers in danger, the Biden administration has worked to prevent migrants and refugees from crossing the border and has also defended Title 42 in court. The majority of migrants were sent back by the administration under Title 42 and Title 8 with the help of Border Patrol authorities. Biden is expanding Title 42 and made a legal path for some migrants. Before that,



an emergency six-point plan unveiled for the anticipated termination of Title 42 by the Department of Homeland Security. The newly border enforcement actions has been referred by White House as "fair, orderly, and humane immigration system."

New Policy to Curb Illegal Immigration

The new measures will not only curb illegal immigration but will make it simpler for border authorities to swiftly deport immigrants who enter the country outside of authorized crossing points. Another action is the restoration of bilateral accords that require asylum seekers who enter the country through a third country to provide evidence that they have not received protections before requesting asylum at the



US-Mexico border. However, under the humanitarian parole authority which is already being utilized to accept some refugees from countries like Afghanistan and Ukraine, anyone from the four mentioned countries will be able to apply for legal immigration to the United States. The expanded humanitarian parole program for the nationals of these countries is welcomed by Amnesty International U.S.

This program will permit the people to enter the United States but does not give them a permanent status. The strategy is a part of a larger initiative to stop record numbers of border crossers and manage with the political and humanitarian challenges posed by mass migration. It is recommended that implementation of new enforcement measures for border security must be implemented considering a humanitarian perspective.

12- Japan's New National Security Strategy Comes Forward

Introduction

Japan has increased its military power in response to the region's shifting security dynamics in the twenty-first century. China's growing diplomatic and military influence in the area, North Korea's growing nuclear capability, and a resurgent Russia are all posing increasing security concerns to Japan. Japan outlined its plan to increase national security budget and strengthen its military force in response to these challenges.

The Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida said, "Unfortunately, in the vicinity of our countries are carrying out activities such as enhancement of nuclear capability. Activities for the rapid military build-up and unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force is also being witnessed". To help Japan's military force strengthen its capabilities, three documents have been released by Japan.



Documents ensuring Japan's National Security

Three documents—the National Security Strategy, the National Defense Strategy, and the Defense Buildup Program would serve as the foundation for Japan's defense strategy and its goals to secure national security.

"Under the concept of a Free and Open-Indo Pacific, it is vital for Japan's security to collaborate with friends and like-minded countries to ensure peace and stability in the region," the National Security Strategy states. Over the next five years, it will also influence Japan's diplomacy, defense, economic security, cyber, technology, and intelligence. Second, the three components of the Self-Defense Force will be shaped by the National Defense Strategy, with a focus on developing counterstrike capabilities and strengthening space and cyber capabilities. Thirdly, arrangements for defense spending will be shown in the Defense Buildup Program. This five-year plan will allocate almost \$320 billion for national defense.

Japan's Defence Budget

Japan's Ministry of Defense will reserve a budget for innovation in civilian research and development and spending. On December 23, the Japanese government approved a record 6.8 trillion yen (about 51 billion dollars) defense budget for the coming fiscal year. The cabinet of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

approved a budget at 114.4 trillion yen (\$863 billion). This was mainly brought on by an increase in social security costs due to an aging population and an increase in military spending. According to the proposal, Tokyo will purchase US long-range missiles that can destroy enemy launch locations in the event of an assault. It also intends to improve its capacity for cyberwarfare.



Kishida added that by 2027, Japan's defense spending would account for 2% of GDP.

China's concern about Japan's increasing budget

The considerable increase in Japan's defense spending worries China. They disagree with Japan's position on national security. Wang Wenbin, a spokesman for China's foreign ministry, encouraged the Japanese side to use caution while speaking and acting in the military and security spheres.

According to Wang, Japan is escalating regional tensions while pursuing military advances. This is viewed as harmful and has caused its Asian neighbors to have serious worries. The international community has also expressed concern over it. They worry that Japan would not follow a policy and course of peaceful development that is solely focused on defense.

Wang stated, "The Japanese side should seriously reflect on its history of aggression. They should speak and act prudently in the military and security fields to not lose further credit with its Asian neighbours and the international community".

Security Threats to Japan

Japan's national security is under danger due to China's rapid military modernization and a number of military drills. China is referred to as "the greatest strategic challenge" for Japan in the new national security plan. Japan still views China as the second-largest economy in the world after the US, and continues to engage it in trade based on norms recognized worldwide.

Furthermore, the dangers to Japan's national security from North Korea's reckless acts and ongoing nuclear operations are unparalleled. The most significant threat to Japan, according to the national security plan, is North Korea's aspirations.

Moreover, Japan perceives the Russian invasion of Ukraine as a danger, which has forced several nations, particularly in Europe and East Asia, to strengthen their militaries. Japan and the West worked together to impose sanctions on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. Near Japan's borders, the Russian military has increased military exercises.



US-Japan alliance

The US applauded Japan's action because it will increase regional deterrence. The US Secretary of State also thinks that the agreement shows an important convergence of the goals of the two countries. Japan was referred to as "the indispensable partner" in maintaining global stability by the US Secretary of State. The national security policy is the culmination of "the Abe Doctrine" to secure the nation and a fantastic chance for the US-Japan alliance to effectively solve regional concerns.

13- China's Journey Towards Globalization Under Xi Jinping

Introduction

China has seen phenomenal progress over the last decade more of which is economic and technological. Under President Xi Jinping, the trend of Chinese globalization and China's interaction with the world market increased manifold. Xi Jinping is not China's President by any luck, he had a great political skill and thought for this which he is now showing in China's foreign policy and economic statecraft. It has invested huge in infrastructure and trade in developing states as well as partner states through its Belt and Road Initiative.

Despite the challenges imposed by the US, China continues to grow its economic influence and market as well as in the field of technology. China will become world's largest economy by 2030 and one of the leader states in the field of technology with an access to a greater world market through President Xi's initiatives of 'New Economic Policy', 'Made in China 2025', 'Belt and Road Initiative' and many other collaborations with foreign states.

China's expanding economic influence and President Xi Jinping's economic aims pursuing strategic goals has gathered the world's focus towards China's economic statecraft.

Economic Diplomacy became an integral part of the foreign policy of China since last two decades. The Chinese government re-structured and reformed its international economic policy by bringing an effective and proactive leadership to exercise greater influence in the international sphere. Under President Xi Jinping, these trends have accelerated in the form of more concrete initiatives and the development of a more aggressive economic statecraft. China's "going out" strategy of encouraging outward investments by Chinese firms was repackaged into the sweeping Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which is now part of the Party's constitution and is seen as Xi Jinping's signature foreign policy initiative.



Chinese Globalization and OBOR:

China is advancing in the liberal capitalist order and accepts the free market phenomenon because this continues to bring prosperity for the country. Many developments are made for the promotion of economic liberalism which supports the idea of free market and laissez faire economic policies. One Belt One Road (OBOR) is among the developments made by China to give a boost to economic liberalism. China have shaped its new economic model on the lines of neoliberal ways and OBOR is successfully fulfilling this criterion. China's prosperity depends on the continuation of the existing order i.e. the liberal capitalist order, which allows it to trade and invest. Similarly, OBOR is a project which is compatible with the existing order and drives trade and investment which ultimately lead towards globalization.

China and the Developing World:

China's role in the developing countries gained its momentum in the early 21st century. Its economic interests proved to be a driving force for their involvement. This economic drive led China to have a grip on its political and strategic interests in these parts of the World. Although Chinese economic interests are global, but it is more active in its neighbor developing countries where its strategic interests are most prominent. China have shown interest in some of the regions of the World which mostly consists the developing countries, namely South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Middle East and the Latin America.

In its early period of reform and opening, China affirms its identity as the developing country but as the developments progressed in the country it evolved and considers itself as the leader of the developing countries as it continues to assist them and simultaneously trying to fix its image in the global World for greater supremacy.

China's Technological Progress:

Since past two to three decades' China is constantly achieving mile stones in almost every field and setting new records of growth. But specifically in case of technology, China has been through a long journey till now by becoming the emerging superpower in technology sector. In recent times it is said that China may be the new global technological leader.



China has a great plan to make China a global leader in artificial intelligence by 2030, taking the AI related industry up to 1trillion yuan. China expects the major benefits of AI in military sector as well as digitally planned cities.

Conclusion:

China's progress under Xi Jinping has been phenomenal and it is successfully on its way to be World's largest economy, World's Technological Hub and a Super Power Challenging the US hegemony. Xi's attitude towards US policies regarding China has been of a political statesman. Clearly China's authoritarian regime has no danger and its policies of free trade outward and capital control inward has given her unimaginable success. The concerns that we see is what China is now, will it be the same in future? Does the agenda of peaceful economic rise will be the same in future or it will turn strategic? In the field of international relations, there is always room for new possibilities, challenges and threats but as for now China has brought positive sum game with economic progress and prosperity for herself and for its trading partners. What is most important is that other great powers digest this rise and find new cooperative and interactive ways for peace and stability of the world avoiding war and conflict and preserving the universal values so that the nobody will lose and the world will gain.

14- Global Warming Prevention As A New Year Resolution

Global warming prevention should be a New Year resolution for every country around the world. Global warming is one of the most pressing issues of our time. It is a phenomenon caused by the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, trapping heat and leading to an increase in the Earth's average temperature. This has a wide range of impacts, from rising sea levels to more extreme weather events. The main cause of global warming is human activity. Burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These gases trap heat, leading to an increase in the Earth's average temperature.

This is known as the 'greenhouse effect'. The effects of global warming are already being felt around the world. Sea levels are rising as the oceans warm and glaciers melt. This is leading to increased flooding in coastal areas and the displacement of people living in low-lying areas. Warmer temperatures are also leading to more extreme weather events, such as heat waves, droughts and hurricanes.



The good news is that global warming is a problem that can be solved. The most effective way to reduce emissions is to switch to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. Governments around the world are also introducing policies to reduce emissions, such as carbon taxes and emissions trading schemes. Individuals can also make a difference. Simple steps such as reducing energy consumption, eating less meat and using public transport can all help to reduce emissions. By taking action now, we can help to slow the effects of global warming and create a more sustainable future.



As the world continues to grapple with the effects of global warming, the situation is expected to worsen in 2023. The Earth's average temperature is projected to increase by 1.5°C by the end of the decade, leading to a number of alarming consequences. One of the most immediate effects of global warming is an increase in extreme weather events. In 2023, this could mean more frequent and intense hurricanes, floods, and droughts.

Animal agriculture is one of the leading causes of global warming, as it produces large amounts of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Governments should incentivize people to reduce their consumption of animal products and switch to more sustainable plant-based diets. Finally, we must reduce our waste. Waste production is a major contributor to global warming, as it releases large amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Governments should invest in waste management systems that reduce the amount of waste that is produced and encourage people to reduce their consumption and recycle more. By taking these actions, we can make a real difference in the fight against global warming. It is up to us to take action and ensure that our planet is protected for future generations.

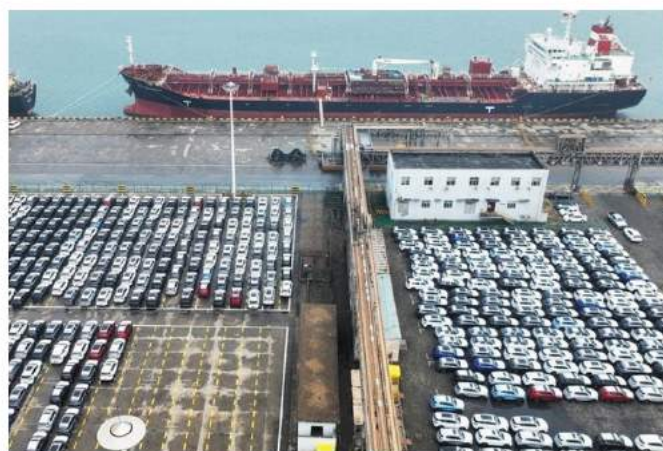
15- Global Economic Instability

Global economic instability refers to a situation where there are significant fluctuations or disruptions in the global economy, which can have negative impacts on countries, businesses, and individuals. Some common causes of global economic instability include:

Financial crises: A financial crisis is a sudden and severe disruption in the financial system, which can be caused by a variety of factors such as asset bubbles, high levels of debt, or financial fraud.

Financial crises can lead to economic downturns, high unemployment rates, and other negative impacts.

Trade disputes: Trade disputes between countries can lead to economic instability, especially if they involve major trading partners. For example, a trade dispute between the United States and China could have significant impacts on the global economy.



Geopolitical tensions: Political tensions or conflicts between countries can also lead to economic instability. For example, if there is a threat of military conflict between two countries, businesses may be reluctant to invest in those countries, leading to economic downturns.

Natural disasters: Natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods can disrupt economic activity in affected regions, leading to economic instability.

Pandemics: Pandemics such as COVID-19 has lead to economic instability as they disrupt global trade and supply chains, and also lead to reduced demand for goods and services due to lockdowns and other measures.

The world is going through these all situations right now at the same time which eventually has caused global recession. The current global recession is a result of the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had a devastating impact on the global economy, resulting in a sharp decline in economic activity, rising unemployment, and a sharp rise in poverty. The global recession has been particularly hard on developing countries, where the economic impact of the pandemic has been compounded by the lack of access to healthcare and other essential services. In many countries, the pandemic has caused a rapid increase in poverty, with millions of people unable to access basic necessities such as food and shelter. The economic impact of the pandemic has been felt across the world, with the United States, Europe, and China all experiencing a sharp decline in economic activity.



In the US, the unemployment rate has risen to 14.7%, the highest level since the Great Depression. In Europe, the Eurozone economy has contracted by 12.1% in the second quarter of 2020, the largest decline since records began in 1995. In China, the economy has contracted by 6.8% in the first quarter of 2020, the first contraction since 1976. The global recession has had a significant impact on global trade, with many countries experiencing a sharp decline in exports. This has resulted in a decrease in global demand for goods and services, leading to a decrease in global economic growth. The global recession has also had a significant impact on global financial markets. . Stock markets around the world have experienced a sharp decline in prices, with many investors losing significant amounts of money. In addition,



the value of the US dollar has declined significantly, resulting in a decrease in the purchasing power of many countries. The global recession has had a devastating impact on the global economy, and it is likely to take some time for the economy to recover. Geo-political tensions among the countries are going side by side and this has the great impact on the economies. One of the biggest example is of Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Governments around the world are taking measures to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic, such as providing financial support to businesses and individuals, and implementing measures to stimulate economic activity. However, it is likely that it will take some time before the global economy returns to pre-pandemic levels. To mitigate the impacts of global economic instability, governments and international organizations may implement measures such as fiscal and monetary policy interventions, trade agreements, and emergency aid. It is important for countries to have strong economic policies and institutions to help them weather economic downturns and recover from them. Also, In addition, governments and businesses need to focus on creating jobs. This can be achieved through investment in infrastructure and education, as well as providing incentives for businesses to hire more workers. This will help to increase consumer spending and business investment, which will help to stimulate economic growth.

16- U.S. Approved \$180 Million Arms Sale: The Conflict between US-China Over Taiwan Continues

Introduction

The State Department announced on 28th December, 2022, that the Biden administration has approved a potential \$180 million arms sale to Taiwan amid the continued hostilities between Taiwan and Beijing. The administration informed Congress that Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, Taiwan's diplomatic mission in the United States get a clearance for a potential sale of vehicle-launched anti-tank munitions-laying systems and the myriad of associated equipment and services.

According to the State Department statement, "This proposed sale serves the US national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability, the proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region."



Background

Under the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act, Washington has traditionally provided the island with arms, and bipartisan support also exists for doing so currently. Following Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the US House, visit to Taiwan in early August 2022, resulted in the highest level of tensions in many years between the two countries, China and the US.

The following month, in September, the administration approved the largest arms sale to Taiwan during President Joe Biden's presidency of more than \$1.1 billion worth of weapons, including up to 60 anti-ship missiles and up to 100 air-to-air missiles. The most recent US defense spending bill that includes up to \$10 billion in military aid to Taiwan was signed into law by the US President Joe Biden on 23rd December, 2022. In order to support Taiwan from 2023 to 2027, the bill will provide up to \$2 billion assistance annually. Beijing has strongly disagreed with the aspects of a new US defense law in view of the content related to China and urged Washington to give up its Cold War mindset and biases. Additionally, China has made it clear that the country will take "resolute and forceful actions" to firmly preserve its sovereignty, security and development interests.

U.S-China Relations in 2022

Undoubtedly the most volatile and revolutionary year for US-China relations was 2022. China was regarded by the US as a superpower challenge. The Biden administration named China as its greatest security threat in the October release of the U.S. National Security Strategy. To give the US-China relationship some stability, Biden and Xi met in Bali during the G20 conference in November 2022 for their first talks since the former became president. Taiwan, remained a major bone of contention among the two countries. After the visit of Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan, China increased

its military pressure on Taipei and conducted military exercises around the island for a week. The increase in the military from Taiwan was also noticed which increased the possibility of encounter between the militaries of two countries. When Taiwan is seen as the main flashpoint between the United States and China, it puts Taiwan's security in greater jeopardy because every action is viewed as a win or loss for one side or the other.



Taipei would be under more pressure to choose an ally between the United States and China as long as Taiwan is drawn into becoming the primary flashpoint of major powers' conflict. In the era of US-Chinese rivalry, Taiwan represents the highest risk of a great power war with unclear escalation dynamics in terms of both geographic expansion and use of weapons. The whole situation has not only put the two countries relations at the lowest point in 50 years but now the world peace and security are also at stake.

Conclusion

In the coming years, the relationship between the United States and China are considered to remain tense and a real crisis like Taiwan will continue to destabilize politics and people of the two nations. The competition for global influence and tensions between the two superpowers over economic policies, territorial conflicts in the South China Sea, and Taiwanese independence has increased, that is why war is not an option to deal with the conflicting issue. It requires efficient measures, negotiations and policy execution by both the US and China, as this will not only influence the relations between US-China but will also determine the political situation in the Strait of Taiwan in coming years.

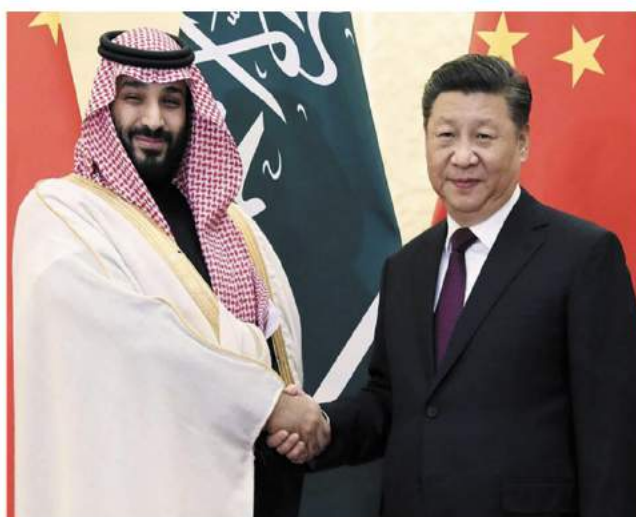
17- China-Arab States Summit Marks a New Era for Sino-Arab Relations

Introduction

Despite being distant neighbours, China and the Arab states share a long history that dates back about 2,000 years. Relations between China and the Arab states have improved significantly over the past ten years, with collaboration extending into a variety of fields. Relations between China and Arab states will improve following Chinese President Xi Jinping's recent official visit to Saudi Arabia for the China-Arab States Summit.

At the invitation of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chinese President Xi Jinping went to Saudi Arabia from 7 to 10 December. This visit welcomed the first China-Arab States Summit which was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The China-Arab States Summit was attended by President Xi Jinping and other Arab states. Xi held meetings with representatives of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Palestine, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon, and other Arab nations during his visit. China emphasised its support for the autonomous development paths taken by these Arab partners during these discussions, and both China and Arab states expressed their strong belief in international multilateralism.



China-Arab Cooperation

Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Hua Chunying released a report on China-Arab cooperation in the new era prior to the summit. The report considers the summit a historic occasion and mentioned that Beijing will use it as an opportunity to create a China-Arab community with a shared future in the new era.

President Xi Jinping's Keynote Speech

At this summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech entitled "Carrying Forward the Spirit of China-Arab Friendship and Jointly Building a China-Arab Community with a Shared Future in the New Era". During the speech, President Xi underlined various topics of discussion including the relationship between the two sides, regional security and stability, cooperation and agreements. President Xi emphasised that China and Arab countries have had friendly relations for a very long time. As strategic allies, they ought to sustain the spirit of friendship. They should strengthen their ties of solidarity and collaboration and endeavour to forge a more cohesive China-Arab community with a shared future.

Xi also emphasised that China is ready to expand its strategic alliance with Arab countries and safeguard each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national dignity. The importance of cooperation in the trade, infrastructure, and energy sectors was also stressed.

China calls on the international community to respect the rights of the Middle Eastern people, who are sovereign over their own lives.



President Xi also emphasised the need for both parties to encourage the sharing of government experience, reinforce inter-group ties, and boost personnel exchange. He also said that both parties should cooperate to fight Islamophobia, advance deradicalization, and reject the notion that any one racial or religious group is to blame for terrorism.

Eight Major Cooperation Initiatives

During this keynote address, Xi Jinping emphasised that China will collaborate with the Arab side to advance eight significant cooperation measures across a range of sectors. These include youth development, inter-civilizational discourse, food security, public health, green innovation, energy security, and stability and security. The speech also emphasised that it is unacceptable to keep ignoring the historical wrongs done to the Palestinian people. China, according to Xi, would continue to support the livelihood programmes in Palestine and provide the country with humanitarian aid.

Made In India

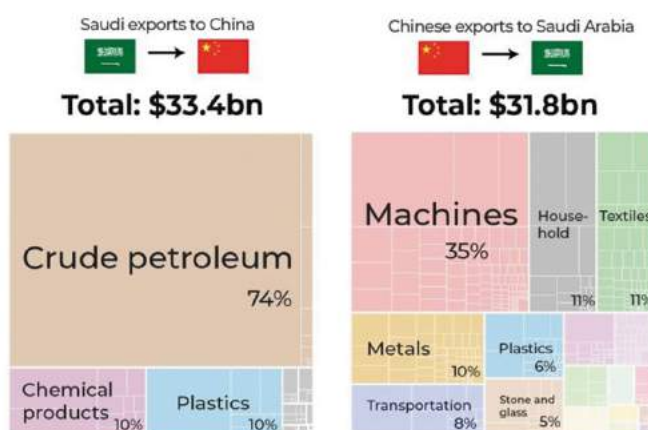
Indian policy is to increase its military, air, and naval enhancement along with technological development as a goal towards indigenization and promoting "Made in India".

India has already started exporting its weapons to other Middle Eastern and African states. It also wants to overcome its trade deficit with China and has banned several Chinese company's access to its market. Moreover, to counter increased Chinese investments, India and Japan have launched Asia-Africa Corridor to facilitate access to African states as far as in the East Asian region.

China-Arab Community

Both countries' decision to establish a China-Arab community with a common destiny in the new era marked a historic turning point in China-Arab relations during the summit. In this regard, the eight significant ideas for collaboration that President Xi proposed were warmly reiterated by the Arab leaders present at the meeting. The "Outline of the Comprehensive Cooperation Plan Between the People's Republic of China and Arab States" was also released at the summit.

China and Arab leaders signed a number of cooperative agreements during Xi's visit to Saudi Arabia that covered energy, infrastructure, banking, education, technology, and other crucial areas. Also, future collaboration between China and Arab states would see fresh waves of prospects with these recently concluded agreements and MOUs.



China as a Reliable Partner

Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, the energy minister for Saudi Arabia, said that Saudi Arabia will remain China's reliable and trustworthy energy partner. President Xi's state visit to Saudi Arabia will also advance the comprehensive strategic relationship between China and Saudi Arabia. Prince Faisal bin Bandar Al Saud, the governor of Riyadh, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, the foreign minister, and Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the governor of the sovereign Public Investment Fund (PIF), all received President Xi Jinping upon his arrival.



The China-Arab States Summit will mark a turning point in the evolution of China-Arab ties. This represents a fundamental shift in the policies of the Arab governments, giving China the power to meet its energy needs. By strengthening its economic and geopolitical relations with one of the largest economies in the world, China, the Arab states will also be assisted in taking advantage of the shifting global order.

18- India's Increasing Influence in the Indian Ocean Region

Introduction

India sits in the middle of the Indian Ocean. It defines the region as "extending from African littoral to Southeast Asia". With the world's geopolitics shifting towards the Indian Ocean, India has also started stretching its maritime muscles in the Indian Ocean. India has considered the Indian Ocean as its traditional sphere of influence and aspires to achieve regional power status. However, the rise of China and its increasing footprints in the Indian Ocean has alarmed India. Beijing's initiatives and power projection in the region threaten India's maritime interests and power aspirations. Moreover, India wants the US presence in the region but to a limited point. An increased presence would tarnish India's status in the region as a 'net security provider' and the 'preferred security partner'. It is also concerned that increased US presence in the region could shrink India's sphere of influence in the neighbourhood.

Significance of the Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean has gained strategic importance as world politics has shifted towards Asia in all aspects. As it connects three continents, the Indian Ocean is a maritime bridge for trade. It connects energy-rich states of the Middle East and North Africa with the consumer and energy deficient states of East Asia. The region

comprises geo-strategically important sea arteries namely, the Strait of Hormuz, Strait of Malacca, and the Horn of Africa. These are Sea Lines of Communication, which ensure the smooth functioning of global trade. Politically, the Indian Ocean region has the presence of emerging power and major powers like the USA and China. The importance of this region is immense for the world powers to establish or maintain their global power status at large.



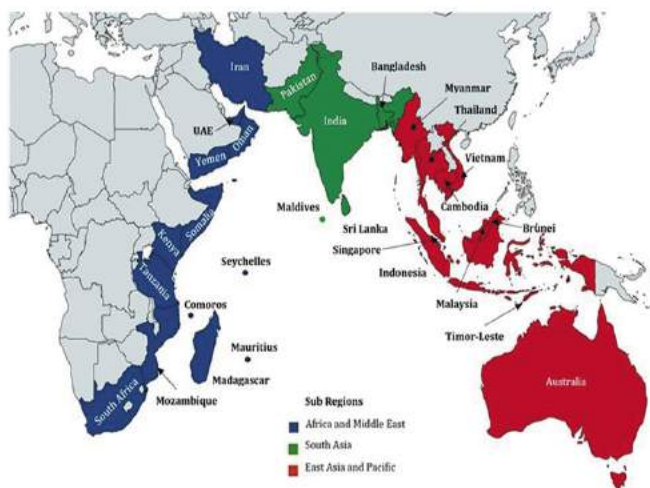
India's Maritime Power

India has historically been unable to project its power in the Indian Ocean because of economic insufficiency and domestic political division marked by several separatist movements. In recent years, however, India has embarked on the path of economic development and has emerged among the world's top 10 economic powers. India and China both are the biggest crude oil importers and depend heavily upon the Indian Ocean for trade. India feels threatened by the Chinese developments in the Indian Ocean Region and regards it as the 'strategic encirclement of India'. To counter Beijing's influence India has adopted many policies and strategies.

India's Act East Policy

In 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi changed India's Look East Policy to Act East Policy. The vision underlying this policy is Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR). The SAGAR initiative is part of India's greater proactive foreign policy. It is a strategic move to protect its national interest in the Indian Ocean Region. Under this policy, India has entered into various regional agreements, multilateral and multilateral agreements. It has become part of various regional forums such as ASEAN, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation,

Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, Asia Cooperation Dialogue, and Indian Ocean Rim Association. In terms of trade connectivity, India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project are the major initiatives taken by India. Moreover, India has enhanced strategic and economic cooperation with East Asian nations such as Vietnam, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.



Made In India

Indian policy is to increase its military, air, and naval enhancement along with technological development as a goal towards indigenization and promoting "Made in India". India has already started exporting its weapons to other Middle Eastern and African states. It also wants to overcome its trade deficit with China and has banned several Chinese company's access to its market. Moreover, to counter increased Chinese investments, India and Japan have launched Asia-Africa Corridor to facilitate access to African states as far as in the East Asian region.

India's Changing Naval Posture

India has changed its strategic orientation from a 'brown water navy' to an expanding 'blue-water power projection capability. Under this initiative, many new projects are launched to make India a blue-water navy by 2030. Under this policy, India aims to become a Net Security Provider in the Indian Ocean Region.

Indian Defense Involvement in the Indian Ocean

Moreover, under the Made in India Policy, India is also modernizing its navy and is taking several initiatives in the Indian Ocean Region. These include upgrading the Indian Navy, building ports in many island nations in the region, conducting bilateral and multilateral military exercises, building coastal radar networks and strengthening relations with Island nations in the region.

Conclusion

The Indian Ocean is the future of world politics. Since India became the 6th largest country in the globe, bypassing France, it has inevitably started to establish itself in the region. Chinese interest in the region expresses a concern for India. Moreover, considering the geostrategic and geoeconomic significance of the region, the US has been keen to maintain its presence in the Indian Ocean. Previously, it was in the form of Obama's 'Pivot to Asia' or "Rebalancing Strategy" and now it is the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy". All this has raised security concerns for India. Keeping this in context, India is expanding its maritime power in the Indian Ocean to secure its interest and maintain regional dominance.

19- 2023: Will The Inflation End

As we all know that 2022 has been a period of instability and insecurity, It is an unfavorable combination that perfectly captures the state of the globe as 2023 begins. The Ukraine Russia Conflict has triggered the worst land conflict in Europe since 1945, the greatest nuclear threat ever since Cuban missile crisis, and the broadest set of sanctions since the 1930s. Rising food and energy prices are to blame for many nations' greatest inflation rates since the 1980s and the largest macroeconomic problem of the contemporary age of central banking. Long-held convictions in the sovereignty and territorial integrity of borders, the non-use of nuclear weapons, low inflation, and the continuity of electricity in developed nations have all been challenged at once. This chaos is a result of events combining together such as, geopolitical is the largest. The American-led post-war international order is under threat, most clearly from Mr. Putin and most significantly from the steadily deteriorating relationship between the US and China under President Xi Jinping. The steadfastness with which the United States and other European nations reacted to Russia's assault may have given the West, and especially the transatlantic alliance, new life. The gulf between the West and the rest, however, has become wider. Most people on Earth reside in nations that oppose Western sanctions against Russia. The universal principles that underpin the Western system are explicitly rejected by Mr. Xi. The two largest economies in the world are beginning to economically decouple from one another. The impact of this will be globally.

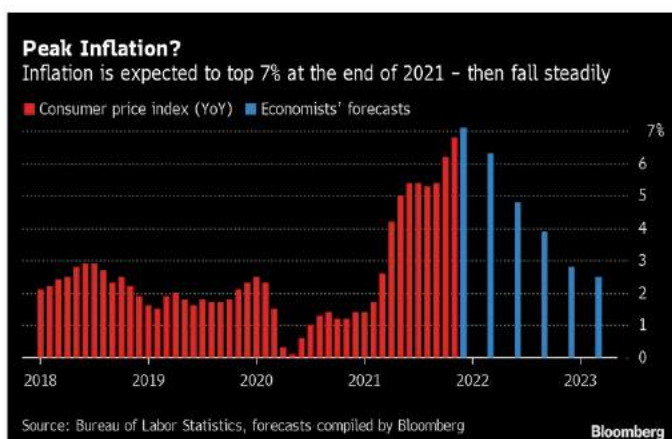


In near future, it is possible to prevent a recession, but it's extremely improbable. The only policy measures that could prevent a recession would raise inflation, creating the conditions for a future downturn that would be considerably worse. Today, it is even more crucial to seek value from planning rather than just making plans since the economic climate is still quite atypical and appears to be more susceptible to shocks. After the pandemic shock and the following policy reaction, the economy is still struggling. It seems doubtful that we will soon experience calm waters due to new problems brought on by a collision of setbacks and challenges such as strong labour markets, geopolitical energy shocks, and aggressive policy tightening. As the cost of necessities rises, people throughout the world are experiencing inflation at levels not seen in decades. The consequences could still worsen. Global inflation has been caused by a pandemic and conflict.



According to the World Food Programme, an additional 70 million people globally have been pushed toward hunger. The consensus estimate for core inflation in 2023 increased from 3.1% to 3.5%. Officials predict that unemployment will increase higher than it did in September of this year.

One of 2022's most significant headlines was the rise of inflation. A new global recession has been brought about by a number of interconnected problems, including rising oil and food costs, fiscal instability following the epidemic, and consumer uncertainty. It is predicted that worldwide inflation will reach 7.4 percent in 2022. Since 1996, the inflation rate has increased annually at its greatest rate. In many nations, the increase in energy costs was the primary cause of inflation. Household spending on goods and services is being constrained by rising costs.



This may make it difficult for those who are less wealthy to pay for necessities like food and housing. In the world economy and international finance, the US dollar has a significant influence. And at this moment, it is stronger than it has been in the past 20 years. The dollar is viewed as a secure investment in any economic environment. During a turbulent time, a worldwide pandemic.

20- Impacts of Climate Change in North America

Introduction

North America, the third-largest continent is suffering multiple challenges due to climate change. According to macro-trends, in 2022, North America's population was recorded at 376,870,696, with an increase of 0.42% from 2021. A large number of people are at a risk because of the ongoing climate change situation in the region. If essential actions are not implemented, the region will continue to endure a wide

range of climate change-related consequences of greater intensity. It is a fact that North America will be negatively impacted by climate change but it is also true that that this region has historically produced more greenhouse gas emissions than any other continent and is still actively contributing in global warming and climate change. The United States is mostly responsible for this as it is one the region's

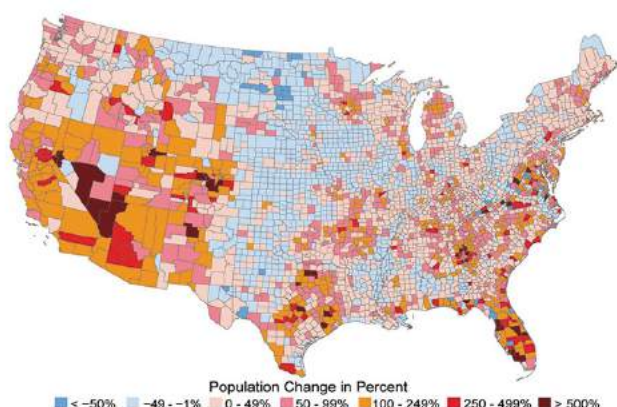


largest single emitter of greenhouse gases due to human activities. Just behind China, the United States is currently the second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases worldwide. Changes in rainfall patterns and a sharp increase in the warming of the region are depicting how climate change is already influencing North America.

Trends of Climate Change in North America

In North America, numerous impacts of climate change are being seen, since 1995 the average air temperature is increasing with the majority of the warming occurring in Alaska, northwest Canada, and the interior of the continent as a result of human-related activities and natural factors. Additionally, the majority of North America's yearly precipitation of rain and snow has increased. North America has warmed by around 0.7°C over the previous century. If the emissions are low, the warming of the region could stay at 1-3°C over the next century. On the other hand, if emissions are greater, they temperature could rise by as much as 3.5-7.5°C. Accordingly, by the

middle of the century, major dangers to North America are anticipated to increase quickly if the overall global warming exceeds 1.5°C. These dangers will have a negative impact on the environment and will cause changes to ecosystems, increased damage to houses and infrastructure, stress on the economy, disruption of livelihoods and well-being of the individuals as well as severe health issues and disorders.



North American Summer 2022

Extreme temperatures were experienced by several countries in the summer of 2022, numerous temperature records at the local, state, and regional levels have been broken due to a series of early heat waves that occurred around the world. Hundreds of millions of people have been impacted by the effects of these heat waves, which have had a particular impact on natural ecosystems, food supplies, energy prices and demand. It is because the agro-ecosystem of North-America has negatively impacted due to climate change and extreme weather patterns in the region. North-America in particular Texas' temperature was unusually high in May 2022. After a "heat dome" that affected an estimated 100 million people settled in the area, the area saw another warm spell in the middle of June. In spring, the temperature was higher than average in certain areas of Mexico. The heat waves in summer 2022 proved to be the worst, when compared with the average temperature between 1991 and 2020. This demonstrates that during the past few years, climate change impacts have increased in frequency and intensity across North America.

Climatic Facts of North America

According to projections, climate change will affect North America as a whole, which will create specific problems for risk management and adaptation. These climatic changes in the region grow more evident with rising greenhouse gas emissions and increased levels global warming. The majority of the region is constantly influencing due to greater than average temperature changes which are attributed to human impact. In future, these temperatures are expected to increase at extreme levels in any way. Most coasts are expected to see an increase in relative sea level rise, which is related to more frequent coastal flooding and erosion.

Both marine heat waves and ocean acidification are expected to get worse. In a warming planet, there are already losses in glaciers and snow cover and the trend will continue to do so because of the weather patterns affected by global warming. Extreme tropical cyclones, powerful storms and dust storms are anticipated in following areas i.e. Caribbean, USA Gulf Coast, East Coast, Northern and Southern Central America.



Conclusion

To conclude, there is a need to understand the importance of adaptation in North American region. For climate change, Governments has a crucial role to play.

Through decision-making process, Governments can involve professionals, policy makers, international institutions, organizations and all other concerned stakeholders, in this way it is possible to mainstream climate adaptation. Furthermore, taking into account the role of private-sector can support adaptation efforts through new and innovative ideas. Planning with equitable solutions, efficient management and effective implementation of the policies along with integrated approaches and coordination are much needed as they will not only recognize the climate risks, challenges and issues but will also help to address them.

21- Bicentennial Anniversary of US-Mexico Diplomatic Relations

Introduction

The diplomatic relations between the United States and Mexico marks the 200th anniversary. Over the years, the two countries have experienced ups and downs in their relationship, apart from conflicts on issues like migration, trade and border confrontations, they have managed to develop strong cultural, political and economic ties. Considering the major obstacles, Mexico and the United States have worked together on important bilateral matters, such as supply chain flow and border management. Unlike Donald Trump, who frequently emphasized his ambitions to construct a border wall and threatened tariffs if Mexico did not make efforts to deter migrants from trying to cross. There are greater chances for economic integration and stronger political connections under the new Biden government

President Biden's Statement on Bicentennial Anniversary

The President Biden's statement was released by White House on December 12, 2022 for the 200th anniversary of Mexico and United States diplomatic relations. It is said by the President "the United States and Mexico celebrate 200 years of bilateral relations. As the closest of neighbors and friends, we share a set of values that form the root of our strength. We share an enduring commitment to freedom, democracy, and rule of law. And we share a strong and deepening economic and security partnership that has made North America the most competitive and dynamic region in the world." Additionally, he said "Over the course of our shared history, Mexico and the United States have demonstrated that we are stronger and safer when we stand together. Our futures are irrevocably connected."



And today, as we embark on the next century of our partnership with mutual respect and commitment to our shared aspirations, we remember that nothing is beyond our reach if we continue to work together.”

Flashback of U.S. and Mexico Ties

The two countries have long-standing economic, cultural, and historical ties, but the bilateral relationship between the United States and Mexico is among the most complicated one. Mexico has a population of 110 million people and is the 15th largest economy in the world. Mexico is one of the main economic partners of the United States and a significant source of energy for the country, in addition to sharing a border with it that spans almost 2,000 miles. However, since 1830s, migration has remained the one of the major points of contention between the United States and Mexico.

Diplomatic Relations after Biden Administration

Building a stronger institutional foundation for the two-way partnership has been a priority for the Biden administration. Despite disagreements over topics including labour rights, the energy industry, climate change, and investor protections, collaboration between the U.S. and Mexican governments has increased in a variety of areas, including the economy, security, and migration. The beginning of 2021 saw a

number of difficult problems between the Mexican and American governments on the economic front. The trade conflicts and the uncertainty in the energy sector appeared to result in a tense relationship between the two nations. However, the Biden Administration collaborated with its Mexican counterparts throughout the year to rebuild economic ties. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement



(USMCA) and the first North American Leaders Summit (NALS) in first in five years, both made headlines on both sides of the border. But during the first year of the Biden Administration, the High-Level Economic Dialogue (HLED) was revived, which has been considered a major accomplishment.

Conclusion

The Biden and Mexican administrations continue to encounter a number of difficulties as they manage the bilateral relationship after one year. Cross-border ties are on a trial because of number of complex issues including energy, the environment, investor relations, and the humane treatment of migrants. All of these topics are conflicting in both countries,

but the Biden team has collaborated with its Mexican counterparts to design strategies and options that ties the two governments together and creates predictable patterns of interaction and areas for the discussion and negotiation on major conflicts. To improve the bilateral relations, there is need that both the countries make efforts to combat cross-border crime, improve law enforcement cooperation,, address human rights challenges, strengthen rule of law and implement the policies particularly for irregular immigration and border management in order to resolve major trans-boundary issues.

About Pakistan House

Pakistan House, an Institute of International Affairs, is an independent policy institute based in Islamabad.

Our mission is to help build a positive, secure and balanced world approach toward developing societies.

Founded in 2012

Pakistan House collaborates with universities, think tanks, governments, the private sector, civil society and diaspora. Each year, the institute organizes more than a dozen events – conferences, workshops, briefings, group discussions and roundtables – in Europe and Pakistan.

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