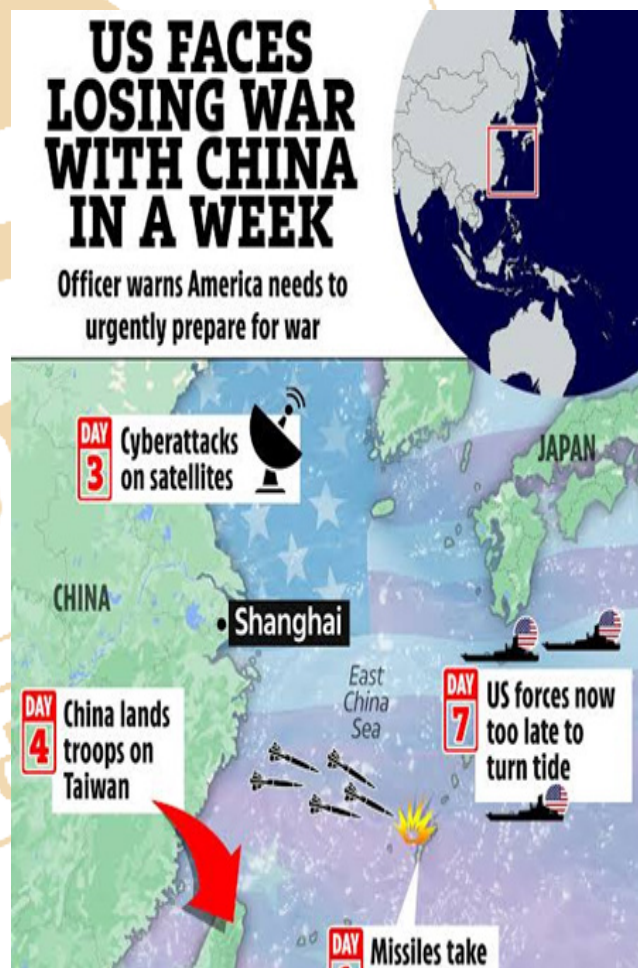


A WELCOME STEP : ON THE BLINKEN-XI MEET IN CHINA

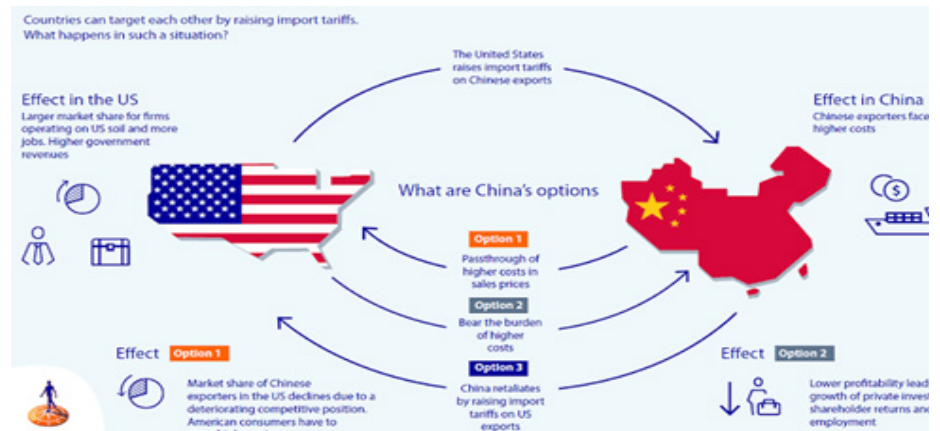
The Hindu

Paper - II (International Relation)

The United States and China this week took a much-needed step towards repairing their relations as Antony Blinken visited Beijing, the first visit by a U.S. Secretary of State since 2018. The main takeaway from the visit, during which he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping, was their agreeing on the need for stability in ties. Mr. Xi told Mr. Blinken that the international community was “concerned” about the current state of relations and “does not want to see conflict or confrontation”. Mr. Blinken said following the talks that “both agree on the need to stabilise our relationship”. Differences, no doubt, remain, and the visit expectedly did not yield breakthroughs on contentious issues such as U.S. export curbs or Taiwan. But the very fact that Mr. Xi met with the visiting U.S. diplomat was a clear sign of progress given the cancellation of Mr. Blinken’s visit in February and the rancour that followed the shooting down of the Chinese “spy balloon” over the U.S. As Mr. Blinken put it, the objective was to “strengthen high-level challenges of communication, to make clear our positions and intentions in areas of disagreement” and to explore areas where both “might work together on shared transnational challenges”. Asked in Beijing how the Biden administration will continue with its attempt to fix relations with China as the domestic discourse likely worsens in the lead up to the 2024 elections, he argued that continued engagement was the best avenue to protect U.S. interests, including on trade.



The challenge now is whether they can sustain this effort at arresting the slide and keep diplomatic channels open, even when the next crisis inevitably emerges and against the backdrop of increasingly heated domestic political rhetoric. As Mr. Xi told Mr. Blinken, countries do not want to “choose sides”. This is especial-



ly true in the region, where nations continue to have deep economic linkages with China and close security ties with the U.S. That Beijing and Washington are appearing to agree on the need for stability should be welcomed, including by India. While shared concerns about China may be a binding factor, the India-U.S. relationship today has acquired a deeper and broader scope, which will be affirmed this week during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s state visit, in new agreements expected in the defence domain and in technology cooperation. In the not-too-distant past, high-level visits from Washington to Beijing may have evoked some unease in New Delhi, particularly during the short-lived “G2” phase during the Obama administration, but that is no longer the case.

CHINA-USA ISSUES

Phases in the US-China relationship:

- ❖ 19th century: American missionaries began to arrive in China and began to generate empathy for the nation.
- ❖ **During World War II:** US backed Chinese nationalists in their fight against Japanese occupation.
- ❖ **The US tried to isolate China from 1949:** when the communists prevailed over the nationalists.
- ❖ **The 1970s:** It saw the US and communist China come together to counter the Soviet Union.
- ❖ **The 1980s:** Beginning of an economic engagement that turned into a huge commercial and technological partnership from the 1990s.
- ❖ **21st century:** some in the US began to see China as a potential threat. America believed that China’s growing economic prosperity would inevitably lead to greater democratization of its society.

US-China major rivalry in the past two years:

1. trade
2. technology
3. naval activities in the South China Sea
4. Taiwan issue

Expected Question

Que. With reference to US-China relations, consider the following statements:

1. Recently US President Joe Biden has visited China for the first time.
2. America does not accept China's monopoly on Taiwan.
3. Both the countries have never had cooperative and friendly relations since the independence of China.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer : b

Mains Expected Question & Format

Que.: What are the points of contention between the US and China? What impact have these disputes between the two countries had on global geopolitics? Discuss. (250 words)

Answer Format :

- ❖ Discuss the dispute between America and China at the beginning of the answer.
- ❖ In the next part of the answer, discuss the impact of these disputes between the two countries on global geopolitics.
- ❖ Finally give a brief conclusion.

Note: - The question of the main examination given for practice is designed keeping in mind the upcoming UPSC mains examination. Therefore, to get an answer to this question, you can take the help of this source as well as other sources related to this topic.