

(Q) What are the traditional and non-traditional security concerns of Pakistan? Suggest measures by revisiting the foreign Policy of Pakistan.

1) Introduction:

Since its inception, Pakistan has grappled with a multitude of security issues. These issues range from internal issues such as extremism, weaponisation, feudalism to external threats such as India and cross-border terrorism from Afghanistan.

introduction is a bit short.

2) What are the Traditional and NON-Traditional security concerns of Pakistan:

2.1) What are Traditional Security issues:

Traditional national security refers to the traditional and historical concerns that have long been the focus of a nation's efforts to safeguard its sovereignty, territorial integrity and the well-being of its citizens. These concerns are primarily related to military threats and defense related challenges such as external military

threats, territorial integrity, border security etc. Dealing with such threats is the cornerstone of national security strategies for many countries. George Washington aptly describes the significance of national security in the following words:

"To be prepared for war is one of the most effective ways of preserving peace"

2.2) Traditional Security concerns of Pakistan

discuss this under nontraditional.

2.2.1) Weak Governance and Political structure:

A country equipped with well-groomed politicians and strong governmental structures could probably navigate through the security issues and bring about stability in the country. Situation in Pakistan, however, is contrary to this. Pakistan suffers from weak governance and perpetual strifes between the military and civilian leadership which has brought fissures in the political structures. Amidst this political turmoil, especially when

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The ruling elite is imbued with self interest, is apathetic to the worsening security risks the country is exposed to:

Example:

A quintessential example is how the incumbent PDM government, despite plethora of security and economic crisis, is engrossed with erasing the opposition leader Imran Khan from political landscape.

2.2.2) Militancy and Extremism:

Military and extremism are one of, if not the foremost, significant threat the country faces. With the prevailing political and economic crisis, the militants, who otherwise remain dormant, follow a more active approach. Leveraging the predicament of the country, these militants increase their operations and try to penetrate into the much sensitive areas of the country. The recent wave of terrorism speaks in volumes of this grave threat. With many terrorist operations carried out throughout the country, targeting civilian and military installations, there remains no

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ambiguity that militant tendencies are proliferating in the country

Example:

The Peshawar mosque attack, which is considered to be the most deadliest attack after APS, is a manifestation of these militant activities. This attack was executed in a mosque when a suicide bomber ~~but~~ blew himself up, claiming lives of as many as 84 people while more than 200 were injured.

2.2.3) Sectarian Conflicts:

Decades of turmoil in the middle east has diverse ramifications in Pakistan. The constant rift between Iran and Saudi Arab, in particular, has bred and fomented sectarian conflicts in the country. This deep rooted issue is a rather grave one, for it can cause a massive stir up, across country, in moments, leading to country wide conflicts and protests. The former prime minister of Malaysia has rightly referred to this as: "The curse of the Ummah"

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2.2.4) The Indian Threat:

Pakistan's ties with India can be characterised by perpetual threat of war, hostilities and policies to undermine the other. Since their inception, both countries have engaged in several strifes, including three full fledged wars, and prospects of peace, atleast in the near future, remain elusive. With the Kashmir issue still unresolved and purported Indian support to cross border terrorism, including unwavering support to BLA and such tendencies, to destabilise the country, the Indian threat stays at large and can yield dire repercussions for Pakistan.

Example:

The grave nature of Indian threat can be discerned by a network of terrorists, unveiled by Pakistan, that is being supported by 'RAW', Indian intelligence agency. The Pakistani leadership created a dossier comprised of irrefutable evidence of Indian support to terrorist tendencies in Pakistan. The dossier was dispatched to UN, in hope to receive a response.

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2.3) What are Non-Traditional Security Issues:

Non-traditional national security concerns refers to the emerging challenges that have gained prominence in the modern globalised world. These challenges transcend the conventional spectrum of military threats and encompass a broader range of challenges such as cyberwarfare, climate change, economic vulnerability and energy security. The erstwhile president of U.S.A, Barack Obama, accentuates the significance of non-traditional security issues in the following words:

"In the 21st century, our security is no longer defined solely by the strength of our military. It is also linked to our ability to prevent pandemics, combat climate change and promote global economic stability"

2.4) Non-Traditional security concerns of Pakistan:

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2.4.1) Economic Plight of the Country:

Pakistan is plunged into economic crisis. A country of over 220 million population, 6th largest in the world, suffers from the dearth of financial resources. This is evident from the fact that Pakistan remains on the top of the chart for countries repeatedly seeking financial support from IMF. With the country exposed to severe economic crisis, the security risks are inflated.

Example:

On 12 July 2023, IMF approved a stand-by arrangement of US \$ 3 billion to Pakistan which would be disbursed over a period of nine months. The aim of the aid was to stabilise the ~~ex~~ economy of the country, which was otherwise on the verge of default.

2.4.2) Climate Change and Environmental Degradation:

The impact of climate change, including
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extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and droughts, can pose a serious threat to a country's national security. Unfortunately, despite having a relatively modicum of contribution to climate degradation, Pakistan has been exposed to some of the worst climate impacts.

Example:

you can keep the examples bit brief.

In 2022, Pakistan witnessed the worst flooding of its history, affecting more than half of the country's areas. This not only affected private properties but left a huge dent in economic, agricultural, and medical sectors. The Center for Disaster Philanthropy estimates at least 33 million people affected, more than 700,000 houses destroyed, almost 2 million Acres of crops affected, and more than 0.7 million livestock lost.

2.4.3) Water scarcity:

In the last few decades, Pakistan went from a water abundant country to a water stressed

country. One of the primary cause of this is the massive increase the country's population. The water demand has surged with the increase in population, however the water resources remain static. The country is at a juncture where the demand exceeds the supply. This translates to Pakistan being categorised as a water scarce country. The UN reports that the demand of water will rise to 2.74 million acre feet (MAF) by 2050, while the supply will remain at 191 MAF.

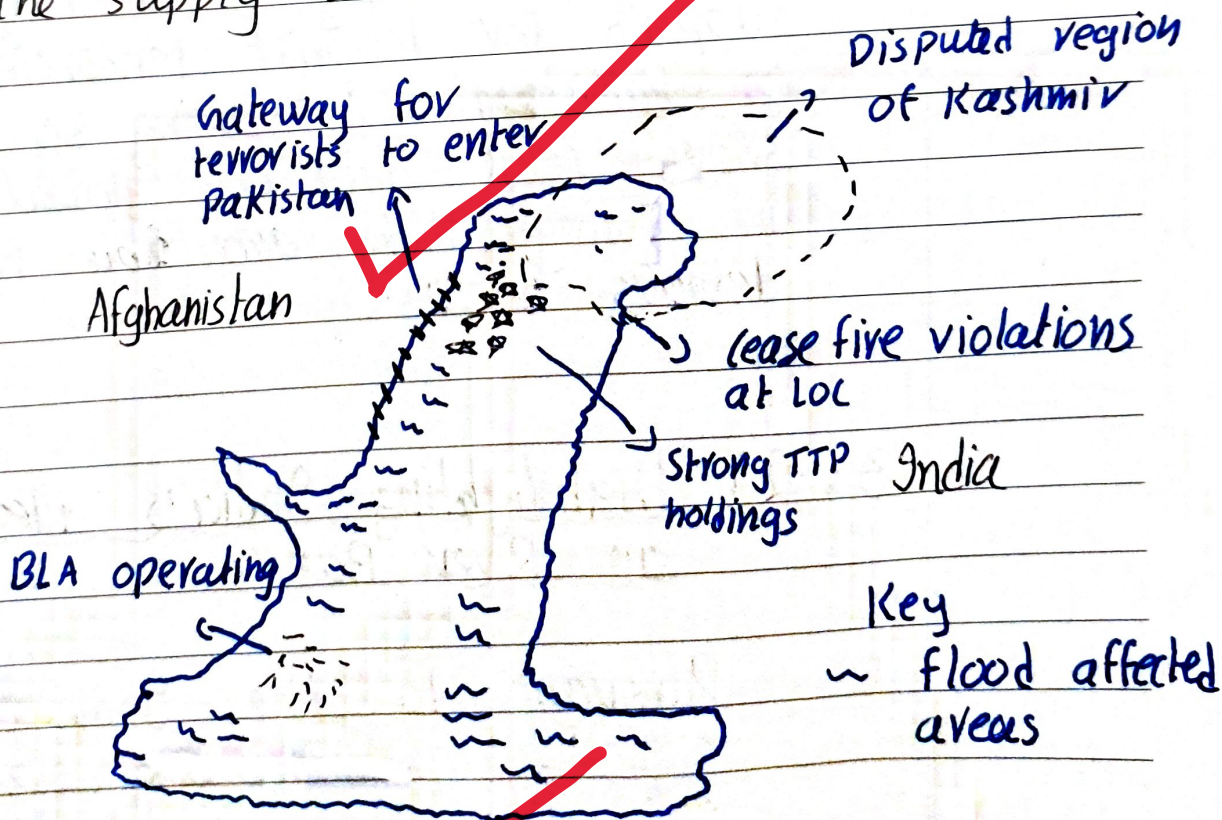


Fig 1: Overview of security concerns Pakistan faces

3) Revisiting Foreign Policy to Ameliorate the Issues:

3.1) Exposing India:

3.1.1) Accentuating India's Covert yet Unwavering Support to Terrorist Tendencies in Pakistan:

Pakistan should employ all global platforms to expose India in front of the world by revealing gratuitous support for terrorist tendencies operating in Pakistan. And in doing so Pakistan should seek help of global powers in holding India accountable for such devious tactics.

3.1.2) Highlighting India's illegal construction on River Banks

Pursuant to the Indus Water Treaty, signed by both India and Pakistan is entitled to exclusive rights for using water from Indus, Jhelum and Chenab rivers. The treaty also prohibits

India from constructing any ~~&~~ storage dams on these rivers. India, however, in brazen violation to ~~to~~ Indus water treaty is building storage facilities on these dams, and thereby, restricting ~~water~~ flow to Pakistan. Pakistan should ~~raise~~ raise this issue on every major global platforms, drawing attention to ongoing Indian violations and the dire repercussions it could have on Pakistan.

3.2) Cautioning the Afghan Government:

There is no ambivalence that Afghan Taliban had enjoyed the full support of Pakistan for decades. Pakistan was a key player and a major stakeholder for the 'doha agreement', wherein ~~the~~ Afghan Taliban vowed to eliminate all terrorist sanctuaries within the country, ensuring that Afghan soil is never used conducting terrorist activities in foreign land. However, much to the dismay of Pakistan, the Afghan government is doing little, if not nothing, to make good on their promises. Afghan soil remains the paramount ~~in~~ mean for TTP to carry out terrorist ~~at~~ activities in Pakistan.

lengthy description. shorten it a bit,

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Pakistan should address this matter exercising professional diplomacy, cautioning Afghan government to expunge such tendencies, otherwise Pakistan would have no alternative but to conduct cross-border operations to ensure these terrorist activities are nipped in the bud.

3.3) Engaging in Trade Deals:

While security remains the top priority, however, given the current economic conditions of the country, there is a dire need to engage ~~in~~ foreign economic hubs in trade deals. Pakistan should approach ~~the~~ global economic hubs with the resolve to make trade deals which could provide, a much needed, breathing space to the country. Moreover, the government should introduce special incentives to foreign investors to attract foreign investment.

Example:

In a bid to attract foreign investment to combat the crippling economy of the country, President Erdogan announced

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a citizenship by investment scheme in which people were granted citizenship of the country for an investment as low as USD 400,000 in the real estate sector

3.4) Not Partaking in any Global Conflict:

Since its inception, Pakistan has suffered tremendously by being a part in global rivalries. Whether its the cold war era or Post 9/11 period, Pakistan has invariably been, whether willingly or unwillingly, included in international conflicts. The country should heed to its past experiences and develop a policy of staying neutral. Whether its close allies such as China or arch rivals like India, Pakistan should establish a policy of not actively partaking in any foreign disputes, that doesn't concern it directly and express firm resolve not to resile from this stance.

4) Conclusion:

There remains no doubt that Pakistan

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suffered a lot from security challenges. The contemporary plight of the country is a result of years of bad policies and overlooking the national interest. The shipwrecked country can still be steered to safer shores by emplacing robust measures. The solutions mentioned above could have a vital impact in mitigating the challenges this country faces.

overall a good answer!!

but it is lengthy and will affect your time management.

shorten it a bit by working on the mentioned areas in the question.