

Question:- Explain the role of Pakistan in "War on Terror."

1) Introduction:-

Pakistan's role in the War on Terror has been both pivotal and complex, shaped by its geographical location, political alliances and internal challenges. After the 9/11 attacks in 2001, Pakistan became a critical ally of the United States. The country provided logistical support, intelligence sharing, and launched military operations to counter terrorism, targeting groups like Al-Qaeda and Pakistani Taliban. Its efforts helped dismantle several terrorist networks. Pakistan endured a strained relationship with U.S and faced significant domestic insecurity.

2) Historical Background during the War:-

In 2002, the Musharraf-led government

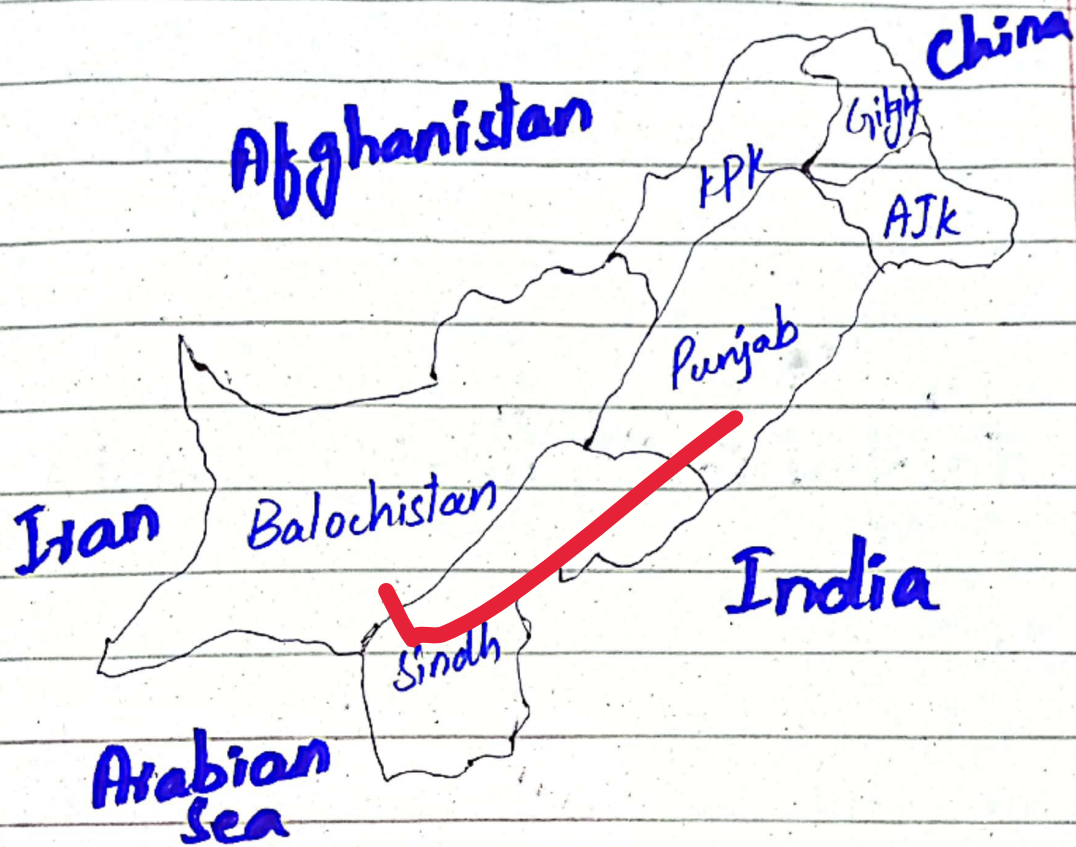
took a firm stand against the jihadi organizations and groups promoting extremism, and arrested Maulana Masood Azhar, head of the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, chief of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, and took dozens of activists into custody. Other prominent al-Qaeda leaders were arrested in the following two years. After the fall of Taliban regime many members of Taliban resistance fled to the northern border region of Afghanistan and Pakistan. With the logistics and air support of United States, the Pakistani Army captured or killed numerous al-Qaeda operatives.

Relate your headings to the qs statement

3) Pakistan's geographical location with the border of Afghanistan:-

Pakistan is located in South Asia. Pakistan is bordered by India to the east, Afghanistan to the north-

west and Iran to the west while China borders the country in the northeast.

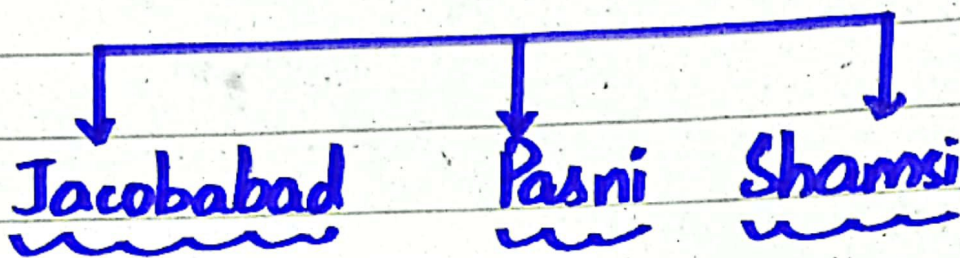


4) Military Cooperation and Operations by Pakistan:-

Pakistan's military cooperation and operations during the war on terror significantly influenced global counter-terrorism efforts.

4-1) Airbases and Logistics Support for US:-

Pakistan provided strategic airbases for U.S. drone operations and logistics. These strategic airbases are:-



It also allowed NATO forces to use its territory as a primary supply route into Afghanistan, enabling vital operations against Taliban and al-Qaeda.

4-2) Joint Intelligence Operations:-

Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) worked closely with the CIA to capture key al-Qaeda operatives.

In 2003, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of 9/11, was arrested in Rawalpindi.

In 2002, Abu Zubaydah, an al-Qaeda leader, was captured in Faisalabad.

4-3) Operation Al-Mizan (2002-2006) :-

This targeted al-Qaeda and Taliban militants hiding in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

4-4) Operation Rah-e-Nijat (2009) :-

This operation was launched in South Waziristan and targeted Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), one of the most lethal militant groups responsible for numerous terrorist attacks in Pakistan. According to a report by **DAWN** :-

“targeting the South Waziristan region, this operation dismantled major strongholds of the TTP,

- forcing many militants to flee or surrender. It was pivotal in regaining territorial control."

4.5) Operation Zarb-e-Azb (2014) :-

A comprehensive offensive targeting militant strongholds in North Waziristan, dismantling terrorist networks like the TTP, al-Qaeda and the Haggani Network. This operation significantly reduced the operational capacity of terrorist groups.

4.6) Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad (2017)

A nationwide campaign aimed to eliminate residual militants and consolidate gains from previous operations. It also focused on tackling urban terrorism and unregistered arms.

5) Arrest of al-Qaeda leaders:-

Pakistan collaborated with United States to track down al-Qaeda leaders.

5-1) Arrest of Khalid Sheikh Muhammad:-

Khalid Sheikh Muhammad, the alleged mastermind of September 11, 2001 attacks, was arrested on March 1, 2003, during a joint operation between Pakistan and United States. The arrest took place in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

5-2) Arrest of Zubaydah:-

Abu Zubaydah, a senior al-Qaeda operative, was captured during a raid in Faisalabad, Pakistan on March 28, 2002. The operation was conducted by Pakistani security forces in coordination with U.S. intelligence agencies.

5-3) Death of Osama Bin Laden

On May 01, 2011, in an operation in Abbottabad, al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden was located and killed by the U.S Navy SEALs in his private compound.

6) Economic and Human Costs:-

Studies and research conducted by Pakistan's leading economists and the financial experts, the war hit Pakistan's national economy "very hard" and the outcomes produced by the war on country's national economy, were surprising and unexpected to Pakistan's military and economic planners. According to a Pakistani economist, the direct and indirect cost of the war was around \$ 2.67 billion in 2001-02, which has raised upto \$ 13.6 billion by 2009-10. In 2009, President Barack Obama pledged to continue supporting

Pakistan and said that Pakistan would be provided economic aid of \$1.5 billion each year for next 5 years.

Add more arguments. Cover all the aspects

7) Conclusion:-

Pakistan's role in the War on Terror has been multifaceted and deeply consequential. Pakistan conducted extensive military operations and supported U.S and NATO forces. The war also exacted a heavy toll on Pakistan with significant economic losses and deep socio-political challenges. Despite these challenges, Pakistan's commitment to counterterrorism has demonstrated its critical role in maintaining regional and global stability.