

"In the globalization world, we are all interconnected. Events in one country have impacts on nations far and wide, and no country can afford to ignore the rest." Barack Obama has well-articulated and manifested the true nature of today's world and the international relations shared by countries. Pakistan

is the part of this world so it cannot escape itself from the impacts of the actions of the rest of world members. That's why, Pakistan is facing numerous challenges in international relations. One of the challenge is Pakistan India thorny relations due to water crisis and Kashmir issue that is the actual bone of contention between them. Likewise, Pakistan Afghanistan relations are also in trouble because Afghanistan is being used as launching pad of Terrorism against Pakistan. Furthermore due to US-India strengthening ties, Pakistan US relations are weakening and crippling. Likewise, imbalance foreign policy toward US and China has also put Pakistan in hot water. Increasing Pakistan's closeness with Russia has also become challenging for Pakistan US relations as US is anti-communist. Similarly, Pakistan is also confronting with the

challenge of opting pro-Saudia or
Pro Iran foreign policy in Middle East.
These confrontations at international front
have given rise to terrorism due to Afghanistan
involvements, water scarcity because of Pakistan
India toxicity, sectarian conflict due to unbalanced
foreign policy with Middle East etc in Pakistan.
Pakistan can overcome these challenges
by developing convivial relations with India, for
Kashmir issue & water scarcity issue resolution,
developing balanced and neutral foreign policy
towards China, US, Russia and Middle East. And also
developing government to government contact with
Afghanistan for combating terrorism. As Pakistan
is facing numerous challenges at
international front which are affecting
its relations with the world. It is due
to the lack of consistent, unbiased and
balanced foreign policy of Pakistan. By
opting rational and diverse foreign policy,
Pakistan can tackle these challenges
effectively.

2. Importance of international relations for Pakistan
World is a global village in which no one can live alone. World is like human body, as human body works properly and remain active when its all parts or organs are functioning aquarettly. Likewise, countries are the organs of world, so proper and adequate connectivity among them enable it remain consolidated. International relations among countries strengthen the world power. Pakistan, being the part of this global village, requires to maintain and opt a balance and rational foreign policy towards worldly powers and peripheral countries for making itself safe and secure as well as boost its economy. Pakistan possesses immense geo importance in the world due to its geo-strategic, and geo-political as well as geo-economic priviledges. So, for gaining the actual benefit from these blessings, Pakistan needs to maintain convival international relations with ithe world especially it's neighbor countries. Thus, consistent ^{Econgenial} international relations are the lifeline for Pakistan's domestic and foreign affairs.

Pakistan is facing multiple challenges and in international relations and Pakistan-India thorny relations is one of them. The major bone of contention between them is Kashmir issue, since independence, because India has forcefully ^{seized} occupied Kashmir, a disputed territory, ^{by} violating the United Nations decision of 1948 that called for arranging plebiscite in Kashmir, so that people of Kashmir could decide the fate of their state on their own. The icing on the cake is revocation of article 370 done by India in 2019, which ^{has} further fueled the fire and worsen the relations between them. It is the Kashmir issue on which Pakistan and India have already fought three wars of 1947, 1965 and 1999 but still this issue is unresolved. That's why, both the countries have failed to develop convivial relations despite being a lot of efforts.

Another major challenge which Pakistan is facing at international front is water dispute with India. The issue of water scarcity has turned into water crisis in Pakistan due to India's violation of 1960 Indus water treaty, as India has established Kishanganga dam on Chenab river in 2014 and many other dams that have reduced water flow to Pakistan. As Pakistan is lower riparian country while India is upper riparian country, so water flows from India to Pakistan, so through dams and power projects construction on the rivers, it is diverting water flow from Pakistan, which is severely affecting agriculture sector of Pakistan. India has further exacerbated issue by calling Pakistan to review terms and conditions of Indus water treaty without any third party intervention. So, it can be said that water dispute is the twisting factor between Pakistan and India relations.

Another neighbor country, Afghanistan, has also become a challenging threat for Pakistan. Afghanistan Terrorism has re-surged in Pakistan and most of terrorist attacks are being done by Afghan terrorist groups, so it seems that Taliban are using Afghan soil as a launching pad for conducting terrorist attacks on Pakistan. ^{As a} The recent terrorist attacks, large number of innocent people have

lost their precious lives and on this massive loss, Pakistan has warned / told to Afghanistan government in blatant words that donot allow Afghan soil to become a base camp of anti-Pakistan groups and Pakistanis could not tolerate ^{more} such heinous acts while Afghanistan has is claiming Pakistan's stance as allegations against them. Recent terrorist attacks which Pakistan have witnessed are Bajour incident, attack on Police station etc. Terrorism from Afghanistan land are affecting Pakistan and Afghanistan relations.

Moreover, Pakistan relations with US also remains fluctuating due to US-India nexus. India and US relations are strengthening day by day as they have signed numerous economic, political and defense agreements and their most important nexus is in indo-pacific region. India is trying to create bumps in the smooth relations between US and Pakistan by instigating US against Pakistan and portraying Pakistan, a terrorist supporter nation, as well as pro Russia and pro-China in other words pro-Communism state that is against the capitalism.

That's why, with the increasing closeness between India and US, relationship between Pakistan and US are worsening.

Furthermore, Pakistan is facing challenge of ^{having} imbalance relations with China and US.

It is result of the Pakistan-China brotherly relations that are higher than Himalayas, sweeter than honey, stronger than mountains and deeper than ocean which are manifested in the form of China Pakistan economic Corridor, Gwadar port agreement, financial, technological and moral support. As US is anti-China, similarly, China is anti-US due to their desire to lead world economically and politically as well as by increasing their hold in world as well as due to ideological conflicts of communism and capitalism, so more China driven Pakistan's foreign policy creates disturbance in Pakistan-US relations. Pakistan has tied its economic growth and prosperity with China and its opportunity cost is higher for Pakistan in terms of sway from US. So, it can be said that US-China rivalry is severely affecting Pakistan.

Rising / Strengthening Pakistan Russia relations has also created a challenge for Pakistan-US relations. As Russia and US are two super powers have remained rivals of each other, so closeness of

Pakistan with Russia have affected Pakistan relations with US. Russia and US have two different ideologies as Russia is a communist state while US is capitalistic in nature. Russia wants to supersede USA and dominate the world while US wants to retain its power, and both have created their blocs. In a year or so, Pakistan has rebuild and revived its ~~re~~ stagnant relations with Russia through enhancing cooperation in economic spheres. In 2023, Pakistan has signed an deal of importing crude oil from Russia at discounted rate after Russia-Ukraine war spikes, and Pakistan neutral stance of Russia-Ukraine conflict has further aggravated and instigated US sentiments towards Pakistan. So, Russia Pakistan reviving ties are not less than apple of discord for US and has negative impact on US and Pakistan ties.

Another major challenge is to maintain balance between pro-saudia and pro-Iran foreign policy. As Pakistan is sunni majority muslim country like Saudi Arab, so it is more inclined towards Saudi Arab than Iran in international relations, which hurts shia community in Pakistan because they wanted Pakistan's stronger relations with Iran than Saudi Arab. Iran and Saudi Arab have bitter relations for last couple of years due to sectarian conflict and desire of each of them to dominate and control muslim world. But due to China's arbitration, both countries have come closer to each other and resumed their stalwart relations. Pakistan imports most of crude oil from Saudi Arabia and have received financial and moral support from Saudi Arabia in the time of thick and thin. In 2023, Pakistan has signed 5 years trade agreement with Iran and has ^{strengthened} its relations with it. Pakistan is trying to maintain balanced ^{relations} between with Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Likewise, India-Saudi Arabia strengthening relations are affecting Pakistan Saudi Arabia relations. India is Pakistan's rival country, it does not want to see Pakistan growing in economic and diplomatic frontiers. So it seems to be a potent threat for Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations as India can persuade and instigate Saudi Arabia against Pakistan especially in terms of

economic assistance. Saudi Arabia is ambitious to diversify its economy by enhancing cooperation and coordination with the world. India is fifth largest economy, having 1.4bn population and major economic and technological hub while Pakistan's economy is crippling and heavily rely on foreign assistance and debt. So, Saudi Arabia will never marred its relations with India just because of Pakistan as India has become a major trade and strategic partner of Saudi Arabia. The announcement of establishing India Middle East Europe Economic corridor in G20 summit 2023 have further bolster Saudi Arabia and India relations. So, Pakistan cannot neglect India-Saudi closeness at international front.

In 21st century, Pakistan is facing another challenge of climate change. It has become an international challenge for Pakistan because it is bearing the devastating and catastrophic climate disasters at the cost of world economic growth and development. Pakistan is emitting less than green house gases less than 1% but it ranks 8th in the world top ten climate change hit countries. It may disrupt Pakistan relations with world biggest pollution and green house gases emitter in the future because remaining silent on

Climate change can increase opportunity cost for Pakistan. Recent example of climate disaster is flood of 2022 which had caused loss of 30bn\$ to Pakistan and engulfed 1700 innocent lives. Therefore, Pakistan has become a major climate affected due to world irresponsible attitude towards climate change.

Pakistan can create balance between US and China by opting balance foreign policy. As Pakistan's foreign policy is more bend towards China which affect Pakistan USA ties. Pakistan is entangled in deep sea because if it develops pro-US foreign policy then it will create tension between Pakistan and China which Pakistan cannot afford as being the part of CPEC, heart of BRI as well as debtor of Chinese banks. Similarly, if Pakistan establishes pro-China foreign policy, then Pakistan US relations will not remain on smooth track which further create hurdles for Pakistan in getting debt from IMF as US has 17% share in IMF funds and Pakistan cannot US sanctions anymore. So, instead of choosing between US and China, Pakistan should adopt neutrality in relations with them.

There is also dire need to maintain neutrality in relations with Russia and

US. As both US and Russia are world superpowers, having giant economic sizes and greater influence over the world. In a year or so, Pakistan relations with Russia have started/gained a new momentum in political and economic frontiers which has some toxicity in its relation with US because US and Russia are rivals not of this era but of couple of decades. Although, maintaining balance in relations with Russia and US is arduous for Pakistan but it is not impossible. Adoption of neutrality is the real essence of foreign policy so Pakistan should try to gain the true essence of foreign policy towards Russia and US.

Pakistan and India tense relations can be normalized with the resolution of Kashmir issue. Because the major apple of discord and the factor of toxicity in their relations is the determination of the true status of disputed territory that is "Kashmir" that is also famous as heaven on earth. In 1948, UN passed the resolution of holding plebiscite in the princely state "Jammu and Kashmir" so that Kashmiris could decide their own fate. But the plebiscite resolution is still not materialized. Kashmiris are sacrificing their lives for getting the right of

their freedom. That can be ensured only through plebiscite. Pakistan and India must realize that Kashmir issue is a political issue, so it cannot be resolved at gun point. So, both countries can resolve their strain relations by developing consensus on resolving Kashmir issue according to UN resolution of 1948.

Pakistan can also mitigate its international relations challenges by establishing and bolstering its ties with the Muslim world. If Pakistan will not focus on its relations with Muslim countries especially with Saudi Arab, UAE, Iran, Turkey and Iraq, then its opponent can fill this gap. As ^{it is} already being seen in case of India that is strengthening its ties with Saudi Arab, UAE and Iran through enhancing trade, investment and defense ties. Pakistan can be retracted if it follows the saying of, "Quaid-e Azam", founder of Pakistan, that "The state shall endeavour to preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries." Hence, if Pakistan act upon this and diversify its relations with Muslim world by developing trade, investment, mutual interest and Islamic unity driven relations then it will definitely assist Pakistan in

mending its ties with Muslim nations.

Pakistan can revive its stalled relations with India by following rational foreign policy rather than emotional foreign policy. India is immediate neighbour of Pakistan and most importantly it is the world biggest consumer market due to high population as well as world's fifth largest growing economy. Although there exist numerous disputes between them but these disputes have more negative implications for them than the positive ones. Pakistan has to rationalize its foreign policy because merely considering India as its enemy would neither resolve Kashmir issue nor any other dispute between them. So, Pakistan can develop convivial relations with India and overcome any form of threat from it.

Furthermore, Pakistan can also control international relation challenges by developing strong relations with the world. One of the major flaw in Pakistan foreign policy is ^{its} heavily reliance on few countries and ^{only} focusing on them at the cost of other world countries. Pakistan mostly reliant on China, US, middle eastern and few European countries and is in continuous struggle to strengthen its relations with them politically, strategically and economically. Pakistan is less keen towards bolstering

and extending relations with Japan, Italy, African countries, Australia etc. So, Pakistan should try to establish a balance approach towards all the world.

Pakistan can overcome its international challenges by following consistent foreign policy. Stability in foreign policy with clear interests and objectives leads to the development of long term relations with the world because no country want to develop relations with that country whose foreign policy remains ambiguous and can change with the change in its political, economic and social change.

Excessive fluctuations in foreign policy of a country portrays it as unreliable, short sighted and inept country and it hinders other countries to cooperate and coordinate with it in economic and social fronts. Pakistan has witnessed lack of consistency and stability in its foreign policy because every new government brings and formulate a new foreign policy keeping in view ^{its} own interests and objectives.

So, if Pakistan wants to enjoy amicable international relations, it must have to devise consistent foreign policy.

6. Conclusion

Conclusively, Pakistan is under the realm of numerous international relations challenges. As Pakistan's neighbour countries, India and Afghanistan have remained a testing field for Pakistan and become ^{like} a undigestable food for it. Unevenness in relations with China and US is also posing a threat for the Pakistan's political, economic and international relations stability. During the era of Cold war between China and US, Pakistan's impartiality and biasness in foreign policy can give Pakistan a major set-back. Likewise, amid the re-rising and re-strengthening of Russia, Pakistan's ^{excessive} closeness to Russia for economic cooperation can also impact Pakistan-US relations. Moreover, maintaining balance between the relations with Saudi Arab and Iran is also challenging for Pakistan. Furthermore, climate crisis and islamophobia have also attained ^{shape} of threatening ^{calamity} situation for Pakistan. But, Pakistan can overcome all the challenge, by adopting a rational, balanced, and far sighted and unbiased foreign policy. World is not bed of roses; it is actually the bed of thorns. So, Pakistan has to make itself strong and elastic like iron to adjust and sustain in the world.