

Q11

The issue of missile exchange between Iran and Pakistan has been normalised. What would be the impacts on Pakistan and entire region if this issue is further escalated?

I- INTRODUCTION

When Pakistan came into being in 1947, Iran, being a neighbour country, was the first who took an initiative of recognizing the newly born state. The initial relations between both the countries were sweeter than honey because both were in the same western bloc. However, the 1979 Iranian revolution turned the relations sour. But the worst thing that deteriorated already devastated relations was the terrorist presence across the borders of both the neighbour countries. The present conflict is the essence of presence of non-state actors on both sides. Although, the issue has been normalised, it could bring devastating impacts for not only Pakistan but also for entire region.

II- PAK-IRAN Conflict

The recent conflict between both the countries is the result of presence of non-state actors across the borders of both the countries. These actors initiate attacks against the respective state. "Jaish al Adal" is a terrorist and semi-militant group which aims to undermine the Shia authority in Iran is alleged to have presence in the Baluchistan province of Pakistan. To

Countee this organisation, Iran has conducted an air base strike in "panjgur" area of the Balouchistan. Pakistan said that Iran has violated the air base security of the country. Moreover, the Iranian attack has killed 2 innocent children in Pakistan. In response to this attack, Pakistan also conducted missile strike into Sistan, Iranian province, which is notorious for offering refuge to Baluch separatist elements.

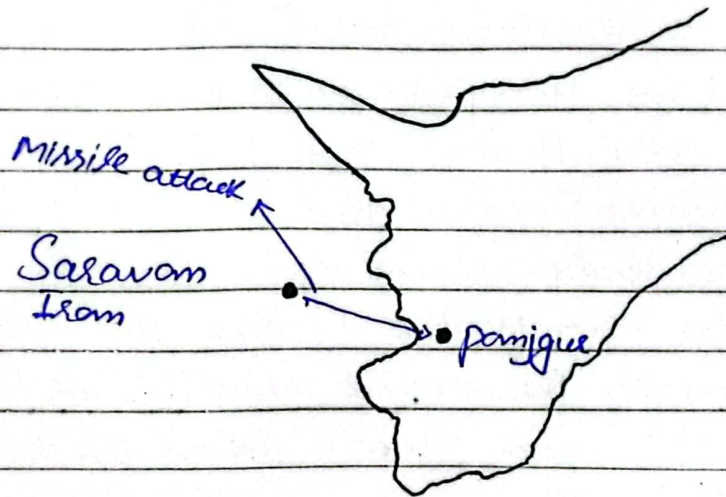


Fig: Shows graphical representation Iranian attack to Panjgur

III- Possible Impacts of escalation on Pakistan

- 1) Opening of New war front with Iran
- 2) Encirclement of Pakistan by neighbouring enemies
- 3) Impact on already crippling Economy
- 4) Instability occurs due to Iranian proxies

① - Opening of New War Front with IRAN

Iran and Pakistan have peaceful relations except the tensions of cross border tensions. Both has signed gas pipeline as well which is an indication of peaceful relations. In the form of escalation of missile strikes, both the countries opened a new war front. Prior to this, Pakistan has tense and conflicting relations with India and Afghanistan. Pakistan has fought many wars with its archrival India but if the this conflict is not resolved immediately a new war front is opened for Pakistan with Iran.

② - Encirclement of Pakistan by neighbouring enemies

Pakistan is already encircled by India on its Eastern side. Pakistan has fought wars with India over many issues. Many drivers of antagonism such as Kashmir, Siachen and Six Creek issues are still unresolved. Therefore, its Eastern side is encircled by India. However, if the conflict with Iran is further escalated it would resulted in creation of a western enemy of the country. On its Eastern and western border, Pakistan stands alone having enemies on both sides. Therefore, the escalation of PAK-IRAN conflict results in encirclement of Pakistan.

③ Impact on already crippling Economy of Pakistan

The economy of Pakistan is taking last breath because of loans and limited exports. Recently, Pakistan has requested China for rolling over its debt of 2 billion dollar. In this case, if the war or war like situation is created with Pak Iran it would leave bad impacts on the economy of Pakistan. As war requires resources, but Pakistan lacks enough money for resources. Moreover, the regional trade of Pakistan will also be stopped as a result of escalation with Iran. Therefore, the war like situation can impact the economy of the country.

④ Instability occurs due to Iranian proxies in Pakistan

The Shia Sunni struggle for hegemony between Saudi-Arabia and Iran have created proxies in various countries. Different Shia terrorist organizations were also created in Pakistan. According to Christophe Jaffred, Pakistan has Iranian proxies such as organization like "Fahreek-E-Nifaz Fiqh Jaffria". Although, these terrorist organizations have been banned, they have still their presence in the country. In the form of conflict escalation with Iran, these proxy actors will cause to disturb the internal situation of the country. Under the assistance of Iran, these actors violate the internal security of the country.

IV- Regional Impacts

→ Disturbance of Regional peace

→ Economic Concerns

→ Reshaping Geo-political Alliance

i) Disturbance of Regional peace

The escalation of PAK-IRAN results in disturbing the regional peace. The region is facing Israel brutal tactics on Gaza. The us ships are being attacked by the Houthis in Yemen. Moreover, Iran has attacked Iraq and Syria as well. In this agonizing and disturbing situation, the escalation of PAK-IRAN Conflict will result in deteriorating the regional peace.

ii) Economic Concerns

The escalation of PAK-Iran conflict will bring economic concerns for the entire region. The Iranian Chabahal port is crucial for the trade of entire region. Similarly, Pakistan is also important for China and Afghanistan. The escalation of the conflict will affect the trade of the regional countries. The Chabahal port is very important for Indian trade. The conflict will raise concern for India.

iii) Reshaping Geo-political Alliances

The conflict will result in reshaping Geo-political alliances. Recently, Iran and Saudi-Arabia, with Chinese assistance, have started to normalize their ties. But in the form of conflict, these new alliances will emerge. India, being a archrival of Pakistan, will support Iran and in the same manner Saudi and UAE will look for the partnership of Pakistan.

V- Conclusion

To Conclude, the escalation in Pak-Iran conflict can affect the Pakistan and the entire region. The new political alignments and economic concerns will emerge under the the escalation of Pak-Iran conflict. Therefore, the escalation between Pakistan and Iran must be avoided for the betterment of Pakistan and the entire region.