

Q:- Iran and Pakistan tension is on the rise as both the countries launched air strikes on each other's territories. Critically evaluate the reasons and beneficiaries of this tension. Also find ways the de-escalation of tension and attaining normalcy.

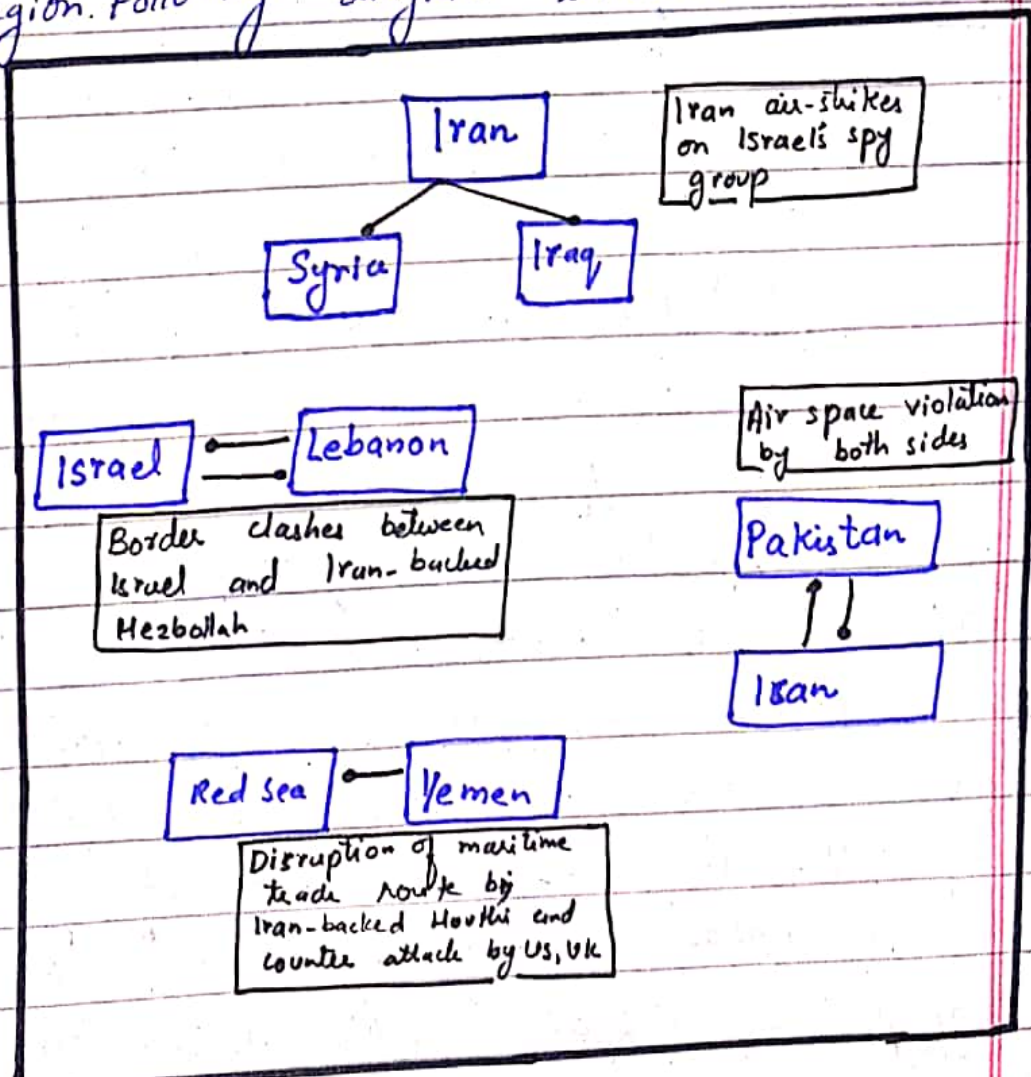
## I. Introduction

Iran and Pakistan have involved in violating air space of each other in recent time. The conflict started with the Iran's military air-strikes on Pakistan followed by Iraq and Syria's space violation by Iran. The unfortunate incidents takes place after Middle-East volatile situation due to Israel and Palestine war. Moreover, due to Israel's brutal genocide, Iran has been actively engaged in the region <sup>particularly</sup> either by its militant groups in various countries. However, the

recent airstrike on Pakistan in the guise of attacking anti-Iran terrorist groups has far right implications on Iran-Pakistan relations and Pakistani internal domain. Therefore, the two countries should formulate policies to negate further escalation of arm conflicts.

## II. Iran's active role in the region

Iran has been actively involved in the region. Following diagram illustrates this:





### III- Pakistan-Iran air strikes on each other territories

In January, 2024, Iran attacked Pakistan's province of Balochistan to attack Jaish Adl, an anti-Iran terrorist group. The air-space violation has been seen as condemnation by Pakistani officials and public. Pakistan claimed that two childrens have been killed in that attack. Thus, two day later, Pakistan also attack Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province under the operation "Marg Bar Sarmachar".

### IV- Decoding the reasons of Iran's attack on Pakistan

There are several reasons. According to Aizaz Chaudhary, the former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, following factors are responsible for urging Iran to take such a brave move.

- i- BRICS expansion and Iran's muscle fledging

Recent endeavour of BRICS to expand its members also include Iran. This involvement has helped Iran boost its potential to evade from western-imposed sanctions thus urged it to remain active in the region.

## ii- Iran-Saudi Arabia rapprochement boosting Iran's confidence

Iran-Saudi Arabia rapprochement mediated by China also incites the sentiments of bravery in Iran's officials to carry out such attacks.

## iii- Israel's increasing brutal violation of human's rights

Recent brutal genocide of Israel on Palestine and its undue support to Palestine has urged Iran to carry attacks to tell Israel about its potential.

## iv- Iran-China investment

Iran-China investment consists of



agreement of about \$420 billion. Such a huge investment enables Iran to boost its sovereignty and to emerge as a regional player.

#### v- Pakistan's aversion to IP-gas pipeline project

The delayed project of IP-gas pipeline due to western-imposed sanctions on Iran has intensified the feelings of apprehension among Iran, which could be one of the reasons to attack Pakistan.

#### vi- Pressure on Iranian leadership on the account of terrorism

Recent attacks on Kerman in Iran has killed 94 and injured 294. To mitigate the anger to Iranians, Iran is doing cross-border attacks to soothe its public.

#### v- The beneficiaries of the attack

i- Generation of fertile ground for India to malign Pakistan

India would be the greatest beneficiary of the conflict. It has generated various opportunities to operate anti-Pakistan missions from the land of Iran.

## ii- Increasing USA's aspiration of isolating Iran

USA has long been involved in isolating Iran socially, politically, and diplomatically. Such attacks help USA propagate its mission.

## iii- Israel's desire of wiping of Palestine

Involvement of Iran in regional conflict could help Israel in wiping out Palestinian as opined by Israel.

## VI- Current efforts of de-escalation of Tensions

Despite the chances of further de-escalation, the two countries sagaciously negotiated to end the conflict; and it



is mediated by China and Turkey. They have agreed to carry out diplomatic relations.

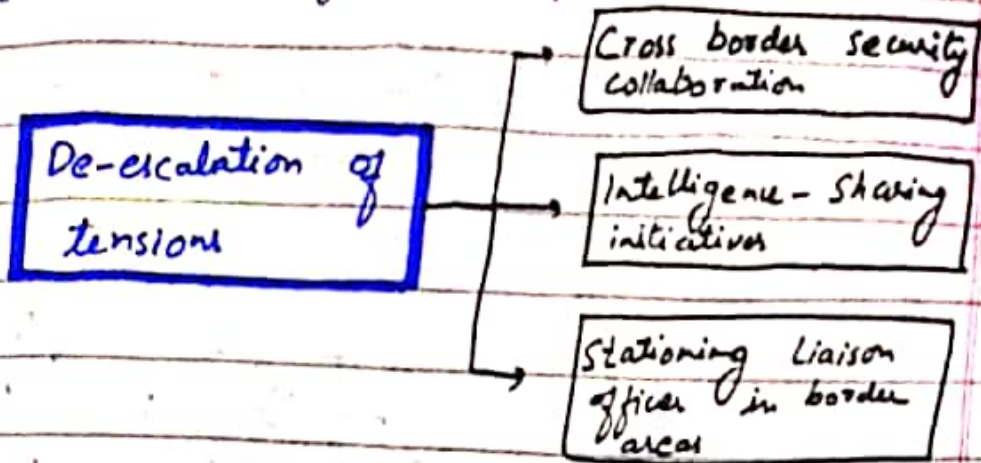


Figure: Collaboration after cross-border tension

VII. What measures should be followed to avoid future conflict?

i- Promotion of economic and energy cooperation

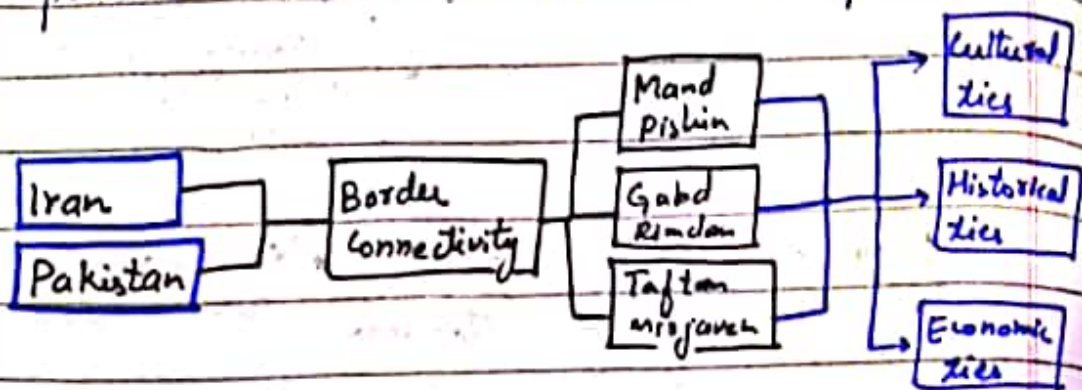
Current trade agreement between Iran and Pakistan revolves around \$1.2 billion. There should be encouraged for taking more agreements.

ii- Completion of IP-gas pipeline project

IP-gas pipeline, which is in limbo from Pakistani side for many years, should be completed as soon as possible.

### iii- Opening of border security instances and market opportunities

Opening of border markets for economic boost along with security imperative could be the viable option.



## VII. Conclusion

Iran-Pakistan recent air-strikes have generated the sense of fear among Pakistanis and Iranian. Iran first targeted anti-Iran terrorist group in Pakistan followed by Pakistani attack. The conflict has generated after Iran's active involvement in the region. The strained efforts could have enhanced the opportunists like Iran, USA and Israel to benefit from the scenario. However, Iran-Pakistan's endeavours to not expand the conflict has marred their aspirations. Thus, economic, security, and cultural connectivity between Iran-Pakistan can work further closer.