

Question

Delineate the major irritants between Pakistan and India. Also highlight some pragmatic steps to curtail this relation formed on the basis of animosity, acrimony and enmity.

1) INTRODUCTION:

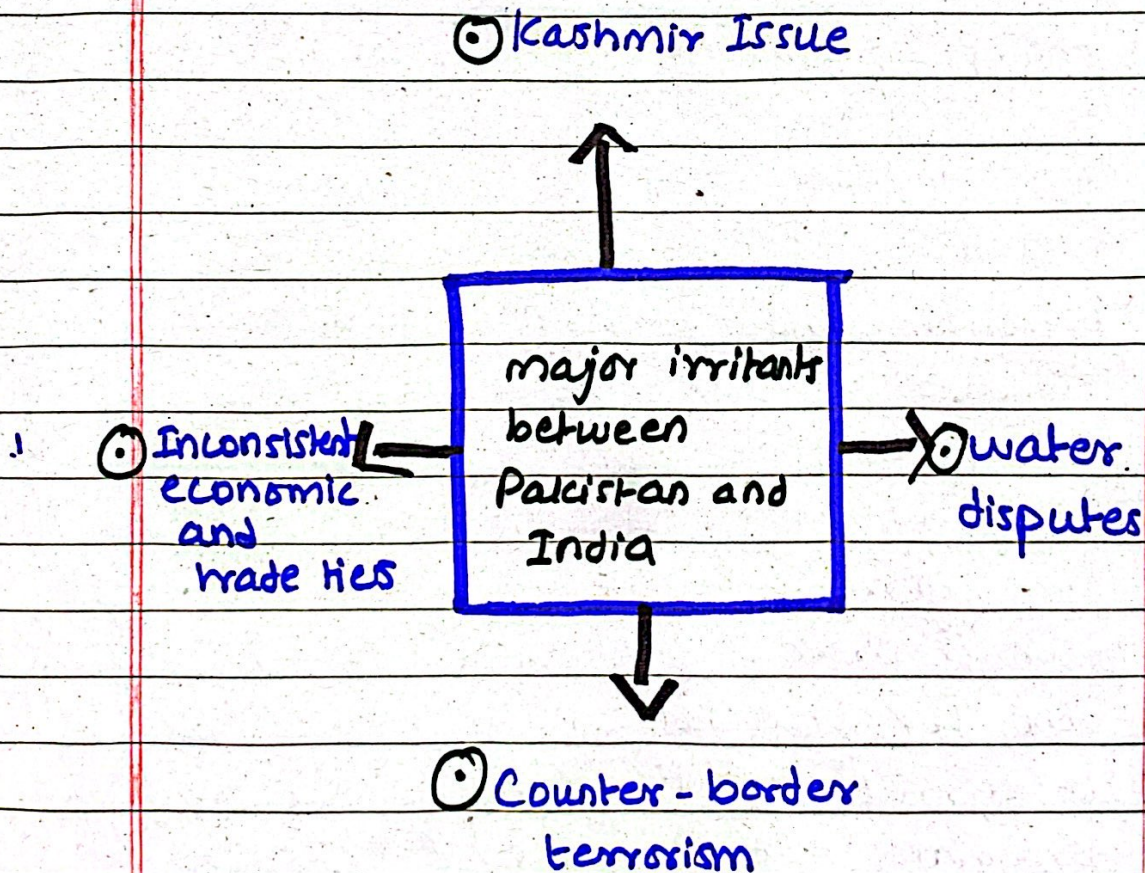
Pakistan since its emergence inherited regional complexities of a diverse nature, but the extensive border sharing with India has been the most pressing issue. The regional configuration between India and Pakistan has given birth to great tensions. Furthermore, crooked relations and policy-making further exacerbates the situation. Certain vexations such as the disputed territory of Kashmir, water based contentions, counter-border terrorism and inconsistent trade and economic relations are a constant threat to peaceful ties between both the countries. Moreover, it is critical for regional peace if any animosity further prevails; therefore, it is pertinent for stakeholders at both sides to curtail this acrimony through pragmatic means. Measures regarding CBMs, economic co-operations and

uninterrupted dialogue channels should be implemented. Likewise, mediators must be engaged to ease any feelings of enmity.

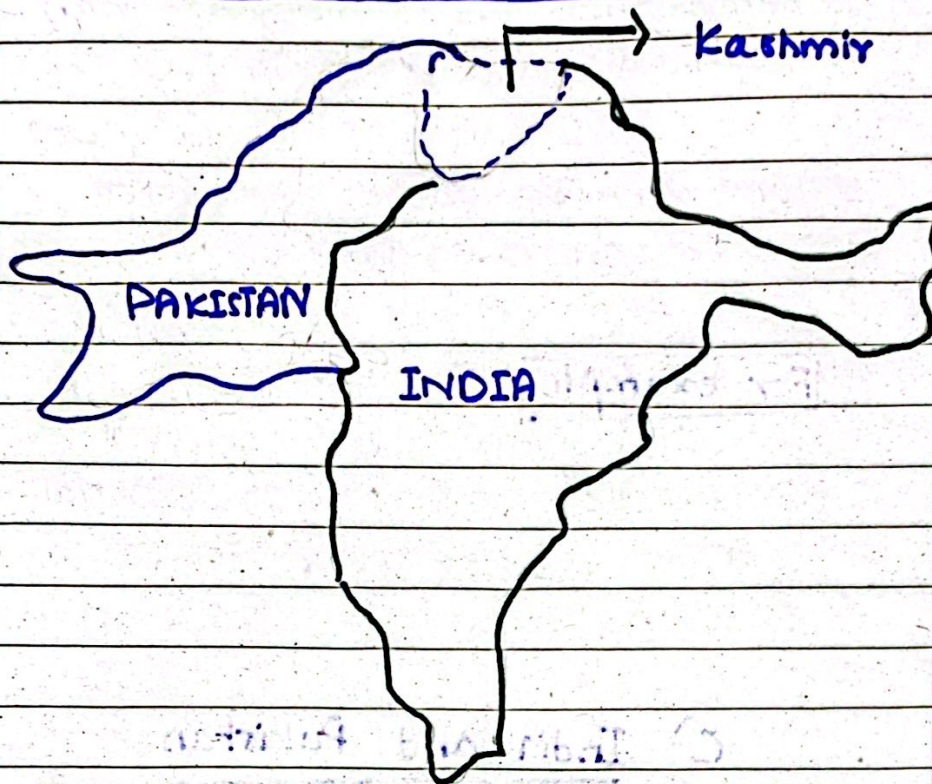
"our shared history should not be a source of division but a foundation for mutual understanding and co-operation."

- Asma Jahangir

2) Major Irritants between INDIA AND PAKISTAN



A) aggravation of concerns
about Kashmir - abrogation
of article 370 by India



India in Aug, 2019, abrogated Article 370 and Article 35A of its Constitution, which granted special autonomous status to Jammu and Kashmir. This move was controversial and led to significant political and social tensions. Pakistan has since then contested and challenged India's move on international platforms.

B) Water disputes - Construction
of dams on rivers flowing
into Pakistan

water resources and their flowing from India has always been a matter of concern for Pakistan. Many a times India has shown an ignorant attitude towards treaties such as Indus water treaty of 1960 and has also constructed dams on Chenab, Ravi, Jhelum.

For example: India has stated that it can alter its approach towards the water treaty especially at times of geopolitical tensions and concerns.

C) India and Pakistan continuously accuse each other for counter-border terrorism

Regional tensions have resulted in grave atrocities to both countries. Any certain event of terrorism leads to an outcry for both states.

For example: 2019 → Pulwama attack

India blamed Pakistan for this atrocity and the reason it considered was Kashmir whereas, Pakistan blamed India for funding separatist

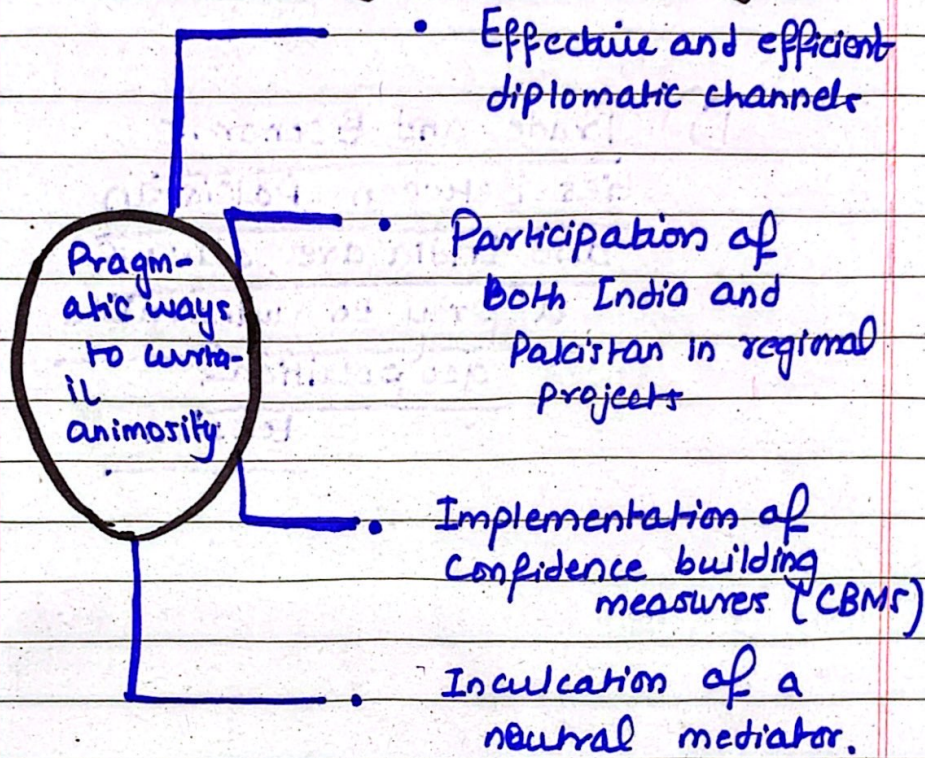
organisations such as BLA, BLF, BRA
For example: Raw agent Kulbhushan
 Yadav captured
 by Pakistani
 forces.

D) Trade and Economic
ties between Pakistan
and India are always
a prey to vulnerable
geopolitical
tensions.

There are numerous trade means that
 both nations share with each other
 this is export and import both. Mostly,
 domestic products such as tea,
 fruits, vegetables and textiles are
 traded along the border, but often
 this trade stops at any political
 tension.

For example: After captain
 Abhinandan was
 captured by Pakistani
 forces in 2019 India
 stopped exporting tomatoes
 to Pakistan which
 led to the scarcity of
 it.

2) Pragmatic ways to curtail the animosity, acrimony and enmity



A. Endorse uninterrupted dialogue channels via efficient diplomacy that focuses on mutual benefits

Foreign officers of both the countries need to ensure the respect of welcoming advances. Harsh dialogue at foreign office level can make the road to recovery of relations exorbitant. Diplomatic moves towards

India can foster new pathway of communication; and regional problems can be solved altogether with co-operation and wisdom.

"You can change friends, but not neighbors"

- Atal Bihari
Vajpayee

B) Regional bloc politics can flourish if both India and Pakistan actively participate in it.

Multilateral organisations like BRICS, SCO and ASEAN can be pivotal for both nations. If the participation is actively made then South-Asia economy can reach new heights.

For example : If Pakistan joins BRICS, it would open new economic channel which is significant for the depreciating rupee.

c) Implementation of confidence building measures (CBMs) to fosters channels for connection and co-operation

CBMs are strategies and actions designed to build trust and reduce tensions between groups and countries. Initiatives such as establishment of hotlines between military commanders, agreements on the sharing of river waters, and joint anti-terrorism measures can prove pivotal for both countries.

Example of CBMs between India and Pak :- Composite dialogue of 2004, Cross LOC trade

d) Inculcation of a mediator country can decrease the chances of hostile engagement between the countries.

Countries that often share feelings of acrimony and animosity are brought into communication by a mediator. As Qatar has worked as a mediator between Hamas and Israel, Pakistan and India must also have a mediator during periods of animosity.

CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, there are a number of irritants present between India and Pakistan that can bring the countries at the brink of war; however, appropriate use and implementation of pragmatic ways can resolve all the feeling of animosity, acrimony and enmity. The resolve of these issues would lead to copious trading, communication, co-operation and culturally similar narratives would be enhanced. It is pertinent to work on all type of contentions to reach a common ground because two nuclear states can contribute greatly to regional progress.