

# GEOSTRATEGIC LOCATION

## Of PAKISTAN: CHALLENGES

## AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES

“While history has been very unkind with Pakistan but its geography has been its greatest benefit.”

(Stephen P. Cohen)

### INTRODUCTION :

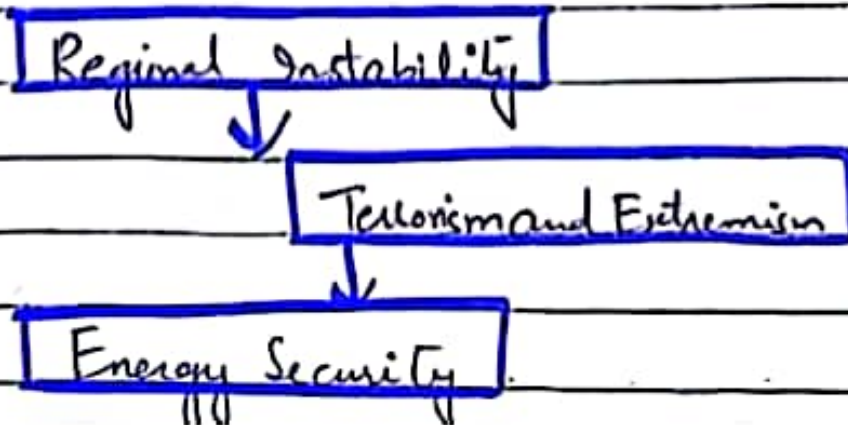
Pakistan is located at the crossroads of South Asia, holds significant geographic, geostrategic and geopolitical importance in the region. Its strategic location bordered by India to east, Afghanistan and Iran to its west, China to the north and

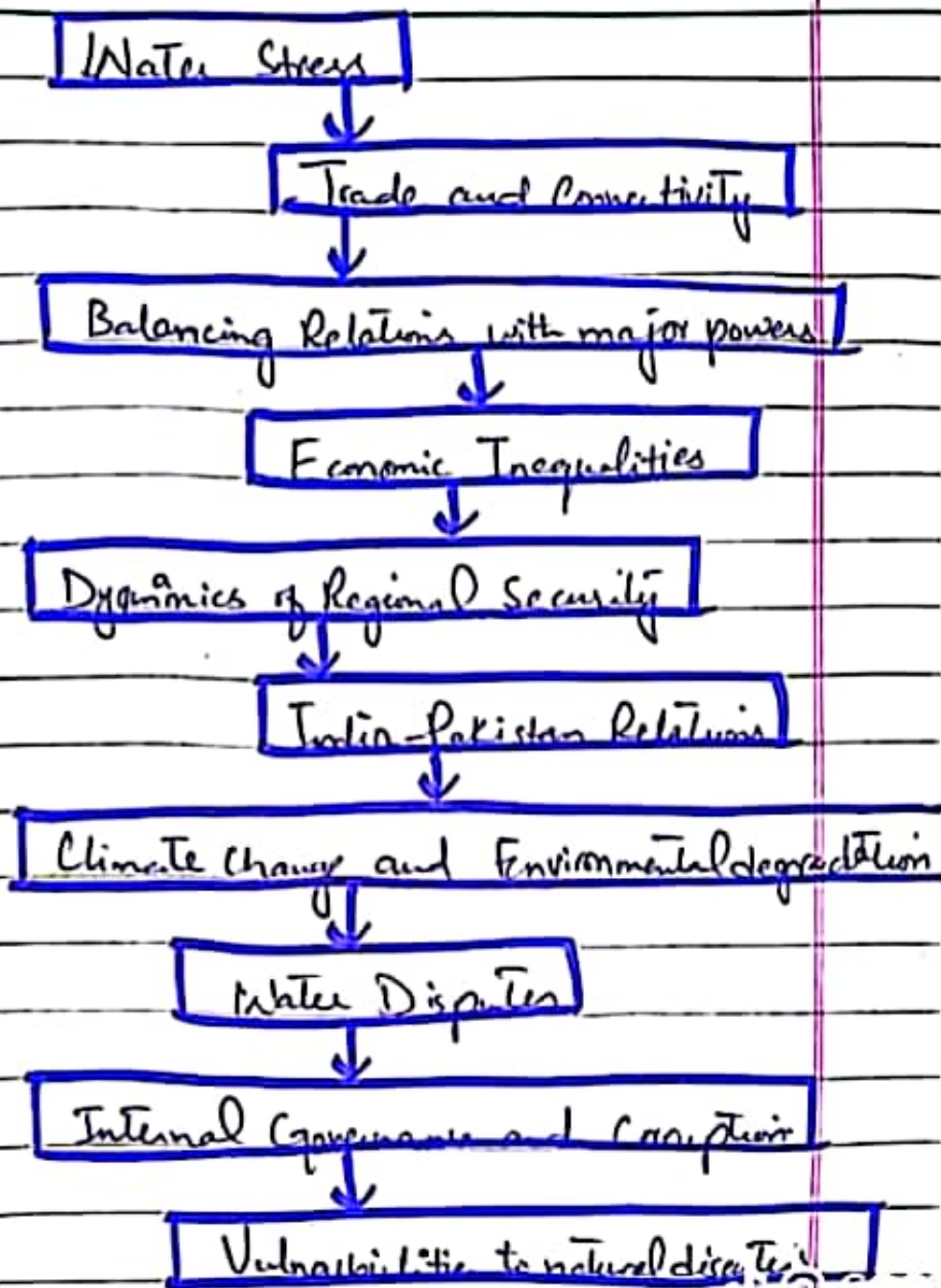
Arabian Sea to its south has shaped its role in regional dynamics and global affairs. One of the key factors contributing to

Pakistan's geostrategic significance is its proximity to major energy rich resources (regions/countries) such as Middle East and Central Asia. With the amalgam of internal and external challenges along with multifaceted glistering opportunities, Pakistan has a long way to adapt in current circumstances. Striving for regional stability and managing regional conflicts with India and Afghanistan remains a complex task for Pakistan's foreign policy.

## CHALLENGES

There are numerous challenges Pakistan is facing in 21st century. Some of them are as below:-





Pakistan is facing these new challenges in this 21st century and trying to improve its economy and regional disputes along with insecurities and tension created by its neighbours -

# REGIONAL INSTABILITY

Pakistan shares its border with four countries - Iran and Afghanistan in the west whereas China in North and India in the East - The volatile security in Afghanistan and long standing tension with India have direct impact on stability and development of Pakistan -

# TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM

The presence of militant groups and cross border activities poses great/significant risk and hindering direct foreign investment in Pakistan -

“Terrorism is a big danger to Pakistan's independence - We will fight this danger for the sake state of independence of Pakistan, and we will defeat it at all levels.”

(Shaukat Aziz)

# ENERGY SECURITY

Pakistan is heavily rely on thermal energy rather than hydrowind solar. This is also realized on oil and gases from its neighbours countries.

# WATER STRESS

The agriculture and water supply is highly dependent on Rivers especially Indus River. Due to climate change the population growth, inefficient water management practices creating great stress on the economy and geostrategy of Pakistan.

# ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES

Socioeconomic inequalities, regional disparities and income gap causing economic inequalities in the region. The limited access to basic services unequal distribution

hinders the growth of Pakistan

## DYNAMICS OF REGIONAL SECURITY

The proximity with Afghanistan and cross border conflicts are great security challenges for Pakistan - The influx of refugees and smuggling of weapons and drugs at the border of Baluchistan damaging the shape of Pakistan.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The adverse impact of extreme weather events, melting glaciers and rise of sea level may causing extreme damage to the climate change and environmental

degradation by cutting forests and cultivating land. It affects food production, agriculture and economy.

## WATER DISPUTES

Pakistan is facing challenges due to dependence on Indus river. Water disputes with India is also a significant challenge. The storage of river water is 30 days in Pakistan.

## INDO-PAK RELATIONS

Pakistan has strained relationships with India due to Kashmir conflicts (long standing issue). The 1st conflict on Jammu Kashmir was held on 1947-1948. The 2nd conflict was held in 1965. These two conflicts were ended in ceasefire by US and Soviet Union. The 1999 Kargil war was also

erupted in District of Kashmir.

## BALANCING RELATIONS WITH MAJOR POWERS

Pakistan location is <sup>like</sup> a golden bird with its neighbours and other major powers (Russia, US) - Balancing relationship with these powers (having) while safeguarding national interest can be great challenge.

Pakistan exports with USA is 11% where as Pakistan imports is 2-3% with China.

## INTERNAL GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION

Corruption and weak institutes hindering the stability and economy of



of Pakistan.

# OPPORTUNITIES

The opportunities in the 21st century are glistening and will show greater impact on the stability and economy of Pakistan =

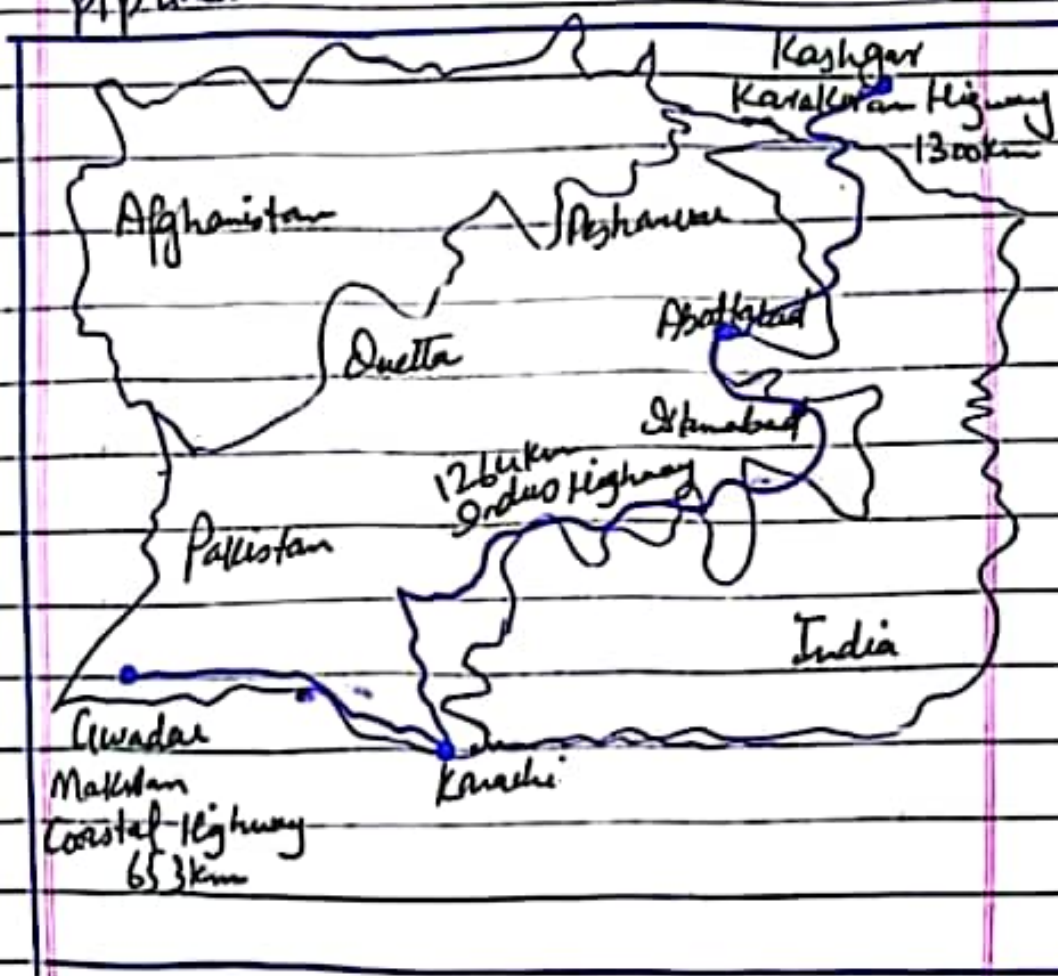
→ To combat (terrorism and extremism) Pakistan should "robust counter terrorism measures" and "promote social cohesion"

→ For (energy security) we should "explore regional cooperation on energy projects" - Pakistan must invest in "renewable energy resources" - Projecting "hydro power plants" in Pakistan -

→ To resolve the water stress and water disputes Sustainable water management strategies should made and implemented for the reservoir ~~and~~ conservation and water conservation and also for the efficient irrigation technique.

→ For the betterment purpose, the trade and connectivity links must be strong - Regional Framework helps in to overcome hurdles such as the project of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) is the best opportunity for trade of energy, resources and for the employment.

• CPEC is a game changer aims to connect Gwadar port to China western region through network of railways and pipeline.



Route of CPEC (China to Pakistan)

combating environmental degradation  
 climate change Pakistan must  
 developed and implement "climate change  
 adaptation strategies" and "promote  
 renewable energy resources."

→ The regional dynamic impact of Pakistan  
 with its neighbouring India, Pakistan  
 should make "direct impact on regional  
 stability", "economy cooperation trade  
 and opportunities."

## CONCLUSION:

In a nut shell, for the effective  
 utilization of such a vibrant strategic  
 location require honest and sincere  
 rational and wise leadership that can  
 stable and tackle corruption to make  
 Pakistan's Foreign policy better -

Understanding and harnessing this  
 strategic significance is essential for  
 policymakers and analysts seeking to  
 navigate the complexities of Asian and  
 global geopolitics -

"Geography of Pakistan is a  
 blessing as it places us at  
 the crossroads of Asia, Africa  
 and Europe."