

Current Affairs

Topic: SCO's recent Summit 2025

Introduction: "The SCO represents a new model of regional cooperation that is inclusive, mutually respectful and multilateral." — Xi Jinping
SCO was found in 1996. There are 8 member countries. Its objective is to promote economic trade, counter terrorism, promote regional stability, energy security and resource sharing. The recent summit of SCO was held in Tianjin with its main postulates that were discussed such as: terrorism was rejected in all forms, condemned terror attacks, call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, Xi gave its five points of Global Governance. Xi also opposes cold war mentality.

1. Historical Background of Shanghai Cooperation Organization:

The historical background of Shanghai Cooperation Organization is based on:

- (i) Shanghai five
- (ii) Expansion and transformation of Shanghai five to Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

1.1 Formation of Shanghai five organization in 1996:

Shanghai five organization was formed in 1996, five means the founding countries were five who initiate the organization.

1.2 Expansion and transformation of Shanghai five to Shanghai cooperation organization:

Uzbekistan joined Shanghai five in 2001. Therefore, the name of the organization was changed from Shanghai five to Shanghai cooperation organization.

1.3 Aim of Shanghai cooperation organization:

Shanghai cooperation organization is an intergovernmental organization consist of Central Asia, East Asia and Europe.

The aim of Shanghai cooperation organization is:

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- Address border disputes
 - Promote regional stability and Peace
 - Promote multilateralism
 - Strengthen security
 - Promote trade

Shanghai five S5 in 1996



Transformed to SCO in 2001



By the addition of Uzbekistan

1.4 Total member countries of Shanghai cooperation organization.

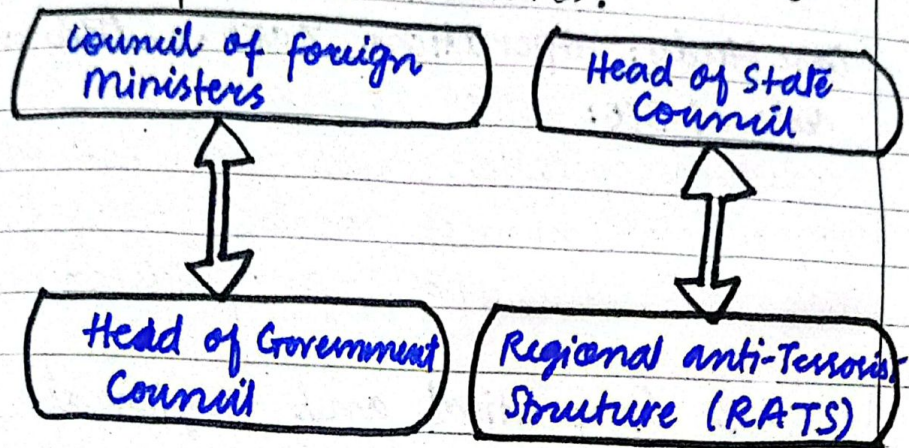
There are a total of eight member countries of Shanghai cooperation organization:

- India
- Tajikistan
- Russia
- Uzbekistan
- China
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Pakistan

⇒ Member Countries of Shanghai Cooperation organization

1.5 Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization:

The structure of Shanghai cooperation organization is based upon following four important structures:



2. Objectives of Shanghai Cooperation Organization:

The main objectives of Shanghai cooperation organization are:

2.1 Promote regional trade and Expansion of trade:

The objective of SCO is to promote regional trade and expansion.

- Case study: Pakistan and Uzbekistan signed trade agreement in 2021 under SCO: Pakistan and Uzbekistan countries already a member country of SCO signed an agreement under SCO for their trade.

2.2 Intelligence Sharing and Counter terrorism:

Pakistan under SCO can also counter terrorism, with the help of member countries under SCO.

Case study: operation Zarb-e-Azb and role of SCO: under SCO Pakistan has successfully conducted operation Zarb-e-Azb with the help of SCO's member countries intelligence sharing and support for Pakistan.

2.3 Geopolitical and regional Stability:

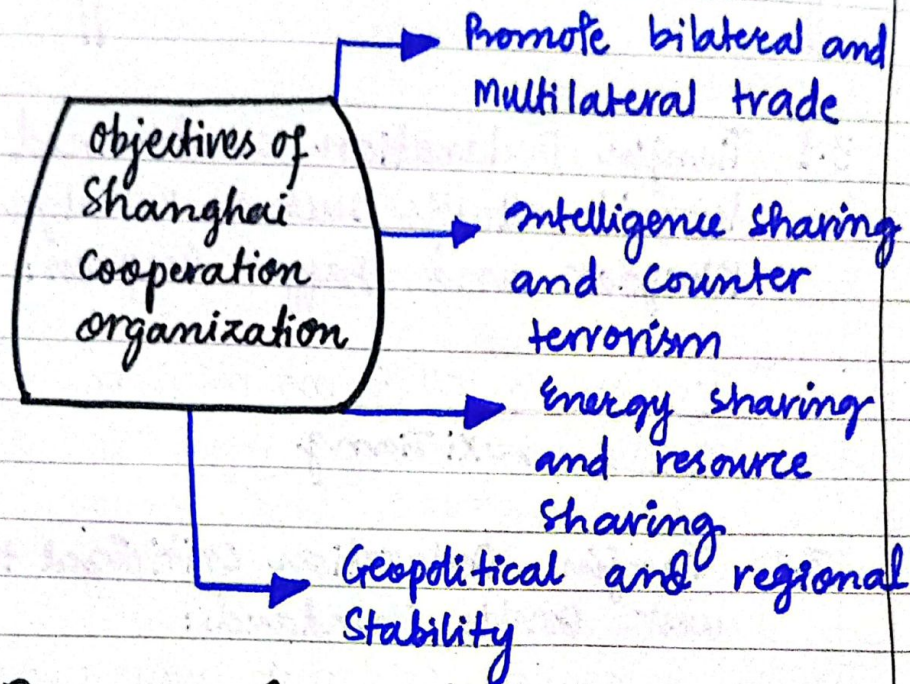
under SCO's framework member countries can also promote regional stability and connectivity.

Case study: Pakistan and Russia signed an agreement in 2018 for defense sharing Druzhba III: Pakistan and Russia signed an agreement in 2018; in which Russia has shared Druzhba III to Pakistan.

2.4 Energy Security and Resource Sharing:

with the help of SCO member countries; energy and resources can be shared among them.

Case study: Turkmenistan Afghanistan, Pakistan India pipeline, TAPI pipeline is a project which is based on energy; it is supported under the framework of SCO.



3. Recent Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization:

The recent Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization was held in Tianjin from August 31 to September 1. This Summit was hosted by China's Xi Jing.

Around 20+ foreign leaders attended Summit, 10+ international organizations including Secretary General of United Nations.

The SCO cover ²⁴ ~~34~~ of the Global land, 42% of the population around the globe; and 25% of the Global GDP.

3.1 Tianjin Declaration condemned terrorist attacks such as Pahalgam, Khuzdar and Jaffar Express:

"Terrorism in all forms must be rejected" ~ Xi Jinping

3.2 Tianjin Declaration criticized the west Double Standards:

Tianjin Declaration said that west is very harsh with their enemies but very much lenient with allies like in case of Israel which is doing Genocide in Gaza. Therefore, Tianjin Declaration condemned and criticized west Double Standards.

3.3 Tianjin Declaration called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza:

The Summit of SCO 2025 called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

3.4 Xi Jinping's Global Governance Initiative:

Xi Jinping has given five points for Global Governance:

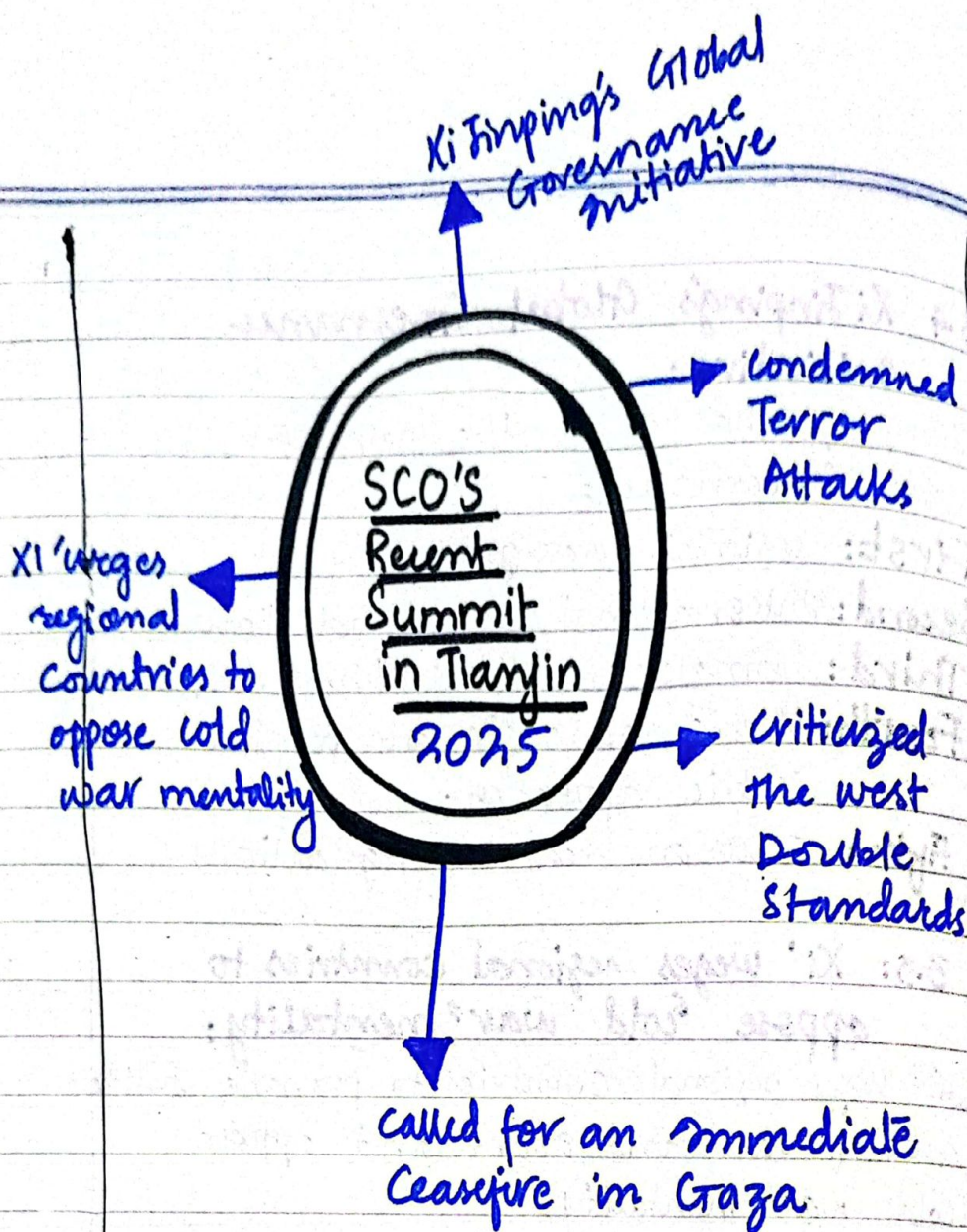
- First: regional Sovereignty
- Second: International rule and law
- Third: Promote multilateralism
- Fourth: Should advocate the people centric approach.
- Fifth: Focus on real taking actions.

3.5: Xi' urges regional countries to oppose 'cold war' mentality:

Xi' urges regional countries to promote Justice, rule of law and order and oppose cold war mentality.

3.5: China's economic commitments:

China in SCO summit 2015 has announced \$2.8m for member countries. And it announced \$1.4 bn loan for the member countries.



Conclusion: The recent Summit of SCO was held in Tianjin. The points which were discussed by Xi Jinping were: Terrorism was condemned, Global Governance Initiative was put forward, criticized west Double Standards, call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and Xi urges regional countries to oppose cold war mentality.

→ Current Affairs:

Q: Pakistan and Afghanistan relations?

Introduction: Pakistan and Afghanistan had tense relations since partition. Durand line issue, Pakhtunistan issue, cold war era and proxy conflict, Post 9/11 attacks and Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. The recent challenges faced by Pakistan due to neighbouring brother country Afghanistan are: Terrorist attacks, refugee crisis, cross border skirmishes, closure of torgham and charman border, water disputes, sectarian conflicts etc. These challenges can be reformed by making Joint Economic Zones, joint counter terrorism zones, cultural exchange programs, and joint water resource management.⁶⁶ The shared history between Afghanistan and Pakistan binds them in such a way that no border can truly separate. ~ Winston Churchill

1. Historical Background of Pakistan and Afghanistan relations:

Pakistan and Afghanistan both countries though share long border between each other still have tense historical background. The current October escalations further tense the relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

1.1 Partition of the subcontinent and Durand line issue 1947:

In 1893, with the mutual consent of Afghanistan ruler Amir Abdul Rehman and Sir Mortimer Durand, a line is drawn between Pakistan and Afghanistan. A border of 2460 km separating both countries. After partition, Afghanistan was the only country that did not recognize Pakistan.

1.2 Pakhtunistan issue raised by Afghan Nationalists:

Afghanistan ruler has raised the issue of Pakhtunistan. The Pashtun speaking territories in Pakistan like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and few parts of Balochistan they must be given to Afghanistan; this voice was raised by the Afghan nationalists.

1.3 Cold war Era and Proxy conflicts (1970s to 1980s):

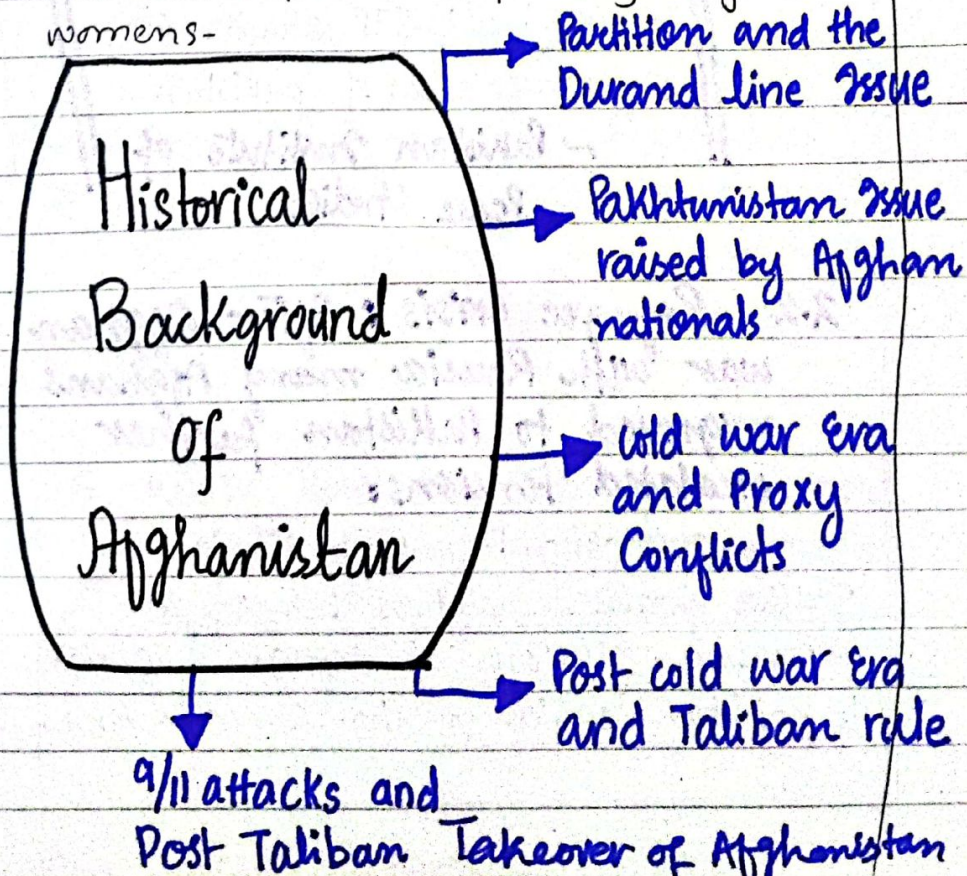
In this era; Afghanistan was invaded by Russia. The Afghan war with Russia was held for almost ten years. Pakistan and USA supported Afghanistan. USA provided military jets to Afghanistan.

1.4 Post cold war era and Taliban Rule (1990s to 2000s):

Taliban rule was started post cold war in Afghanistan. Taliban's has imposed strict rules especially against women's. Women's education was banned and strong Islamic rules were imposed.

1.5 9/11 attacks and Post Taliban take over of Afghanistan (2000s to 2021):

After September 9/11 attacks, Taliban's talks with USA was held. In 2021, Taliban again reoccupied Afghanistan and established their control all over the Afghanistan. Again they imposed strict rules and policies especially against women's-



2. Recent Challenges faced by Pakistan due to Afghanistan:

Pakistan and Afghanistan had many of the tense relations recent times. Pakistan faced many challenges by Afghanistan. Some of the challenges faced by Pakistan are:

2.1 Taliban rise in Afghanistan and increasing Terrorist attacks in different areas of Pakistan:

Taliban's have increased attacks all over the Pakistan especially in Balochistan, KP, and FATA.

In year 2024, 1200 casualties occurs due to TTP attacks in different areas of Pakistan.

~ Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies

2.2 Refugee crisis: After Afghan war with Russia many Afghans migrated to Pakistan further escalated tensions:

The war of Afghanistan with Russia has further strained relation between the neighbour. Millions of refugees migrated to Pakistan which further escalated tensions.

The refugees that migrated from Afghanistan to Pakistan were 3.5 million total; out of which 1.5 million were illegal refugees.
~ United Nations

2.3 Cross Border Terrorism and Skirmishes:

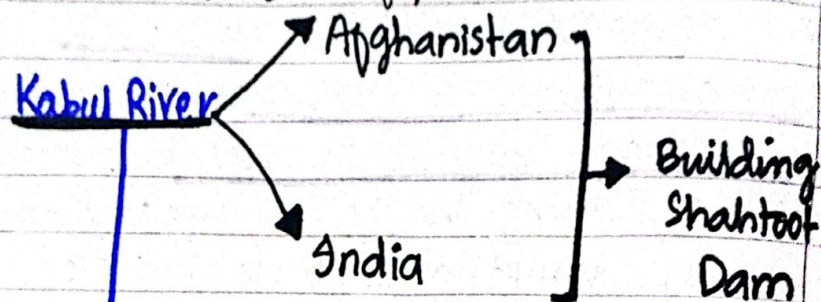
Afghanistan continuously launching skirmishes and closing its borders. The closure of Chaman Border in 2023 and the closure of Torkham Border in 2024 is a case in point. By closing the border Afghanistan not only disrupting its trade but also the trade of Pakistan with Afghanistan.

2.4 Bilateral Trade is disrupting due to the closure of Chaman and Torkham borders:

Pakistan and Afghanistan's trade reach \$2 Billion annually. If Afghanistan is closing its Chaman and Torkham borders; as seen in 2023 and 2024, it further escalated tensions.

2.5 water Resource Management and Disputes due to India's Influence in Afghanistan for making Dams:

Kabul river originates in Afghanistan but it flows into Pakistan. Therefore, both of the countries have equal right on the water of Kabul river. But, the construction of Shahoot Dam over Kabul river by India has strained relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.



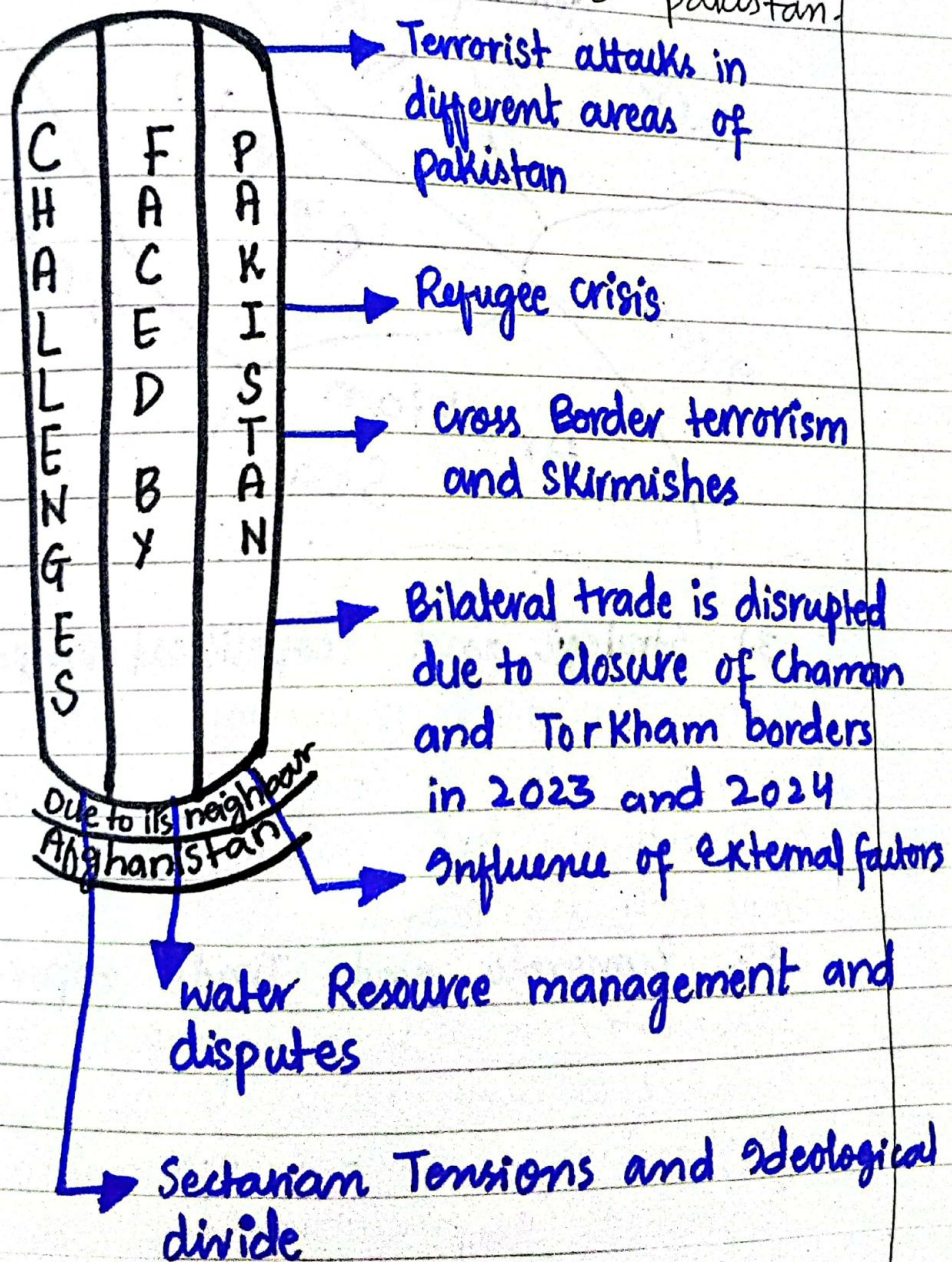
Originates in Afghanistan; flows in Pakistan

2.6 Influence of external actors in Afghanistan has further strained relations between India and Pakistan:

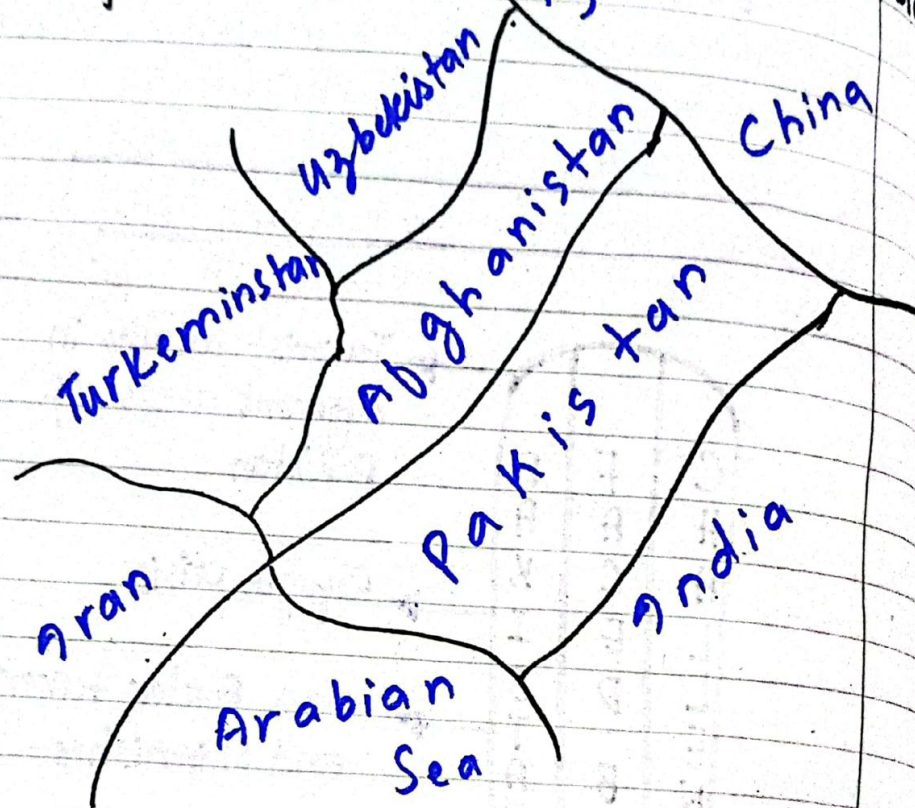
The regional actors; such as influence of India in Afghanistan has further strained the relations between India and Pakistan. Shahoot Dam is a case in point.

2.7 Sectarian Tensions and Ideological Divide:

Afghanistan is a Sunni majority country. Therefore, many of its militants such as Lashkara-i-Tahrik, Islamic State, Khurasan province (LEJ and ISKP) continuously targets Shia militants in Pakistan.



3. Geopolitical Importance of Afghanistan for Pakistan:



3.1 Strategic and Geopolitical Importance:
Pakistan's neighboring country is Afghanistan. Sharing a long border of 2640 Km. Strategically and politically Afghanistan is very much important for Pakistan.

3.2 Economic and Trade opportunities:
Afghanistan is rich in mineral resources. Even rare earth minerals are found in Afghanistan. Therefore, Afghanistan is important for Pakistan in terms of trade.

3.3 Significance for Pakistan and the region:

Afghanistan is significantly important for Pakistan and the region for the projects such as: China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and (TAPI) Turkmenistan Afghanistan Pakistan and India pipeline.

3.4 Cultural and historical linkages:

Pakistan and Afghanistan has long cultural and historical linkages. In Afghanistan; there are Pashtun speaking nationals and in KPK, FATA and Balochistan most of the peoples are Pashtun speaking. Therefore, both countries share cultural and historical linkages.

Geopolitical Importance of Afghanistan for Pakistan

- Strategic and Geopolitical Importance
- Economic and Trade opportunities
- Significance for Pakistan and the region
- Cultural and historical linkage

→ 4. Recent Conflict between Afghanistan and Pakistan in the month of October 2025:

In the early week of Oct, 2025, TTP launched an attack over Pakistani soldiers. In retaliation Pakistan also launched an airstrike.

4.1 Attacks by TTP on Pakistani Soldiers in the early week of October 2025:

TTP (Tehreek-i-Taliban) a militant organization in Afghanistan has launched a terrorist attack over Pakistan soldiers.

There were approximately 58 soldiers who were killed in early October attack raised by TTP. ~ Al Jazeera

4.2 Pakistani airstrikes targeted TTP militant sanctuaries in Afghanistan:

Pakistan in retaliation targeted militant sanctuaries TTP in Afghanistan by launching air strikes.

((Over 200 Afghan fighters
were killed. ~ Al Jazeera))

5. Doha Peace Talks hosted by Qatar and facilitated by Turkey and Organization of Islamic Council:

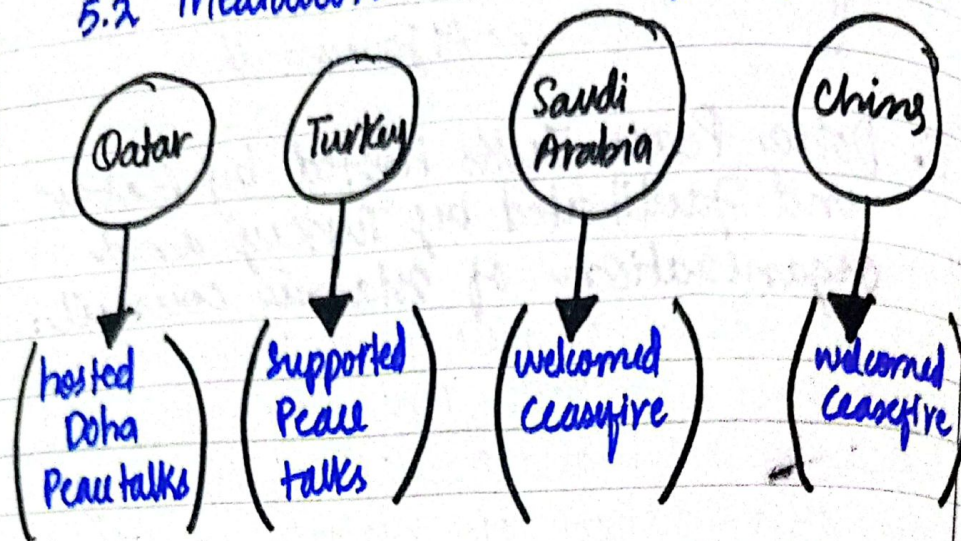
After this attack, there were peace talks held called Doha Peace Talks. Doha peace talks were hosted by Qatar and facilitated by Turkey and organization of Islamic council. It held during Oct 18, 19.

5.1 Doha Ceasefire Agreement:

After Doha Peace talks an agreement was signed between Pakistan and Afghanistan known as Doha ceasefire agreement. The main points were:

- Immediate cessation of Hostilities.
- Formation of Joint Border monitoring Commission.
- Commitment to curb militant Sanctuaries and Ensure safe trade transit
- Follow up meeting in Istanbul for long term framework.

5.2 Mediation and Role of Key States:



5.3 International support for the Doha ceasefire Agreement:

- UN Secretary General:

"a constructive move towards regional de-escalation?"

- Organization of Islamic Council (OIC): supported Doha peace talks and Doha ceasefire agreement.

- Shanghai cooperation organization (SCO): supported Doha ceasefire Agreement.

6. Measures to Improve Afghanistan and Pakistan Relations:

6.1 Formation of Joint Economic Zone:

Pakistan and Afghanistan must form a joint economic zone for the bilateral trade.

6.2 Formation of joint Counter terrorism Zone:

To combat terrorism, Pakistan and Afghanistan must share their intelligence and form joint counter terrorism zone.

6.3 cultural Exchange Program:

Pakistan and Afghanistan must cooperate with each other on cultural exchange programs for the youth.

6.4 Joint water resource Management:

There must be a joint water resource Management agreement with both of the neighbouring countries.

6.5 Regional connectivity project:

To enhance their regional connectivity Projects like CASA-1000 and TAPI.

Conclusion: Pakistan and Afghanistan had strained relations since Pakistan's inception. The challenges such as refugee crisis, border disputes, Terrorist attacks, water disputes, trade challenges etc. However, these challenges can be improved by joint economic zones, joint military zones, cultural exchange programs and joint water resource management.