

century, but now Pakistan has to import food commodities. Discuss in detail the causes of this agricultural decline.

- Q. No. 4.** Industrialization is the backbone of the modern economic system and uplifts the standard of living of the masses. Elaborate causes for the hindrance of industrial development in Pakistan. (20)
- Q. No. 5.** The evolution of democratic system has always remained a dilemma in Pakistan, even after passing more than seven decades of its existence the democracy could not get its roots. Discuss in detail. (20)
- Q. No. 6.** Joining the US led coalition in the war against terrorism has many short and long term repercussions for Pakistan. Elaborate. (20)
- Q. No. 7.** Pakistan is located on the cross-road of South Asia. Explain its geo-strategic/political importance and challenges. (20)
- Q. No. 8.** Pakistan is considered to be the fifth-largest youth bulge country in the world. Given this youth bulge, deliberate on ways forward for Sustainable Economic Development in Pakistan. (20)

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Q. NO. 01

# GEO-STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE AND CHALLENGES FOR PAKISTAN

## INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is a country located on the cross-road of South Asia with immense geo-strategic and political importance. It shares borders with major global powers and serves as a direct route to connect South Asia, Central Asia and Middle East. It also serves as an important link between Asia and Persian Gulf. However, the country also faces some repercussions due to its geo-strategic location. Despite these challenges, the country's remarkable location makes it an allure for the world to facilitate trade and connections with major global powers.

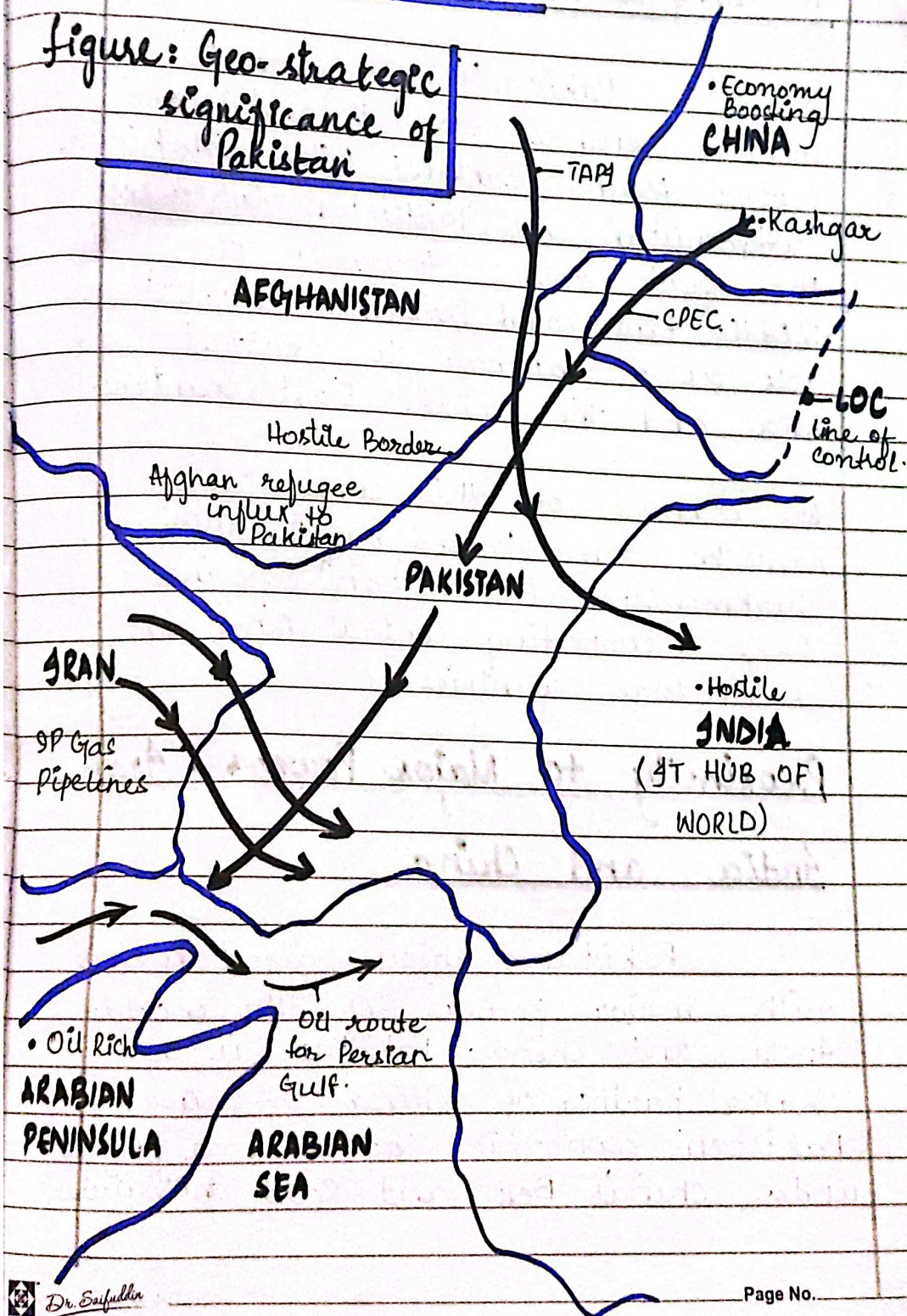
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# GEO-STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF PAKISTAN

Figure: Geo-strategic significance of Pakistan



## Pakistan is the Gateway to Central Asia and Middle East

Pakistan's geo-strategic location enables the ~~the~~ land locked central Asian countries like Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan to access the trade routes towards the Middle East and Persian Gulf. It acts as a gateway to central Asia and the Middle East countries.

An example of this connectivity can be demonstrated by the TAP4 (Turkmenistan Afghanistan <sup>gas</sup> Pipelines Project), connecting central Asian and South Asian countries.

## Proximity to Major Powers - Iran, India and China

Pakistan enjoys direct borders with major powers of the world. India and China. Pakistan is a major partner of China in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a project under China's Belt and Road Initiative.

(BRG). It also shares borders with Iran and India enabling major energy projects in the region. One such project is Iran-Pakistan (IP) Gas Pipelines disecting the country from the South West region.

### Guadar as an Important Trade Route Between Asia And Middle East

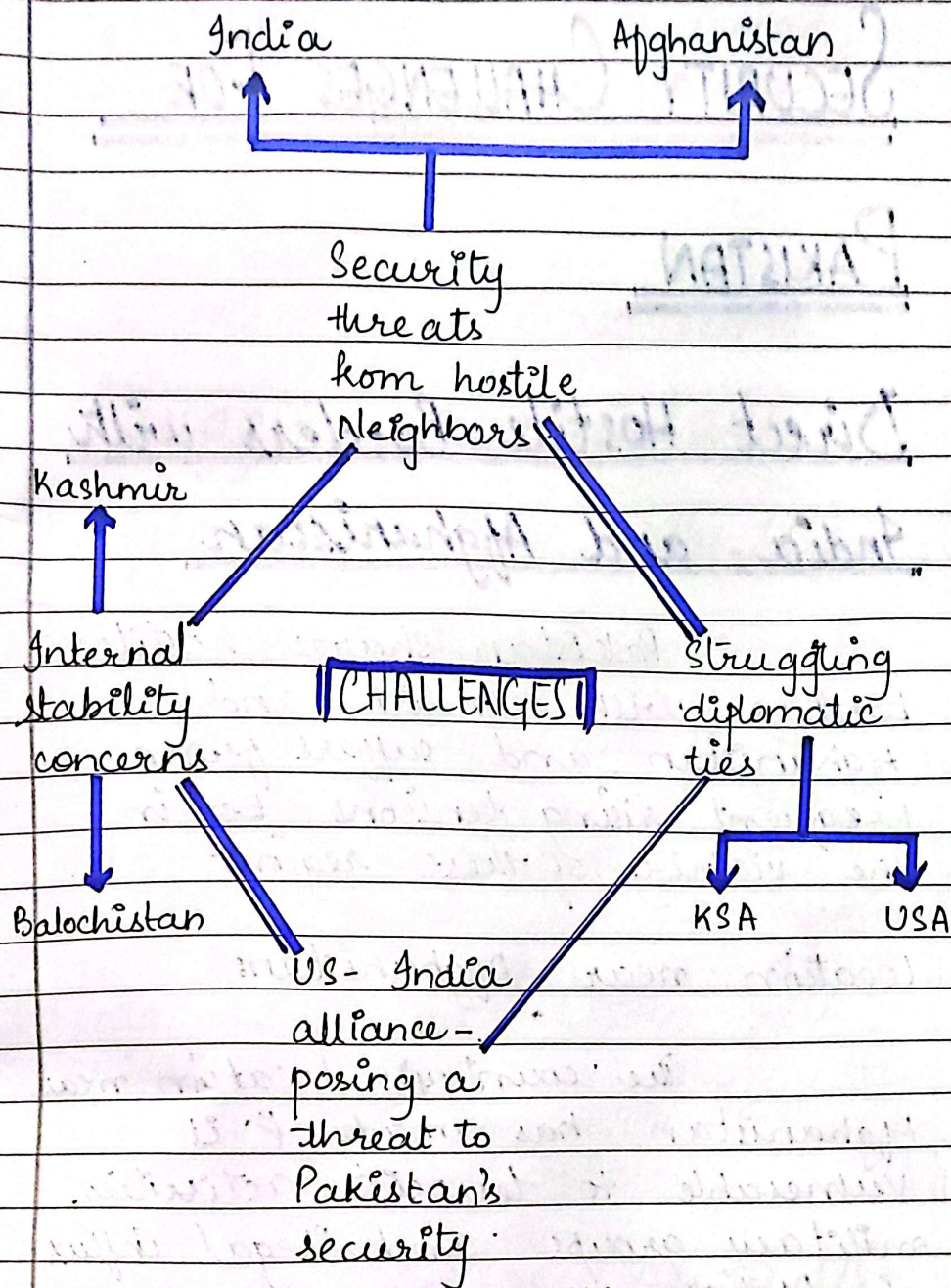
Guadar port of Pakistan has been attracting the world due to its remarkable connectivity to major trade routes of the world. It is a major attraction to China as it enables the country to connect to the Middle East and provides with the shortest route to Europe for China enabling the country to reach there via Indian Ocean as it has been stopped by USA in the Pacific. Beside this, the port also facilitates oil trade from the oil rich Persian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula to the Central Asia and South Asia.

## Serves as an Intermediary In US - Afghanistan War on Terror

Pakistan connects to Afghanistan via Durand line. The border has been a lure for USA to combat Afghanistan on the war on terror. In short, Pakistan serves as an intermediary in US - Afghanistan war on terror by enabling USA's access to Afghan territory.

## CHALLENGES FACED BY PAKISTAN DUE TO ITS GEO-STRATEGIC LOCATION

Pakistan faces a number of challenges due to its central location in the globe.



# SECURITY CHALLENGES FOR

## PAKISTAN

### Direct Hostile Borders with India and Afghanistan

Pakistan shares hostile borders with India and Afghanistan and suffers from frequent rising tensions ~~bet~~ in the vicinity of these regions.

Location near Afghanistan:

The country's location near Afghanistan has made it vulnerable to terrorist activities, military groups and illegal influx of Afghan refugees.

Tensions on LOC (Line of Control)

LOC is a military control area between India and

Pakistan in the controlled parts of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. Frequent military activities in the region have made it prone to terrorist activities and military combats.

### Struggling to maintain Diplomatic ties with USA and Saudi Arabia

Pakistan shares direct borders with China and Iran. While China is a major US rival, Iran and Saudi Arabia also have tense ties. With rising collaboration of Pakistan with China and Iran, the country has suffered its diplomatic ties with USA and Saudi Arabia.

### Security Concerns Due to US- India Alliance

India is the biggest rival of Pakistan. However, due to its

booming IT industry and major developments in aerospace technology, the country has strengthened its alliance with the global power US. However, its increasing alliance with US has posed significant ~~con~~ security threats to Pakistan.

## Internal Stability Issues

### In Kashmir and Balochistan

The line of control dissecting Kashmir, and the Afghan border with Balochistan have raised concerns pertaining to the internal stability of the country. The increasing influence of TTP and TTA in Balochistan have matured not-state actors and organizations like BLA exacerbating the internal stability concerns in the country.

## CONCLUSION

Pakistan's geo-strategic location gives it significant economic,

political and security advantages. Its strategic location is a major attraction to the countries to boost their trade and businesses. However, its relations with India and Afghanistan pose serious threats to its internal and external security. All in all, the overall significance of Pakistan's central location is undeniable.

