

{ Current Affairs }

Question # 1

Pak-Afghan relation continue to be tense even after mediation by China. What do you think are the major factors and how could it be improved

Outline

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- 3) Remedies for improving relation
 - a) Fencing of border
 - b) Registration of refugees
 - c) Intelligence based operations
 - d) Diplomacy and arms should go side by side

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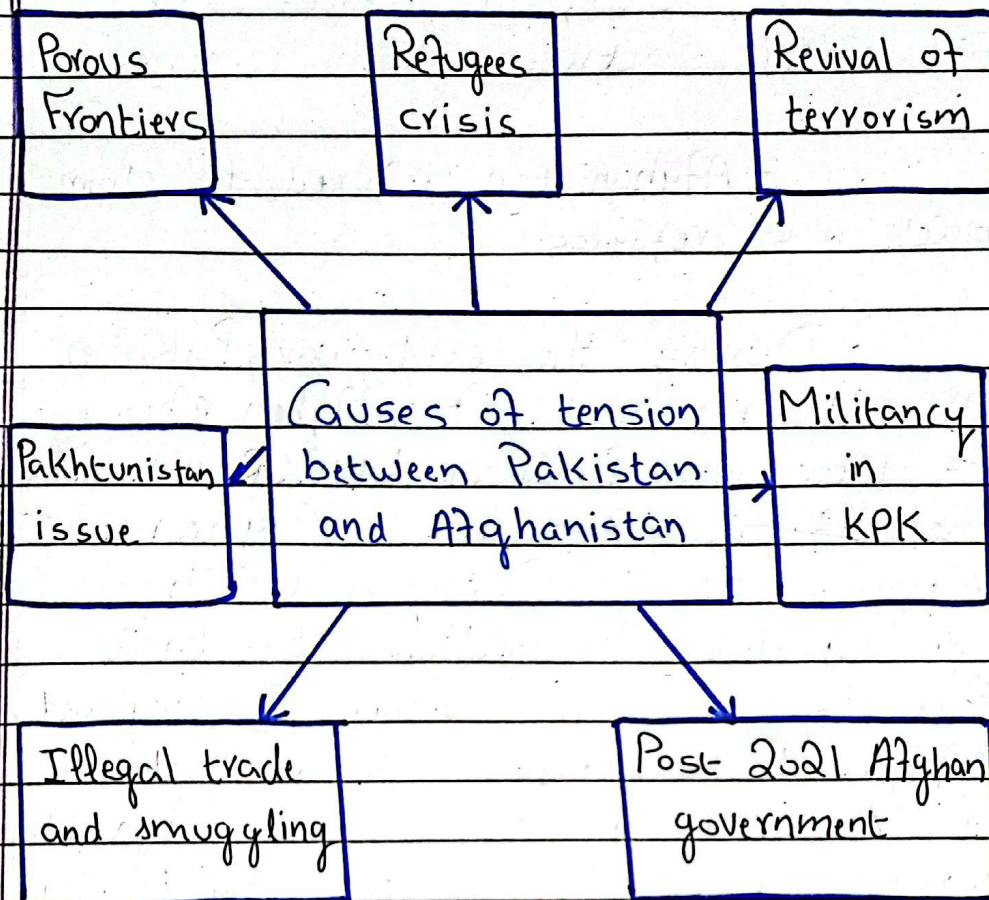
- e) Curb on smuggling
- f) Strengthening law enforcing agencies
- g) Ethnic disputes should be mediated through negotiations

Introduction

Pakistan and Afghanistan has been hostile towards each other since independence. Pakistan has always tried it's best to maintain cordial ties with brother muslim country. However, such feelings have not been reciprocated by Afghanistan. The rise of Taliban in Afghanistan in 2021 brought a series of challenges ranging from porous frontiers to revival of terrorism and militancy in KPK. These challenges are weakening the already strained ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Major factors for tense relation between Pakistan and Afghanistan

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a) Porus frontiers and border security

Pakistan and Afghanistan share a border of 2640 km. This border is known as Durand line. Since the independence of Pakistan, Afghanistan have refused to recognize it as a border. The later claims that it divides the Pakhtun ethnicity. The civil and military leadership strongly oppose Afghanistan's denial of Durand

line. It is the most basic cause of conflict between both countries

b) Afghanistan refused to claim back its refugees

During the cold war, Pakistan allowed millions of Afghan refugees to enter into Pakistan. UNHCR estimates that ~~refugees~~ 2.8 millions Afghan refugees are in Pakistan which are registered. In addition to that there is a large number of unregistered refugees. These refugees are a burden on the economy of Pakistan. Afghanistan severely criticized Pakistan for turning out these refugees which further led to decline in relation between both countries.

c) Revival of terrorism

When Taliban's came to power in Afghanistan, there was an increase in number of terrorist activities in Pakistan. TTP has found a safe haven in Afghanistan from where they launch attacks in Pakistan. Interior minister Mohsin Naqvi while addressing the media after a terrorists

attack on judicial complex claimed that India and Afghanistan are behind it.

d) Afghan government post 2021 enhanced tension between both countries

The Taliban government failed to subdue terrorists within its domain. Lengthy negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan also failed. It further enhanced the tension between both countries

e) Illegal trade and smuggling

Illegal trade and smuggling of heroin through Torkham border has also entrenched relation between both neighbours. The money obtained through such means is used for financing terrorism in the region.

f) Militancy in KPK

The revival of militancy in KPK has disrupted the peace of the region. Attack on cadet college Wana was also conducted by TTP. It enhanced the enmity between both countries

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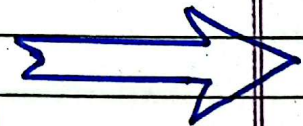
g) Pakhtunistan issue resurfaced due to support from Afghanistan

Afghanistan has always supported the Pakhtunistan cries in Pakistan. The matter resurfaced again when Pakhtun community decided to organize a jirga in support of Pakhtunistan. Although the matter was solved peacefully, relations between both countries had already deteriorated.

Remedies for improving Pak-Afghan relation

Following are the remedies for improving Pak-Afghan relation

Fencing of border
Porous border of
2640 km should
be fenced properly.
According to DG ISPR
Majority of Pak-
Afghan border
has been fenced

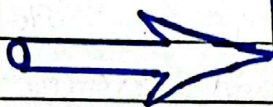


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Registration of refugees

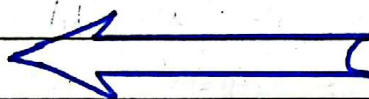
Refugees should be registered.

They should be made either ~~added~~ to contribute in the economy or return to Afghanistan



Intelligence based operations

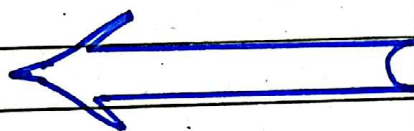
should be conducted in order to eliminate terrorists. operations like Zarb-e-Azh or Rah-e-Rast should be initiated in order to establish the writ of the state



Diplomacy and arms

should go side by side. Pakistan should negotiate with Taliban but at the same time it should respond to aggression with deterrence

Smuggling should be curbed. Terrorism survives on money. Breaking the financial lifeline of terrorism will result in its elimination



Law enforcing agencies should be strengthened in order to deal with the revival of militancy in KPK



Ethnic disputes

should be solved peacefully. Violence should be avoided as it can have detrimental effects.

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Conclusion

The tense relation between Pakistan and Afghanistan are due to porous frontiers and terrorism. Pakistan has always wished for peaceful and good relation with Afghanistan but the later is slowly becoming a bitter foe. Pakistan should aim for peace through negotiations. At the same time it should display deterrence in order to gain an upper hand in negotiations.