

Question 3

Formation of new provinces is a recurring discourse in Pakistan - critically evaluate the reasons and give recommendations?

Introduction

Pakistan is fifth most populous country in the world with population of approximately 250 million people. To administrate such large population, it is essential to have well framed administrative units, that can perform ~~their~~ duties evenly. However, since the independence of the country, it has never intended to form new provinces with its increasing number of citizens, rather it has remained with its already four provinces. It is pertinent to highlight that there have been some thoughts or willingness to address this problem; but, it remains unaddressed even after 79 years of country's freedom.

Background

Pakistan was divided into 5 provinces in 1947. However, after fall of Dhaka, it was marginalised to current four units. Due to less population in that era, there was no such need to form more provinces. Nevertheless, Pakistan became

largest witnessed immense increase in its population and urbanization too. For example, largest Province of Pakistan by Population is Punjab having more than 120 million citizens, which is more than 180 countries. This whole giant Province is looked over by single government; leading to conflicts in those areas where government has ~~not~~ failed to deliver. Furthermore, Sindh has population of 55 million people, with largest city of Karachi. Similarly, the other Provinces have ^{huge} growth in their population and face immense difficulty in maintaining law and order situation, equal development and even distribution of funds to every corner of the Province. These ~~issues~~ issues gave birth to the idea of formation of new Provinces.

However, the idea never reached to applicable frame work because of internal ~~cause~~ issues. Even though the ~~realization~~ need of new Provinces was never denied, but all four Provinces never reached to any agreement, due to which this need still persists. Among many ~~causes~~ hurdles between creation of

new provinces, following merit attention :-

Division among Provinces

One of the most important cause, that restrains the formation of new Provinces is division among the province that don't allow their marginalizing -

Issues with Punjab

Mechanism often proposed for the division of Punjab divides it demographically - for example South Punjab with majority of Sikh population and Pothohar region with Pahari Pothohari language - However, it was never agreed specially by the governments in Punjab because it could divide the Power -

Issues with Sindh

Sindh on the other hand has its own reasons - Most of the revenue comes from cities of Karachi and Hyderabad with majority of Muhajir population - Whereas, rural Sindh has majority of Sindhi people - Making of Province can lead to conflicts between the ethnicities due to economic loss of rural Sindh with minimal industrialization

Issues with KPK

Similarly, KPK also has division mechanism based on ethnicity i.e demand of hindko speakers for separate province - Whereas, it can also lead to decrease in ~~government~~ power of government and lead to conflicts -

Issues with Balochistan

Balochistan has largest area with less population. However, it's also divided into 2 ~~regions~~ ethnic regions; Pashtoon and Baloch - Balochs, who are already full with resentment due to unequal distribution of resources, may consider it another attack on their Province -

Issues with Gilgit Baltistan

Although, Pakistan has ~~quite~~ separated GB from other provinces with its own government. However, they are not given the status of Province due to international issue i.e. GB is disputed area between India and Pakistan - Due to which GB still lacks adequate budget and quota in employment -

Financial Crisis

Another major reason for non creation of new provinces is Country's fragile economy.

Pakistan has been suffering from its chronic shortage of funds, that restricts it from any kind of step that requires

Formation of new provinces means creation of new capitals with proper secretariat and institutions. Moreover, it requires proper agreement on funds distribution mechanism. For example, if South Punjab gets the Status of Province, will require a separate secretariat, its own ministries to look after its issues and institution to maintain its law and order. While these steps require funding which Pakistan lacks severely. This is why Pakistan refrains from this idea of new provinces.

Complex demographs

Pakistan ~~also~~ unlike other well administered countries (e.g. Japan, South Korea, China) has complex demographs. While one of its provinces have different demograph also faces general economic opportunities. For example Sindh's main revenue generating areas are industries situated in Karachi and ~~Kahar~~ Hyderabad; on the other hand Sindhi population is in itself a minority in the said regions. This creates problem/resentment which dividing Sindh into further provinces. Furthermore

Punjab also faces similar issue with developed central Punjab and backward Sikh majority region - south Punjab.

Political Divisions

Political Parties also create hurdle in formation of new provinces due to fear of losing power - for example

If any political party wins in Northern Punjab can form a government on the whole province without winning any seat in Southern Punjab - Division of Province will make them lose that area and cut down of funds -

Similarly, Sindh has its rural and urban division - Any political party winning in rural province can administer the resource rich urban area making them opposing the creation of new province - In this regard, follow

areas need to be addressed for attaining this milestone.

Recommendations

1. Division on basis of Administrative Units.

Rather than dividing the provinces on the basis of ethnical demography, government should form a framework where only the administration is divided without cutting any province - for example, Japan has 37 administrative units operating in their respective area without any ethnic or race division - Furthermore, division should be based on a ~~proper~~ framework where

each newly made administrative area gets equal economic opportunities and financial budget ~~without~~

This procedure can help to form new province without conflict.

2- Long list of Promises with smaller ethnic groups

Ethnic groups like Sindhis, Balochs and Pashtuns

should be taken on board and promised via formal agreement that proposed division won't affect their

ethnic identity, neither do it has any financial

repercussion on them. For example, ~~Sindh~~ should

~~be divided in~~ division of Sindh into new administrative

should be based on a framework where Sindhis

don't feel any deprivation and have equal financial

budget and opportunities like the Urdu speaking or

other ethnicities of Sindh had; This will make it easier to do the same

3- Proper allocation of funds :-

Government needs to allocate proper funds for

creation of provinces and shifting ~~from~~ the

secretariat (ministries) and institutions -

This act will help the ~~effect~~ formation of effective

administration that can improve the fragile

systems of the provinces - and ~~as~~ will end

the restraint of local public / ethnicities

to resist against the formation of new administrative units respectively-

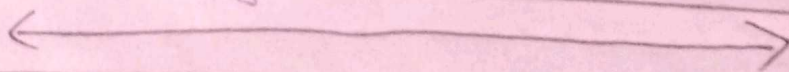
4- Political Integration

There is immense need of political cooperation and engagement on the said issue; otherwise it will only be reprehensible thought to propose idea of new provinces. Political Parties should prioritize the betterment of people and nations above their own interests. This integration will also help in ending misinformation spread among the common population and they can become aware of the benefits their community can have with formation of new provinces.

Conclusion

Above in view, it is evident that although there are many challenges and hurdles in creation of new provinces regardless of ^{its} dire need.

However, through bonafide framework, this unachievable milestone can be attained without creating any resentment among any ethnic or political group.



Question 4 - There is dangerous revival of militancy in KP in Baluchistan - Critically evaluate the reasons and give recommendations.

Introduction

Pakistan has been facing the chronic problem i.e. terrorism for decades; which has caused a huge damage to its economy. Furthermore, the country has witnessed loss of more than 85000 lives due to terrorism. To counter this escalating threat, Pakistan has conducted numerous operations in the areas having presence of these terrorists i.e. Balochistan and KPK. These operations were effective enough to end this threat temporarily; however, country has been witnessing dangerous revival of militancy in the areas of KP and Balochistan again.

Background

In order to understand the ~~origin~~ of militancy in KP and Balochistan, it is pertinent to look back in previous century where they have originated. Pakistan became a front line state due Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, where it helped the Jihadists by training them and providing weapons. However, these groups turned against Pakistan after the end of war. Furthermore

Pakistan's support for US during war on terror also triggered their anger against Pakistan. Similarly, failure of State to provide basic necessities in Balochistan caused resentment, which later was

Reasons for Revival of terrorism in Pakistan:
 a) Lack of basic necessities in Balochistan caused resentment, which later was used against Pakistan
 b) Financing of foreign agencies

To understand the reasons behind revival of militancy in Pakistan, following causes should be understood to analyze the issue properly.

1- US and NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan:-

After 20 years of War on terror in Afghanistan, US and NATO decided to withdraw ~~from~~ from the Country. With the helmand agreement - Afghan military, which was given so called "best training" and advanced weapons, couldn't resist against the Taliban and surrendered -

This allowed Taliban to take over who are ideological brothers of TTP.

2. ~~Releasing~~ Releasing terrorists from Prisons.

Right after TTA took over the government, they released all the Prisoners. ~~in 1973~~ There were 5000 Prisoners who were related to terrorism in Pakistan.

This release/freedom allowed them to rejoin their militant groups and reorganize against Pakistan without having fear of any action from state due to the government of the Afghan Taliban-

3- Deadliest weapons left by US in Afghanistan:

US while leaving Afghanistan, left deadliest weapons there. As per the estimates made by BBC, it was noted that ~~the~~ these weapons ~~costed~~ costed more than 7 Billion Dollars - and are advance technology. This weapon left over was taken by these militant groups who are using it against Pakistan.

4- ~~Ab~~ Incomplete Border fencing

Pakistan realized that most of these militant cross border from Afghanistan to enter Pakistan - Due to which, the state ordered complete border fencing and formation of military check posts in these areas - However, due to heavy cost of this project it is still incomplete allowing militant to easily enter Pakistan.

5- Policing vacuum in Pakistan

Military of Pakistan has successfully conducted operations like Zarb-e-Azab and Rak-ul-Fajr - However, it is not the job of military to maintain the law and order situation - Rather it's the police whose responsible for the same. However, Police of these areas is either untoured or badly equipped, that cannot resist against the revival of militancy.

6- Heavy cost of military operations

All the operation conducted by Pakistan military against the terrorist were successful but had costed billions of rupees - During these operations US also provided necessary equipment due to shared

threat - However, know, without any military support and struggling economy of the country, it is difficult to conduct major operations.

7- Mountainous area of KP & Baluchistan - Ideal ground for guerilla warfare.

Most of these militant groups operate in the mountainous areas of KP & Baluchistan giving them advantage to adopt attack and run procedure also called guerilla warfare. Furthermore, it is very difficult for military or police force to conduct any operation in these areas.

8- Flawed negotiation ~~with~~ of Islamabad with Taliban

During the negotiation with TTP, state of Pakistan demanded deweaponization and then allowed them to enter into Pakistan without knowing their demands. These militants demanded that they should be allowed to form ^{their own} Government ~~for~~ in tribal areas of KPK; which was state within a state demand.

Not fulfillment of their utopian demand made them to reorganize again.

9- Ideological brotherhood of TTA and TTP

Tehreek Taliban Afghanistan ^(TTA) and Fitna al Khyber (Tehreek Taliban Pakistan (TTP)) are ideological brothers - TTP stills considers its ameer ul momineen (Commander of the Faithful) to the Chief of TTA. This simply means that TTA will never take any action against TTP.

Who has been using its land for terrorism in Pakistan.

10 - Bad governance in War driven areas

State was responsible to provide funds to those who were affected by war to rehabilitate. Moreover, resentment in Balochistan could have been reduced by development in the province. However, both the above given responsibilities were not fulfilled. This increased the anger and resentment of war affecteds and made difficult for state to demilitarise the ^{region} ~~the~~.

Recommendations

Following steps are necessary to end the threat of militancy in Pakistan.

1- Intelligence based operations

Due to fragile and struggling economy of Pakistan, it could afford to ~~conduct~~ conduct major operations in these areas.

In this regard, Pakistan should conduct intelligence based operations in KP and Balochistan through which it can kill maximum number of terrorists at minimum cost.

2- Diplomatic pressure on Afghanistan.

Pakistan had put diplomatic pressure on Afghanistan to ~~stop~~ conduct action against terrorists and not allow cross border terrorism. In doing so, Pakistan can approach China and Russia along with Gulf countries by showing them the evidence.

at
~~against~~ A terrorism using Afghan territory as
a launching Pad against Pakistan -

Well trained and equipped Police force:-

Pakistan should invest in training of Police force and
providing them adequate facilities (weapons and equipment)

In order to retain the Peace in the areas of KP
and Balochistan - Police is well aware of the geography
of these areas and can effectively resist against
these militancies if they are trained and equipped like army.

4- Long list of Promises with war effectees

State should conduct operation against those who are
involved in terrorism (killing or damaging State infrastructure)

However, State can negotiate with those who have
resentment against State or are brainwashed by these
militants. In this regard, Pakistan should make long list of
Promises with these People and encourage them to demilitarize

5- Development in war zone areas -

Most of the individuals in these militants are
those who belong to vulnerable communities; being
affected by the military operations. State can
persuade them to avoid such terrorist activities
and get realign with the country. In this

regard, development in these areas will end the conspiracies of foreign agencies who operate in these areas.

6- ~~Strengthening~~ Modifying NFC award -:

NFC award of 2010 was great step by the government to provide the equal budget to all the provinces. However, modification of NFC award should be undertaken in order to provide extra funds to war effected areas and their adequate development.

7- Special focus on financial development of KP and Balochistan.

KP and Balochistan are two provinces who have been affected the most by the terrorism. Due to which, special focus is to be laid on these areas in order to end the resentment of these people and take them onboard in order to counter militancy.

Conclusion

Pakistan has been witnessing dangerous revival in militancy mainly due to Taliban government in Afghanistan and policing vacuum in areas of KP & Balochistan. Moreover, underdeveloped areas in these areas also contribute in militancy revival. Pakistan however, can end the terrorism and militancy by intelligence based operation and impeccable negotiations.

Q No 7- How Pakistan could balance its relations after recent engagement with US and strategic Partnership with China -

Introduction

The World is undergoing numerous changes in the 21st century where US is striving to maintain its glory and China is showing its economic muscles. This simply means a shift from unipolar to multipolar world - Pakistan giving birth to the rivalry between current superpower and upcoming superpower - Pakistan, due to its geographic location is important to both the powers. Similarly, Pakistan also has to keep good relations with them - However, due to the ongoing shift/rivalry, it's a challenge for Pakistan to balance its relations with both.

Background

Pakistan, right after its independence chose US and West against Communist Soviet Union - Although the relations between Pakistan and US were good in the beginning, which gave Pakistan a decade of development and Military strength; however, Partnership with US remained Conditional and cyclic. Pakistan helped US in Afghan Jihad and War on terror; however, without interest US left Pakistan alone. On the other hand,

China is a durable and multidimensional for Pakistan's economic growth, strategic independence and regional integration. China has remained friends with Pakistan in all weathers and has provided consistent support during hardships -

Importance of Partnership with China

As intimated above, China has remained consistent Partner without any Political strings - following advantages are relevant in this regard:

1- Investments in Pakistan through CPEC and BRI

China has invested in Pakistan's infrastructure, technology and energy sector under CPEC and broader Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) - These investments are essential for Pakistan overall economic growth and progress. Furthermore, adding 8000 mega watt to Pakistan grid has enhanced Pakistan's Industrial production -

2- Enhancement in self reliance on defence production -

Joint defence project like manufacturing JF-17 Thunder and HANGOR class submarines with China has enhanced Pakistan's self reliance in defence production - Moreover, with the help of Chinese tech/military technology, Pakistan has almost ended its reliance on west who have always additional demands and interests in domestic politics of country -

3- China backs Pakistan in ~~economic~~ International Issues

China has always backed Pakistan in International Issues like Kashmir and FATF negotiations - Indian attempt to black list Pakistan in FATF list was voted by China showing its all weather friendship.

Similarly, China always backs Pakistan's stance about Kashmir.

4- Long lasting friend without Political strings.

China never intends to interfere in Domestic Politics of Pakistan - For example, China never puts any restriction to whether trade with any other country

or not - Furthermore, China's Partnership is based on principle of mutual respect, non interference and shared development.

5- Consistent financial support and ~~Roll over~~ loans.

China's loans and investments come under CPEC comes with flexible repayment terms - Moreover, China provides rollover loans helping Pakistan in

economic development. (SBP reported 2 Billion dollar rollover loan by China)

Importance of relationship with US

Although relationship with US have remained inconsistent and conditional; but US is also most important partner of Pakistan for its strategic and economic development -

1- ~~Long~~ Biggest trading Partner

US is Pakistan's largest export market to whom Pakistan exports its textile goods e.g. foot wears -

This trade helps Pakistan to reduce the trade deficit and provides a shoulder to its weak and fragile economy -

2- Support in IMF and World Bank Programs

Pakistan has to reach IMF and World Bank for loans in order to save its economy from going bankrupt - US being the largest contributor in IMF & WB, gives approval for loans to Pakistan, otherwise IMF can't do the same -

3- Joint operation against terrorism -

Pakistan and US, both are facing the threat of terrorism in Afghanistan - Having common threat, US with the help of its advance machinery help Pakistan to counter these threats - Otherwise, Pakistan's economy doesn't allow conducting ^{such} operations -

4- US investment in mining -

US has showed its interest in mining the rare earth material from Pakistan, which will provide Pakistan more economic support - Moreover, US also have opened its market for trade with Pakistan essential for overall prosperity

Balancing relations between US & China ::

During the May 2025 conflict ~~conflict~~ between India and Pakistan, Pakistan has shocked the whole world by downing Indian fighter jets and attacking inside India. However, another change was shift in US foreign policy where it put 50% tariff on India and had successful trade deal with Pakistan imposing only 19% tariff. Moreover, US President called on the Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan @ twice along with a side trip engagement with PM of the Country. This shift in US policies and showing interest in ~~Pakistan~~ investment in Pakistan is diplomatic win for Pakistan. However, it is prudent the Country to balance its relations with US and China.

Hurdles / Challenges:

While considering the importance of both above mentioned Partnerships, it's a challenge for Pakistan to balance its relations. Punitive tariffs on India by US were because of buying oil from Russia, showing how US wants its partners to ~~have~~ follow its relation or otherwise face the punishment. Pakistan also fears the similar action due to ~~the~~ ^{its} strategic and all weather Partnership with China. However, China's relations are based on non interference and it never instigates

its Partners to follow its Path - Pakistan can't afford to lose any of these Partners and wants strong relationship with both without any taking any single side. Moreover, Pakistan also fears US opposition on BRI or CPEC; which is the most essential for ^{its} economic development.

Recommendation

Pakistan has shifted its foreign Policy from geo-strategic to geo-economic. This step should be maintained in the future for better economic growth. In this regard, It is essential for Pakistan to keep its focus toward enhancing its ties with both Partners and attract their investment.

Geographic leverage

Pakistan due to its geographic location has much importance for both US and China. In this regard, Pakistan can take advantage of its location by having investment in mining sector by US and providing safer routes to Chinese Cargos via CPEC and Gwadar Port.

Internal stability

To have independent foreign Policy, Pakistan should

Work on its economic development - Development will allow the country to become self reliant and can have relations with all of its regional or Global Partners without any intervention or instruction -

Avoid overdependence ::

Pakistan should trade with both countries and attract their investment - However, it should avoid over reliance or complete dependence on any one country -

Refrain from taking any strategic side

Pakistan's foreign policy as mentioned before, should be guided on principle of geo economics -

In this regard, Pakistan must avoid taking any

side during this ongoing rivalry between US

and China; which simply means that Pakistan

has to follow the principle of neutrality -

Utilize its self reliance in defence production

Pakistan's Joint Defence Projects with China

has allowed it to become self reliant in

manufacturing defence equipment - More importantly,

it has ended its reliance on West and US -

Due to which, Pakistan can no longer depend on

US for stronger military - This also helps it in avoiding taking any side and remain neutral :-

Conclusion

Pakistan due to its geographical location is important for both US and China - ~~However~~ Moreover, it's in favour of Pakistan to have stronger partnership with both of them - However, it remains a challenge to balance the relation between both the power, due to the US's ~~over~~ over expectations from its partner. But by geo economic policy & geographical location Pakistan can achieve this equilibrium to have stronger relations with both and in order to strengthen its economy -

Question No 8

Pakistan Saudi Arabia have signed a historic defense pact - Critically evaluate the causes and implications of the deal.

Introduction

Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have signed historic defense pact on 17 September 2025 in Riyadh.

Although the details of the pact are yet to be announced publically - However, the published article that says attack on one, will be considered attack on both simply explains the importance of the said pact - Like the article 5 of NATO, it also means that if any country attacks on either one (Pakistan or KSA), will be dealt with ~~and~~ retaliation from both - Previously, there have been many informal security agreements between Pakistan and KSA, including the stationed Pakistani troops in Mecca and Jeddah, however this formal agreement has much more importance.

Historic Background of Pak-KSA relations:

Due to common religious ideology and importance of KSA's location, Pakistan and KSA have remained strong partners since independence of Pakistan.

KSA have supported Pakistan financially and have

Stood with Pakistan during the difficult times. On the other end, Pakistan also have backed KSA in international matters and have considered it a strong ally. The previous defense pact and KSA's support for Pakistan's nuclear program demonstrate the same.

Causes of defense Pact -:

Other than the strong historic relationships between KSA and Pakistan, there are many other causes behind this defense pact. In this context, following merit attention:-

1- Israel attack on Qatar

Israel has been conducting brutal attacks on the near muslim countries with impunity like Lebanon, Yemen, Gaza, Syria and Iran. However, it's crossed the red line by attacking Hamas leadership inside Qatar killing few individuals including a Qatari national. This made clear to the world that Israel can conduct attack whenever and wherever it want without any restriction.

2- US failure to defend Qatar

US have strong Partnership with Qatar having largest military base in the country. Moreover, it has defense agreement with it to defend it from any foreign attack. However, during Israel attack on Qatar, US remained silent without downing Israel's missiles.

This also made it clear for KSA that reliance on US for security was a reprehensible thought.

3- Threat of Israel and its nuclear capability

Like Qatar, Saudi Arabia also felt threatened regarding future attack of Israel. It was made clear by the recent events that Israel enjoys impunity of the world and can attack anyone. Moreover, its Greater Israel Plan (although not accepted publicly) includes territorial lay of KSA. Moreover, nuclear ~~threat~~^{capability} of Israel also threatened KSA.

4- A need of Strong military Partnership.

To counter the Israel military power, ~~KSA~~ and keep balance in the region, KSA was in need of strong military Partner as it was no more relying on US. Furthermore, Pakistan's military capability was evident for KSA and world due to ^{its} recent conflict and defeating India on the battle field.

5- Nuclear Deterrence / Umbrella

Along with the ^{strong} military, it was also essential to have nuclear deterrence against Israel due to its nuclear capability. Without such capability, it was not easy to stop or restrict Israel from being aggressor and conducting mass attacks.

6- Muslim brotherhood of KSA and Pakistan-

Pakistan being a strong military and nuclear power was the best security guarantee for KSA. Moreover, due to its religious brotherhood, Pakistan will always protect KSA's territory. Moreover, Pakistan was also in need of strong economic partner to counter India. In this regard, the defence pact b/w Pakistan and KSA was signed which has capability to shift global politics.

Implications of Defence deal

Although this defence pact has many benefits for both Pakistan and KSA, it can also affect Pakistan accordingly.

1- Beneficial for Pakistan's economy

KSA is economic partner of Pakistan who have supported it during hardships. However, recent defence pact can benefit Pakistan more than before.

(a) Visa relaxation for Pakistani citizens working in KSA

KSA have largest number of Pakistani migrant who send back the remittance to the country. KSA can remove visa restrictions and provide ^{more} employment opportunities.

(b) Investment from KSA in Pakistan.

KSA is ranked among the top strong economies in the world. It can make investments in Pakistan and enhance trade, which will benefit Pakistan's economy.

(c) KSA can provide oil on flexible terms

KSA is one of the largest exporter of oil. Pakistan on the other end is in dire need of oil but at easy payment plan. KSA now under this pact can export its oil to Pakistan on easy terms.

(d) Strong voice in global matters KSA having interest in
Oman would can back Pakistan on issues like Kashmir -

ii) Can effect relationship with Iran

With all the ~~well~~ positive effects of Pak-KSA Defence Pact,
there are some cons too - Iran and KSA, regardless of
mediation by China have not come along strongly due to
the sectarian divide and proxy wars - The defence pact with KSA
can challenge Pakistan relations with its important neighbour Iran -

iii) Can drag Pakistan into middle eastern conflicts -

Pakistan while fight war/conflict on two fronts and
fighting against militant groups inside its provinces
can afford to participate in any other war - However,
the pact can force it to be a part of middle eastern
conflicts - for example, KSA can once again demand Pakistani
troops in Yemen to fight الحوثيين, an enemy of KSA -

iv) Can effect Pakistan-US current Partnership

US has long ~~long~~ its interests in middle east and
strong Partnership with Israel - This Pact can get
opposition from US because of its ~~seemingly~~ security interests of KSA -

v) India and KSA relations:-

India is the largest economic partner of KSA and enemy of
Pakistan. The Defence Pact can have adverse effects on
KSA-India trade deals and investment in India by
KSA -

DATE: ___/___/___

Conclusion

Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Defense Pact is a historic and important pact changing the global politics. Although it is a diplomatic win for Pakistan by not only having political and economic support for KSA, but also having this honour to defend sacred sites of KSA, ~~the pact~~ which ~~are~~ have huge importance for Muslims all over the world. However, it can also have effects on Pakistan's relation with other, but it can only be told after publication of the whole pact.

