

Pakistan Affairs (CSS-2026)

Q#01

"The instability in Afghanistan continues to influence Pakistan's Internal Security, regional diplomacy, and counter terrorism strategy"

Critically examine the above statement and suggest policy measures to address the issue / challenge.

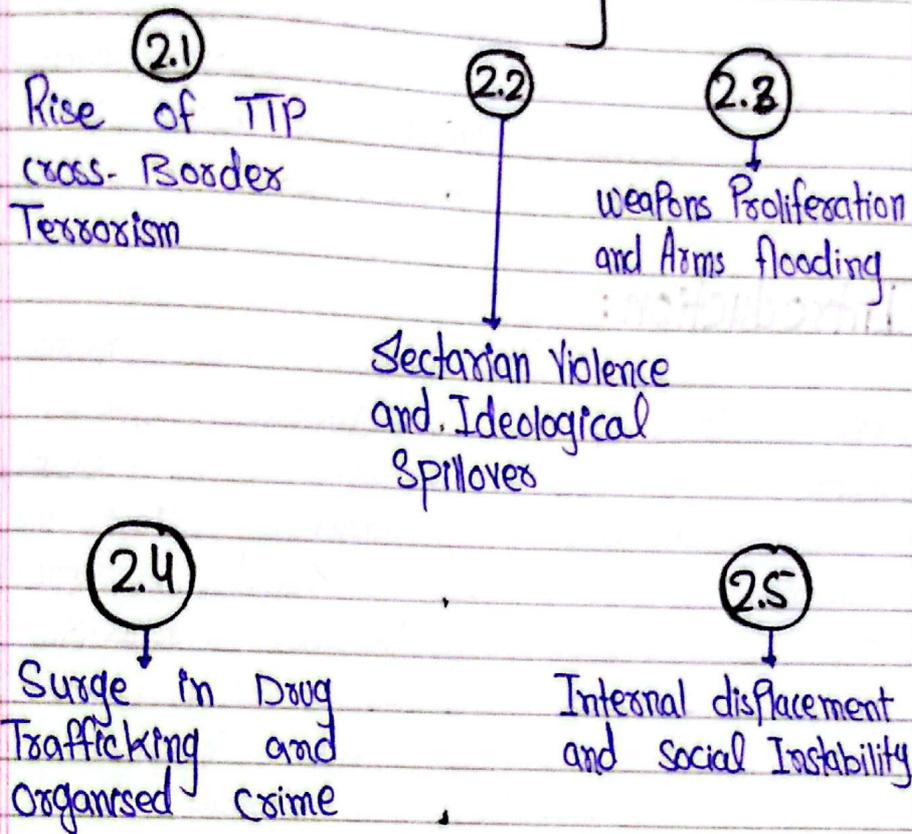
Introduction:

Afghanistan has never been just a neighbour for Pakistan. It has been a permanent security burden. Since the Taliban recaptured Kabul in August 2021, Pakistan's internal situation has worsened at every level. Terrorist attacks have increased sharply, diplomatic relations have collapsed, and counter-terrorism efforts have repeatedly failed. TTP freely uses Afghan bases to attack Pakistani citizens and security forces.

(P.T.O)

(02)

Influence On Pakistan's Internal Security



Some measures mentioned above are discussed below.

Rise of TTP^{2.1} Cross-Border
Terrorism

P.T.O

The most dangerous direct impact of Afghan instability is the sharp increase in organised terrorism inside Pakistan launched from Afghan territory.

As per NACTA's 2023 report recorded a 56% increase in terrorist incidents.

2.3

Weapons Proliferation And Arms Flooding

When the Afghan National Army collapsed in 2021, the Taliban captured billions of dollars worth of American supplied weapons.

As per Small Arms survey report 2022, Pakistani law enforcement agencies seized unprecedented quantities of American-made M4 rifles and M16 weapons in KP and Balochistan.

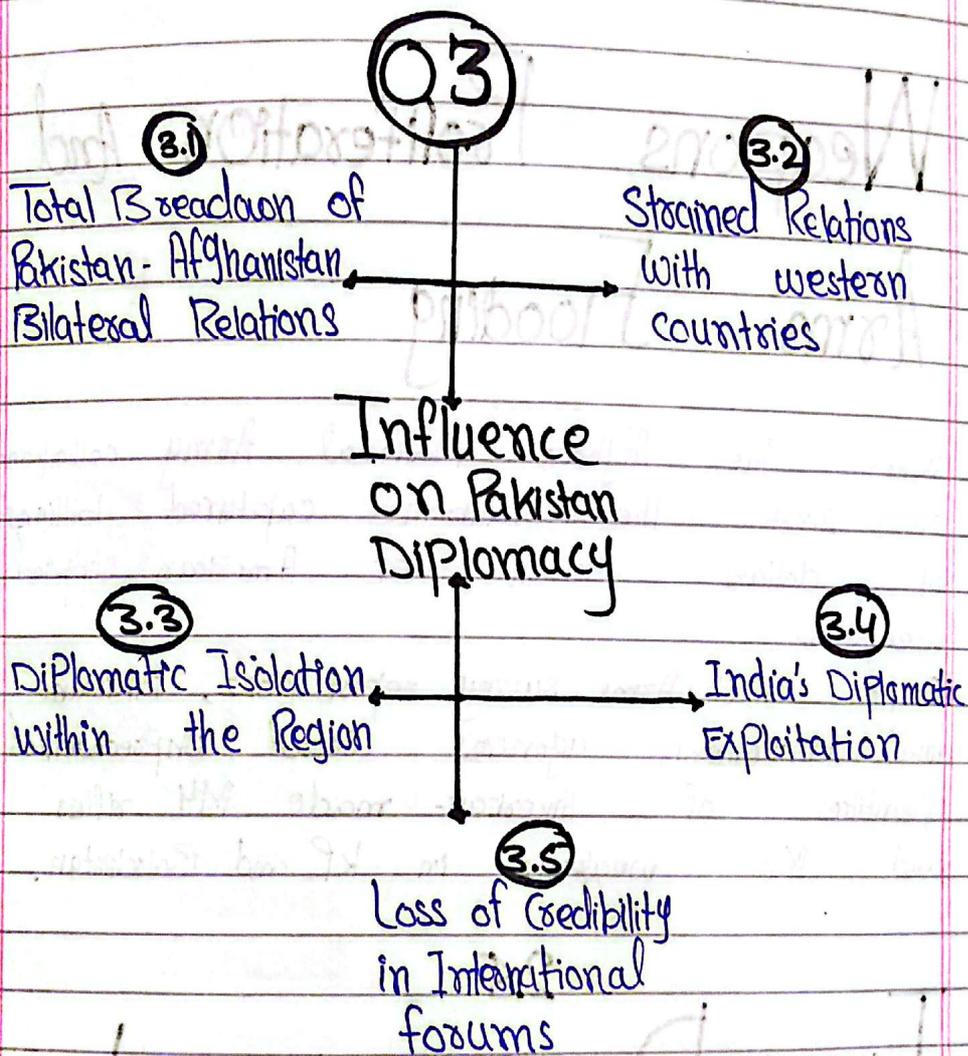
2.5

Internal Displacement and Social Instability.

P.T.O

continued insecurity in KP and Balochistan caused by Afghan linked terrorism has displaced millions of Pakistani citizens from their homes, creating internal refugee populations.

As per UNHCR Pakistan 2023 data, over 500,000 people remain internally displaced from merged tribal districts.



Some measures mentioned above are discussed below

P.T.O

(31)

Total Breakdown Of Pakistan Afghanistan Bilateral Relations

Pakistan's fundamental diplomatic assumption was that Taliban in Kabul would be a cooperative neighbour grateful for years of Pakistani support.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani publicly declared in 2023 that engagement with Kabul had reached a "critical impasse".

(32)

India's Diplomatic ~~Exploitation~~ Isolation Within Region

Pakistan's Relations with Iran, India, and central Asian states have all been complicated by Afghan instability.

In May 2023, Iranian forces launched

P.T.O

direct strikes inside Pakistani Balochistan
trageting "Jaish ul-Adl Militant Camps".

(3.4)

India's Diplomatic Exploitation

India has consistently used
Afghanistan as a platform to
diplomatically encircle and isolate
Pakistan.

Taliban takeover India strategically
reopened its Kabul embassy in
2022.

(04)

Influence On Pakistan's Counter-Terrorism Strategy

4.1 Complete Failure
of Dialogue and
Negotiation Approach

4.2 Military operation
Remain Permanently
Incomplete

P.T.O

4.3 Intelligence failure
and Information
Gaps

4.4 Radicalization of
Pakistani Youth
in Border Areas

4.5

Financing of Terrorism
Remains Uncontrolled

4.1

Complete failure Dialogue And Negotiation Approach

Pakistan has attempted multiple rounds of peace negotiation with TTP. Every single attempt has failed because the mediator shares the same ideology as the militant group. Express Tribune reported 65% increase in KP attacks in the first quarter of 2023.

P.T.O

4.2

Military Operation Remain Permanently Incomplete

Pakistan including Radd-ul-Fassad temporarily but never launched Zarb-e-Azb in 2017. Both degraded eliminated major operations in 2014 and TTP capacity the threat.

4.3

Intelligence Failure And Information Gaps

Pakistan's Intelligence agencies face a fundamental gap they have very limited visibility into what is happening inside Afghanistan.

TTP attacks including the February 2023 Karachi Police headquarters attack and the Bannu cantonment siege were intelligence failure.

P.T.O

(05)

Policy Measures to Address the Issue / Challenge

S.1
Formalise and Enforce
Strict Border Control
Using Existing Military
Capacity

S.2
Intelligence Sharing
Agreement Under
SCO Framework

S.3
Condition Afghan Transit
Trade on Measurable
Security Cooperation

S.4
Community level De-
radicalization Through
Existing Religious
Institutions

S.5
Formal Tribal Jirga
Mechanism as Permanent
Cross-Border Conflict
Resolution Channel

Some Policies mentioned above are discussed below. P.T.O

S.1

Formalize And Enforce Strict Border Control Using Existing Military Capacity

Pakistan ^{Military} should complete the border fence where gaps remain, establishing mandatory biometric registration at all crossing points and enforcing strict crossing protocols that are currently ignored or bypassed through corruption.

S.2

Intelligence Sharing Agree- ment Under SCO Framework

Pakistan should use the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, of which both Pakistan and Afghanistan have membership relationships, to establish a formal regional intelligence sharing mechanism.

P.T.O

S.3

Condition Afghan Transit

Trade On Measurable

Security Cooperation

Pakistan should formalise transit trade agreements that include explicit, measurable security performance clauses specifically requiring Afghan authorities to demonstrate action against TTP as a condition for maintaining full transit privileges.

S.4

Community Level Deradicalisation

Through Existing Religious

Institutions

Pakistan should implement a structured programme using existing religious

P.T.O

institutions actively narrative and counter at the community level. local ulema to TTP's ideological level.

06 Conclusion:

Afghan instability is Pakistan most serious and complex long term Security Challenge. Military Operations alone have repeatedly failed. The or Policies proposed here are realistic, low cost, and structurally enforceable they do not depend on Afghan goodwill or Pakistani financial Capacity it does not have. Only Practical, institution-based, and community rooted strategies can produce security that genuinely lasts.

