

Qno-8

## Answer

1- Introduction on perpetuation of Islamabad-Kabul Tensions because of safe heaven to TTP by Afghanistan and Possible Recommendation

Afghan government was supplying weapons training facilities, and regular financial packages to the TTP

~ UN Latest Report on Afghanistan

Pakistan and Afghanistan relations have been strained since very long, however, certain factors which are adding fuel to fire are many for example nexus between TTP and Al Qaeda, Indian support, But the most significant factor in this regard

is support of Afghanistan government to the TTP and its continuous training and funding which is exacerbating security issues in Pakistan. Afghanistan is facilitating TTP in carrying out terrorist activities in Pakistan - The possible recommendations in this regard include addressing border issues and cross-border terrorism, carrot and stick policy approach, constructive dialogues, intelligence sharing to combat radicalization and terrorism, domestic consensus and awareness, consideration of regional cooperation and diplomatic initiatives, endorsing SCO efforts in countering terrorism and enhancing regional cooperation.

## II- Factors Attributing to the Strained Bilateral Relation - A Historical Analysis

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

According to Institute of Policy Studies, there have been historically strained bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan and it is attributed to five main factors

- 5 factors
- ↳ Sovereignty Concerns
  - ↳ Security interests
  - ↳ Geopolitical Dynamics
  - ↳ Cross-border ties
  - ↳ Connectivity and trade

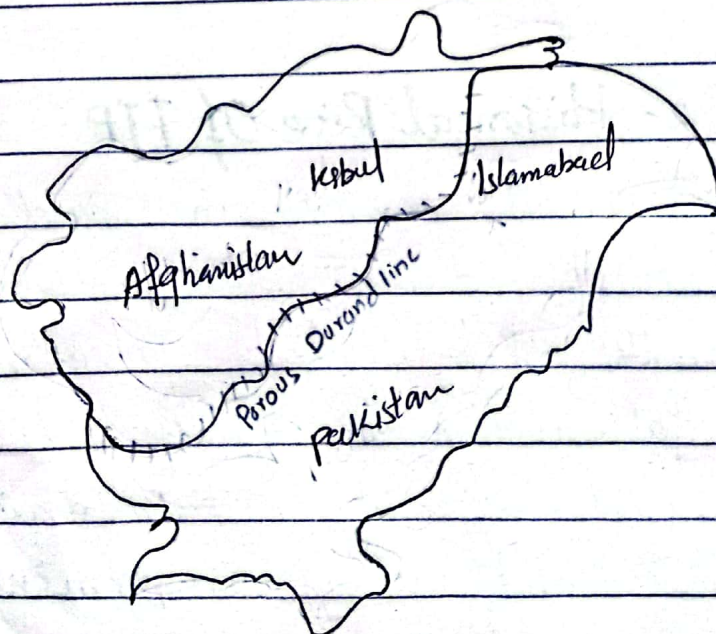
### III- Critical Evaluation of the Situation

#### a- Historical Rise Of TTP

It emerged in mid 2000's, during the aftermath of US-led invasion in Afghanistan. The group is united against Pakistani state and want implementation of Islamic Shariah law

## b- Impact of US Withdrawal from Afghanistan on Pakistan

A book written by Hassan Abbas named *The Taliban Revival: Violence and Extremism on the Pakistan and Afghanistan Frontier* shed light on the rebirth of Taliban, security vacuum exploited by Taliban and violence to intimidate and control the local population. Because of porous border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, there is insurgency and facilitation of TTP by Afghan government.



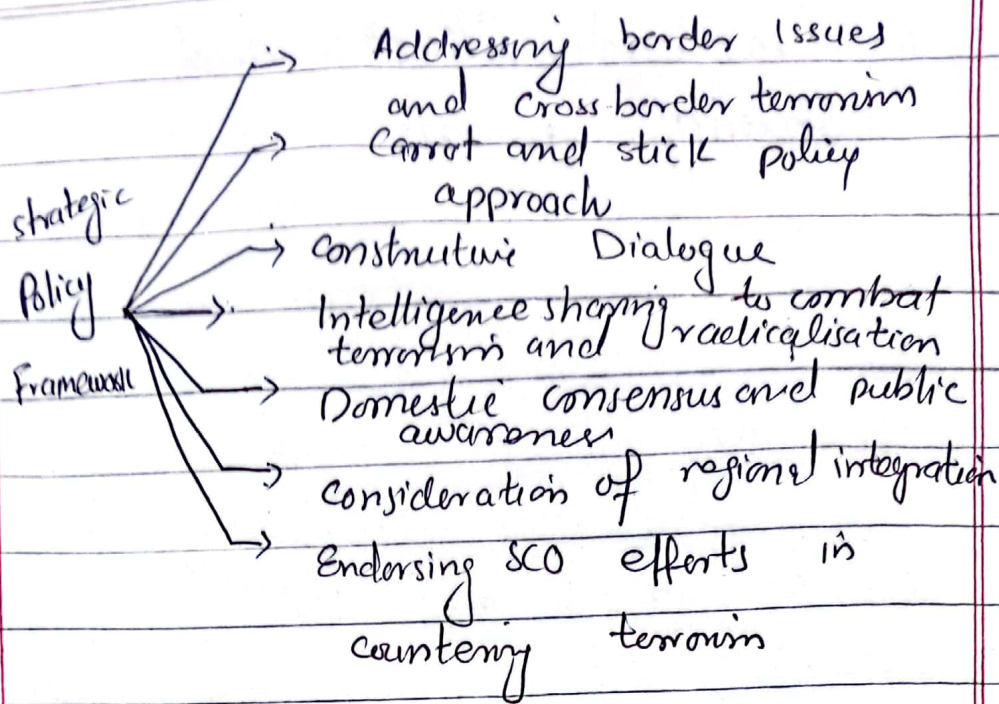
### c- Cross-border Attacks and Security Concerns

TTP has increased its cross-border attacks on Pakistani soil targeting military and civilian installations. These attacks have escalated the security issues. Recent attack on an <sup>army</sup> post by invasion of 300 militants from Afghan border is an example which resulted in martyrdom of 30 army personnel.

### d) Two-Front Security Dilemma as underlying strategic factor

Two-front security dilemma is giving strength to the TTP and Afghanistan nexus. As on eastern side there is arch rival India and western front Afghanistan having long and permeable border.

### IV- Strategic Policy Framework for strengthening Relations



## i- Addressing Border Issues and Cross-border terrorism

The Durand line issue needs to be addressed urgently and comprehensively. Resolution requires acknowledging the facts that way they are and finding an amicable and negotiated resolution. It is vital to address the issues raised by locals on both sides of the border. Achieving long-term peace is dependent on addressing grievances on both side of the border.

## ii- Carrot And Stick Policy Approach

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To provide diplomatic and administrative support to Taliban government, it is necessary to exert pressure on Afghan government to fulfil their commitment to international community. Referring the "Carrot and Stick" approach Pakistan should offer incentives and devise a comprehensive and strict approach to end menace of terrorism. Pakistan should adopt a hard-line stance to ensure that Taliban government is not providing safe haven to terrorist groups.

### iii. Constructive Dialogue

Despite strained relations Pakistan should work with Afghan government to settle the issues through persistent and diplomatic efforts. This will help with border management and diplomacy. The bilateral commission should aim to strictly define the Durand line. Cooperative border management approach is essential to stop illegal smuggling.

and cross-border militancy -

#### iv- Intelligence sharing to combat Radicalization and Terrorism

Pakistan and Afghanistan need to bolster their intelligence sharing to combat the radicalization and terrorism. Integrated efforts to combat the groups like ISIS-Khorasan Province (ISKAP) could strengthen the security. Educational initiatives aimed at promoting tolerance, critical thinking and diversity are essential to curb the radicalization.

#### iv- Consideration of Regional Cooperation and Diplomatic Initiatives

The sustained diplomatic efforts between these two countries are essential for bolstering confidence-building measures for mutual benefit. It is necessary to create channels for reviving the diplomatic relations by persuading the international community to



to give recognition to Taliban government. China can play a mediatory role. In this regard, Belt and Road initiative has potential to spur regional integration.

### vi- Endorsing SCO efforts in combating terrorism

The Shanghai Cooperation assumes a significant role in this regard by enhancing the coordination and facilitating the joint responses to the incessant threats <sup>stemming</sup> from Afghanistan.

Through SCO engagement in combined military practices, operations and exercises, it can play instrumental role in combating terrorist groups.

### v- Conclusion

To put it succinctly, the rising tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been attributed to multiple factors with a prominent one Afghan government facilitating the Tehreek Taliban Pakistan. This is exacerbating the situation.

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Moreover, TTP and Al Qaeda nexus in which Al-Qaida is training the TTP group to conduct terrorist activities in Pakistan. Therefore, the need of hour is to deal with situation in a comprehensive and strict policy. This can be done by negotiating with good Taliban, by incorporating international cooperation in this regard, facilitating the regional integration and endorsing SCO efforts.