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(Question no 4)

India-Middle East economic Corridor vs Belt and Road initiative

Introduction:

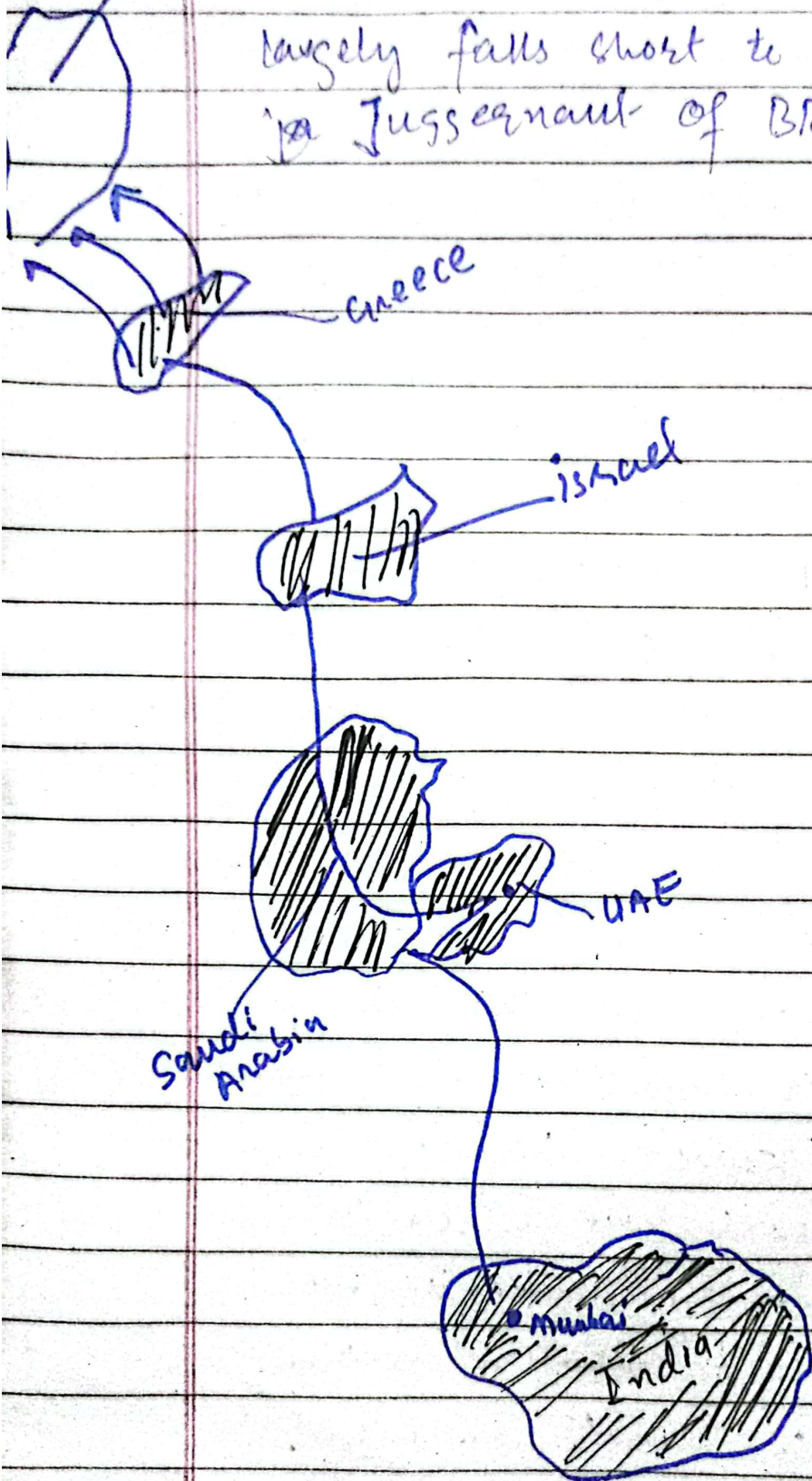
IMEC a flagship project of GPII (Global partnership for investment and infrastructure) spearheaded by US is a new projects which kickstarted in recent G-20 summit in India. It aligns with the broader American led containment policy towards China. US is the outer force which is propelling this initiative. It can also be seen an answer to ~~larger~~ China's ambitious to Belt and Road initiative.

IMEC is still in its nascent nascent form, it faces

Date Western Europe

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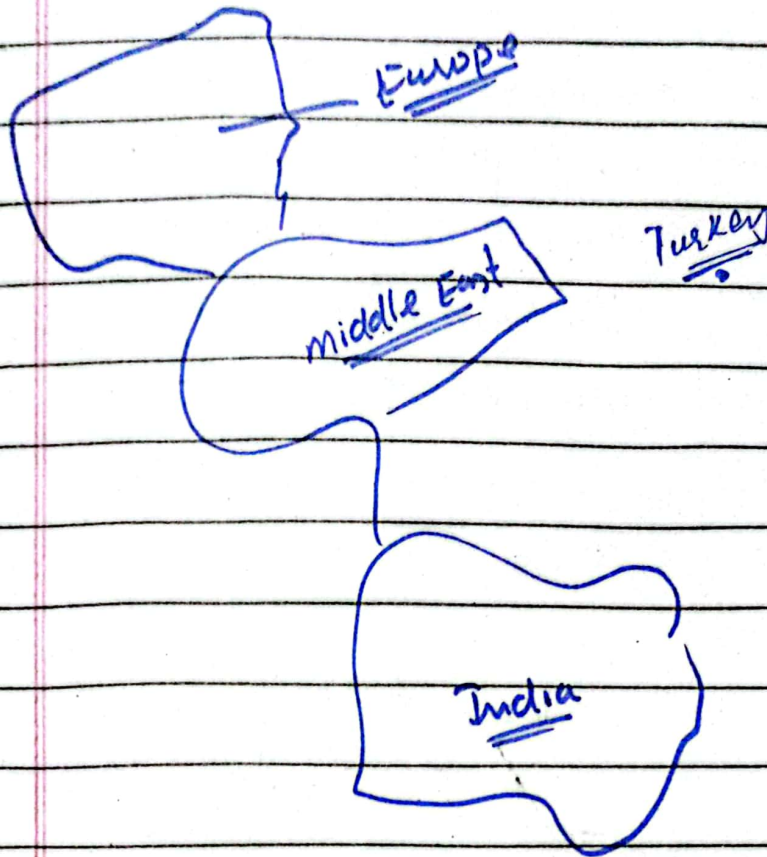
numerous challenges, and it largely falls short to the ~~the~~ Jusserant of BRI.



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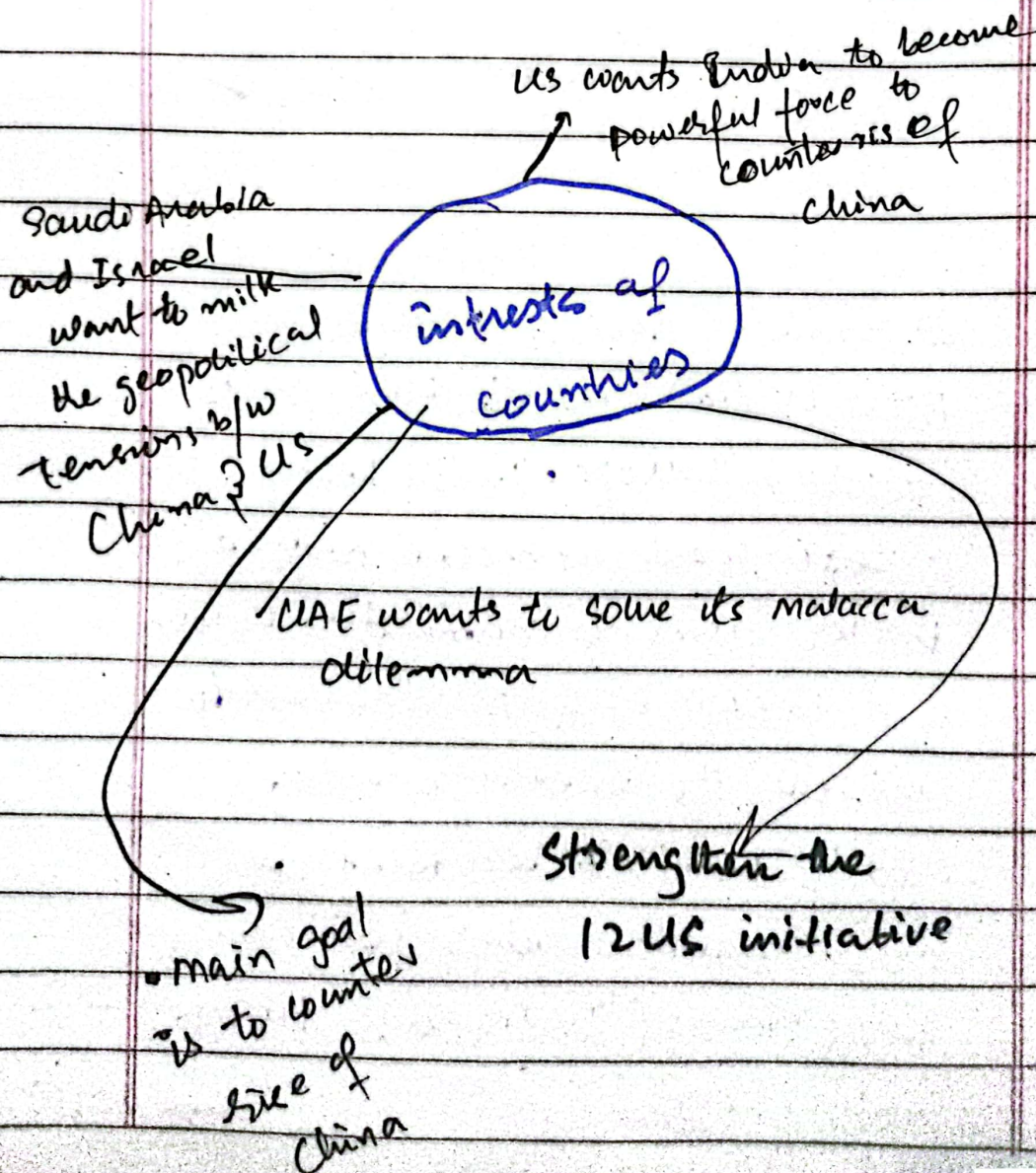
players involved in IMEC



It connects three regions, South Asia (India), Middle East and Western Europe. India being a least least connected regional power aims to connect to Europe and energy rich Middle-East to achieve its energy needs. Middle East is becoming a major transit routes between two giants (India and Europe)

Interests of the parties involved

- India wants to become a major power in the world.
- Europe wants to decrease its reliance on Russia and middle Eastern countries
- want to become transit hubs

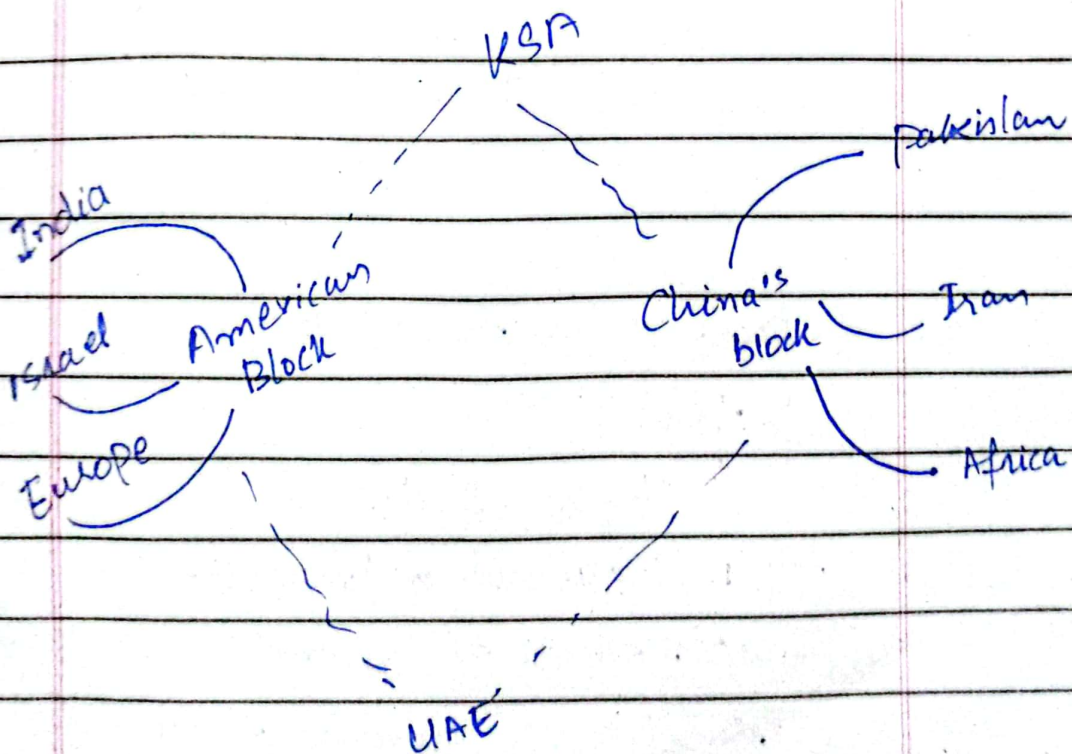


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▷ Factors which expediate the formation of such a corridor:

It is an American led step to decrease world's overreliance on Chinese supply chains, Chinese products and service and woo the countries, especially UAE and KSA towards American led coalition.

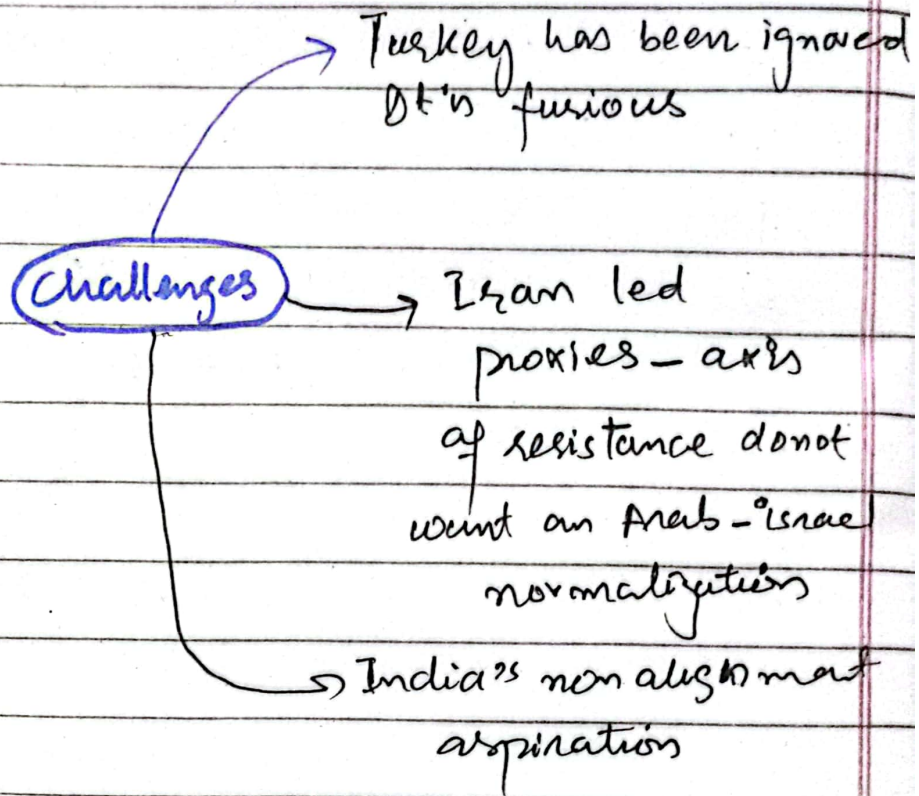


IMEC aims to shift UAE and KSA interests towards American led coalition

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Challenges in the way of IMEC and its success



⇒ Future prospects of the project

B2W, I2U2 and GPP1 have not impressed much. Lack of strong external push and ambitious funding on the lines of Chinese investment is clearly missing.

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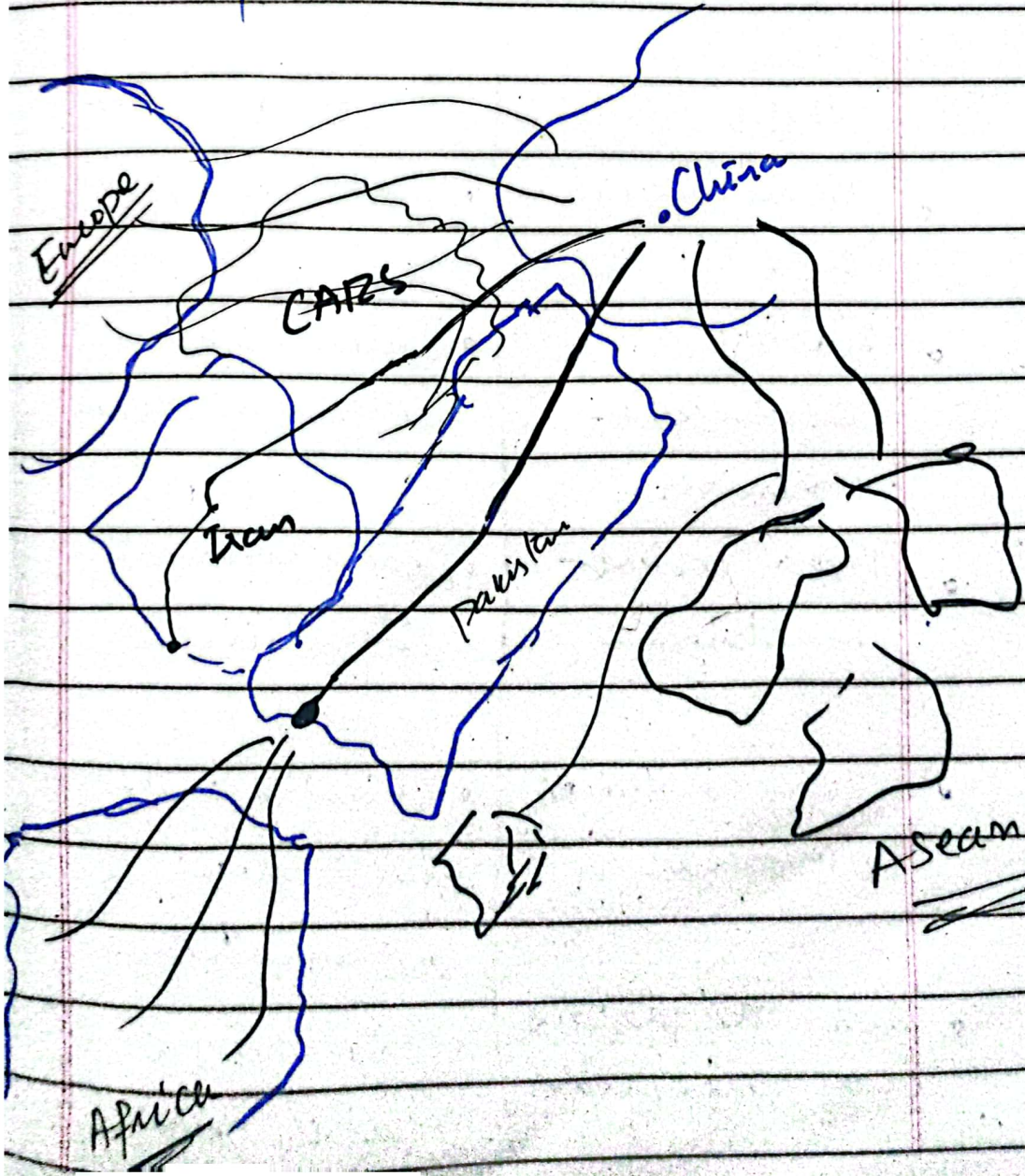
* KSA and UAE are biting kingships

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Mix of democracies and autocracies

* India, Europe and Israel are democratic forces,

Comparison with BRI



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BRI is much larger and ambitious project covering 3 continents, which have reached its mature stage. China ensures steady investment, thanks to its centralized government structure and one man rule ~~top~~ type government.

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IMEC

- Still in nascent state
- Ideological differences in members
- Lack of robust investment
- Changed domestic dynamics
- Lacks the presence of super powers

BRI

- Started in 2014 have become mature
- China's investment's indifference to ideology
- Steady investment by China.
- China's respect for sovereignty and non-interference
- China as a super power

IMEC

- Extremely China centric (containing of China)

BRI

- Genuine investment and results.

Critical analysis :- BRI has been criticized of being imperialistic, initiating debt trap mechanism and lack of accountability and environmental degradation. But the future prospects of BRI are really promising because of China's growing power and surety of financial flow. IMEC, on the other hand, lack an external push factor, replacing already failed such projects like India Middle-East and India CAPS infrastructure projects. US hidden plans for buckpassing

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are visible and continued
Indian dependence on
Russia suggest that the
future of IMEC is grim.

Question no 5

Pak-Afghan relations and
expulsion of Afghan
refugees.

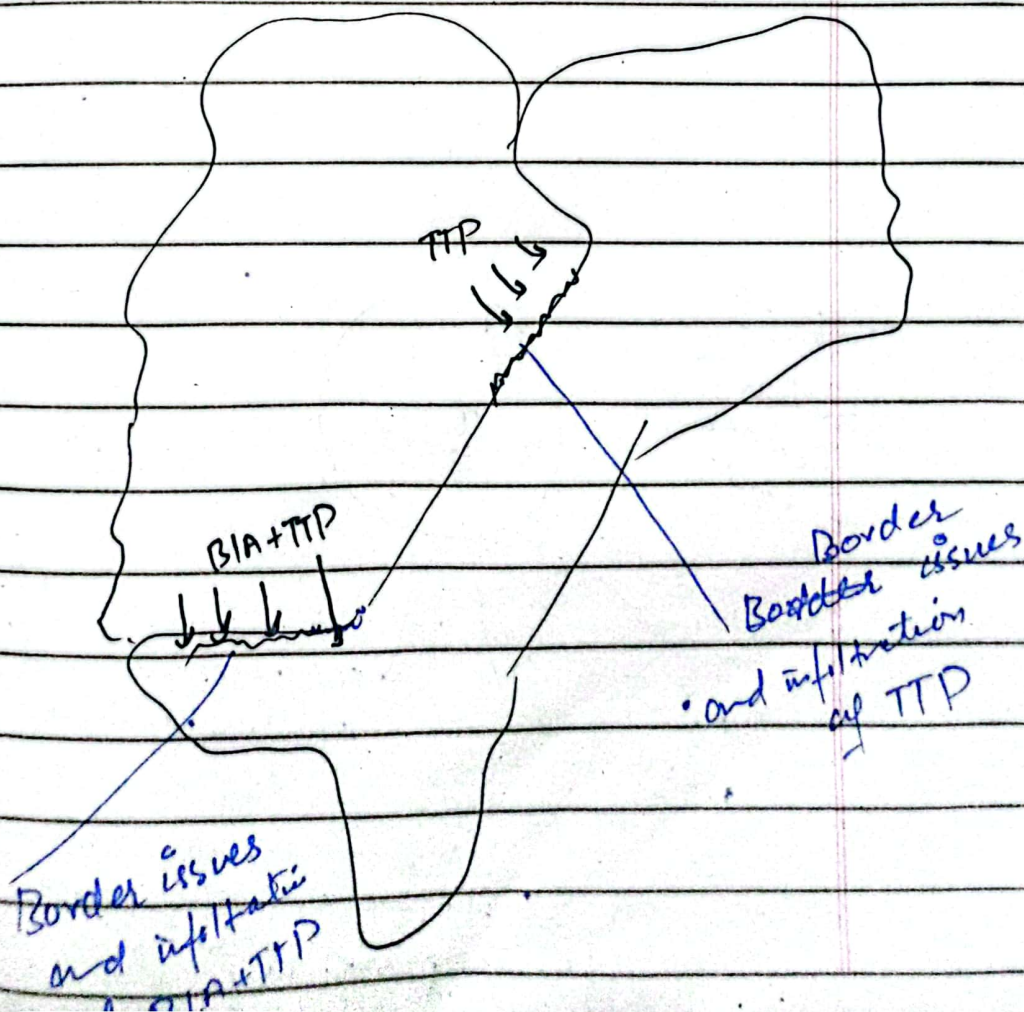
Introduction :-

Afghanistan is the heart
of Asia and if the heart is
corrupt (unstable) the whole
Asia will suffer

Alama Iqbal

Pak-Afghan relations are
getting soared day by
day because of many
misconception, misopportunities
and misunderstanding. Pakistan
Afghan policy has backfired

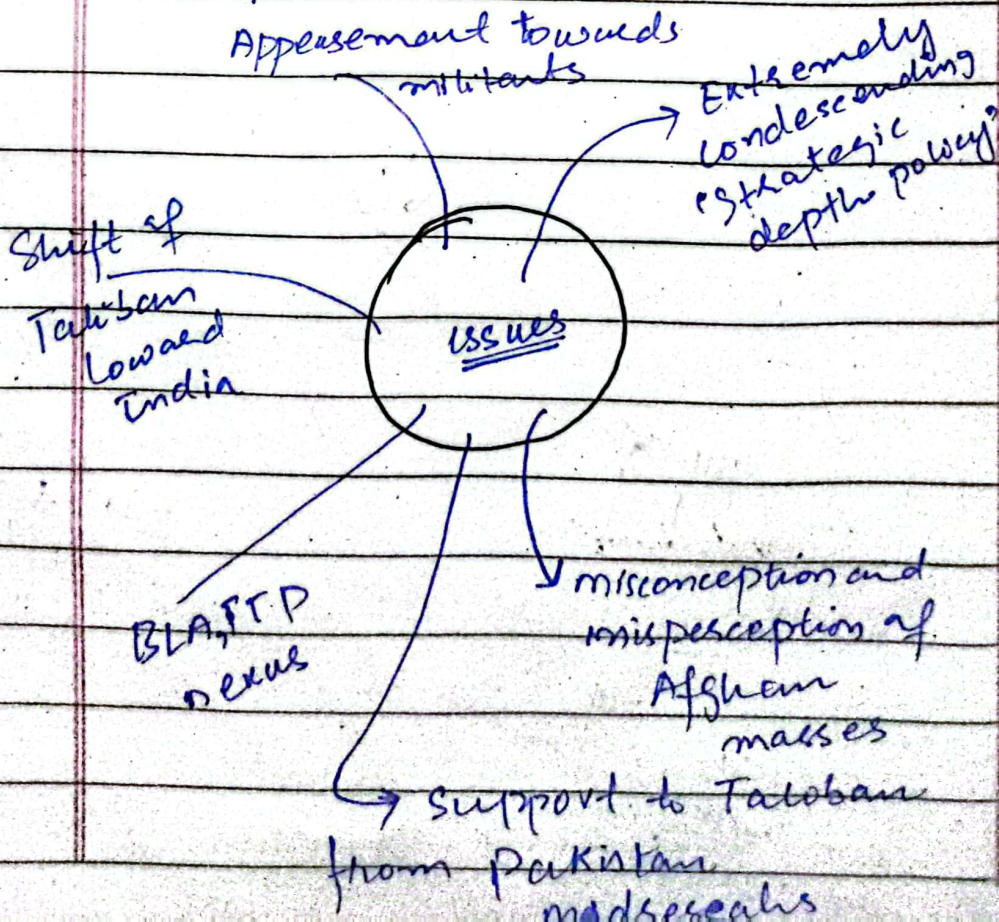
and been a utter failure. It has antagonise the both Taliban and common people of Afghanistan, and embodened the nonstate actors like TTP, BIA and ISK. According to Amir Rana, Taliban's rule in Afghanistan has given official help to anti-pakistan groups like TTP.



→ ~~Since~~ Resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan:-

With the emergence of Taliban in the power, terrorism in Pakistan has spiked. TTP have got emboldened and impressed by Taliban's victory. Attacks in KP and Balochistan have increased manifold.

→ Issues with Pakistan's Afghan Policy



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→ Pakistan's response towards noncooperation of Taliban regime regime.

Pakistan was decided to expelled illegal Afghan immigrants from Pakistan to control the terrorism, smuggling money laundering and improve the law and order situation. This policy of expulsion have has further antagonise the Taliban regime. This seems to be another ill conceived and condescending policy towards Afghanistan, which doesnot have produced any positive results.

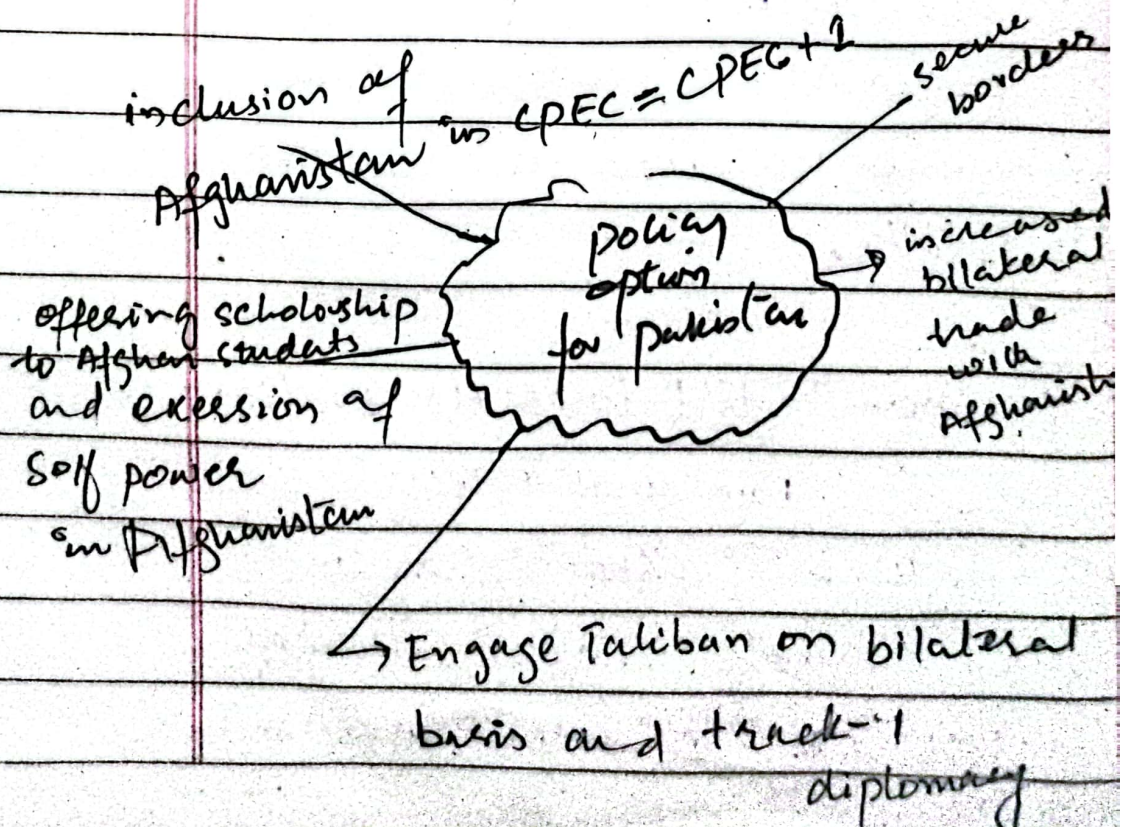
→ Taliban's tilt towards India:-

Due to ill policy making, Pakistan has lost the much needed ~~strategic~~ strategic leverage it historically

contained, over Taliban. Taliban's tilt towards India is not a bad omen for Pakistan.

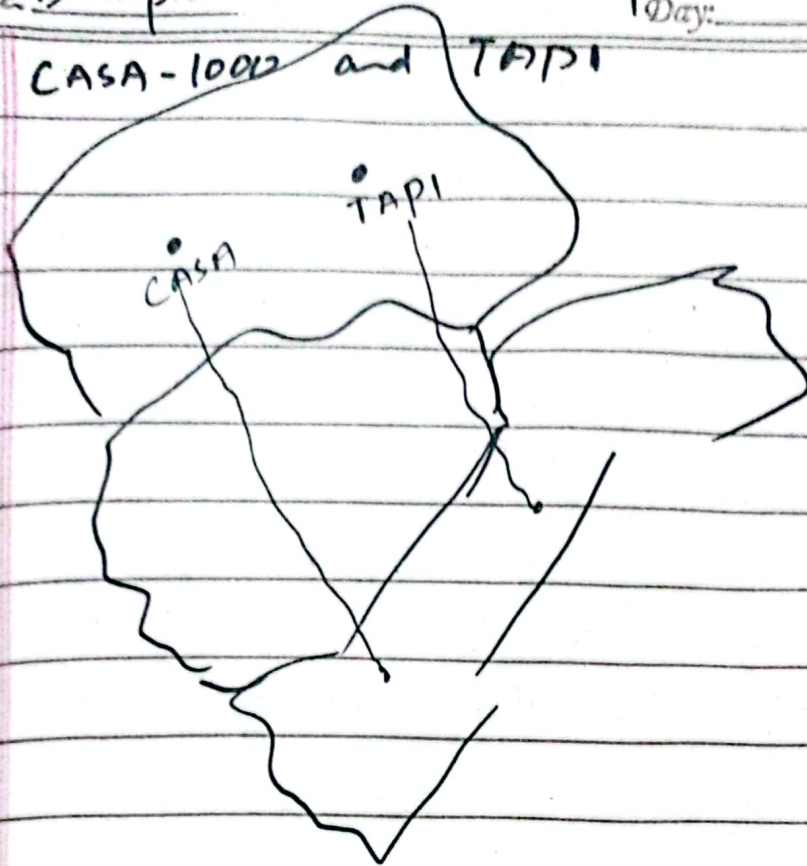
⇒ BIA-TTP nexus: The synergy between BIA and Taliban has further deteriorated the security environment in Pakistan and has limited policy options for Pakistan.

⇒ Policy options for Pakistan



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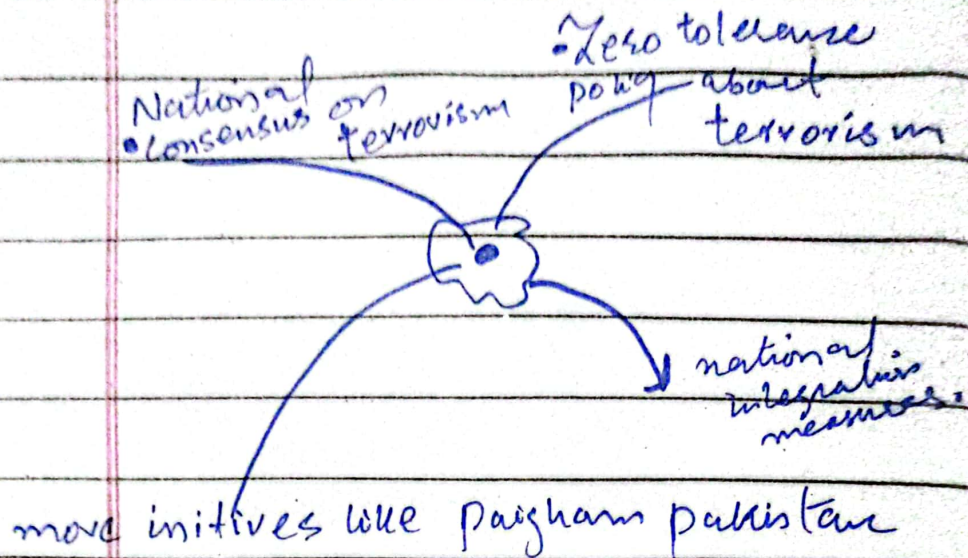
CASA-1000 and TAPI



⇒ Reevaluation of Pak-Afghan policy is essential to bring peace in the region.

Peace in Afghanistan is a strategic compulsion for Pakistan. Instability in Afghanistan means instability in Pakistan. Trade should increase with Afghanistan and Taliban regime should be engaged in track-1 diplomacy and provide incentive for cooperation.

Conclusion :-

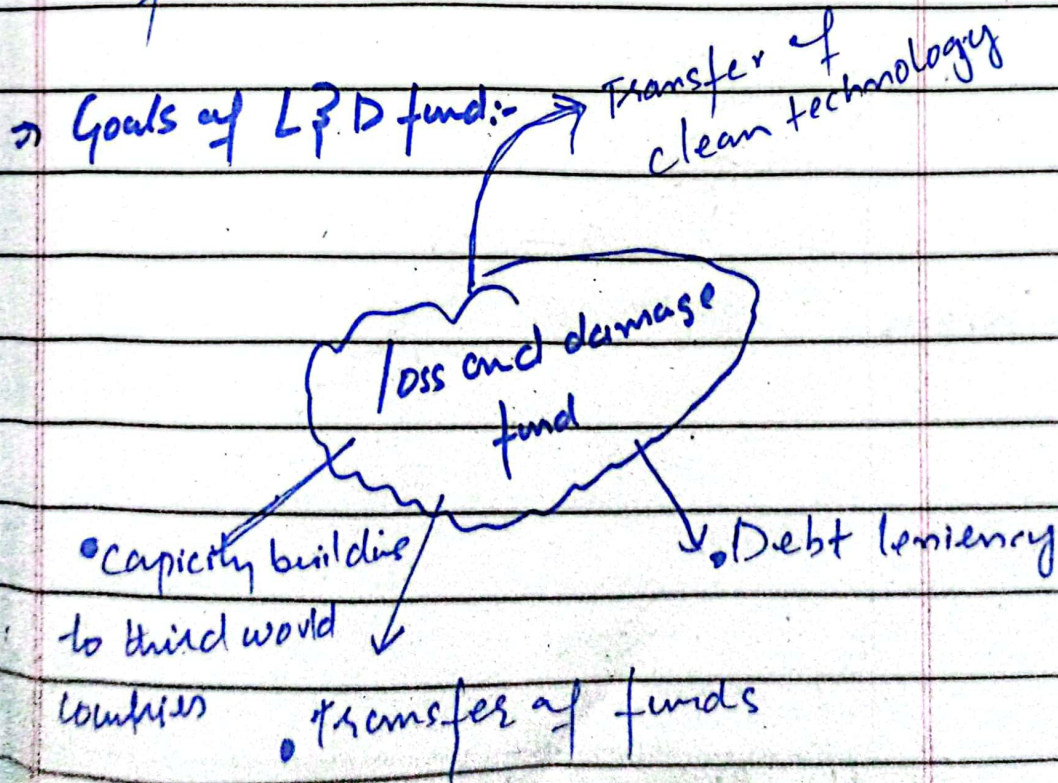


(Question no 6)

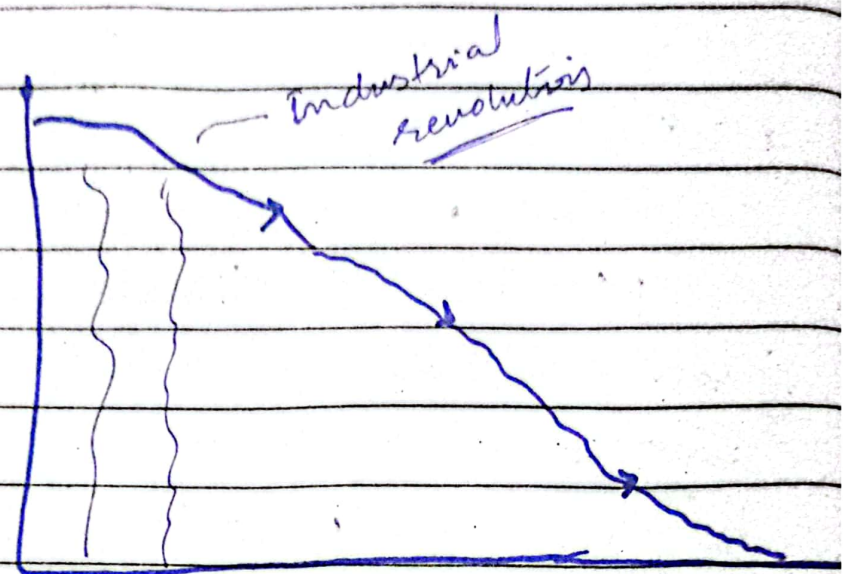
Introduction

What happened in Pakistan in 2022, will not stay in Pakistan. Pakistan ranks among top ten countries most vulnerable to climate change. Moreover, the concept of loss and damage fund has been

floating around in environmental summits since Paris climate agreement. It got more impetus during COP-27, ~~Paris~~ because of Pakistan's sharp climate diplomacy. It is based on the principle of 'Climate justice' where resource ~~less~~ constraint nations will be helped financially to show resilience and adapt to the disastrous impacts of climate change.



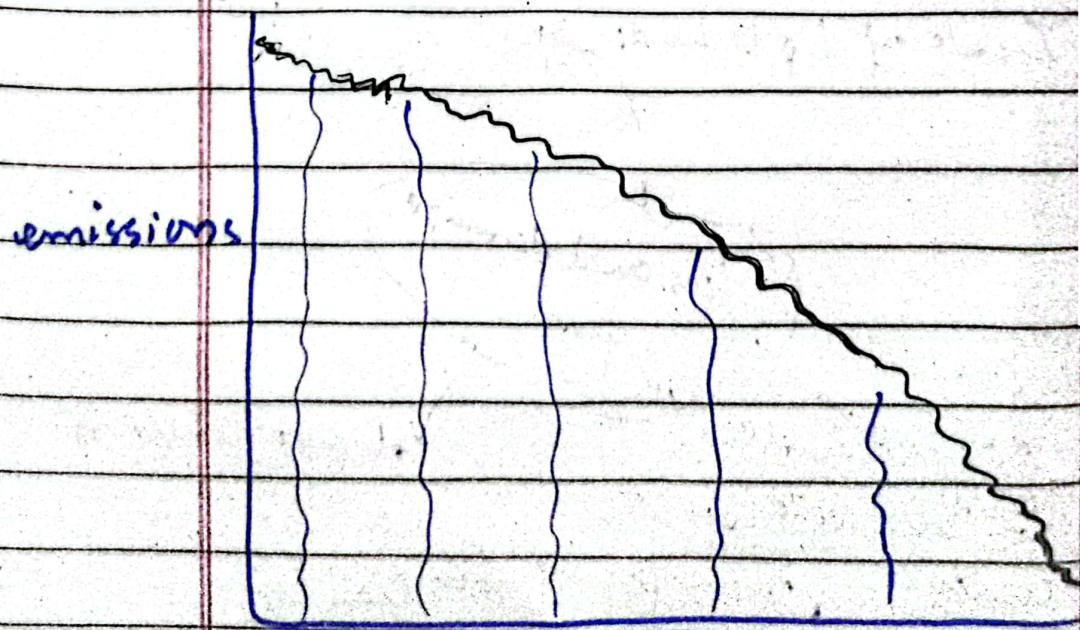
⇒ Climate justice and historical responsibility :-



US, UK, Global north, Global south

y-axis = environmental damage

x-axis = role of countries



US, China, India, Global south

climate impact

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Hence, countries which are most vulnerable to climate change (third world countries) have very small role in environmental degradation. Hence, it is responsibility of economically advanced countries to financially help developing and economically vulnerable countries to form climate resilient economies and to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

⇒ Cop-27 and loss and damage fund:

Formation of loss and damage fund during Cop 27, thanks to the robust climate diplomacy by Pakistan and other climate vulnerable countries, was a positive outcome. It

was true diplomatic achievement by Pakistan.

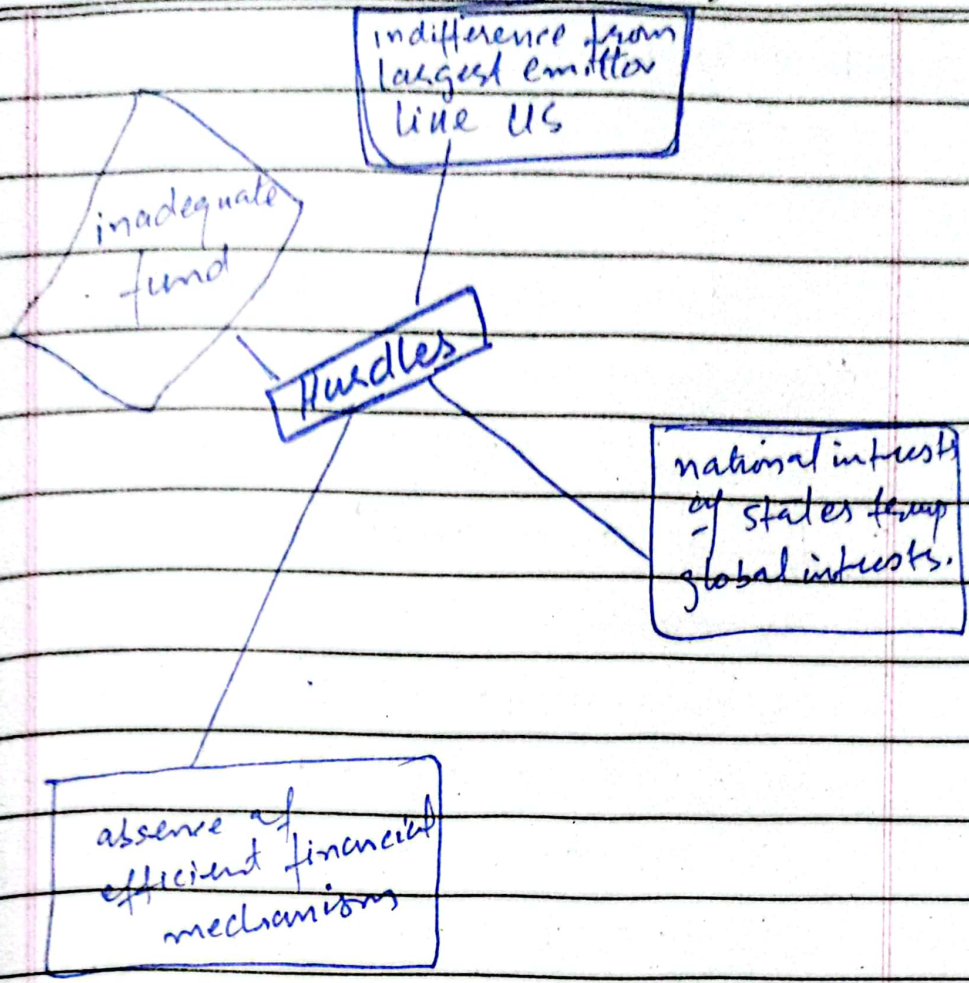
→ Implementation of loss and damage fund and COP 28:-

Loss and damage fund was officially implemented during COP-28 but it was not less than a farce. The amount ~~had~~ channelled to the fund was too little. It does not align with the massive economic loss, developing countries like Pakistan over the years. It promised mere \$600 million to the fund, which is not sufficient.

→ Hurdles in the way of success of loss and damage fund.

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⇒ opportunities for Pakistan :-

Pakistan being one of the most vulnerable countries to the threat of climate change can showcase more robust climate diplomacy in the next conference of parties for the true implementation of loss and damage funds.

→ Pakistan's ^{climate} resilience and adaptation policy

Funds obtained through loss and damage can help Pakistan to pursue more ambitious nationally determined contributions, shift to renewable energy. Pakistan can make a significant shift to blue economy, clean energy and energy efficiency.

→ Boost to agriculture industry:-

Technical and financial help from loss and damage fund can expedite Pakistan's shift to sustainable agriculture, agro-forestry and food security.

→ climate resilient economy:-

Financial and technical help from "loss and damage fund" can give an impetus to Pakistan for building a climate resilient economy.

→ climate adaptation:- Funds

obtained can be spent on the rehabilitation of people, farmers and industries, which were affected by recent extreme weather events. Disaster management authority can be emboldened from the technical help obtained from the fund.

Conclusion :-

Implementation of "loss and damage fund" is a positive outcome from climate negotiation. It is based on the historical responsibility

of developed world to
channel financial and
technical help to
climate vulnerable countries,
so they could ^{build} climate-
resilient economies and
adapt to the impacts of
climate change.

((Question no 2))

Pak-Iran tensions

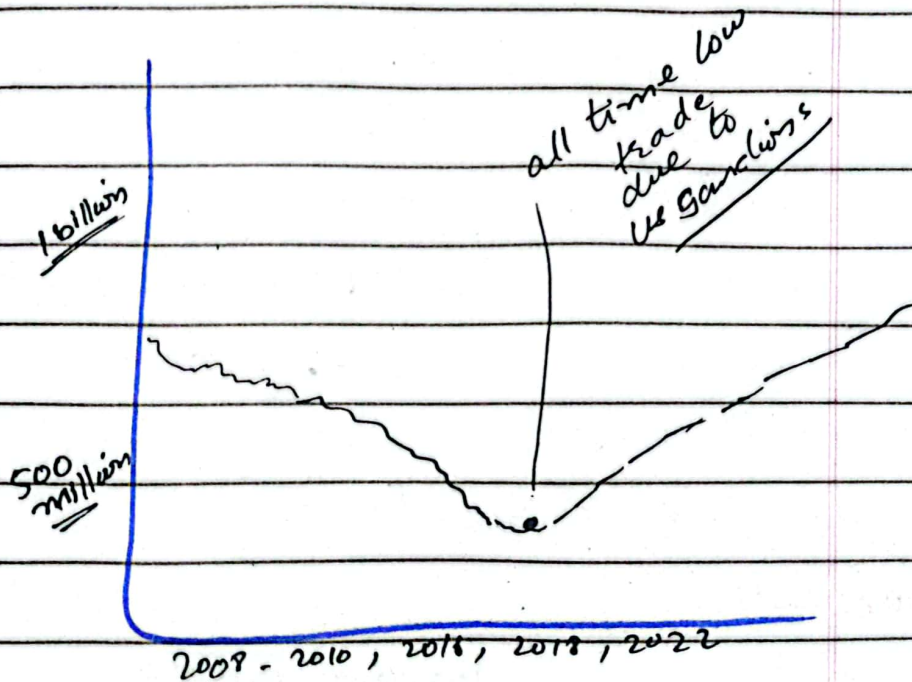
- Pak-Iran bilateral relations are classic case of not blossoming relations due to geopolitical rivalry and tension, despite having immense potential.

The recent rise in tension between Iran and Pakistan manifests the historical

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trouble relation between both countries. Pak-Iran relations are victims of geopolitical rivalry, where Iran-US tensions and subsequent western-led sanctions ~~at~~ eclipsed the chances of progress in bilateral relations.

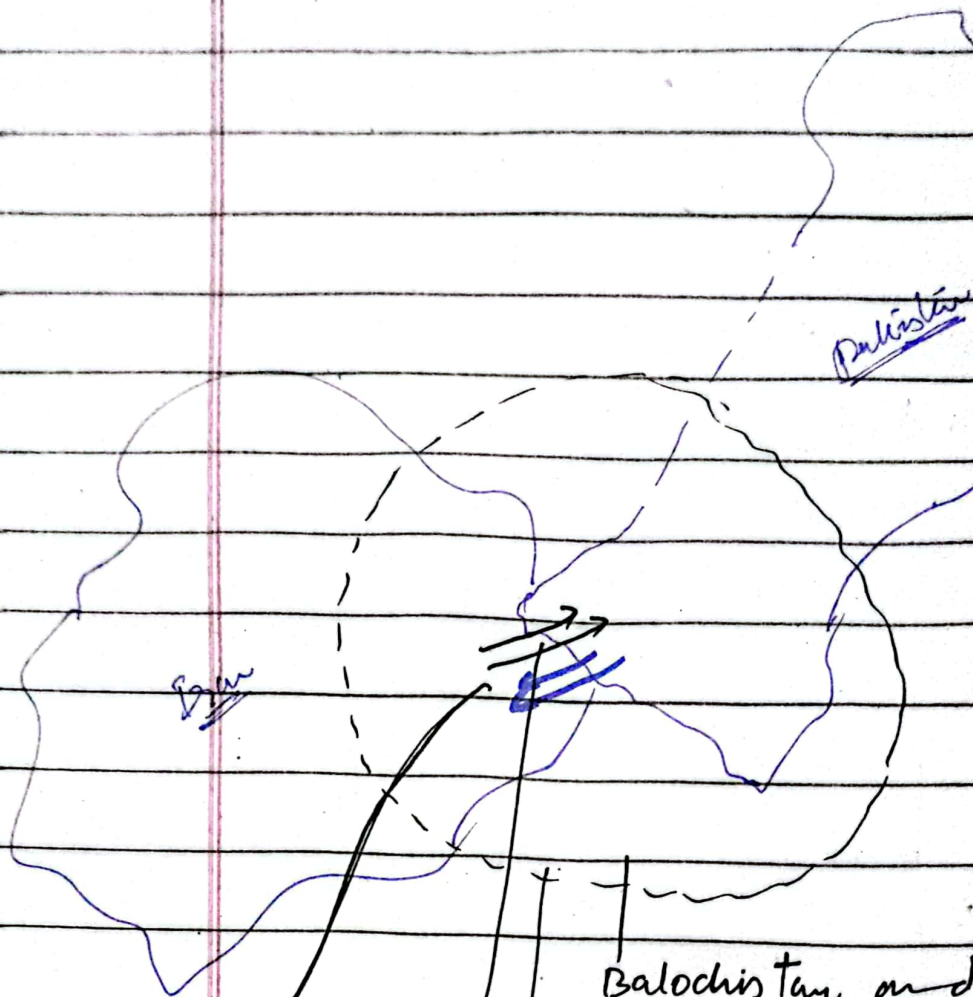


• volume of trade between Iran and Pakistan

⇒ Pakistan and Iran's Balochistan dilemma:

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• infiltration of terrorists

Balochistan and
Sistan Baloch

Area of trouble

Border trade

↳ informal economy

↳ Smuggling

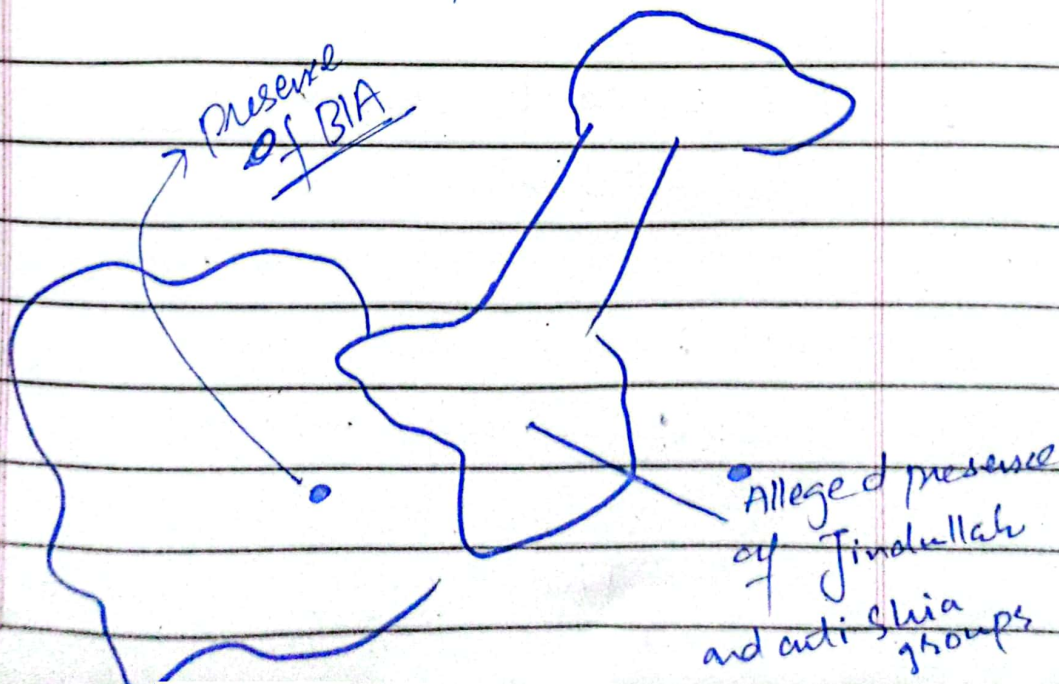
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→ Understanding recent spike in tension in global geopolitical rivalry

According to Dawn, Iran attacked in territory of Pakistan to urge Pakistan to clarify its position in the geopolitical tensions taking place in Middle-East, particularly Israel, Hamas conflict. Pakistan's response suggest that, it wants to exercise its strategic autonomy.

→ The presence of trouble makers on both side of borders



Beneficiaries of this tension

→ Taliban (The want to show Pakistan is the trouble maker in region)

Beneficiaries → India, US and Israel

(~~China~~ Iran and Pakistan are allies of China)

→ militant group BIA (Troubled relations with both countries align with their goals.)

→ measures to de-escalate the situation and improvement of relations

(1) Track-1 diplomacy :-

Initiation of track-2

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diplomacy between both the countries can go a long way in de-escalating the situation.

→ ② people to people connection and cultural ties:

The presence of Baloch community on both sides of the border as well as significant Shia population can improve the relation by people to people engagement and connection.

③ Border trade:- Regulation and encouragement of more robust trade through border can increase the overall trade between the two states.

④ Pakistan's energy needs:- Just like India, who

is getting energy from China, despite geopolitical tensions, Pakistan can also fulfill its energy needs from Iran despite US sanctions by pursuing strategic autonomy.

⇒ China the external push factor:-

Both countries are close allies of Pakistan. China can intervene to normalize the relations and gives us impetus to boost up trade ties. Inclusion of Iran in CPEC can go a long way to improve the trade relations.

Conclusion: Pakistan and Iran share extraordinary culture and traditional links with each other.

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Fortunately, due to shifting of geopolitical sands in the world, both countries share common strategic goals. Good relations with China have brought both the countries together in a same grouping. There is immense trade potential between both countries, which can actually materialize in the presence of external factor like China.

