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Hammad Kiaz

Current Affairs

NOA CSS 2024 Mock

Q.5

Pakistan Afghanistan
Relations TTP

Attacks and Refugees

1 Introduction

Pakistan and Afghanistan both share borders with each other. However, despite the common borders relations between both are not very warm. Pakistan a place for 4 million refugees of Afghanistan recently announced to repatriate illegal refugees due to economy and security situation deterioration. Afghanistan failed to address Pakistan concerns of TTP attacks from Afghanistan. Analysts views the repatriation of refugees could further increase tensions between two and as a threat to international peace and security.

2. TTP and ISKP Attacks

Pakistan rapidly blames Afghanistan to not address the TTP and provide sanctuaries to TTP for attacks on Pakistan. TTP, ISKP continued to attack in Pakistan. TTP and Taliban of Afghanistan are two sides of the same coin and thus Taliban of TTP and ISKP continuing using Afghan soil to attack on Pakistani security agencies.

3. Pakistan Repatriation of Refugees

Pakistan considers the involvement of Afghan citizens in attacks on Pakistani forces and citizens and thus Pakistan decided to pull out 1.3 million Afghan refugees.

“Using Afghan soil to attack on Pakistan is detrimental to Peace and Security.” **COAS Asim M.**

(i) Terrorist Attacks: Main Reason

In the year 2023, according to report of South Asian Institute of Conflict Studies Pakistan witnessed 50% increase in terrorist attacks.

NATCA reports the involvement of Afghan citizens in terror attacks.

(ii) Pressure on Pakistan Economy

Pakistan is already a 5th most populous country in the world according to World Bank. Pakistan economy was at the verge of default in FY 2022-2023. This puts Pakistan in a very difficult situation to inhabit a large number of refugees.

(iii) Pashtuns National as a Separatist : Establishment View

According to Wilson Centre, the repatriation of refugees is mainly decided by military establishment which have large influence on Pakistan caretaker government and military views Afghan's pashtuns as a separatist and thus decided to pull them.

4. Refugees and International Law

Although international law article 33 of UNHCR prohibits the non-refoulement of refugees in state of crisis and

prosecution. 1945 act of immigration United Kingdom and 1976 act of immigration Pakistan provided an authority to state to decide on the future of refugees.

5. Afghanistan Response:

(i) Pakistan should Reconsider its decision

Afghanistan government responded and said Pakistan should reconsider its decision about refugees and there are certain reports which have mentioned that after Pakistan's decision Afghanistan government arrest some individuals which are involved in terror attacks on Pakistan.

(ii) Establishment of Refugee Fund

Afghanistan government has set up a refugee fund to rehabilitate refugees and appeals to the embassies, Commissioners and donors agencies to participate in refugee fund to help out Afghan government.

6. Implications on Future Relations

(i) Security Situation Deteriorates : Further

Pakistan's decision could further deteriorate security situation between two countries. Pakistan's security analysts decided to choose this decision in a hurry. Process of refugees could be slower and easy. According to South Asian Institute of Conflict Studies Afghanistan TTP could potentially enhance their attacks after refugees repatriation.

(ii) Provides more chance to Indian Penetration in Afghanistan

Pakistan's decision to expel out refugees provides India to penetration space. India is already investing in Afghanistan and Pakistan's decision provides him a space to invest more and help out Afghanistan TTP.

to carry out attacks from Afghanistan to Pakistan.

(iii) Chance of Refugees involvement in Crime:
Afghanistan's poor economic and security situation

Afghanistan economy is already in a state of crisis, due to experiences of deadly war decades. This will increase the chance that refugees will fall out in the hands of Taliban and continue attacks which could be detrimental to peace and security of whole region.

7. Conclusion

Pakistan's decision to pull out refugees could further escalate tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Furthermore, decision could possibly result in further increase of terror attacks in Pakistan. In addition, peace in Afghanistan is strongly interlinked with peace in Pakistan and South Asia.

Q.6 Loss and Damage Fund COP28 and Pakistan

1. Introduction

World is battling with multiple threats from conflicts to looming climate threats. Climate threats is already at large and developing countries like Pakistan is extremely vulnerable to it. Countries gather annually for tackling the issues of climate effects. COP27 brings out the idea of loss and damage fund for climate affected countries which was materialized in COP 28. Pakistan being a floods affected country has much in it to get benefit.

2.

Loss and Damage Fund

Loss and damage fund idea flourishes in COP27 in Egypt and fully materialize in COP 28. Loss and damage fund is a fund established for developing and climate vulnerable countries to provide a compensation to them due to floods or any other climate disaster.

3. Opportunities for Materialization of Loss and Damage

1. Approval of loss and damage of first day COP28

Loss and damage fund approved on a first day of COP28 which was indeed a great achievement but funds distribution and structural issues still exists to how much to distribute and what is the criteria for distribution to the climate affected country.

2. World Bank Distributor: Concern

World Bank is given a role of distributor of fund and countries raises concerns on world Bank distributor role initially due to its under northern and western block influence.

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Developing countries need \$217 billion to 360 billion annually for rehabilitation efforts after climate disasters.

World Bank

3. USA little contributions provides chance for global south to influence COP 28 loss and damage fund

USA = \$ 17.5 million	Contributions in loss and damage
UAE = \$ 100 million	
EU = \$ 175 million	
UK = \$ 75 million	
Germany = \$ 100 million	

USA little contribution provides an opportunity for south to increase their participation in loss and damage fund.

4. Opportunities for Pakistan

a. Rehabilitation of floods victim 2022

People Affected	33 million	Loss in 2022 of Pak floods
Lives Lost	1700	
Schools destruction	29000	
Malnourishment	15-30 million	
Loss of GDP	3-1/2%	

Pakistan requires much amount to rehabilitate 2022 floods victims and thus there is more chance

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for Pakistan to get
from loss and damage
fund.

b. Funding for National Adaptation Plan

Pakistan economy is not much capable to fully implement its National Adaptation Plan. Pakistan has the opportunity to get funding from loss and damage fund for its adaptation plan.

"Pakistan needs \$30 billion annually for climate disasters preparation"
IMF

c. Vulnerable Country: More needed

According to world Economic Forum Report of 2023 Pakistan is 10th most vulnerable country to climate risks. Thus, it enters the Pakistan in eligibility criteria for application of loss and damage fund as a vulnerable country needed more than any other to get rid of climate challenges.

d. Insurance and Risk Assessment

Pakistan needs insurance for adopting risk assessment infrastructure. By investing in risk insurance through climate loss and damage fund could help to Pakistan in managing the economic impacts of climate induced losses. 66 Let this COP26 deliver actions not words ~ PakPM.

5. Conclusion

It is essential for Pakistan to adopt a proactive approach to get from loss and damage fund. Engaging in international collaborations investing in education and technology and advocating for global climate actions through COPs can contribute to positive impact on economy of Pakistan and outcomes for the country.

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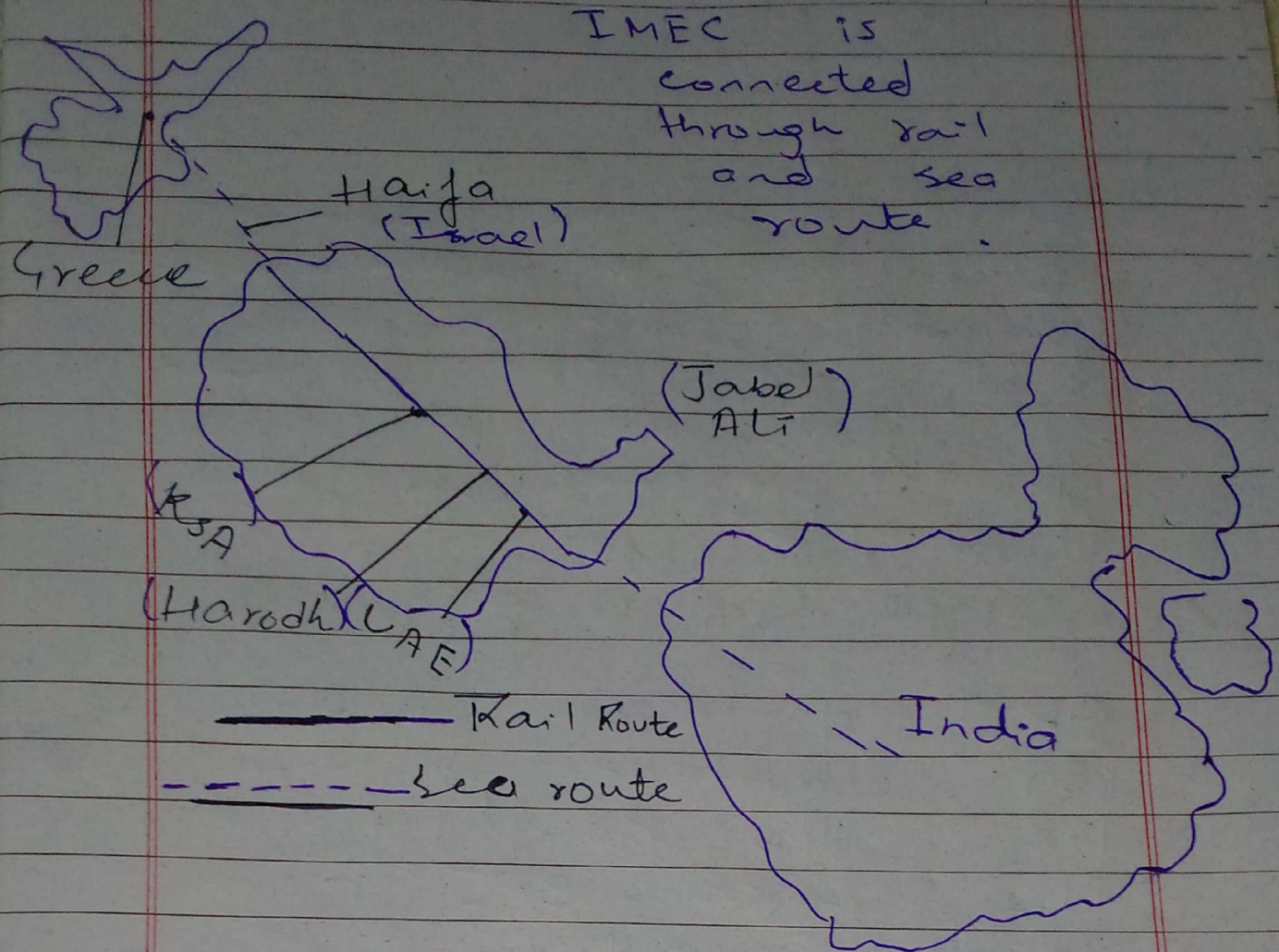
India Middle East Economic and BRI of China

1. Introduction

In the world of corridors India middle east economic corridor (IMEC), Belt and Road are prominent. Belt and Road announced in 2013 and IMEC in 2023 during G20 meeting. BRI almost completed a decade and IMEC still at MOU stage. BRI is a project of large investment focusing on all aspects however, IMEC is a unidirectional corridor focusing mainly on economy and trade. IMEC could have the potential to thwart BRI if it will be able negotiate security concerns in gulf.

2. India Middle East Economic Corridor

India Middle East Economic Corridor flourished in G20 meeting connects northern corridor India to Gulf and eastern corridor Gulf to Middle East.



3. Belt and Road Initiative

BRI a project of 8 trillion dollar investment started in 2013. It covers 150 countries around the globe. Some 3000 projects are completed in BRI. It is a diverse and multidirectional project focusing 70% on land routes. It's still progressing in 2023 actively and completed its decade of ten years.

4. Potentials of BRI

1. Multidimensional

BRI is a multidimensional project focusing on all land sea and rail routes. It focuses on all types of projects, energy, agriculture, technology etc.

2. Large Group of Countries

BRI of China includes 150 countries as compared to other small corridors. This makes BRI as a global competitor. It is a project of multidirectional communities and civilizations in the world.

3. Large Investments

BRI constitutes all projects in its domain and thus it is a project of large investments in 150 countries about approximately \$8 trillion. This makes BRI the largest project in the era of global arena and politics.

5. Potentials of IMEC

1. Small Investment

IMEC is at the beginning stage & constitutes only about \$ 600 billion dollar investments. It includes small projects and it is unidirectional mainly focus on rail and sea routes.

2. At MOU stage

IMEC is still at the stage of beginning. It requires a challenge of \$ 8 billion to \$ 10 billion for financing.

3. Small Group of Countries Compared to BRI

IMEC consist of small group of countries 20 which is smaller than any other project like BRI.

4. Integrate Civilizations

IMEC aims to integrate civilizations mainly from India to Europe, Middle Eastern region.

Thus IMEC aims to integrate civilizations.

5. Opportunity for India to Pave model for Africa

IMEC pave the opportunity for India a similar model for African Union after joining of African Union in G20 to have Chinese investment in African countries.

6. Future of IMEC VS BRI

(i) Security Situation at Middle East

Security situation in middle east due to Israel-Palestine conflict could be a dangerous for IMEC. BRI cannot face any danger in region. Therefore it is vital for IMEC countries to adopt robust security measures.

(ii) Potential Opposition b/w BRI and IMEC

Although BRI is facing opposition of USA and western world but it is still able to exert its influence. IMEC could

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face opposition from global south i.e. China.
(iii) Addressing Environmental Concerns

Addressing environmental concerns in this era of hot climate is another significant concern for IMEC. It is equally important for IMEC to adopt climate resilient efforts from the start to avoid any possible consequences of climate changes.

7. Conclusion

With the announcement of IMEC politics and rivalry between global north and global south sharpens. IMEC is still at the stage of beginning and it requires large investment, coordination and potentially robust security measures for truly implementation of project in the global arena and to compete with BRI.

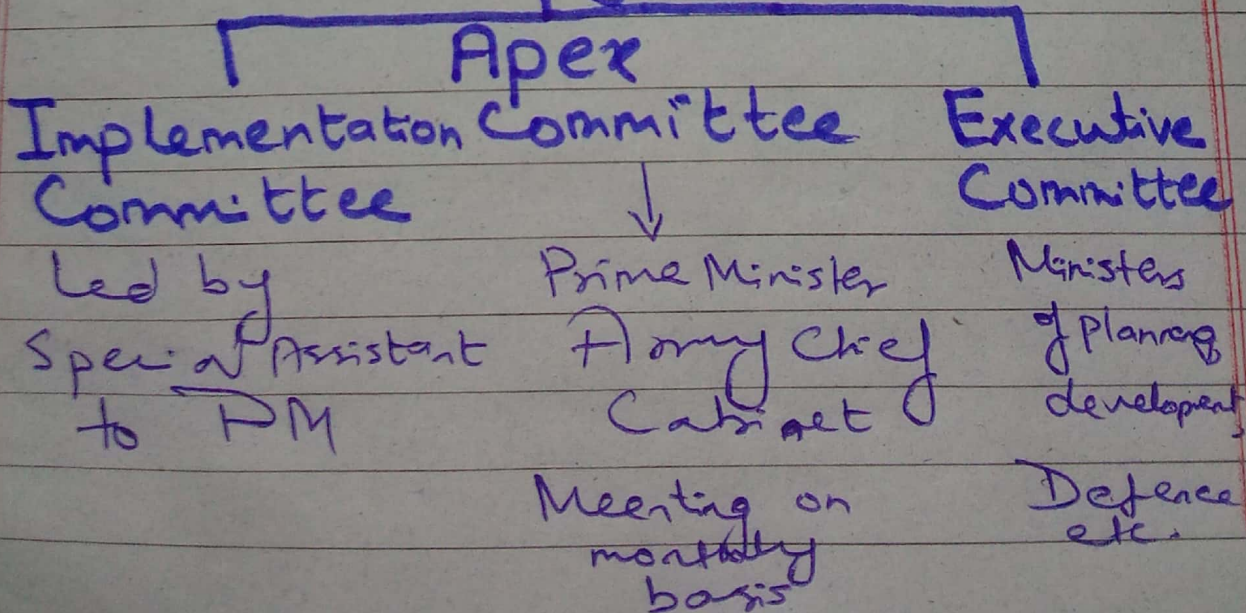
Q.8

Special Investment Facilitation Council

1. Introduction

The government of Pakistan has recently taken a remarkable step towards improving the country's economic situation along with all stakeholders. The establishment of SFIC with the focus on IT, defence, minerals, energy and IT sectors. SFIC has a target of \$ 100 billion in FDI and to achieve target of \$ 1 trillion GDP by 2035. Political instability and role of arm forces are big concerns for SFIC.

2. Structure of SFIC

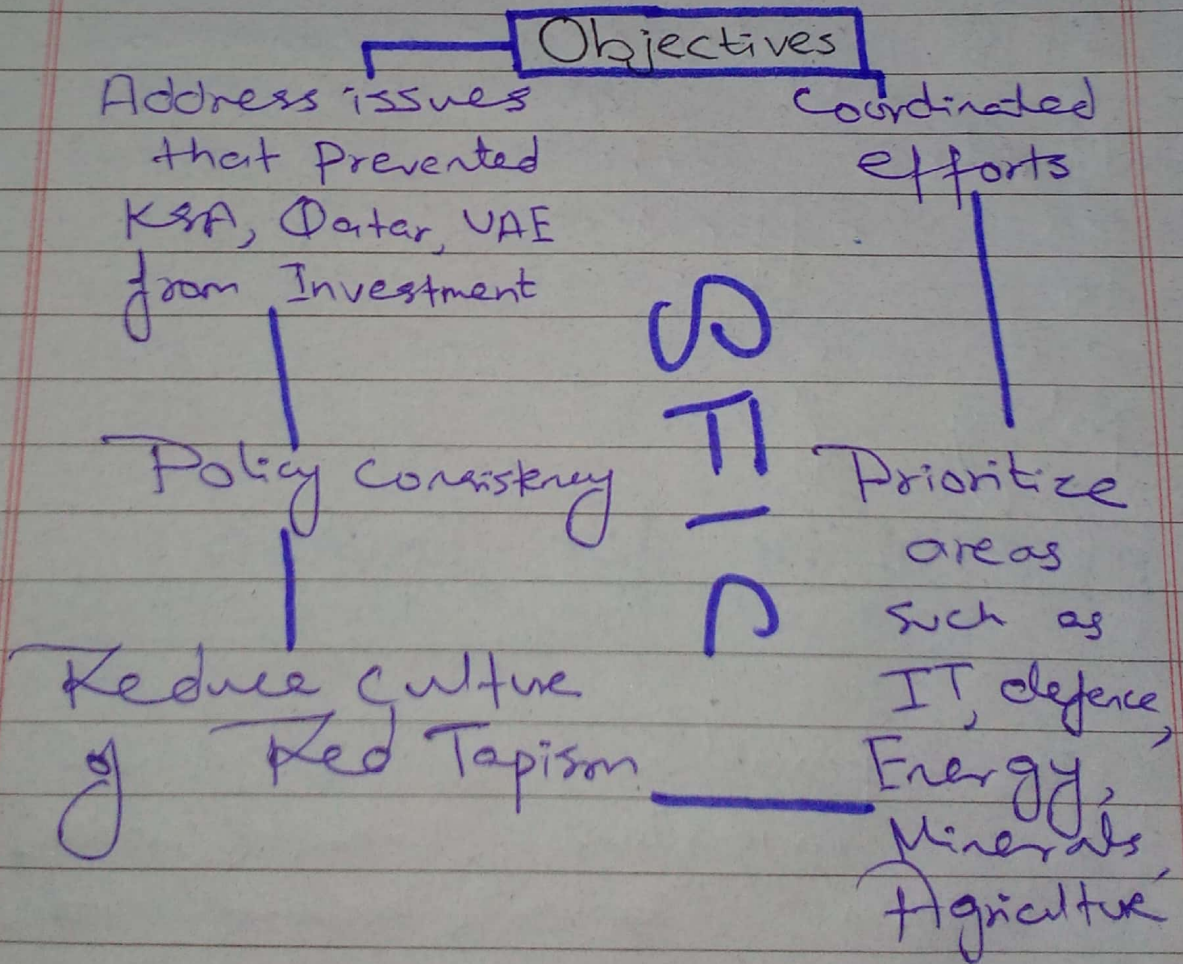


3. Potential Concerns:

SFIC

There is a potent apprehensions of role of the armed forces in SFIC because it is the only responsibility of ^{to form} civilians SFIC. However, it is expected that role of armed forces is limited to the security level in SFIC.

4. Objectives SFIC



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5. Potentials of SFIC

1. Entails Investment

SFIC purpose to entails investment of \$100 billion in IT, Energy, defense, Agriculture and minerals. It involves allocating capitals to businesses, with goals of generating social and environment impacts.

2. Integration of all Shareholders

SFIC includes integration of all institutions, stake holders which will prove an effective strategy to entails investment and ensures one page policy for all investors.

3. Flexibility for Investors to invest in any area

SFIC provides wide areas for investors which provides investors a chance to invest in any areas, like agriculture, mining and Energy and IT sectors.

4. Shareholding Benefits for Investors

Through SFIC investors can now hold 100% of corporate agriculture arms and 60% of agricultural sectors allowing them to fully participate in the sectors.

6. Hurdles in the way of SFIC

(i) Political Instability

Political instability is significant challenge to SFIC. As political instability is a threat to investment and it also hindering an economic growth.

(ii) Physical Security

Security challenges due to recent wave of TTP attacks in Pakistan and is another significant hurdle in the way of SFIC which posed serious threats to investment.

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(iii) Unsustainable GDP Growth

Unsustainable Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of Pakistan is another potential threat to SIFC investment. According to IMF Pakistan GDP growth is expected to grow by 1.7% in 2024 and by 2.4% in the FY 2025.

7. Conclusion

SIFC is a potential platform for investment in various economic sectors in Pakistan economy. However, political instability and security threats are significant hurdles in the way of investment through SIFC.