

(PART-II)

Q. NO. 5 Pak-Afghan Relations

I- INTRODUCTION; Pak-Afghan Relations in the wake of current developments:

After the establishment of Taliban's government in Kabul, it was hoped that the relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan will be of cordial nature. However, the situation turned bleak when the frequency and the intensity of attacks by TIP and LSKP escalated once again in Pakistan.

In response to this, Pakistan decided to pull out Afghan refugees of its land. These developments have the potential to ~~turn~~ make the situation even worse. But still, it can be hoped that if both the states turn to tables and decide

mutually for the betterment of the people situation can be paciated to some extent.

II- A Brief Overview of Pak-Afghan Relations:

Being the muslim majority states, the relations between both of them should be friendly. But, the story of the history of their relations is not simple at all.

Post-Independence Era → Afghanistan did not accept durand line

— They claimed to have the land of Pakistan until the west of India to form Pakhtunistan.

Cold-War Era → US backed government and Pakistan's support

for Afghanistan remained aligned.

Post 9/11 Era → Situation again turned bleak when Pakistanis agreed to provide military bases to US.

Taliban government in Kabul → Since the start of Taliban government in Afghanistan two years ago, it was hoped that relations will get better.

III- ISKP and TIP Backed Attacks in Pakistan from Afghanistan's land:

Since the Taliban got control over Kabul, the number of militant attacks in Pakistan have been increased. The UN reports also say that the militant groups never enjoyed this

much freedom in Afghanistan that they have now under the rule of Taliban. Moreover, the reports in Pakistan also claim that the terrorist attacks have been increased by 65% since the Taliban rule.

IV Repurcussions of These Attacks on Pak-Afghan Relation:

These attacks have a lot of potential to turn the situation worse.

A- Halt in Economic and Diplomatic Relations.

These attacks have the tendency to bring a complete block to the diplomatic and economic relations between these two states. Already the economy of both the states is in shackle.

hence, this is not a good omen.

B- Strategic leverage for the other regional Powers:

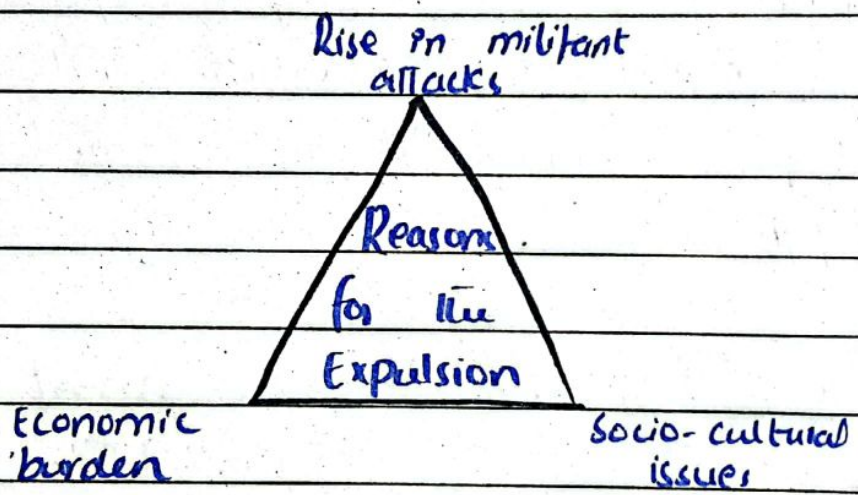
The dent in Pak-Afghan relations can give an opportunity to other regional powers to exploit the situation and play against Pakistan and Afghanistan.

C- Hurdle in the development of CPEC to Afghanistan:

In the last trilateral meeting of Pakistan, China and Afghanistan, it was agreed to extend CPEC to the Kabul. However, the emerging attacks are posing hurdle in the way of this extension.

V. Pakistan's Decision to expel all the Afghan Refugees:

In October, 2023, The interim government of Pakistan decided to expel Afghan refugees out of Pakistan



VI. Repercussions of Pakistan's decision to pull them out:

Pakistan's decision to pull out all the Afghan refugees of Afghanistan from Pakistan can have a lot of repercussions for both the states.

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A- Further Dent in Pak-Afghan Relations:

Pakistan's decision to expel out the refugees will further deteriorate Pak-Afghan relations, giving rise to achieving any negotiations.

B- International Condemnation for Pakistan:

The world organization and leaders have been condemning Pakistan for this step. They have been condemning such move on the basis of Human Rights.

C- Repatriation for expelled Refugees back in Afghanistan:

The refugees which have been pulled out might face severe consequences back in their lands at the hands of

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Taliban led government.

VII. Suggestions for Pakistan and Afghanistan to Reach Peaceful Negotiations; WAY FORWARD:

Following are the suggestions for both the states to make out their issues:

A- Guarantee by Afghanistan to not to Provide Safe Havens:

Afghanistan should guarantee that at all cost it will make sure that no terrorist group is able to use its land against Pakistan. As the spiritual fathers of TTP, they should ask TTP to stop carrying out attacks.

B. Table Talks Before taking any Decision:

Both the states

should agree to hold peaceful talks before taking any decision. As, Pakistan's decision to expel out Afghan refugees was unilateral, it was not accepted by Afghanistan. Hence, table talks are must to have.

VIII CONCLUSION:

In short, Pakistan and Afghanistan's relations are not in good terms. The major reasons behind such situation are Pakistan's attacks by ISRP and TTP in Pakistan using Afghan's land and in response Pakistan's unilateral decision to expel Afghan refugees. However, respecting each other's security and holding table talks are the way forward to even these crisis.

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Q. NO. 4

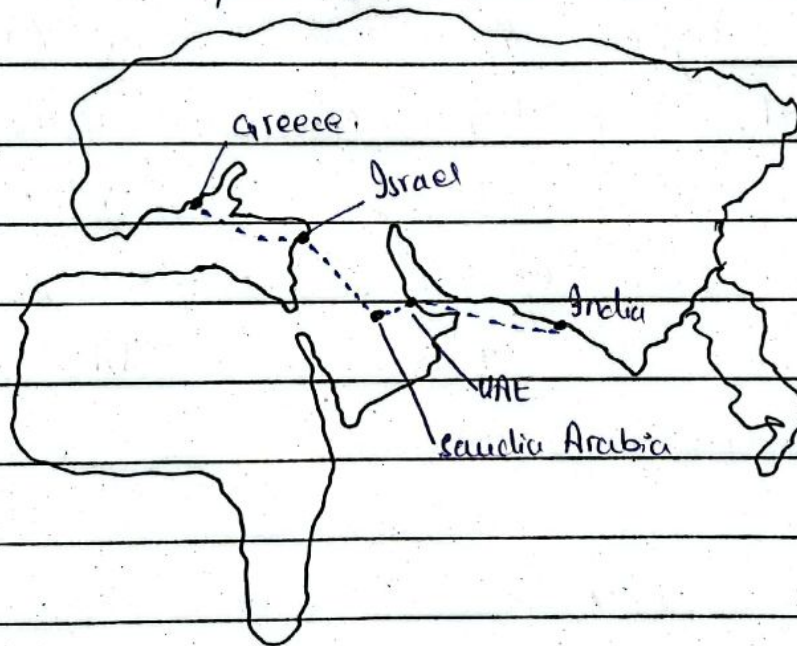
Potentials and Future Prospects of IMEEC and BRI

7- INTRODUCTION; IMEEC and BRI's potentials and Prospects:

On the platform of G20 meeting, a new economic corridor named as India - Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) was announced. It ~~was~~ is the project which aims to reduce the importance of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by china. Both the projects offer a lot opportunities for the member states in terms of economic, and strategic leverage. However, on comparison, BRI is far more important than that of IMEEC because of its magnitude in terms of everything.

II. IMEEC; A US Backed Economic Corridor:

IMEEC, which was announced on the platform of G20 summit in India, is basically backed by USA in order to counter the expanding influence of BRI.



All these above shown states are important because of the ports that will be used to connect this corridor.

IV- Prospects and Potentials of IMFEEC:

IMFEEC has the following potentials and future prospects.

A- Expansion of 'Abraham Accord':

Abraham Accord, which was signed in 2020 aims to normalize relation of Israel with muslim states. Through this project the expansion of Abraham accord; acceptance of Israel by KSA is promised.

B- Influence of USA in the Region:

As the influence of USA has been in declining situation in the region, US targets to strengthen back itself. As, Joe Biden also said that, "We (USA) will not leave this

Region to be filled by any other power like China or Russia". So, this corridor will help USA to get back to its lost position.

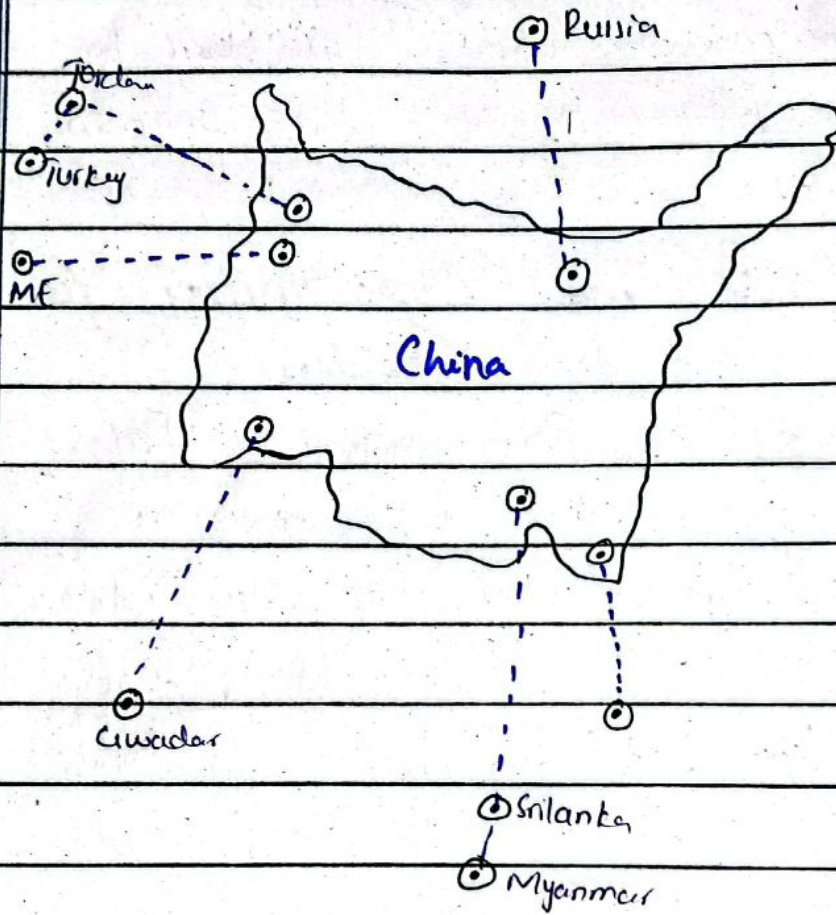
C- Economic Opportunities for the Stake holders.

This project has the potential to enhance the economic muscle of the stake holders. KSA will be able to reach its 'Vision 2030' more early while India will also be able to enhance its trade.

V BRI ; A Cornerstone of China's Foreign Policy:

China, in 2013, started its BRI project which it calls as the cornerstone of its foreign policy. This project is expanded to more than 120 states.

3 continents and 7 regions.



Under BRI, China aims to build six Economic Corridors and a sea based 'String of Pearls'. It covers the following regions.

- 1) S. Asia
- 2) Europe
- 3) Middle East
- 4) South east Asia
- 5) ~~the~~ Russia
- 6) Central Asia

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VI- Prospects of BRI ; China backed Project:

This China backed project aims to connect the world. It has the following future prospects.

A- Reduction in Poverty:

In this project, the poverty of the world can be reduced. As in the case of Bangladesh, just one bridge was built by China under BRI which led to the reduction of poverty by 0.8% of GDP.

B- Interconnection of the Continents for easy Trade:

As this project covers more than 120 states and 3 continents will be

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continent connected which includes seven regions. So, the system of trade will become easier.

C- Promotion of Soft Power of China:

This project also aims to promote soft power of China along the continent by investing in them and creating opportunities.

VII Comparison of IMEEC and BRI: A Critical Analysis:

Similarities

- 1) Both aim to promote soft image.
- 2) Both are economic corridors.
- 3) Both promise huge investment.
- 4) Both are expanded to continents.

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Differences.

IMEEC

BRI

- Involve only 26 states

- Expanded to more than 120 states

- Limited to only Europe, Saudi Arabia and India.

- Expanded to all the states of Europe, Asia, and Middle East.

- Investment is not disclosed yet but would not be more than \$20bn (reports)

- Investment of worth \$1 bn

- Backed by USA

- Backed by China

- Mostly through sea

- Mostly through roads

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The comparison and the contrast of both the projects show that although both promise huge investments and connections but still IMEEC is no way near to BRI in terms of countering them.

VIII CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, IMEEC clearly aims to counter the influence of BRI and enhance the soft power of USA. However, the future prospects of both of them clearly show that China's BRI is far more bigger project both in terms of expansion and investment.

Q. NO. 7

'One China Two Systems Policy'

I- INTRODUCTION:

After independence of China, the Communist Party of China (CPC) was able to form its government in the major land. However, the democratic leaders fled to Taiwan and declared their governance in the region. China does not accept the independence of Taiwan. For the peaceful existence of both, China, in 1950s introduced "One China Two Systems Policy". USA was also signatory of this policy. But, now USA is again supporting Taiwan and is establishing diplomatic relations. It clearly hints at the deteriorating peace between USA and China.

II - "One China Two Systems Policy":

In 1950s, China introduced this policy to the world. In order to built diplomatic relations with China, a country must be a signatory of the policy. As per this policy, China and Taiwan are one state; Taiwan is also the part of China. But, both of them will operate different systems. Since then, China has been a communist state but Taiwan is following democracy without any sovereignty or military development.

III - US and its 'Strategic Ambiguity'

USA has also been a signatory of "One China Two Systems Policy". However, in the current times, USA has started supporting Taiwan for its independence.

USA, in this respect, says that "USA supports Taiwan and its right to defend itself against Chinese aggression." Such statements, on part of USA clearly indicate towards USA's 'strategic ambiguity'.

A- USA's actions that supported Taiwan and hurt China:

Following are the USA's actions, or policies, towards China Taiwan hurt China.

- a- Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in 2022.
- b- USA's military support for Taiwan.
- c- Taiwan and USA's ^{joint} military drills in the region.
- d- Diplomatic exchanges between USA and Taiwan

B- China's Reaction:

China has, time and again, told USA that "Taiwan is the red line" between their relations and any engagements with Taiwan are directly against China's "One China, Two Systems Policy"

IV Possible Implications of Rising US-China Conflict Over Taiwan:

The rising US-China conflict over Taiwan has the following possible implications:

A- Direct Military Conflict Between USA and China:

As USA and China's relations are deteriorating due to Taiwan there is a high possibility of direct military

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conflict between both of them

B- Rise of "Us vs. Them" politics:

As in the case of cold war, it is also possible that, this time too the block politics of "Us vs. them" take to the ground.

C- Halt in Diplomatic Relations of China and USA:

The conflict over Taiwan can also rise to the extent that both the states end up ending diplomatic relations. The trade bet relations are already in perilous situation.

D- Cold War 2.0.

Due to USA and China's conflict, there is a high

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possibility of cold war 2. Even many scholars believe that the world has already stepped into the cold war 2.0 era.

V Recommendations to ease the Tensions:

In order to end the conflicts USA and China can take following course of action.

A- USA should fall back to its "One China Two Systems" Policy:

In order to maintain peace of the world, USA should end its strategic ambiguity and fall back to 1950's policy of "One China Two Systems" policy.

B- China to also stand with policy
Without interfering in the politics
of Taiwan:

China should also
stand ~~it~~ its policy and
respect the democratic principles
of Taiwan without interference.

C- USA to stop engagements with
Taiwan:

On USA's part, it
should stop supporting Taiwan. State
visits like that of Nancy Pelosi's
should be prevented.

VI CONCLUSION:

To conclude, USA's policy
towards China is of strategic
ambiguity which is creating rift
in the relations. Hence, both
should fall back to policy of
"One China Two Systems" for peaceful
existence.

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Q. NO. 8 'SIFC'

I. INTRODUCTION; SIFC and an opportunity to attract FDI in Pakistan:

The interim government of Pakistan, with the collaboration of military, established Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in 2023. It aims to attract foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Pakistan from Middle East and China in five major sectors. The formation of SIFC has a lot of potential to attract FDI in Pakistan from the targeted states. However, it has some challenges which it needs to address to fulfil its promises.

II- SIFC; Its Structure and Function:

SIFC was created in 2023 in the backdrop of serious economic crisis in Pakistan owing to falling FDI, Remittances, value of currency and increasing debt burden.

A- Structure of SIFC:

The main stakeholders in the SIFC are the military and the government leaders. It consists of apex committee at the top headed by Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan including leaders of federal and provincial governments.

B- Functions:

The main functions of SIFC include the following:

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a- Army's guarantee to gulf states to invest in Pakistan

b- Removal of Red tapism in the process

c- Summon anyone to enquire if corruption happens.

III- SIFC ; Targeted Areas and Promises:

SIFC does not target all the areas to fulfil its promises

A- Targeted Areas:

Following are the five targeted areas to attract FDI in Pakistan under SIFC:

- a- Energy
- b. Natural Resources
- c- Agriculture
- d- Defense
- e- Industry

B- Promise,

In a short term, SIFC promises to attract \$5 bn investment in 3 yrs and \$30bn within 5 yrs. In the long term it aims to achieve the overall GDP of worth \$1tn by the year 2035.

IV Opportunities for Pakistan under SIFC:

Following are the opportunities for Pakistan.

A- Military's involvement will give confidence to Gulf States to Invest in Pakistan.

Gulf states are not democratic hence they do not trust the democratic governments of Pakistan. But,

The involvement of military, the permanent institution, it will give confidence to them to invest in Pak.

B- Removal of Red Taping:

Red Taping is a major hurdle in attracting any FDI. But, now under SIFC, bureaucratic hurdles will be removed.

C- Special Economic Zones and SIFC:

Under CPEC, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been built. Gulf state can also have this opportunity to invest here.

D- Security of CPEC.

China was reluctant to invest in Pakistan in CPEC due to political charges. But, SIFC is an opportunity to safeguard Chinese investment.

E- Energy & Food Security:

There are two major problems of Pakistan. They can be solved by SIFC if promises are realized.

V Challenges:

Following are the challenges to Pakistan still present under SIFC:

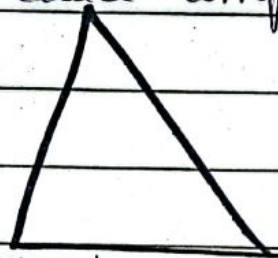
A- Military's involvement in domains other than defense.

B- Economic situation of the state is not favorable for

gulf' state to invest here.
C- Corruption is prevalent in
Pakistan's institutions.

VI Way Forward:

make a system to
reduce corruption



After ensuring investment,
slowly and gradually
push back military
to its actual domain
and take the charge

Set some
economic
principles for
democratic
governments.

VII CONCLUSION:

In short, SIFC offers a
lot of opportunities to Pakistan's
FDI but challenges are still there
which can only be overcome once
its promises are started to
be fulfilled.