

Current Affairs

Q-No: 2

Reasons behind Iran-Pakistan Tensions
and the Beneficiaries; Ways of
De-escalation

Introduction:

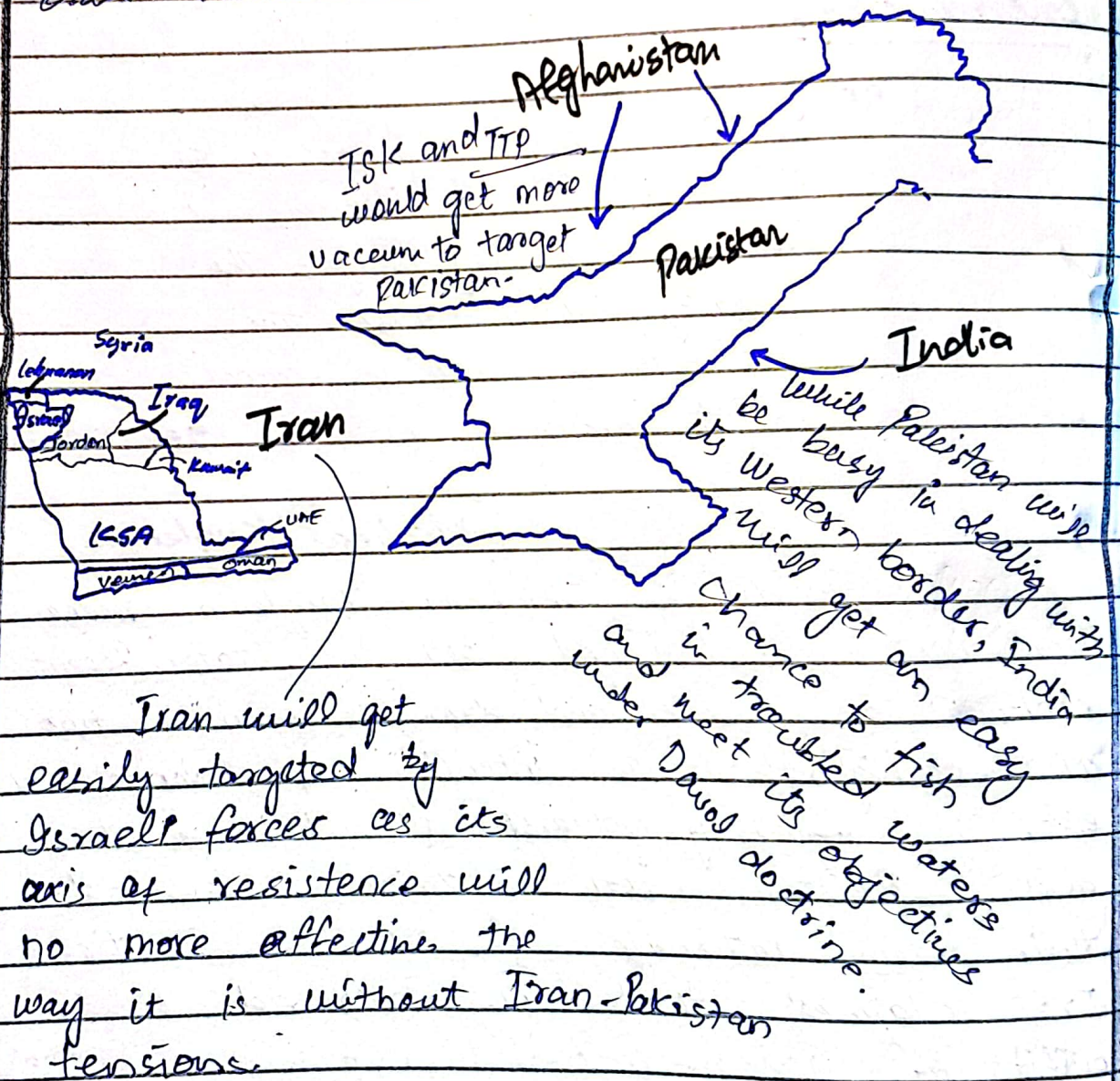
“

In the regional dynamics of the South Asia ^{and Middle East} politics, Pakistan and Iran are two key players. The cordiality between these two states is of much significance for the prosperity of Asia.”

(Michael Kugelman)

The words of Michael Kugelman perhaps have been undermined both the states. Recent exchange of missiles and drones between two countries highlighted the intensity of dense and emerging adversary adversarial ties between Iran and Pakistan. Both countries provided their own rationale for their actions. Iran claimed that it attacked on the outfits of Jai-sh-e-Adl (The Army of Justice) while Pakistan claimed it attacked the

state heavens of affiliates of BLF (Baloch Liberation Front) BLA (Baloch Liberation Army) working in Iran to destabilise Pakistan's internal landscape. Whatever the reasons could be, it is clear that the ongoing tension would benefit some other. The map given below give a cursory glimpse of the outcomes that would benefit other sides.



Hence, normalcy is the pressing need of the hour. Thus it must be carried through

diplomatic ties and involvement of China and KSA.

Reasons

Various reasons can be considered behind the burgeoning tensions between Iran and Pakistan. Major ones are given below.

1- Iranian Rationale of Attacking Jaish-E-Adl

The foremost reason that adopted by the Iranian government was to attack on terrorist outfits working in Pakistan against Iranian Shiite community. However, Pakistan's foreign office responded with quick rejoinder claiming that Iranian rationale has nothing to do with reality.

'Claims're bogus.' Foreign office representative told the media that it is not valid. Pakistan always aimed at peaceful coexistence.

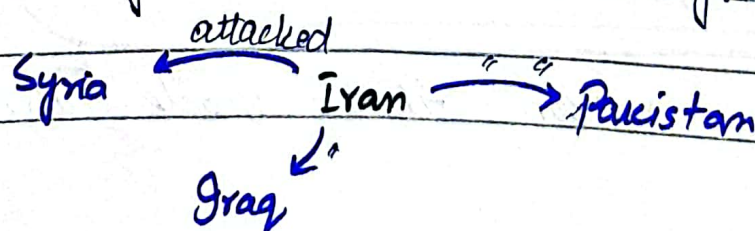
2- Pakistan's 'Marg-Bar-Samchar Operations' further intensification of Relations

Another reason that made Pakistan

and Iran adversarial towards each other was the quick rejoinder of Pakistan to Iran. Pakistan also adopted the same style of rationale as Iran provided. Pakistan's incumbent government told the media outlets that operation was launched against the safe-heavens of BLD and BLF. The foreign ministry claimed that the affiliates of BLD and BLF have been using the land of Iran against Pakistan. In short, Pakistan's quick response is another reason for escalation.

3- Hamas-Israel war Pressure on Iran: Another Probable Reason Behind Iranian Aggression

Security analysts believe that another reason behind this adversity could be Palestine-Israel issue where Hamas, a part of 'Axis of Resistance' is fighting against Israeli oppression. Thus, to show Iranian hegemony, Iran could have done it. As Iran not only attacked Pakistan but also between 15 January to 17th of January attacked on Syria and Iraq.



Beneficiaries of This Tension :

As Pakistan and Iran continues to remain entangled in tensed relations, the beneficiaries would get numerous chances to weaken both the states.

Terrorists ^{organizations} including ISK, TTP, and ISIS will have ~~any~~ more vacuum to threaten the sovereignty of these states

Certainly, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and Islamic State of Khorasan and other anti-Pakistan terrorist organisations will get an easy chance to attack Pakistan when Pakistan's attention would be on Iranian side. ~~Iran~~

Similarly, Iran, too, would not be immune to the influence of Islamic State (ISIS) — an anti-Iranian terrorist organisation. As this organisation will also get fine gaps to attack on Iran.

Indian - factor during this tension

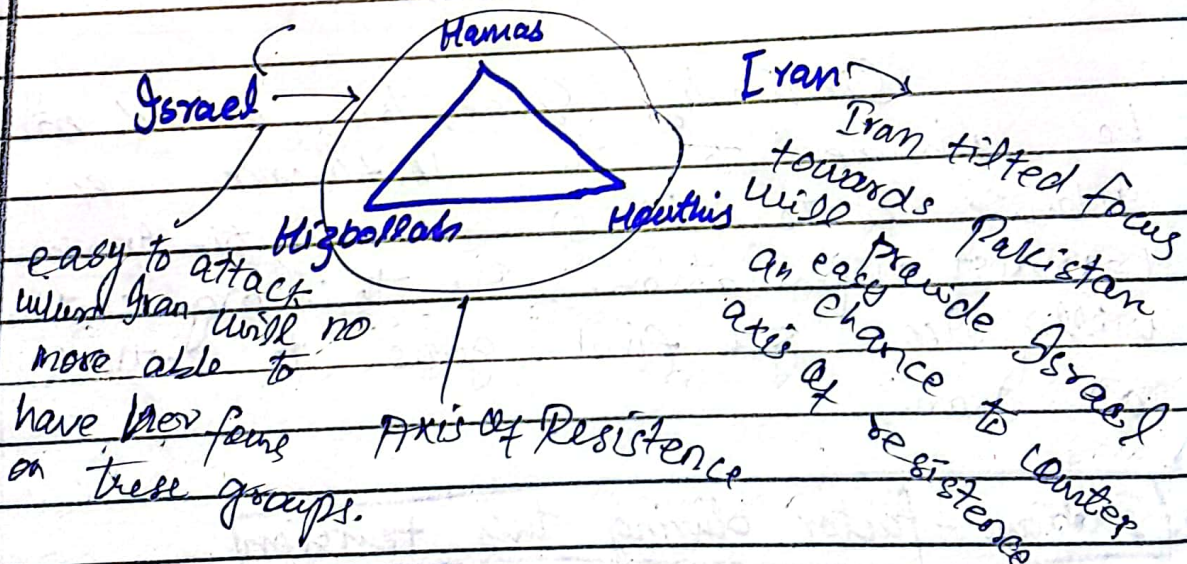
Like other beneficiaries, India would also get a chance to

destabilise Pakistan. Particularly, it would be easier for India to fish in such troubled waters to ignite the phenomenon of separatism in already economically weaker country - Pakistan.

Iran backed
Israel's Victory against Axis of Resistance.

Another Advantage for Israel

The absence of colonial ties between Pakistan and Iran would also give a chance to Israel to win against the Iran-backed groups often called axis of resistance.



Way-Forward for De-Escalation

There are many ways to ensure a friendly relation between to ensure de-escalation and attain normalcy.

Continuation of Diplomatic Ties

First of all, it is the sine qua non for both states that they should immediately cease their discontinuation and cut-off of diplomatic ties. Iran and Pakistan leadership must understand that whatever the circumstances, diplomatic ties must not be ceased to exist.

KSA - China Role in Normalisation between Two States

Another way to normalise the tension between two states is the use of KSA - China factor. These two states have a great say in both countries. As China and KSA has good relations with Pakistan while recently China brokered Joint Trilateral Agreement between

Iran and KSA bears witness that China also have good ties with Iran. Thereby, it can play a vital role in attaining normalcy between two countries.

Conducive Role of OIC: Another way of De-escalation

Likewise, OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) can also play its conducive role in lessening the tensions between Pakistan and Iran. Hence, it must play its vital role.

Concluding Remarks:

In short, normalcy between Pakistan and Iran is the pressing need to ensure the regional and national stability and peace. ~~Thus~~ Simply because if it is not prevailed, the terrorist organisations, Israel, India would be the main beneficiaries of this

conundrum. Hence, normalisation between ~~Iran~~ Iran and Palestine must be catered through ^{using} Chinese influence over both countries and resuming diplomatic ties. To conclude the debate, nothing seems more appealing than the words of Antonio Guterres:

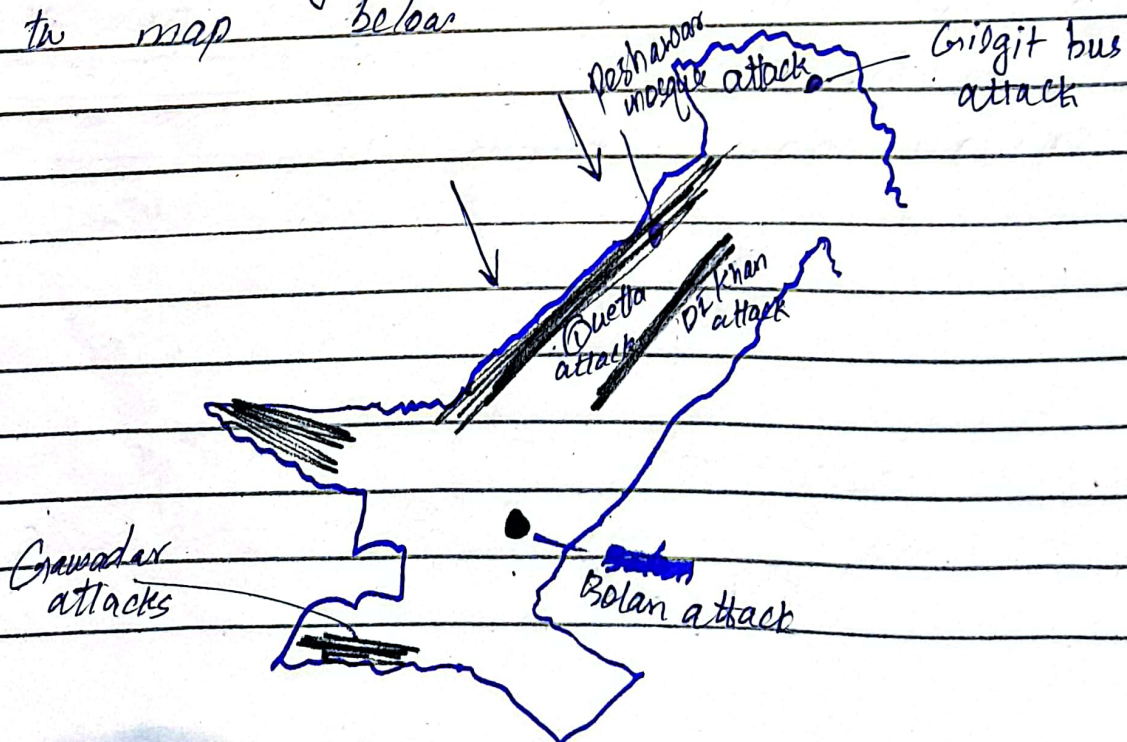
“The world is already passing through the dark night whereby future generations cannot afford antagonistic and adversarial ties of states. Simply because the far-reaching aftermaths of their conflicts leave no one immune in the world of atom bombs and nuclear weapons.”

Q: no - 5

Pak-Afghan Relations While Resurging Terrorism in Pakistan, and Pakistan's Policy of Afghan Repatriation

Introduction:-

The recent change in the Afghan government — the Taliban led government — has not brought about positive outcomes for Pakistan in terms of terrorist attacks. Rather, resurging terrorism has become, once again, a migraine. In the last year 2023, multiple attacks in Pakistan's armed forces, civilians and Chinese business community and diplomats clearly validate the fact. Major attacks ~~areas~~ and hotspots of terrorism can be seen in the map below.



As a response, Pakistan decided to restore its Afghan refugees back to Afghanistan. Its Pakistani authorities claimed that the major attacks have found involvement of Afghan ^{refugees} unregistered particularly. Along with this economic recession is also quoted as a rationale. However, it is important to notice that it would impact both sides by leaving various ~~map~~ far-reaching repercussions.

What Afghanistan would Face while Having such Scenario

The decision of Pakistan in response to eradicating terrorist activities having linkages with the Afghan soil will deeply impact the Afghan internal political, economic and security landscape.

Influx of Afghan-Refugees From Pakistan: A Severe Impact on Afghan-Economy

The first and foremost impact

that would Afghanistan have to suffer is ~~that~~ its ^{enhanced} economic burden. Afghanistan is already facing severe economic conditions. Thereby, it would put a huge pressure on national exchequer of Afghanistan.

Intensification of Social Issues in Afghanistan: Another Imminent Threat

Afghanistan is already having 55% unemployment rate, and over 50% of its people are living a life below poverty line according to UNDP's (United Nations Development Programme) report.

Hence, while having such situation, it would become a Herculean task for Taliban-led government to manage its already fear-mongering social issues.

Compromised rule of law: A Probable Outcome

Another major repercussion that Afghanistan would face is the compromised

rule of law. A country already having not much money to pay salaries to its civil servants cannot easily afford such huge influx of ~~at~~ its people. Hence, it would be tough to manage law and order situation ~~also~~. Less man-power.

Anti-Taliban factions would get an easy

Chance of Criticising Taliban-Government

Two ~~to~~ repatriation policy of Pakistan would also have huge aftermaths on Afghanistan politically.

As to anti-Taliban factions particularly within the country would get more chances to wage ^{verbal} assault against the Taliban government in case it fails to manage this huge influx of masses which seems ~~more~~ over the horizon.

Apart from that, terrorist organisations working against ^{Taliban} ~~Afghanistan~~ would also get a chance to attack them in such times of crisis and chaos.

Pakistan in this Situation

Certainly, like Pakistan too, would have impacts of such ^{ongoing} scenario.

Increase in Terrorist Activity in Pakistan: In Most Probable Outcome

There is no doubt if Pakistan has shown such audacity of expelling Afghans out to Afghanistan, it must be ready for severe repercussions.

For example, Taliban-led government may help the terrorist organisations like **ISK** and **TTP** in waging terrorist attacks to show its frustration.

As Taliban government has not welcomed the Pakistani leadership's decision of repatriating Afghan refugees.

Econom

Lessening of Economic Burden: An Inevitable outcome

Another outcome that Pakistan would

have under such conditions is that its national exchequer would be no more bearing the brunt of over 3 million Afghan refugees.

~~Apart from that, it~~

Social Stability: Another Impact

Pakistan has faced a huge dilemma of border infiltration resulting into smuggling of commodities, heroin, and marijuana. Many law enforcing agencies have claimed the major culprits are the unregistered Afghan refugees.

Hence, by the policy of repatriation, Pakistan would have a strong law and order, thereby social stability.

International Reaction: Not Easy to Handle

Pakistan has already been criticised for its decision of repatriation of Afghan refugees. In future, if Taliban government fails to bring stability in Afghanistan, Pakistan might be blamed for it.

Critical Analysis

On critically analyzing things, it becomes clear that Pakistan is doing the right. As Pakistan's economic stagnation and ongoing political instability does not allow it to afford over 3 million Afghan refugees. Particularly, when these refugees also indulge in anti-peace and anti-state activities, it becomes seem impossible for the state to feed them. However in response Pakistan must understand that it must enhance capacity building of its law enforcement agencies.

Concluding Remarks:

Both the state must understand importance of each other. Simply, if Allama Iqbal has called Afghanistan 'the heart of Asia', then Qasid-E-Azam has said Pakistan, a pivot of future politics. Hence, both states must value each other and foster cordial ties. Afghanistan must understand Pakistan's genuine concerns and should fight collaboratively against terrorism.

Q: No: 3

OIC - a Failed Organisation,

and Its Success Chances

while Haing Hamas-Israel war

and KSA-Iron Rapprochement

Introduction

OIC despite being one of the world's largest coalition organisations remained predominantly a failed organization. Neither so far it has succeeded to fulfill its true objective — the independence of Palestine — nor it has met its other objectives including economic cooperation among its member states, and solidarity among the Muslim states particularly. Primarily, if one looks into it one would find that the major reasons behind its failure include the ongoing internal clashes between its member states, its weak conflict resolution mechanisms, and the U.S. influence on its member states. However, in the contemporary scenario, the chances of its success are seemingly dominating.

Success Chances of OIC

No doubt, the ongoing ^{war} ~~war~~ between Hamas and Israel ~~war~~ and recently China backed JC SA - Iran rapprochement can make it a success story. First, we will look into the chances associated with Hamas - Israel war.

1- Hamas - Israel War and OIC Success

There are certain aspects of Hamas - Israel war that gives a chance to OIC become successful organisation.

Palestinian Independence and Global Pro-Palestinian Voice: A Good Chance

The real motive of OIC was to ~~concern~~ the Palestinian independence. For doing so there can be no best alternate time than today. Pro-Palestinian protests across the globe ranging from

France to Italy, and U.S.A. to U.K, have been a common phenomenon. Such support have ~~could~~ never been seen before it. Thereby, OIC can use this support in its true objective.

Peaceful Resolution of Palestine: An Urge of all Neighbouring States

OIC can also be successful through Hamas-Israel war as all major stakeholders in the Middle East want to end of this brutal and bloodshed war in Palestine. All are willing to support each other in this cause. Hence, OIC can use this support for its success.

Global Institutions and Israeli war Crimes, and OIC Success

Global institutions have also taken a keen interest in the war to overcome the tragedies

this tyrannical conflict. Particularly after the South African Resolution against Israeli war Crimes in ICJ (International Court of Justice), the issue has got a new direction.

Recent ruling by the ICJ against Israel also gives a flicker of hope for OIC to get its 1st and foremost objective fulfilled.

OIC Success Chances under Iran - KSA

Rapprochement

KSA-Iran rapprochement is a big opportunity for OIC to represent the Muslim world in true essence. Following are the factors or reasons that justify that KSA-Iran rapprochement is a great chance for the success of OIC.

KSA - Iran Rivalry: A Major Reason of OIC

Failure

It is no denying the fact

that OIC has faced a long standing stagnation and ineffectiveness in its functions due to these two major powers.

KSA - a Sunni state, ^{and} while Iran being a Shia-state have always been confronting each other. Hence, the recent rapprochement backed by China is a great chance for OIC success.

KSA - Iran Cordiality and Regional Conflicts,

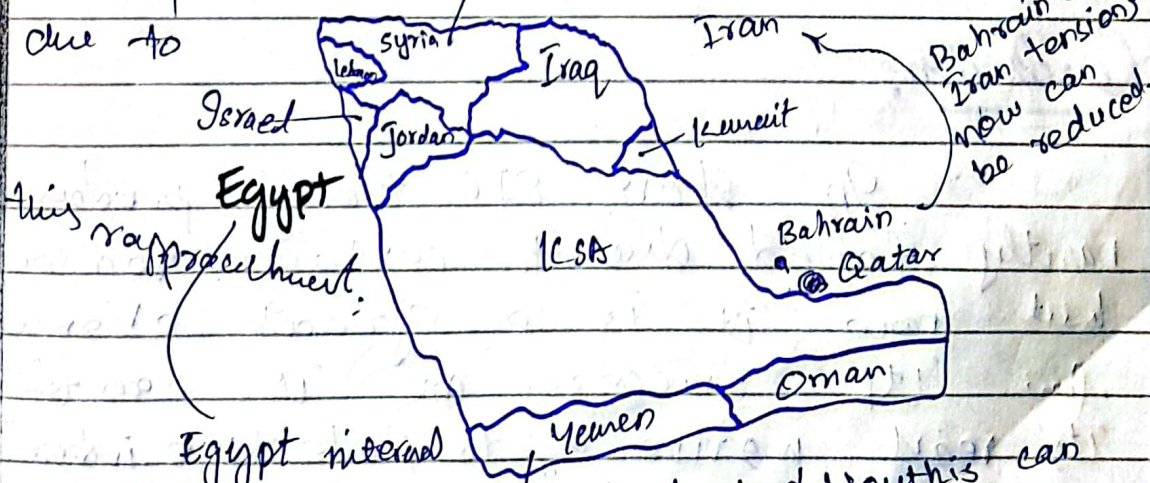
and OIC OIC can easily manage ongoing conflicts in the region through this reconciliation.

Iraq and Iran collaboration

is also possible due to

Syrian membership reconsideration in Arab League speaks a volume.

Bahrain and Iran tensions now can be reduced.



Egypt internal strife that was a consequence of

KSA-Iran rivalry can be solved.

Iran backed Houthis can be pacified through this rapprochement

Economic Cooperation among Muslim States: Easier for OIC while Iran-KSA Reconciliation

OIC has aimed at economic cooperation of Muslim states which is now possible. As KSA and Iran have promised to follow their old agreements including General Agreement for Cooperation, and Security Cooperation

Agreement under Joint Trilateral Agreement recently signed. Hence,

the collaboration of Vision 2030, Chah-bahar while integrating other states is easier for OIC

Conclusion:

In short, OIC though predominantly failed due to certain reasons but now it is a great chance for its success as it can fulfil its real motive of Palestine independence while having Hamas-Israel war and KSA-Iran rapprochement.

Q: no: 8

SIFC Expectation of Investment From China and the Middle East; and the Chance of Investment

Introduction

“The real motive is to uplift economic position of the country through seeking investors, and to provide a dominant position to the country in the comity of nations”

(Mission Statement of SIFC)

The Special Investment Facilitation Centre is a recently established organization by the government of Pakistan with the collaboration of COAS (Chief of Army Staff). The real aim of the organization clearly that it is mandated with ~~to~~ for getting more and more investments in the country. Particularly the Middle East and China are at its 1st and foremost targets.

However, the chances of investment are closely linked with the political stability and continuity of policy.

An Overview of SIFC:

SIFC is mainly focusing in following areas of investment

→ Corporate Sector

→ Energy sector

→ I.T sector

→ Minerals

→ Agriculture

These are the major areas where SIFC thinks of investments.

Factors on which the chance of Investment depends

Following factors would determine the chance of investment.

Political Instability: A Threat to the Chance

First of all, political instability must be ended because unless it prevails in Pakistan no investor will show willingness in investing in such land.

Resurging Terrorism: A Fear-Mongering Factor for Investment

Pakistan has seen a new resurgence of terrorism which is a direct threat to investment and business activity.

Ease of doing Business: A sine qua non for Investments

Pakistan must create ease of doing within its territory as unless it happens investments would be an elusive dream.

Rule of law and order: The Prerequisite for the chance of investment

Rule of law and ensuring social order is another factor which will determine the chance of investment.

Diversification of Opportunities for Investors

Pakistan must diversify

areas of investment so that more investment could be ~~seek~~ sought.

Friendly relations with neighbours.

It is inevitable to seek investments. This factor like others will have a great impact on the chance of success. investment.

Automation and digitalization: An Unavoidable

Aspect

It is another area where Pakistan must work as in this world without digitalisation investors think failure of business.

Conclusion

In short, the chance of success ^{and failure} of investment depends on the above mentioned factors. Thus, Pakistan must work on it.