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## Question 2

### Introduction :-

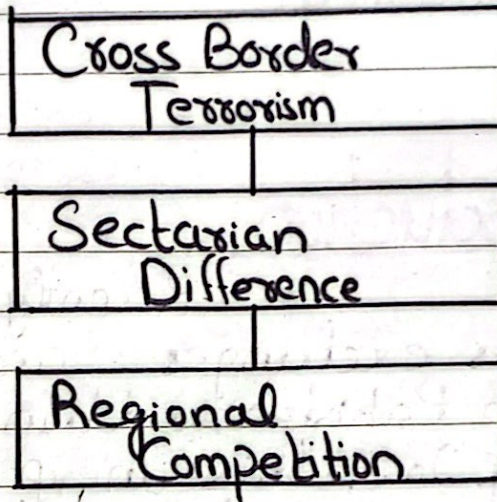
Recently, both countries exchanged air strikes between Pakistan and Iran on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024. It is an unexpected attack conducted from both sides. These attacks disrupt diplomatic communication between both countries. These are cross border terrorism and other reasons contribute.

### Rising tension between Pakistan and Iran :-

The recent airstrike of Iran violated the sovereignty of Pakistan and erupted relations. As a response, Pakistan cut off their <sup>diplomatic</sup> relations with Iran and expelled Iranian ambassador. On 17<sup>th</sup> January, Pakistan conducted air strikes in Iran in response to Iran.

Now, both countries make effort to normalize relations.

## Root Causes of the tension



i) Cross-border terrorism escalate tension between both countries :-

Both state faced cross border terrorism. Iran claim Jaish ul Adl hide in the balochistan. Recent attacks happened in the anniversary of Qasim Sulemani. Jaish-ul-Adl involved in these attack. Similarly, Pakistan claim Baloch liberation army (BLA) terrorist hide in the Iran near border. In the recent, attack Iran targeted Jaish-ul-Adl camps (Iran foreign office). Pakistan also claim they killed in the airstrikes are BLA terrorist (Pakistan foreign office).

ii) Sectarian differences creates hurdles between both countries :-

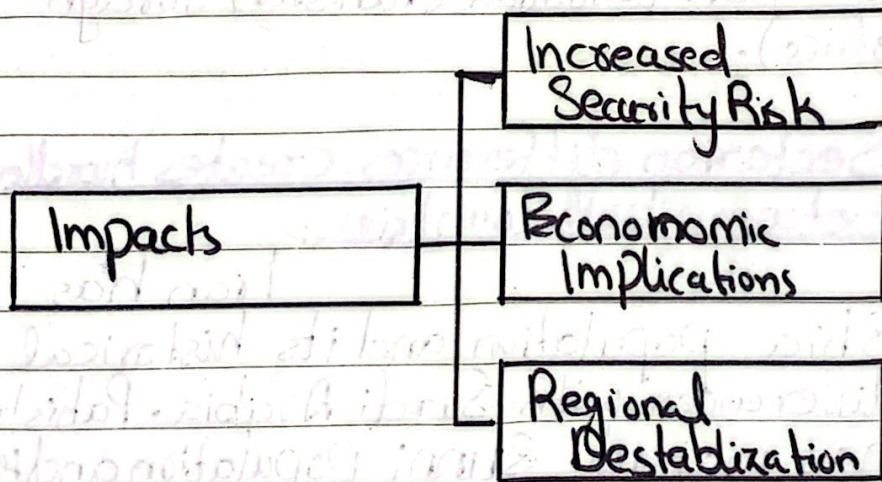
Iran has Shia population and its historical differences with Saudi Arabia. Pakistan has majority Sunni population and the vast percentage of Shias. Iranian proxies always supported in those Shias. Sectarian issues famous in majority of Muslim countries.

iii) Regional Competition is the concern

Both countries want influence in Afghanistan and Middle East. These

Create strategic Competition. Iran considered as a important player in Middle East. It supported Houthis, Hamas, and rebellion in Syria. Two days ago from Iranian strike on Pakistan, Indian Foreign Minister Jai Shankar visited India Iran. These things has not direct link but it create some little tensions.

## Recent Escalation and its impact :-



- i) Increased Security Risks:- The escalation between both side increased security risks. Some experts assumed both countries can be involved in war. Pakistan impose restriction on airlines to avoid to use Iranian airspace (Dawn News).

## ii) Economic Implications:-

This tensions disrupt trade between Pakistan and Iran. Both countries starts new economic activities in the border.

## iii) Regional Destabilization:-

An Iran-Pakistan conflict could destabilize the region. The Middle East already faced major conflict.

# Identifying the Beneficiaries

Extremist Groups	Arms Seller	Regional Rivals
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## i) Extremist Groups :-

Groups like Jaish-ul-Adl and Balochistan Liberation army wants tension between both states to expand their influence,

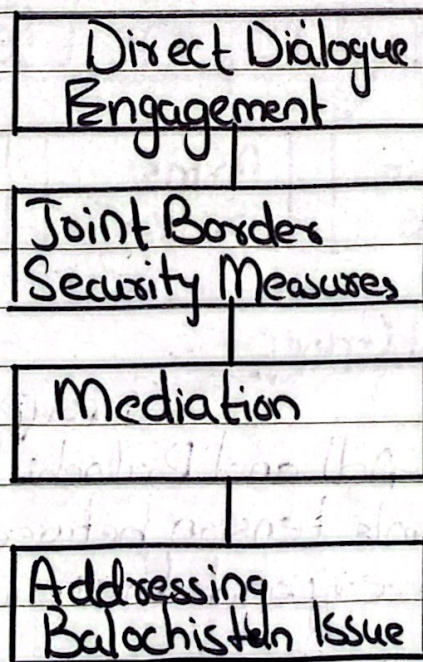
## ii) Arms Seller :-

Increased in tension that led conflict, the most beneficial to the situation is Arms sellers or Companies. It is a rich and effective business in the conflict.

### iii) Regional Rivals :-

Countries opposed to Iran's influence like Israel might see opportunity to weaken their rival through tensions.

## Pathways towards De-escalation and Normalization :-



### i) Direct Dialogue between both Countries :-

Re-establishing open communication channels through diplomatic channel is essential to resolve issue. At this time both countries involved in high level

diplomatic communication. On the 1st February, Iranian foreign minister visited Pakistan. Both countries resumes diplomatic activities. (Dawn News).

### ii) Joint Border Security Measures :-

Both countries foreign minister have aimed to collaborating on border security, patrolling, information sharing and intelligence cooperation. (Joint Statement).

### iii) Mediation of third party :-

Utilizing neutral third party like China and United Nation can be helpful in the deescalation.

### iv) Addressing Balochistan Issue :-

Focusing on the root causes of the Balochistan insurgency through political dialogue. It is a headache between both countries. Addressing grievances of the Balochi population is significant for long term stability.

## Conclusion :-

The recent escalation between both countries

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can be harmful for the region. Both countries should take steps to for deescalation. The roots of these tensions link with cross border terrorism and other factors. There are many beneficiaries of this tension. Now, both countries engaged with diplomatic activities to resume relations.



## Question 5

### Introduction:-

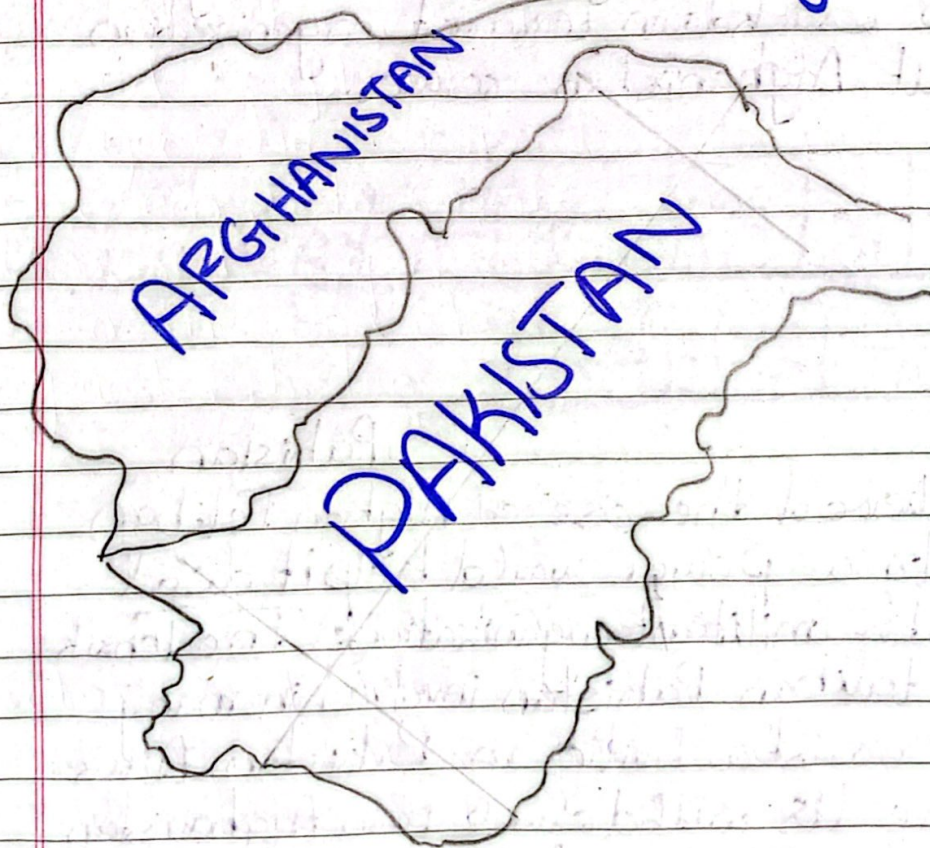
Pakistan and Afghanistan relations disrupted due to rise of TTP and ISKP. The Afghan Refugees crisis creates many concerns. Pakistan always demand to Afghanistan to crackdown terrorist organization but Afghanistan refuses.

### Historical Background of Relations :-

Pakistan believed the rise of Afghan Taliban into a power would help it deal with militant organizations. The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan involved in many terrorist activities in Pakistan. After the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Afghan Taliban take over Kabul on August, 2021. Pakistan's hope brightened after Taliban government to deal with TTP. On May 2022, Afghan government mediated between Pakistan and TTP. The temporary ceasefire has been signed but TTP

Continuing to attacking Pakistan. After US withdrawal, TTP strength because it has supported by Afghan government. In September 2023, Pakistan government expelled Afghan Refugees which led worst Relations.

## Unrevealing the tensions Between Pakistan & Afghanistan



Cross border Terrorism	Historical Baggage
Refugee Dilemma	Geopolitical Influence

### i) Cross border terrorism :-

The presence of militant group across border cause of tension in Pakistan. The TTP and Islamic State of Khorasan province (ISKAP) involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan. The TTP has been responsible for a surge attacks on security forces with 664 attacks in the first 11 months of 2023 (Dawn). TTP is currently operating from near border areas. ISKAP is the other militant group that operate from Afghanistan and involved in terrorist activities.

### ii) Historical Baggage Between Pakistan and Afghanistan :-

The historical baggage between both countries grappling the relations. Afghanistan has never accept durand line they consider Peshawar and other areas of KPK is the part of Afghanistan. It's the source of tension between both countries from 1947 to 1978 before the start of the decade long Afghan conflict. The militant organizations like Al Qaeda work from both side of border in past and weaken trust and relation.

### iii) Afghan Refugee Dilemma's Contribution

The Pakistan government has decided to expel non-registered refugees from October, 2023. The 3 million refugees live in the Pakistan. After decision, many families returned to Afghanistan. The Afghan government is unhappy from this decision. Pakistani government claimed these refugees are the burden on Pakistan. The forced expulsion of Afghan refugees has weakened relations between both countries. The terrorist organization motivates from this and start campaigning against Pakistan.

### iv) Geopolitical Influence is the bedrock for both countries:

USA, India, The non-state actors and ~~India~~ has significant role to in the region. The non state actors work under their in own interests. There are many non-state actors didn't want stabilize Pakistan and Afghanistan. They made efforts to create tension between both countries.

# Options for Pakistan to Navigate Complexities

Addressing Cross border terrorism

Finding Solution to Refugees Crisis

Respecting Sovereignty

Minimizing external Interference

## i) Addressing Cross border terrorism

Pakistan and Afghanistan both countries desired to settle cross border terrorism. Pakistan claim TTP and other militant groups hide under the umbrella of Afghan Taliban government. While Afghan government has other claims. Both countries upset from the cross border terrorism. Pakistan should negotiate with Afghan government to crack down these organizations. This issues can be solve through mutual collaboration and border management.

## ii) Finding Solution to Refugee Crisis

The Refugee's expulsion source of tension between both countries in a nowadays. Pakistan government should show some softness in the expulsion of refugee. Pakistan must negotiate with Afghan government and international community to peaceful expulsion. The Afghanistan already faced severe humanitarian crisis, these peoples over loaded into resources.

## iii) Both Countries must respecting Sovereignty to each other:-

In the democratic ideals, each nation must respect the other's territory integrity and refrain the interfering in internal affairs. This include avoiding accusation and actively cooperating to address security threats in their respective territories.

## iv) Minimizing External Interference

Both countries must resist external manipulation and prioritize finding solution direct engagement and regional cooperation.

## Conclusion:-

Pakistan and Afghanistan relations has worst in recent times. The Afghan Refugee exulsion, insurgency of TIP and ISKP are the major reason. Pakistan should revise its policy about Afghanistan.

## Question 4

### Introduction:-

On September, 2023, the leaders of USA, India, Saudi Arabia, UAE, France, Germany and European Union entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in order to develop a new India-Middle East-Europe <sup>Economic</sup> Corridor (IMEC). The IMEC is the competitor of the BRI. It has potentials, strategic factors.

## India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) vs Belt and Road Initiative

Both IMEC and BRI are ambitious infrastructure projects aiming to enhance connectivity and trade across the region. The BRI is the project of China and IMEC project of USA and its alliances.



# Potentials of IMBC

## Two Major Component

India	East Corridor Connects	Middle East And Gulf
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Middle East	Northern Corridor Connects	Europe
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### a) Faster Connectivity :-

IMBC is an extensive network which integrates a railway corridor, a hydrogen pipeline and high-density optical fibre cables. IMBC focuses on a shorter route between India and Europe that potentially facilitating quicker trade and reduced costs.

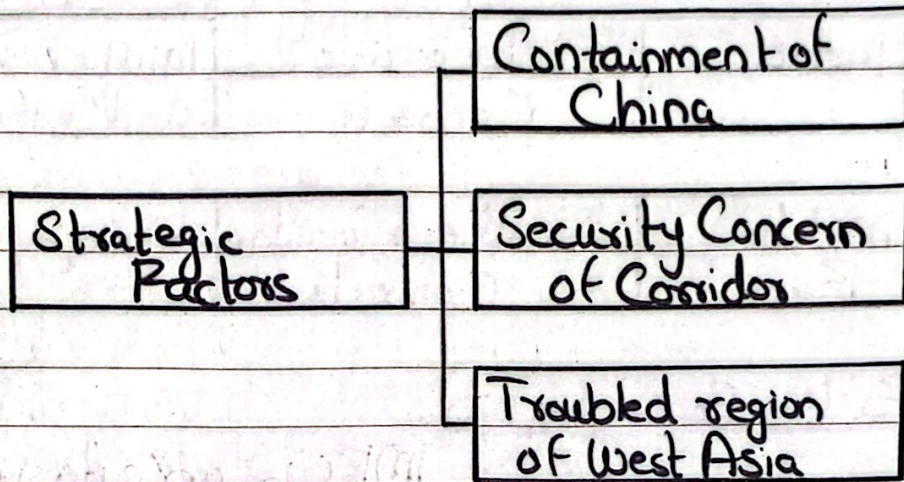
### b) Diversification :-

IMBC offers an alternative China-centric trade routes that promoting regional cooperation and potentially reducing dependence on specific powers.

### c) Focus on clean energy :-

IMBC offers an alternative clean energy development and integration.

# Strategic Factors of IMEC :-



## i) Containment of China :-

IMEC is often seen as a counter to China's growing influence in the region. The Iran-Saudi deal was a major victory for China. The Chinese influence increased in the region and it is harmful for USA and India. It is a considered opinion that IMEC will largely neutralize China's undue influence in the region.

## ii) Security Concerns for Corridor:-

The security of corridor will be the responsibility of the participating nations. The security of the maritime segment between India and the Gulf will devolve largely on the

USA and India. The presence of China in Arabian sea is the major security concern. Both countries will be prevent China-Pakistan in Gwadar. The hybrid activities can be use in Pakistan to countering Chinese influence.

### iii) Troubled region of the West Asia:-

IMEC passed in the troubled regions of West Asia such as Syria, Iran, Iraq and Turkey. These countries can create hurdle. USA and India desired corridor passed through Suez Canal that reduce transmit time India and Europe by 40 percent and transportation costs by 30 percent.

## Challenges for IMEC

### i) Debt Concerns:-

Some participating countries face debt burdens due to BRI projects and rising sustainability concerns.

### ii) Environmental Impact:-

Large-scale infrastructure development can have significant environmental consequences

## Indian Interests on IMEC

The IMEC holds promise of cementing India's energy security and serving as a market for Indian goods. India's interests were from the Gulf of Aden to the Malacca Straits. IMEC will expand India's sphere of influence. It will extend far beyond horn of Africa. India's influence extend into North Africa to Israel and eastern Mediterranean. After this, India will become a significant player in the Middle East geopolitics. While IMEC will boost trade between EU and India and now India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) reaching \$154.7 billion in the 2021-22. This is a 77% increment year on year after IMEC.

## Gulf and Saudi Interests

It is widely being recognized that availability of fossil fuel is finite and one day they will no more be available. In this milieu, the countries of Middle East have great opportunity to diversify from fossil fuel-based economies. IMEC provide them adequate scope for transforming from oil exporters

to becoming global hubs for tourism, investment and logistic.

## USA Interests of IMEC

IMEC is the first major project under US umbrella. It is also direct counter to China's BRI in the region. Inroads made by China through the BRI were starting to adversely affect US influence in the region. The IMEC serves to regain the Middle East/Gulf for the USA and reaffirm its global dominance.

## European Union's Interests

The ~~BRI~~ corridors ~~as~~ had the potential to offset the dependence of EU nations on Russia for their energy needs.

## Comparison of BRI & IMEC

IMEC has several advantages over BRI. First, BRI is designed to serve China's interest, while IMEC is for common benefit of all the region. Second, BRI aims at generating employment for Chinese companies while IMEC focuses on generating employment

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Third, IMZC is a multinational agreement and BRI is largely bilateral agreement.

## Conclusion :-

There is no doubt that the IMZC has tremendous geo-economic and geopolitical potential. There is everything to gain for participating countries. It appears there has been a lot of ground work required.

# Question 4

## Introduction:

The establishment of Loss and Damage fund at the Sharm-el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt has important role in addressing the devastating impacts of climate change. It specially beneficial for developing countries that bear the burnt of its consequences. This historic decision represents a critical step towards climate justice and acknowledging the pressing need for financial support to help these countries deal with and recover from losses and damaged brought on by climate change. Islamabad play crucial role in advocating for the establishment of loss and damage fund.

## Genesis of the Loss and Damages Fund

1) Concept of loss and damage has long been

The concept of loss and damage often referred to as has long been a contentious issue within international climate negotiation.

2) Developing Countries wants such mechanisms for climate change

Developing countries have consistently emphasized the need for a dedicated mechanism to address harms caused by climate change. Developed nation raised their concern about potential financial implication.

3) During COP27 Breakthrough agreement establish loss and damage Funds

COP27 witnessed a breakthrough agreement to establish a Loss and Damage Fund that acknowledging the moral and financial obligations of developed nations to assist developing countries in addressing climate-induced losses and damages.



Loss and  
Damage Fund

Identify Loss and  
Damage Even

Assess  
Severity

Determine Source of  
Funding

Notify Affected  
Communities or State

Provide Immediate  
Relief

Implement Long-  
term Solutions

Establish New  
Funding Mechanism

Monitor and Evaluate  
Progress

Promote Transparency  
and Accountability.

# Pakistan's Vulnerability to Climate Change

Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Pakistan is 8<sup>th</sup> most vulnerable country, according to Global Climate Index. Over 33 million people of Pakistan have been displaced due to recent flood. Pakistan face \$30 billion damage due to flood 2022.

# Pakistan's Instrumental Role in Championing Loss and Damage Funds

Pakistan has significant role in championing the establishment of a Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conferences particularly at COP27. As a chair of the Group of 77 and China, Pakistan consistently advocating for the recognition

**Role of Pakistan in loss and damage**

Pakistan attends summit

Participates in Negotiation

Advocates for Developing countries

Pushes for L&D Fund

Highlight climate injustices

Secure historic L&D Fund

Strengthen global Climate Action

Leading developing Countries Coalition

Promote climate Justice

Strengthen resilience to Climate Change

Foster Sustainable development

Protect world from Climate impact

# Potential Benefits for Pakistan: A Beacon of Hope

The establishment of loss and Damage fund hold immense potential for Pakistan offering a lifeline to address the devastating impacts of Climate change and foster a more resilient and equitable future.

## 1) Strengthen Resilience to Preparedness measures enhance ~~res~~ climate change

To strengthen resilience to climate change impacts, Pakistan can invest in various measures such as infrastructure, early warning system etc. For example, the country can focus on rehabilitation or construction of climate-resilient shelter sets. Pakistan's high vulnerability to climate change as evidenced by the unprecedented 2022 floods that affected 33 million people and led to significant loss of life and property.

## 2) Address Climate-Induced Displacement through Funds :-

The fund can support the relocation and resettlement of communities displaced by climate change impacts, ensuring the safety and well-being.

## 3) Support Climate Adaption through utilize the funds :-

Pakistan can utilize the funds to implement climate adaption strategies.

## 4) Promote Climate Justice through funds

The Loss and Damages Fund represents a step towards climate justice to acknowledging the disproportionate impacts on climate change on developing countries such as Pakistan.

## Conclusion :-

In a conclusion, the establishment of loss and damage Funds at the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Conference is a significant step towards addressing climate injustice and supporting countries like Pakistan are frontlines of climate crisis.