

## Question 6.

# PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBOURS

Pakistan's relations with its neighbours and superpowers in the region play a crucial role in determining the stability of the region. The Geopolitical dynamics in South-Asia are complex and interactions among neighboring countries and involvement of superpowers have far-reaching consequences.

## Regional Security Complex Theory

The importance of relations with neighbors is better explained by the Regional Security Complex Theory.

This theory is centered on the argument that security interdependence is usually patterned into regional-based clusters i.e., security complexes because most threats travel more easily over short distances than long ones.

RSC in South-Asia is shaped by Pakistan's relations with its neighbours and superpowers in the region taking into account its geostrategic location.

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Here's an elucidation of how these relations influence regional stability.

## IRAN - PAKISTAN RELATIONS

Iran - Pakistan relations has seen hostility over the recent month. The west border of Pakistan with Iran is demarcated by the Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan and the Pakistani province of Balochistan.

### Timeline of recent events

January 16

Iran launched missile strike into Pakistan's Balochistan province, claiming it had hit two strongholds of anti-Iran insurgent group Jaish Al Adl (Army of Justice).

Pakistan strongly condemned the unprovoked violation of its airspace by Iran, claiming two children had been killed.

January 18

Pakistan hit Iran with what it described as 'highly coordinated military strikes' in the Sistan-Baluchestan province of Iran.

Iranian officials claimed at least nine people were killed in the attack.

January 27  
Gunmen killed nine Pakistanis in  
the Sistan-Baluchestan province

## Normalising Relations

The two countries have since then  
engaged in normalising relations  
with the mediation of China

The ambassadors of both countries  
have been said to be returning  
to their postings.

## INDIA - PAKISTAN RELATIONS

India - Pakistan have had grim relations  
since the time of partition. This  
longstanding and contentious relationship  
between India and Pakistan is a  
key determinant of regional stability.

Water disputes and territorial  
conflicts and ideological differences  
have led to increased tensions and  
war.

With India's nationalism in major  
blocs like the G20, and BRICS,  
the risk of armed conflict must  
be reduced to positively impact  
regional stability

# AFGHANISTAN - PAKISTAN RELATIONS

Pakistan and Afghanistan are inextricably interconnected by virtue of territory, history, society and politics. The rise of the Afghan Taliban after the withdrawal of United States from Afghanistan have provided a safe haven for the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The Taliban regime is not willing to take action against TTP.

## Recent Events

December, 2023

A passenger bus traveling on the Korakoram Highway was hit by gunfire near the town of Chilas. At least 10 people were killed.

August, 2023

Militants assaulted a Chinese convoy near the vital southwestern port of Gwadar, Pakistan, while it was transporting a group of Chinese Nationals to a development project.

## CHINA - PAKISTAN RELATIONS

Pakistan and China share a close and strategic partnership, particularly through the China - Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This relationship contributes to economic development in Pakistan and enhances its geopolitical standing.

## IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL STABILITY

### Security Cooperation

Positive relations foster security cooperation, while tensions can lead to military buildups and conflicts, impacting the broader region.

Improved relations between India and Pakistan can reduce the risk of conflict, ease regional tensions, and contribute to economic cooperation.

On the contrary, heightened tensions or conflicts can destabilize the entire region, affecting security and economic development.

As well as, stability between Pakistan and Afghanistan are crucial for addressing common security challenges.

## Economic Integration

Cooperation in economic projects and trade enhances regional stability while economic disparities and trade disputes can contribute to instability.

The China - Pakistan alliance can contribute to regional stability by fostering economic development and providing an alternative power axis.

The relationship between Iran and Pakistan is influenced by factors such as energy cooperation, trade and regional security concerns.

## Counter terrorism cooperation

Iran - Pakistan forming an alliance to eliminate the mutual terrorist entities are vital for regional stability.

## World Economy

The escalation of Iran - Pakistan Relations can prove detrimental for world economy. As the Strait of Hormuz under Iran is an important trade route along with the Suez Canal.

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In conclusion, the stability of the South Asian Region is intricately tied to the diplomatic and strategic relations among neighboring countries and super powers and super powers. Positive relations and conflict resolution and cooperative efforts can contribute to a more stable and prosperous South Asia.

## Question 4

# PAKISTAN'S SECURITY CONCERNS

Over the last decade, Pakistan has faced several security challenges that have influenced its foreign policy considerations. Identifying these concerns and suggesting measures to revise its foreign policy involves a nuanced analysis of regional and global dynamics. Here are some key security concerns and potential measures for Pakistan to consider:

## Security Concerns of Last Decade

### Rise of Extremism and Terrorism

Pakistan has grappled with internal security threats from various militant groups. The Tehriki Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other extremist factions have posed significant challenges to the country's stability.

The US withdrawal and the consequent reduced Indian influence on the Taliban led Afghanistan have decreased the threat for Pakistan being sandwiched between



two antagonistic neighbors, India and Afghanistan. This does not rule out the fact that the hostile intelligence agencies are supporting the TTP and the Baloch insurgent groups.

## Balochistan Insurgency

Balochistan has witnessed a separatist insurgency with demands for greater autonomy. The conflict has involved both insurgent activities and government. Both the BLA and BLF have been responsible for incidents such as bombings, ambushes and attacks on military and government installations.

The recent hostility between Iran and Pakistan have been on the increased insurgency by Baloch Militants.

## India-Pakistan Tensions and Kashmir Issue

Ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, particularly regarding the Kashmir issue have led to periodic escalations.

The Uri attack in 2016 and the Pulwama attack in 2019 heightened tensions, resulting in military standoffs and increased border skirmishes.

## Counter Insurgency Operations in Tribal Areas

Pakistan conducted military operations such as Operation Zarb e Azb (2014) and Operation Radd ul Fasaad after the APS attacks to counter insurgency and eliminate militant strongholds in the tribal areas along the Afghan Border.

## Energy Infrastructure Security

Security concerns have been associated with critical infrastructure, especially energy related projects. Attacks on energy installations and pipelines have disrupted the country's energy supply and creating economic instability.

The past year has seen a number of attacks on Chinese officials to threaten the prosperity of CPEC projects.

## Internal Political Unrest

Periods of internal political unrest like the recent sit-in protest by the Baloch community presenting their grievances in Islamabad have presented security challenges.

The May 9 riots and the protests regarding the overthrow of previous government have led to internal rifts.

## WATER SCARCITY AND RESOURCE RELATED TENSIONS

Water scarcity exacerbated by climate change and mismanagement has led to tensions over water resources, particularly with neighbouring countries. Access to water is critical for agriculture and disputes over water can contribute to regional instability.

With India's PM Modi saying he intends to 'bring Indus water back to India'. And has initiated the formation of a task force to review the Indus Water Treaty. This cancellation of Treaty puts the peace of the region at risk.

India - Pakistan Tensions and  
Kashmir Issue

# MEASURES TO REVISIT FOREIGN POLICY

## 1. Diplomatic Engagement

Prioritize diplomatic engagement with neighboring countries, including India and Afghanistan to address long standing issues and foster regional stability.

Hopefully with inclusion in groups like BRICS, Pakistan can use the platform to engage in normalizing ties with India.

## 2. Counter terrorism Cooperation

With the recent rise in insurgency in the Balochistan province,

Iran-Pakistan can ease tensions by forming military alliances and conducting joint operations.

## 3. Balanced Approach to External Powers

Pursue a balanced foreign policy that maintains positive relations with traditional allies while diversifying partnerships to reduce dependency on a single source of support.

- dependency syndrome on china

Much like how India has maintained balanced relations with the United States and Russia.

#### 4. Water Diplomacy

Climate change and water scarcity is not only a single country's issue but the region's as well. Engaging in water diplomacy to address shared water resource challenges is crucial aspect, including collaborative agreements and sustainable water practices between India and Pakistan.

#### 5. Regional Integration

Actively participate in regional forums and initiatives to promote economic integration and address common challenges collectively.

Inclusion in BRICs is crucial.

#### 6. Human Security Approach

Adopt a holistic 'human security approach' that prioritizes the well being of individuals, addressing socio-economic

disparity and ensuring basic needs are met. Address the Baloch Grievances along with cooperation with Iran

## 7 Economic Diplomacy.

Shift from geostrategy to geoeconomy. Prioritize economic diplomacy to attract foreign investment, enhance trade ties and address economic challenges. Strengthening economic resilience is integral to national security.

Revisiting foreign policy requires a comprehensive and adaptable approach that addresses evolving security concerns while fostering cooperation and stability.

## Question 8.

### a) PAKISTAN'S ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGES

The looming danger of climate change persists, with world forums cooperating to curb the risks posed by the rapid change in climate.

Pakistan has faced the damage of climate change intensely, even though it contributes to less than 1% of greenhouse gases emissions.

Here are some of the challenges faced by Pakistan in terms of changing environment

#### 1. Floods

During the past year, the country was absolutely ravaged by floods with  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the country being under water.

The critical damage to infrastructure and loss of livelihoods amounted

to loss of more than \$30bn  
The country already riddled  
in debt and political  
instability sees itself in a  
dilemma

## 2 Risks to Agriculture Sector

The agriculture sector in Pakistan  
contributes to 18% of the  
GDP and a total of 40%  
of Pakistan's workforce is  
in the agriculture sector.

The increase in floods and draughts  
pose significant damage to  
the economy of Pakistan.

## 3. Water Scarcity

Pakistan is battling with water  
scarcity exacerbated by population  
explosion, inefficient water management  
practices and climate change.

The floods may have increased  
the water level but the



melting of glaciers pose a significant risk in the long term. Glaciers being the one of main sources water supply.

#### 4. Deforestation

Deforestation is a crucial environment challenge. It results from illegal timber industry, water logging and soil erosion, loss of biodiversity.

#### 5. Air Pollution

Urban Areas of Pakistan, especially major cities like Lahore and Karachi experience high levels of air pollution. Vehicular emissions, industrial activities, lack of rainfall and burning of crop residues contribute to poor air quality, leading to respiratory issues and other health issues.

## 6. Dependence on fossil fuels.

The country faces energy crisis and much of its energy needs are met by burning of fossil fuels and which contributes to air pollution.

Addressing these environmental challenges requires comprehensive and sustainable strategies, including improved water management practices, afforestation initiatives, sustainable agriculture practices, investments in renewable energy and effective waste management systems.

## b) Population Explosion; Impacts and Future Course

Population growth often referred to as a population explosion has profound impacts on a country's social, economic and environmental dynamics. Pakistan has experienced significant population growth over the years, presenting both challenges and opportunities. Pakistan has a population of 240 million

### Impacts

#### ① Resource Strain

Rapid population places strain on resources such as water, food, energy. The population growth rate is at 2% posing a significant challenge along with the looming danger of climate change.

#### ② Economic Challenges

The unemployment rate in Pakistan is at 8.5%. A large

and rapidly growing population can lead to further exacerbating the issue, putting pressure on the economy.

### 3 Urbanization Pressures

High population growth rates contribute to rapid urbanization from rural to urban areas.

Which contributes to pollution

### 4. Environmental Impact

Overpopulation can lead to increased demand for resources, deforestation and pollution. The environmental impact becomes more pronounced

### 5 Education and Healthcare Demands

A growing population requires increased investments in education and healthcare in education and health care.

## Future Course

### ① Family Planning

Implementing effective family planning programs and promoting education especially for women can contribute to slowing down population growth. Educated women often make informed family planning choices.

### ② Economic Development

Focusing on economic development initiatives can help create employment opportunities and improve living standards.

### ③ Awareness Campaigns

Launching awareness campaigns to educate the public about the benefits of family planning, responsible reproduction and the overall impact of population growth can play a vital role.

## 4 Women Empowerment

Empowering women through education and economic opportunities leads to correlate with lower fertility rates.

It's important to note that addressing population related challenges requires a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach involving government policies, community engagement and international collaboration.