

QUESTION # 02

ANSWER

1. INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan and Iran recently involved in a skirmish. Iran strikes on Pakistan's territory, claiming to target militant groups. In retaliation, Pakistan launched several air strikes in Iran targeting divergent militant organization operating in Iran. Growing tensions between both countries to protect their own sovereignty, prospects, regional stability and disputes. However, diplomatic engagement between both countries averted any major conflict between both countries. Ambassadors of both countries were thwarted from host countries. However, political engagement and diplomatic ties can help improve the relations between Pakistan and Iran.

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PAKISTAN-IRAN RELATIONS:

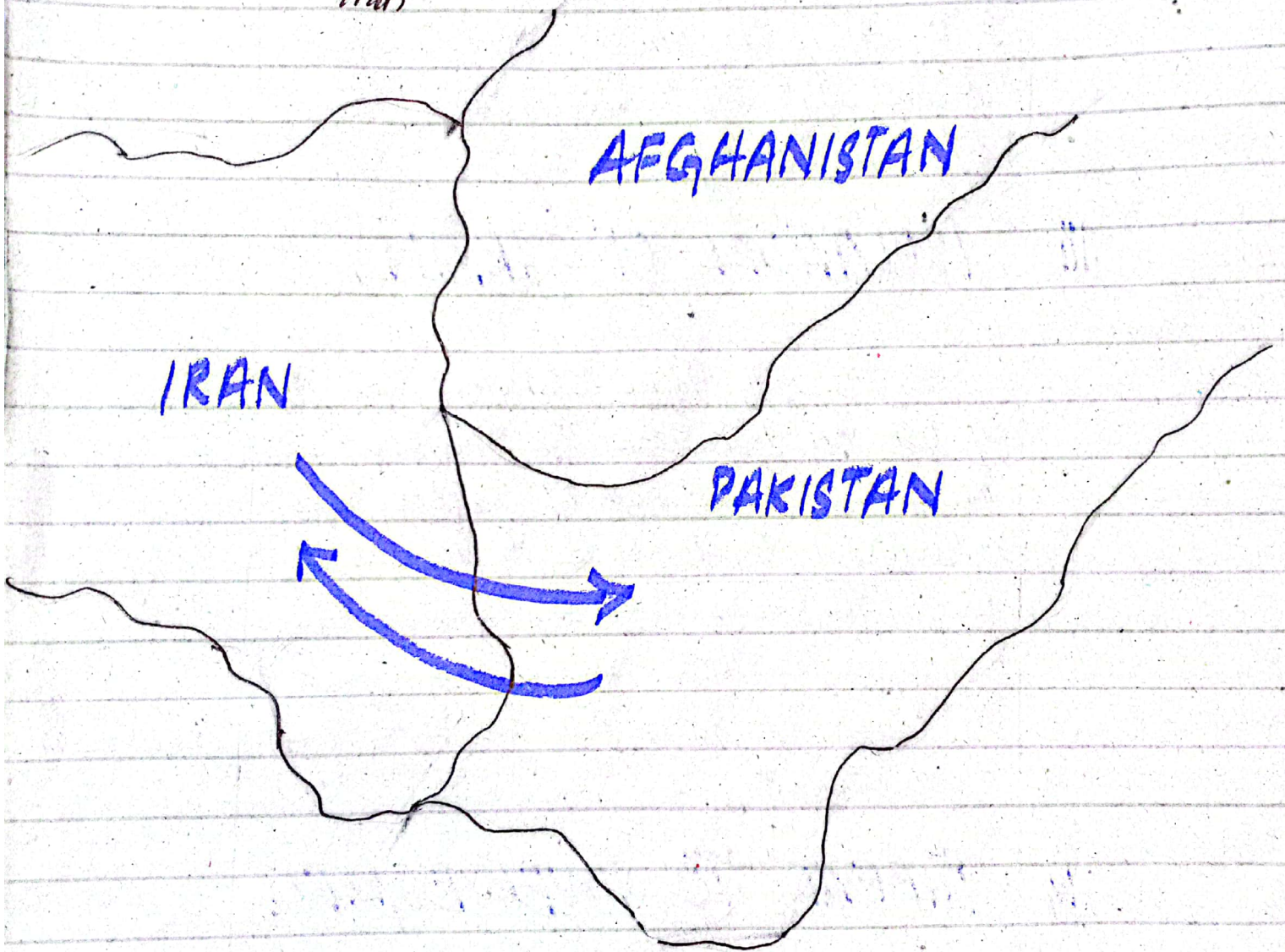
Pakistan and Iran held political and diplomatic ties since the birth of country. Both countries actively engaged in economy, politics, geostrategies and social development. However, after the sanctions of USA on Iran, Pakistan stepped back from its engagement with Iran. The long lasting deal of gas pipe-line is still hanging. Moreover, cross-border militancy between Pakistan and Iran tensed the relations of both countries.

REASONS OF TENSE RELATIONS:

(i) CROSS-BORDER MILITANCY:

Pakistan and Iran are neighbouring countries. Recent surge in cross-border terrorism pushed the relations of both countries to the wall. Pakistan claims that Iran give

safe haven to its divergent groups
i.e. BLA and BLF, meanwhile Iran
claims that Pakistan provides its
territory to ISKP group operating against
Iran.



∴ **DIAGRAMMATIC ILLUSTRATION OF
CROSS-BORDER MILITANCY:**

iii. TRUST DEFICIT:

Both countries are involved in pragmatism and skepticism against each other. The lack of trust build more resentment against the political and diplomatic actions taken by each country.

iii. ISOLATION OF IRAN:

After economic sanctions of USA on Iran due to nuclear issues and withdrawal of JCPOA, Iran provocatively try to show its regional power. Recent attacks of Iran on Pakistan, Iraq and Syria illustrate similar trajectory. It wants to demonstrate its engagement internationally.

iv. THREAT TO SOVERIEGNTY:

Militant attacks on both countries are constructed as threat to their national sovereignty. Thus, in order to protect national integrity, Pakistan and Iran involve in retribution.

BENEFICIARIES OF THIS TENSION:

i) RIVALS OF PAKISTAN:

India being the historical rival of Pakistan get benefit from these tensions. As India has been engaged in recurrent killings of Pakistani people its soil as claimed by foreign ministry of Pakistan. The linking of militant groups to India demonstrates the provocative actions of India against Pakistan. Dispute between Iran and Pakistan will thus favour India to reclaim its axioms against terrorism in Pakistan.

ii) ISRAELI GOVERNMENT:

This conflict have temporary diverged the attention from Israeli-Hamas conflict. Israel government may get benefit from these tense relations by the policy of Divide and Rule in middle-East and Asia. Due to increase focus on geostrategic events between Pakistan and Iran, Israel continue to wage genocide in Palestine.

(iii)

NON-STATE ACTORS:

Non-state actors of both countries will try to get away from harsh penalties of both governments. They will try to re-organize their groups with increase human power and resources.

WAYS TO DE-ESCALATE TENSIONS:

(i) DIPLOMATIC RECONCILIATION:

Both countries should reconcile their diplomacy and incooperate multi-trilateral diplomatic tracks for reducing tensions. After several days of diplomatic deadlock after air strikes, both countries reaffirm revival of diplomacy to de-escalate tensions and send their diplomats back to their embassies for normalisation of ties.

iii) STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP:

The geostrategic location of both countries is very suitable for future geopolitical arena. The engagement of Iran in Belt-road Initiative of China can be major event for success of CPEC project in Pakistan. Both countries should strategically correlate their policies for mutual benefit and thus erasing of tense relations.

iv) ECONOMIC COOPERATION:

The shift of geopolitical to geoeconomic arena, economic cooperation can prove to be icing on the cake. Ease of trade and investment along with benefits of BRI project can help both countries to ease tensions and work for economic growth.

v) RELIGIOUS TOURISM:

Iran holds a key link to Shia community of Pakistan

due to presence of holy places in its country. Facilitating religious tourism will help both countries to increase people-to-people engagement and social coordination between Pakistan and Iran.

CONCLUSION:

Pakistan and Iran hold many hopes for economic, social and political progress, if both countries get mutual benefits from their geo-strategic and geo-political position. Despite many hurdles to ease relations, political and economic engagement could be beneficial for both countries to avert their conflicts, disputes and tense relations.

Pakistan and Iran should build trust and cooperate for absolute gains in various arenas.



QUESTION # 03

ANSWER:

i) INTRODUCTION:

OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) was formed to enhance muslim brotherhood and joint platform for muslim countries to work for their interests. But unfortunately, OIC has not translated its objective upto the mark. The worst condition of muslims around the globe, religious discrimination, Islamophobia and threat to their lives are among recent calamities of muslims. OIC has failed to address these problems due to internal rifts, lack of resolution mechanism and intimidation of USA on members. However, recent events of KSA-Iran rapprochement and Israel-Hamas war can provide an opportunity for OIC to burnish its credentials.

(ii) FAILURE OF OIC:

a. INTERNAL RIFTS:

Members of OIC have historically been involved in internal rifts. Saudi Arabia and Iran were involved in long-lasting rivalry, due to which functioning of OIC was interrupted.

(b) LACK OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION MECHANISM:

OIC do not have any accountable or enforcing mechanism for conflict resolution. Due to this gap, internal cohesion of organization is deeply affected and members remain silent on regional conflicts.

(c) INFLUENCE OF US ON MEMBERS:

Due to US-led world order, many members have alliances and key partnerships with USA. This excessive influence intimidates members to abstain from taking bold decisions. Saudi and USA, Pakistan and USA have been a major key allies.

in International politics, which severely affected the organization.

iii. ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR AND KSA-IRAN RAPPROCHEMENT AS AN OPPORTUNITY:

(a) SENTIMENTS FOR PALESTINIANS:

Muslim countries have emotional sentiments for their Muslim brothers in Palestine. Recent attacks of genocide on Palestinian people by Israeli government can evoke emotions of Muslim state members. This could prove an opportunity for members of OIC to take immediate actions against apartheid.

(b) OPPORTUNITY FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS:

Recent rapprochement between KSA and Iran provides opportunity for OIC to avert intra-organizational conflicts and regional disputes. Every member can stand against the injustice on Muslims and work collectively for strengthening the organization.

(c) ARBITRARY INVOLVEMENT OF CHINA:

The neutral foreign policy of china and policy of non-intervention proves beneficial for muslim countries. Recent rapprochement of KSA-Iran through mediation of China could help the OIC to involve China for political, economic and diplomatic engagement.

(d) DECLINING HEGEMONY OF USA:

USA has been a key player in middle-East. But recently shift of power from USA to China in the region shows declining US hegemony around the globe. This loosening US power could be an opportunity for OIC to initiate autonomous and bold decisions without any influence and intimidation.

(e) EXPLOITING THE POWER OF ENERGY RESOURCES:

Muslim members of OIC are major exporter of oil, gas and petrol. KSA and Iran holds major

share of energy resources in the region.
Both countries can bridge their gaps
to utilize ~~their~~ their energy resources
for their collective gains and progress
of OIC.

(f) LEVERAGING EVOLVING PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST ISRAEL:

The ~~evolving~~ change in
public perception regarding the atrocities
of Israel can be leveraged by
Muslim members of OIC for their
favour. Many demonstrations against
the grotesque and bizarre attacks
of Israel have been initiated in USA,
UK, Australia, New Zealand and other
countries of the world.

(g) INVOLVEMENT OF UNITED NATIONS:

Recently, United Nations
adopted resolution to officially recognize
"Islamophobia" as emerging threat.
Recent attack of Israel on Palestine
can be a great opportunity for OIC

to actively involve united nations for possible ceasefire and two-state solution. International court of Justice has recently ordered Israel to stop acts of genocide and punish and persecute people who are involved in genocidal actions. These historical verdicts can be day of light for muslims around the world and an opportunity for OIC to initiate policies in right direction.

ISRAEL-HAMAS
WAR

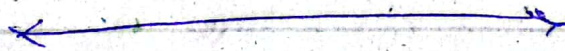
KSA-IRAN
RAPPROCHEMENT

OPPORTUNITY FOR OIC

- Rising Sentiments for Palestinians
- Opportunity for collective efforts
- Arbitrary Involvement of China
- Declining hegemony of USA
- Exploring the power of energy resources.
- Leveraging evolving public opinion against Israel.
- Involvement of United Nations.

CONCLUSION:

Thus, there many internal and external problems related to the normal functioning of OIC. However, recent reconciliation between KSA and Iran provide an opportunity for the collective efforts, consensual operation and collaborative policies on major fronts of OIC. In addition to this, Israel-Hamas war proves to be pushing factor for members to strongly stand against the genocide of Israel. Moreover, the geopolitical shift in the middle-east also proves a great opportunity for the OIC to leverage the hold of muslim members on the international politics.



QUESTION # 04

ANSWER:

i. INTRODUCTION:

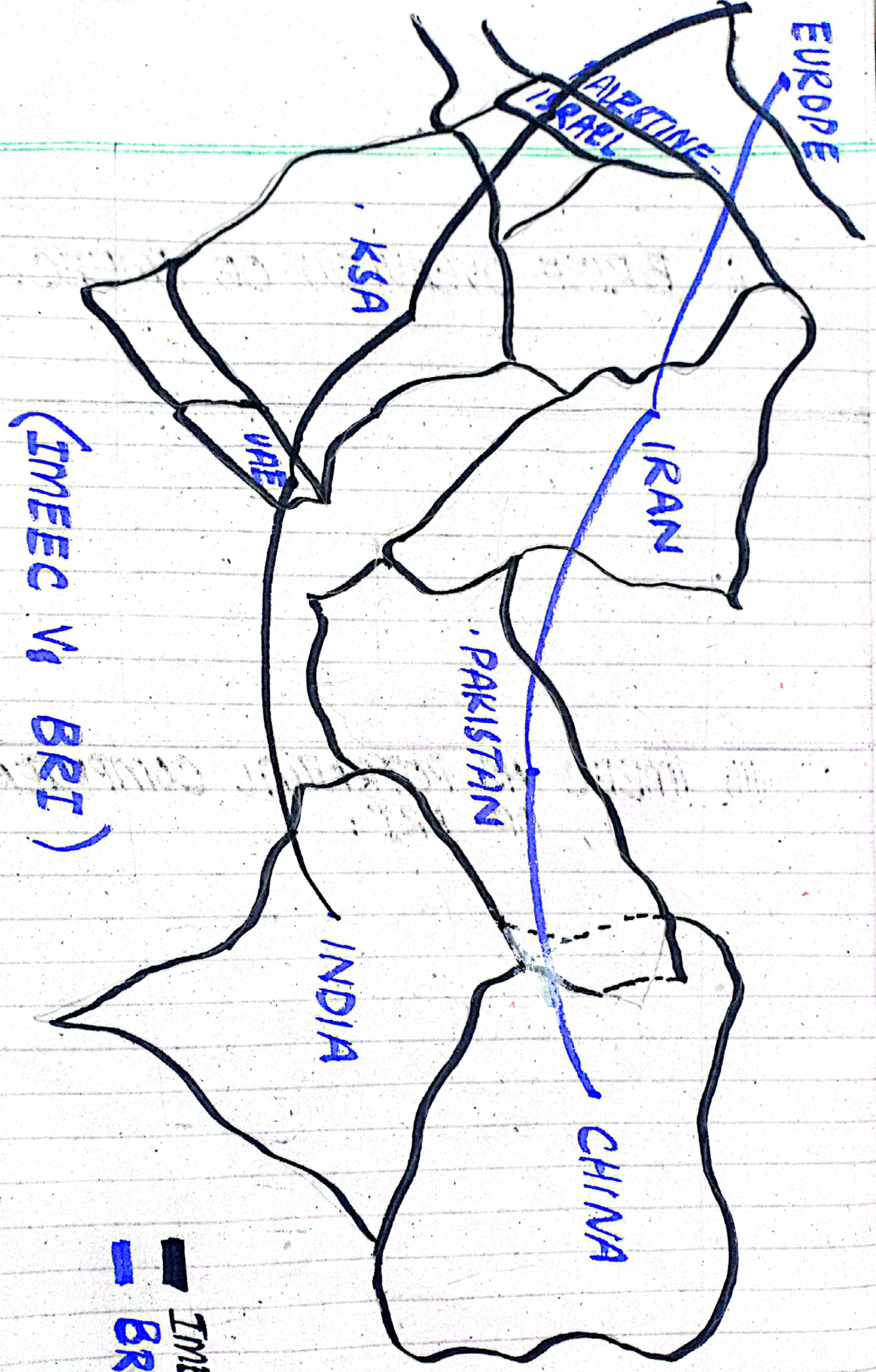
India-Middle East & Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) is considered as a competitor of Belt Road Initiative by China. The rise of China in geoeconomic and geopolitical arena threatens US-led world order. This declining hegemony of US in geopolitics pushes the country to actively counter Chinese policies and contain China in Indo-Pacific region. IMEEC is a key aspect of this policy, which competes BRI by incorporating middle-Eastern and European countries along with India. It holds many future prospects and potentials for the west to progress and cooperate with countries at political, economic and at social fronts.

(i) BRIEF OVERVIEW OF IMEEC:

IMEEC (India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor) connect India, UAE, Israel, Greece, Saudi Arabia and other European countries. It was announced in G20 summit in 2023. The proponents of the project claim to enhance their economic, political and social cooperation through this project.

(ii) IMEEC AS POTENTIAL COMPETER OF BRI:

IMEEC is considered as potential competitor of BRI as it is advocated by the western countries along with India to counter China's led project BRI. The project provide routes for trade and economic cooperation for middle-eastern and European countries. Major continents will be linked through trade routes compared to BRI project which covers almost 50 countries.



(IMEEC vs BRI)

— IMEEC
— BRI

(iv) POTENTIALS OF IMEEC:

(i) ECONOMIC COOPERATION:

The project holds a great potential for economic cooperation between around 20 countries officially incorporated in the corridor. IMEEC prospects for facilitation of trade and Investment. The ease of trade across the continents will enhance economic cooperation between Asia, Europe and Middle-East.

(ii) INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:

IMEEC holds many projects of infrastructure development along its routes. Railroads and seaports for maritime and land connection between member countries is a huge potential for infrastructure development in respective countries.

III. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT;

The project advocates for improve trade routes and investment ease across the countries. This multilateralism will bring peace and social prosperity. Job creation, economic improvement of local people through this project is key potential for social development of member states.

IV. POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT;

IMEEC provide a key platform to resolve conflicts among the states. Internal rifts among the members can be averted through joint venture of this project. Recently, USA announced that it was very close to mend ties between Saudi-Arabia and Iran. This illustrates that through trade and development by IMEEC, political and diplomatic engagement can be re-installed among rivals.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF

IMEEC:

(i) CONTAINMENT OF CHINA:

IMEEC can be seen as a fundamental project of B3W initiated by the club. It will be a major player to contain China and offer optional routes for trade to the countries. National Security Strategy of Joe Biden holds the rise of China as threat to USA-led world order and thus announced Indo-Pacific Strategy. This initiative is key impact of containing China in economic and strategic front.

(ii) STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP:

Inclusion of various countries in IMEEC provides a strategic platform to maintain regional stability and multi-lateral cooperation. The increase in strategic partnership of USA and India is seen as major driver against the China's rise. Thus, IMEEC improves

the position of India to enhance its regional power against the Chinese influence.

III ENERGY SECURITY:

Recent conflicts in warm water and sea-routes threatens energy security in future. Most of energy exports is done through choke points, which are vulnerable to blockage. These land routes will provide alternate pathway for energy exports. After the attacks of Houthis in Red Sea due to Israeli genocide, 80% of trade route through Bab-al-Mandab is pushed to opt for long alternate routes.

IV ECONOMIC HUB:

IMEEC can become an economic hub for member states in near future. It can facilitate members state by reducing tariffs, and taxes for trade and investment in the region. This will shift the economy of many member states to increase at unprecedented level.

(vi)

CONCLUSION:

The IMEEC has a great potential to become a boon for the member states to increase their economy, strategic and regional power. Moreover, this project can become a leverage for USA to improve its position at international platforms and maintain its hegemony over the world. In addition to this, it can also become a major player against the economic rise of China in the region. Thus, IMEEC has lot of potential and future prospects if implemented in right direction.



QUESTION # 05

ANSWER:

ii INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan and Afghanistan are neighbouring countries and both are involved in disputes and conflicts over long time. The conflict between both countries have destabilized the region and power dynamics. After the Afghan Taliban came into power in Afghanistan, terrorist attacks in Pakistan have risen. Pakistan claim that Afghan Taliban support militant groups and announced repatriation of Afghan refugees to pressure Afghan government. These skirmishes became threat to sovereignty of both countries and severe humanitarian crisis. However, diplomatic and political ties can mend these conflicts.

(ii) COLD WAR BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN:

(a) TTP AND ISKP ATTACKS:

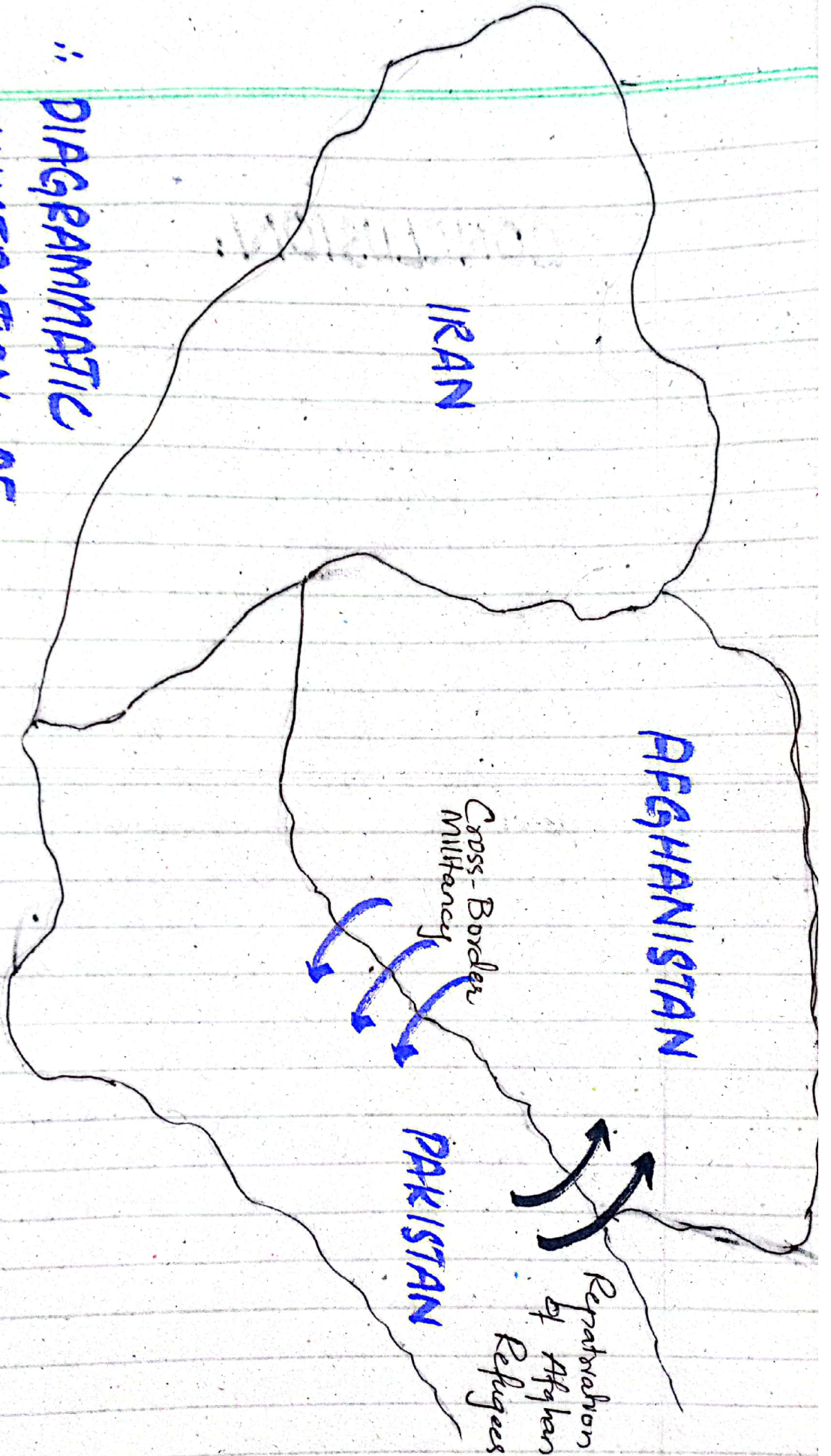
After the rise of Afghan Taliban in Government, Pakistan faced a surge in terrorist attacks by TTP and ISKP attacks (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Islamic State of Khorastan).

The leader of TTP is in "direct allegiance of Afghan leader and thus Pakistan accuses Afghan Taliban to provide sanctuaries to TTP group.

(b) REPATRIATION OF AFGHAN REFUGEES

Despite several diplomatic pressure from Pakistan government to take serious action against the militant groups operating from Afghan's land, Afghan Taliban continue to negate the accusation. In 2023, Pakistani Government announced to repatriate around 1.7 million undocumented refugees by 1 november.

∴ **DIAGRAMMATIC
ILLUSTRATION OF
TENSE PAK- AFGHAN
RELATIONS**



CAUSES OF TENSE

RELATIONS IN RECENT TIMES:

(A) REVIVAL OF MILITANCY:

Pakistan faces revival of militancy and terrorism after a short ceasefire in 2022. The attacks after the ceasefire ended have been at unprecedented level. According to the reports the attacks have been increased by 67% from the corresponding during in 2022 (PICSS), with increase mortality rates and most of them are afghan nationalists.

(B) BORDER DISPUTES:

The border dispute between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been going on since its inception. Recent development of infrastructure project at the border have been claimed by Pakistan as "unlawful structures" on Pakistan's territory.

(c) SANCTUARIES OF TTP IN AFGHANISTAN

Pakistan accuses Afghanistan to provide economic, political and ideological support to TTP. Recent report of United Nations has demonstrated that Afghanistan has been involved in providing militant resources and financial support to the terrorist groups of TTP and ISKP.

(iv) IMPACTS OF TENSE RELATIONS;

(a) HUMANITARIAN CRISIS;

Deportation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan has been considered as "largest man migration", threatening human rights and social support. Many Human rights groups and United Nations have condemned this blatant act and called it as inhumane and illegal to international conventions and resolutions.

(b) ECONOMIC CRISIS:

Due to terrorism in the country and lack of security, investors ^{are} dissuaded from investing in trade or development projects in both countries. Militant groups have exclusively targeted development projects and Chinese citizens working on CPEC, which clearly threatens economic situation of the country.

(c) REGIONAL INSTABILITY:

Pakistan and Afghanistan have been involved in War on Terror and faced huge wrecks of terror since decades. Continuation of tense relation will destabilize the regional security and stability. Afghanistan provocatively counter Pakistan's influence in the region and struggle to recognize its political power in the world.

(d) POLITICAL INSTABILITY:

Pakistan is paving its path to elections on 8 Feb and this democratic transition of government requires stable and peaceful environment. Continuous conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan will benefit TTP to initiate increase attacks on political leaders and destabilize the country. Recently Rehman Zeb Khan, contender for 2024 elections was killed in ~~target~~ target attack by ISKP group.

(v) WAY-FORWARD TO EASE RELATIONS

(a) DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS:

Both countries should mend its diplomatic ties and actively negotiate on key disputes for absolute gains. The diplomatic cooperation for peaceful future could harbour in economic and strategic gains for both countries.

(B) KINETIC MEASURES AGAINST MILITANTS:

Both countries should initiate active measures against terror groups. As Afghanistan has already promised the world in Doha Accords to not let its land used for militant operations. It is a great opportunity for Afghan as well as Pakistan to prove its standing against terrorism.

(C) ARBITRATION THROUGH CHINA

China has recently announced ambassador to Afghanistan and this diplomatic engagement can leverage the ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan. China has recently mediated between KSA and Iran and its involvement in geopolitics open ways for Pakistan and Afghanistan to revive their relations and gain economic gains of China through BRI.

CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, It can be concluded that despite historical rivalry between Pakistan and Afghanistan on border issues, recent blows to diplomatic and political engagement due to militancy have alarmed international systems. Regional and strategic security is threatened. However, consensus on key issues through ~~the~~ track-II diplomacy and mediation through China can reinstall good relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

