

CS#2

Ans

1 Introduction

At this time when Muslim Ummah is drawing nearer closer due to Chinese-led rapprochement between Saudi and Iran, a new conflict has deteriorating the peace in South Asia. On 18th January 2024 Iran attacked Pakistani province of Baluchistan under the guise of targeting militant groups. The move was reciprocated within 48 hours by Pakistan. This tension is caused by many factors such as resurgence in terrorism and globally-instigated proxies in Iran and Pakistan. The major beneficiaries of this conflict are enemy of Pakistan such as Israel and India. However, as **Nelson Mandela** stated that all conflicts, no matter how intractable are capable of peaceful resolution. Hence, collective efforts by Iran and Pakistan to target common enemies can be helpful.

2. Reflection of Recent Air strikes Exchange between Iran and Pakistan:

According to Iran, it targeted Jaish-al-Adl - a militant group bombing Isran ~~from~~ by operating through Pakistani soil. On the other hand, Pakistan point of view affirmed that Iran has violated sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country by

unilaterally actions. This shows that the intensity of tension is caused by one-sided attack by Iran.

3. Reasons behind Attack

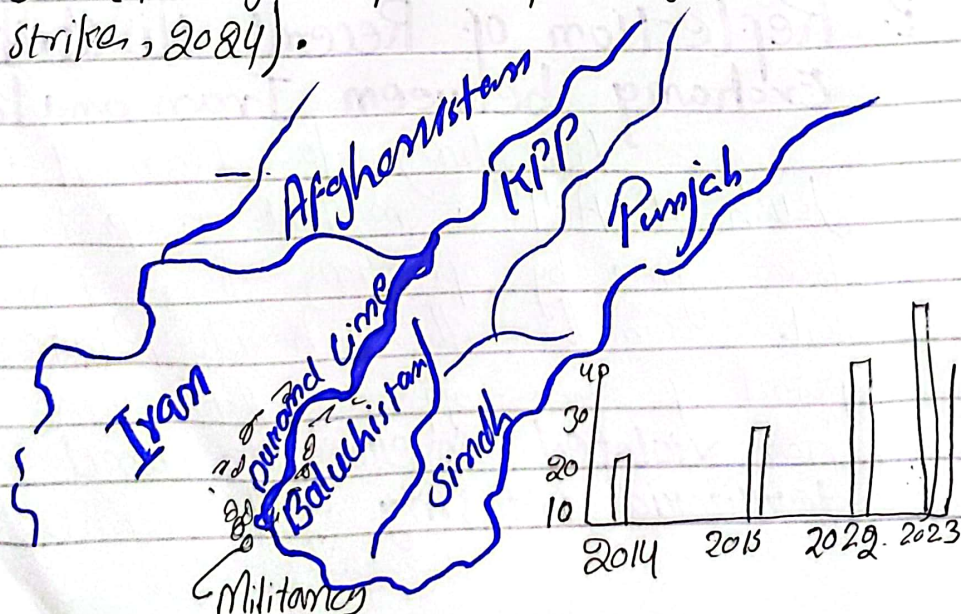
a. Surge in Terrorism

Among many reasons rise in terrorism is one of the issue that has escalated tension between Iran and Pakistan.

According to the Khorasan diary, TTP alone has 12 administration in Pakistan with new groups joining it from Balochistan.

b. Growing border Skirmishes

Another factor is growing border skirmishes. Since 2014 Iranian guard and FC forces have been engaging in multiple cross-border clashes. In 2023 Pakistan claimed to have lost 4 soldiers to an attack by militants who used Iranian soil (Paradigmshift, Deciphering Iran strikes, 2024).



c. Proxy Warfare

Besides, Iran and Pakistan are victims of regional and global politics due to poor intelligence system. As a result, the recent conflict has taken place despite the fact that the two neighbours are facing similar challenges of economic meltdown with Iran engulfed in sanction and Pakistan on the verge of economic default.

b. Separatist Movements in Baluchistan

Lastly, an increase in tension between Pakistani government and Baluchistan is another reason. Human rights violation of Baluch people has compelled them to align with RAW and other extremist groups which has fanned terrorist activities and separatist movement. As a result, it is deteriorating Pakistan's ties with Iran.

4. Major Beneficiaries of This Tension

a. On Regional-Level: India

To begin with, among major beneficiaries of this conflict, India is the first to analyze. Indian forces have always been active in instigating instability in Pakistan. Kalbushen Yadviv is case in point. This conflict will benefit

India by bringing it closer to Iran
b. Israel

Another beneficiary is Israel. The ongoing Hamas-Israel war and involvement of Houthis in the war is destabilizing Israel. With conflict between Iran and Pakistan, attention of the world will be diverted and Israel could seize the Gaza strip. Moreover, it is common enemy of both Iran and Pakistan.

c. On Global-level America

On global fora US will be the main beneficiary. America is core enemy of Iran - it is openly retaliating Houthis in Red sea who are backed by Iran. With conflict in Iran US could attack on the vulnerabilities of Yemen. Hence, America is one of the major beneficiaries of the recent clashes between Iran and Pakistan.

d. Militant Groups: TTP, ISK

Lastly, terror groups are the major beneficiaries of this conflict. Despite the fact that rising insurgency is a biggest challenge and reason of this issue, they are not being tackled due to bilateral exchange of hostilities between Iran and Pakistan.

5. Measures to Improve Relations

a. Addressing Common Enemy Collectively

Beginning with the remedial measure to this conflict, it would be in the favour of regional peace to address common enemy together - by both Iran and Pakistan. Instead of acting unilaterally to target militants both should form collective measures to eradicate terrorism and extremism which are posing threat to the sovereignty of both countries.

b. Efficient Utilization of RATS under SCO

Moreover, to de-escalate tension it is crucial to use regional platforms such as Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Both Iran and Pakistan are member of SCO, they can increase the use of Regional Anti-Terrorism system under SCO to tackle with ~~extremism~~ the three evils of terrorism, extremism and separatism. This will help to return to the normalcy.

c. Increasing Bilateral Relations through Trade and Investment

Another way forward is increasing bilateral ties. Iran and Pakistan share a border. This can be used as an opportunity to bolster ties by increasing trade across the border. Iran and Pakistan are currently engaged in **Barter-trade (IPRI journal, 2023)**. This needs to be fostered to ensure regional peace and prosperity.

d. Strengthening Surveillance System

Moreover, the root cause of recent airstrikes is evil of insurgency in both states. To address this problem both need to strengthen their intelligence network. In this scenario, capacity building of intelligence officer and joint training with the help of China can be helpful.

e. Addressing Baloch's issues

Lastly, for Pakistani government it is pertinent to address quest of Balochi people. In Baluchistan **extra-judicial killings and force-disappearance** are fuelling the separatist movements which needs to be resolve via dialogue.

6. Conclusion:

To sum it up it is fair to say that both Iran and Pakistan are facing multiple challenges. One of the common challenge to both countries is rise in terror activities and attacks through bombs etc. This ~~has~~ has resulted in the recent airstrike exchange between both neighbours. Therefore, it would be crucial to address this common issue collectively to bare on regional proxies and advantages of potential enemies of both Iran and Pakistan.

Q#6

1. Introduction

In present time when the world is facing severe transition from global warming to global boiling, the international community has successfully agreed to provide assistance to the countries who are vulnerable to climate crisis impacts. In this regard, formalization of loss and damage fund under Cop-27 last year is ray of hope for developing countries. Similarly, Pakistan is a country committed to the effort taken by countries for addressing climate impacts. As a member of Paris Agreement, Pakistan is eligible for getting financial assistance to tackle climate issue.

2. Concept of Loss and Damage Fund

Loss and damage fund refers to the collection of funds from largest emitters of greenhouse gas to the environment causing global warming. Under this fund major countries like US, Russia, EU countries, UAE and Saudi Arabia have made commitment to financially contribute to undo the damage caused by climatic catastrophes.

⇒ COP-27 Egypt 2022

Formalized Loss
and Damage Fund

⇒ Pledges of Mobilizing Fund

UAE \$100 Mill.

EU \$100 Mill.

US \$17 Mill.

3. Materialization of Loss and Damage Fund - COP-28

In the recent conference of parties held in UAE, loss and damage fund was materialized. In this regard its secretariate was also established with in such as UNDRR and UNOPS with strong assessment by GST framework.

a. The UAE Consensus

This consensus was agreed upon by nearly 150 countries and 97000 delegates in the result of COP-28.

4. Opportunities of its Materialization

a. A call for Climatic Justice.

The practical materialization of loss and damage fund offers numerous opportunities. It is a significant call for climate justice. This can be ascertained from vulnerability vs contribution by Pakistan. "It is the 8th most vulnerable country (UNFCCC)" whereas it contributes only 0.29% of GHG's. Hence, the fund is a silver lining for developing countries.

b. A Milestone to Address Climate change

The UN secretary, Antonio Guterres said the mobilizing funds and ~~paying~~ paying for the price of rapid industrialization is a milestone in human history of climate change. This shows that the fund is crucial and will help poor countries to address this threat.

c. Helpful in Mitigating impacts of global heating

Loss and damage fund is providing opportunity to middle income countries like Afghanistan and Syria where risks of earthquakes are frequent. It can help Syria from ~~beet~~ recovering from the recent earthquake in 2023.

c. Chances of Green Energy project in Third world

The fund provides opportunity of initiating green development. Keeping in mind the fact that oil rich countries such as UAE and Saudi are investing billions of ~~trillion~~ dollars on Green energy, it was extremely difficult for states who hardly invest a penny on solar panels and other renewables. Hence, the fund is a chance investment.

d. Rehabilitating of Post-disaster

Moreover, it is reported that Pakistan — only, needs more than 30 billion dollars for rehabilitation from 2022 floods. However, the economy is already struggling. In this state of affairs, loss and damage fund offers an opportunity to invest on post-disaster mechanism in the country.

5. Advantages for Pakistan

Being an active participant in globally-led efforts to tackle climate change, Pakistan under Article-6 of Paris Agreement can have benefit of climate financing.

a. Debt Swamp Provision

Pakistan has been granted "debt-for-climate". It entails all or part of country's multilateral or bilateral debt forgiveness. In return these funds will be used for recovery - (US Institution of peace).

b. Efficient Climate Adaption Implementation

Moreover, will financial assistance under Geneva Conference ~~can~~ is another advantage that Pakistan has gained. This is provided to the country to implement efficient climate adaption mechanism. Hence, Pakistan got nearly \$10 billion dollars.

c. Injection of Much-needed Foreign Currency

From Cop led loss and damage fund Pakistan is beneficiary due to an ongoing balance of payment crisis. Reportedly, in last year only three weeks worth import dollars were left. In this scenario, loss and damage fund offered an avenue of injecting much-needed foreign currency in the country's foreign reserves.

d. Smoother implementation of Electrical Vehicle Policy

Besides, Pakistan is undergoing many policy-implementation to shift country's dependency on fossil fuels. To address climate change, it introduced EVP 2023 by interim government. This fund will be helpful to mainstreaming electrical transportation in the country.

e. Operationalization of Ravi-Urban Development project

Lastly, operationalization of another climate-related ambition from the money which will come via loss and damage fund will be beneficial for the country. This shows that many of the projects can be materialized which will benefit Pakistan in a long run.

6. Conclusion

To encapsulate it, would be pertinent to state that loss and damage fund is a silver lining in the darkness of climate crisis. Although many countries across the world are experiencing extreme weather patterns, ~~no one~~ but the world has compensated due to their contribution in inducing climate crisis.

8.11

1. Introduction:

Although, IMEC is projected to compete BRI, chances of meeting the stated goals are lower. However, both projects have the potential to transform the global landscape. Belt and Road Initiative is Chinese led ambitious flagship aimed at connecting China to the four corners of the world. Similarly, IMEC is the recent project announced by India and US in G20 meeting 2023 to connect India via Middle East to the Europe. These projects have the potential to strengthening investment in the region, revolutionizing transportation and fostering the cross-cultural venture via tourism etc. The major difference between both is that BRI has been operationalized since 2013 whereas IMEC is new and projected.

2. IS IMEC really a Competitor to BRI?

The objects of BRI were to increase access of China to the globe and to achieve collective goals. Contrary, IMEC is launched to counter China and comparatively in infancy. Therefore, it can not be fair to say that IMEC is competitor to BRI. However, both are blessings in disguise for the world developing countries.

3. Decoding Provisions of IMEC and BRI

Belt and Road Initiative provides massive investment in member countries. China is investing multi-billion dollars in countries across South East Asia, Europe, Latin America and regional states like Pakistan and Iran. Likewise, IMEC is set to follow the suit starting with land and road connectivity. Both are transforming transportation sector by introducing railway, road, port development initiatives. For instance, under CPPEC China has invested nearly \$25 billion till date.

4. Highlighting Future Prospects of both projects.

a. BRI and IMEC - Investment in Transportation

Both projects offer opportunity of revolutionizing transportation sector. For example, **dry ports, bullet trains, etc.** specifically, under IMEC, the major focus is on bullet train from UAE Saudi, Jordan to Israel. Hence, IMEC can alter the course of Middle Eastern region.

b. Prosperious Energy Future

Under BRI, there is an increase in investment in the hydrocarbons in Russia, Central Asia and Iran. Similarly IMEC as well as BRI are focusing on exploration of energy and pipelines. Under IMEC the focus is transporting of energy hydrocarbons via trains and sea routes. Hence, this promises a prosperous energy future.

c. Chances of Industrialization in 3rd World

Under BRI, China is aimed at industrializing special economic corridors in member states. This can be ascertained from CPEC - Phase II projects which are aimed at building industries and operationalizing on SEZs in Pakistan. However, IMEC does not focus on industries, but in future it can materialize to counter China.

d. Agricultural Revolution

One of the major focus of BRI is enhancing agricultural productivity in neighbouring countries of China. This has the potential

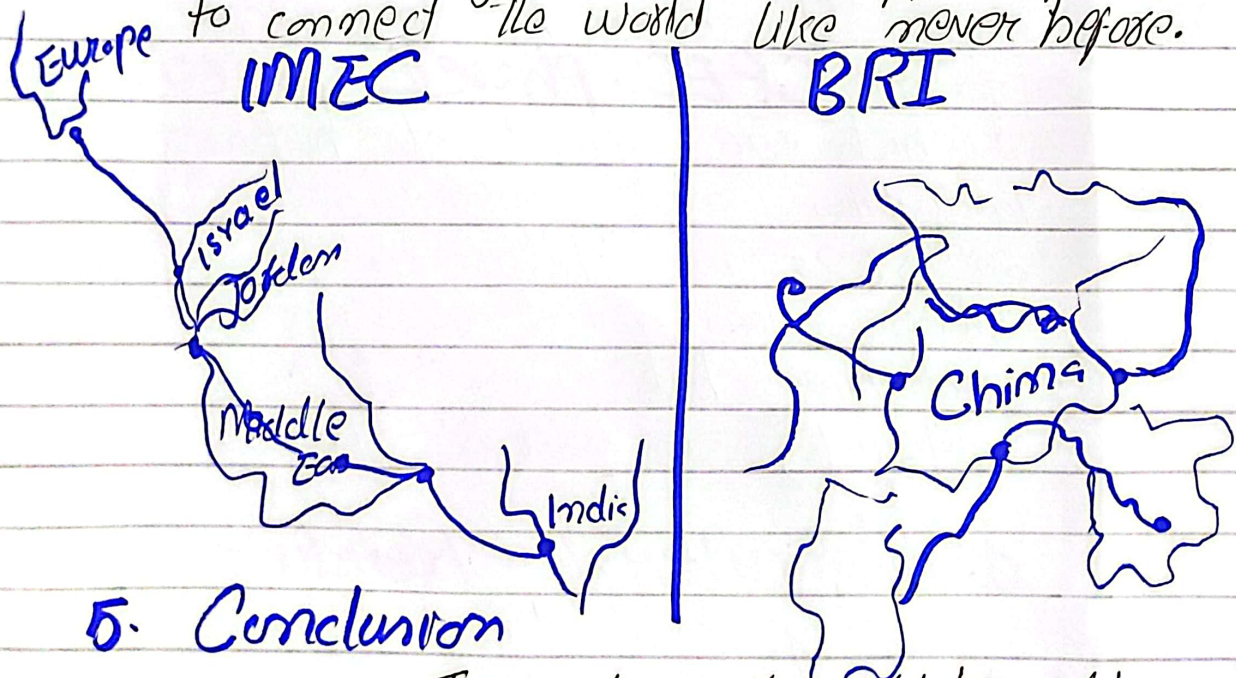
to mitigate food insecurity threat in the region.

e. Ability to boost Tourism

Moreover, both the projects have the ability to provide impetus to tourism sector. There in Europe many count since, Covid-19 many countries in South Asia such as **Ukraine, Nepal** collapsed economically due to Covid-induced restrictions. In this state of affairs these projects can be helpful to increase tourism mainly BRI-led connectivity.

f. Enhanced Connectivity

Least but not the least both projects have the capacity to connect the world like never before.



5. Conclusion

In conclusion, it could be right to state that both projects are fruitful to connect and mobilize the world in a single village.