

Test - II

Q2. INTRODUCTION

In the wake of repeated attacks from Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Islamic State-Khorasan, Pakistan decided to deport Afghan Refugees.

Shire, a Somali writer wrote, "No one leaves home, unless, home is the mouth of a shark". Pakistan became this mouth of shark for Afghan refugees as many 'voluntarily' left what they called home. Pak-Afghan relations have deteriorated after Taliban's takeover on Afghanistan. Afghan Taliban's non-cooperation on Pakistan's security concerns, further deteriorated the relations as Pakistan moved to tougher policy options. These options include deportation of refugees, trade restrictions and border controls. These deteriorating relations will pave the way for non-state actors, such as ISKP which is a mutual concern for Pakistan and Afghanistan. This deportation will have humanitarian implications and economic cost.

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THE EVOLUTION OF PAK - AFGHAN RELATIONS - A TIMELINE

Taliban Takeover - 2021



Victory for Pakistan



Released TTP Prisoners



Regrouping and Resurgence
of TTP under
Mullah Noor Wali Mehsud



Pakistan Attacks



Pak - Afghan Taliban Talks



Afghan - Taliban Demands



Non-cooperation



Pak - Tough Policy Options



Deportation of Refugees
Trade Restrictions

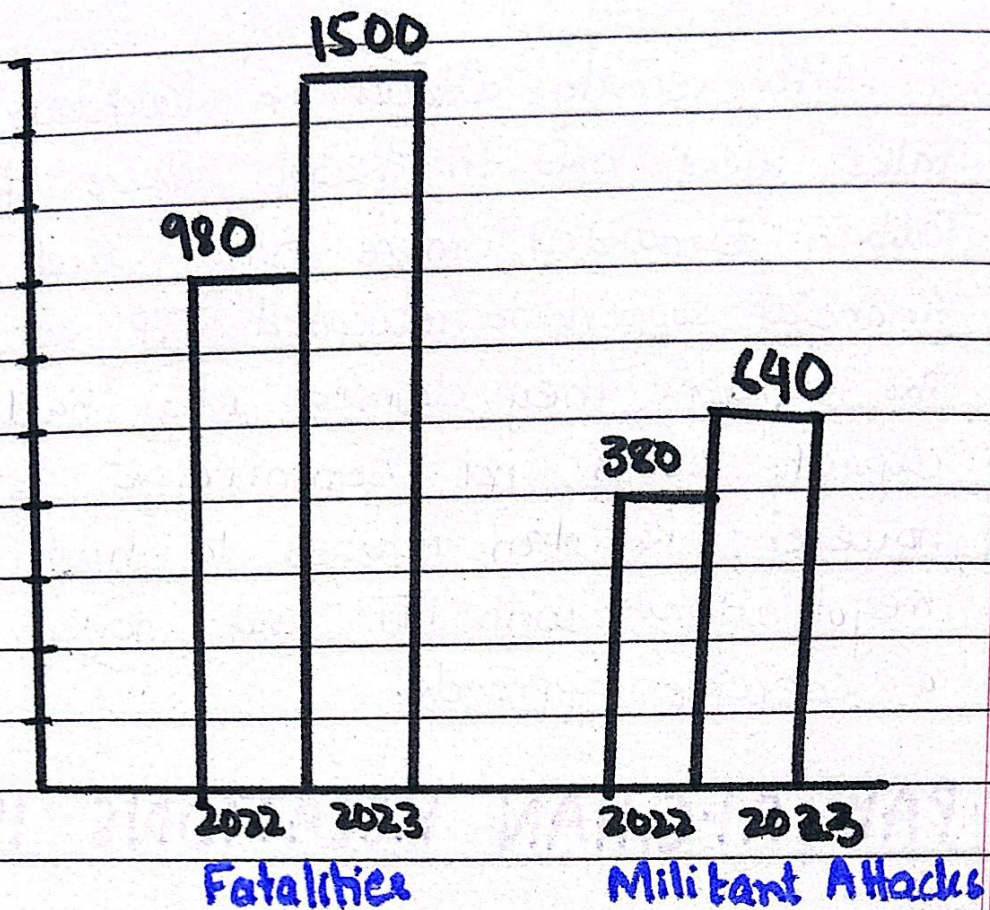
After security attacks in Pakistan, talks were held in Kabul where Afghan Taliban demanded more time and financial support to relocate TTP across the border. They claimed they had capacity issues, not commitment issues. However, Pakistan refused to hold negotiations with TTP and moved to a coercive approach.

PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS IN THE WAKE OF REPEATED ATTACKS BY TTP AND ISKP

The following factors have played a significant role in deteriorating Pak-Afghan relations,

1. Security Attacks on Pakistan

According to Centre for Research and Security Studies, militant attacks in the year 2023 were 640 as compared to 2022 where there were 380 attacks.



Out of the 1500 fatalities from violence in 2023, about 1000 are security personnel. This increase in terrorism is a major cause of concern for Pakistan.

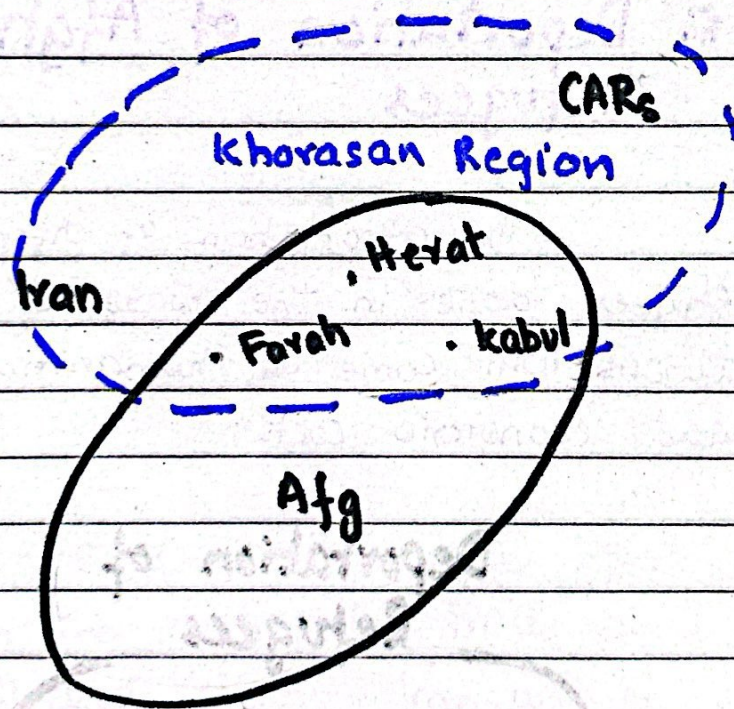
2. Safe Haven in Afghanistan and TTP - Afg Taliban Nexus

TTP \rightleftharpoons Afg Taliban

- Historical affiliation
- Ideological Affinities
- Deobandi ideology
- Cultural Ties
- Jihadi Aspirations

The existing TIP and Afghan Taliban nexus is because of their similar Deobandi ideology, cultural ties and Jihadi aspirations. TIP have safe havens in Afghanistan from where they plan attacks on Pakistan.

3. ISKP and Khorasan Ambitions



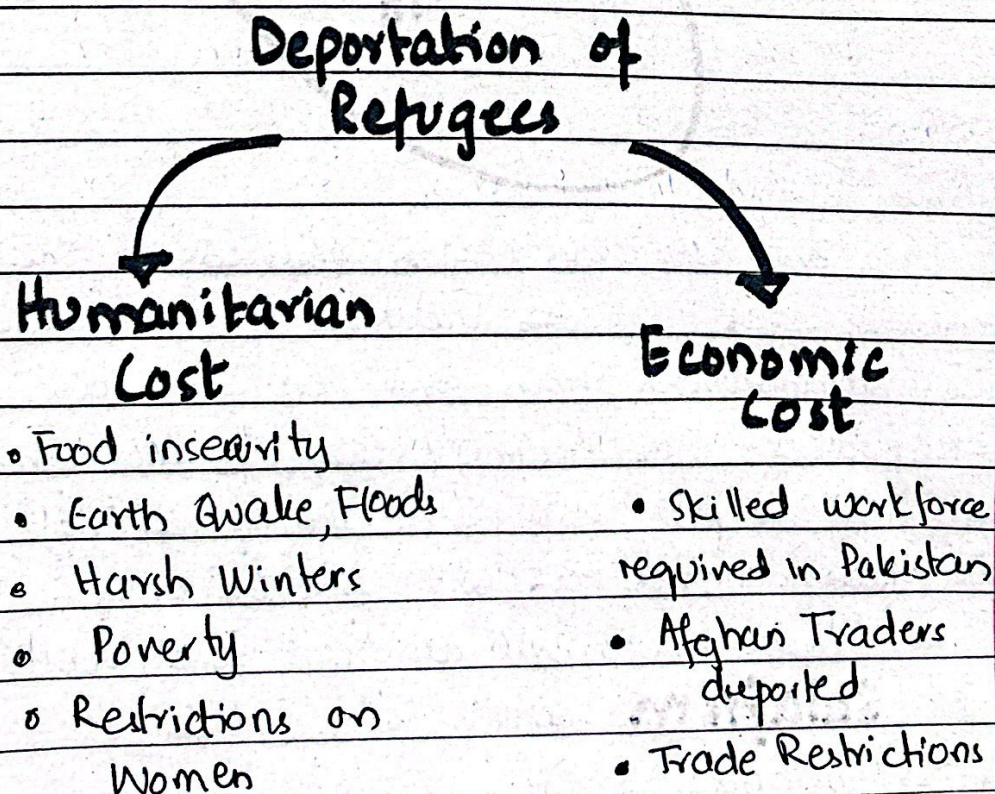
The Khorasan region existed in the middle-ages. It has included territories of Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asian Republics. The Islamic-State of Khorasan have regrouped and they are launching attacks on Pakistan and Afghanistan. They have territorial ambition and believe in **Salafism** which is a hardline expansionist ideology.

4. Delusions of Strategic Depth Dilemma

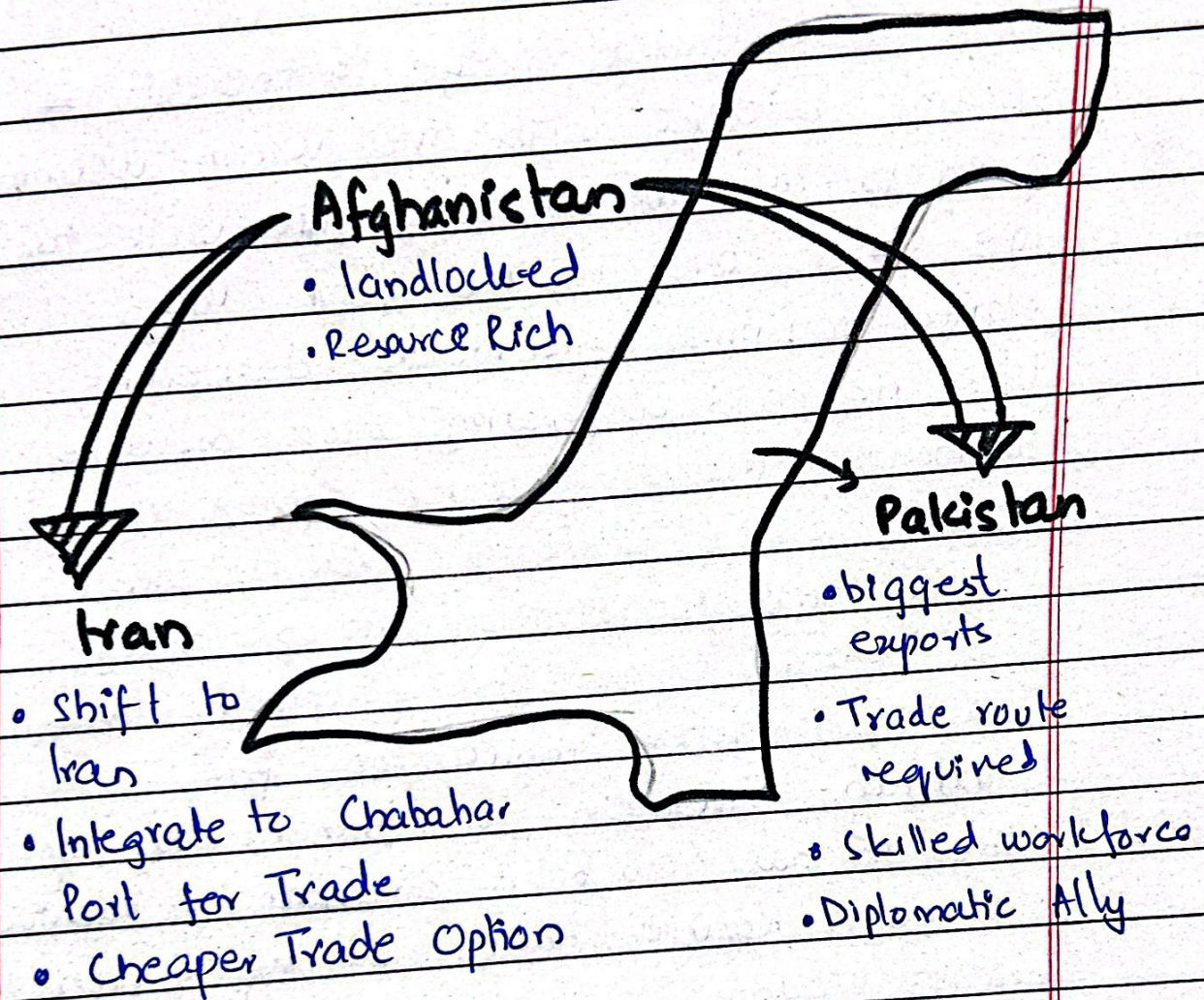
Aqil Shah writes in *Foreign Affairs* that Afghanistan has been important for Pakistan because of strategic depth issues. With the realization that this dilemma was a delusion, Afghanistan's importance has declined for Pakistan.

5. Deportation of Afghan Refugees

The deportation of Afghan refugees done in the wake of deteriorating relations will come at humanitarian and economic costs.



6. Foreign Policy Implications



Afghanistan will look for other options in the region for trade as it is a landlocked country. Iran will be a viable option for Afghanistan.

CONCLUSION

In the wake of repeated attacks on security personnel in Pakistan, Pak-Afghan relations have deteriorated. Afghanistan needs to show cooperation to relocate TTP and mend ties with Pakistan.

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Q3. INTRODUCTION

US-India Strategic Partnership ~~is~~ became evident with the warm welcome given to President Modi on his visit to the states, early in the year. They signed multiple agreements, deepening their ties and cooperation across multiple domains, including water, energy transport, space, critical technology and defense.

This strategic partnership is primarily to contain China. This partnership also has far reaching implications for Pakistan. Pakistan, a former ally of the US has now been abandoned. Pakistan's concerns against India including human rights violation and Kashmir issue will now be suppressed. India, a historic enemy, is being pitched as a regional hegemon by US, which will be a security and economic threat to Pakistan. Pakistan must look for other options in the region, such as deepening ties with China and Eastern countries. Pakistan must use its geostrategic location for geoeconomic ambitions by integrating itself into regional connectivity projects.

US-INDIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND CONTAINMENT OF CHINA

Fareed Zakaria writes 'US policy makers have succumbed to dangerous groupthink on China?'

US is preparing for the historic rise of China by deepening its ties with India.

US \rightleftharpoons INDIA

- 2022 - \$131 bn bilateral Trade
- QUAD
- US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology
- US-India Industrial Defense Initiative Roadmap
- I2U2 - India, Israel, US, UAE agreement on space, water, energy
- IMEC - India - Middle-East - Europe Economic Corridor

These initiatives between India and US are aimed at the containment of China.

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US-INDIA STRATEGIC PARTNER- SHIP AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN

Pakistan will have the following implications,

1. Isolation of Pakistan and Abandonment after Afghan Withdrawal

Pakistan has been abandoned by the US after Afghan withdrawal. Pakistan was the most allied ally during Afghan war. US-India strategic partnership will isolate Pakistan in the region, as Pakistan is a historic cold war ally of US.

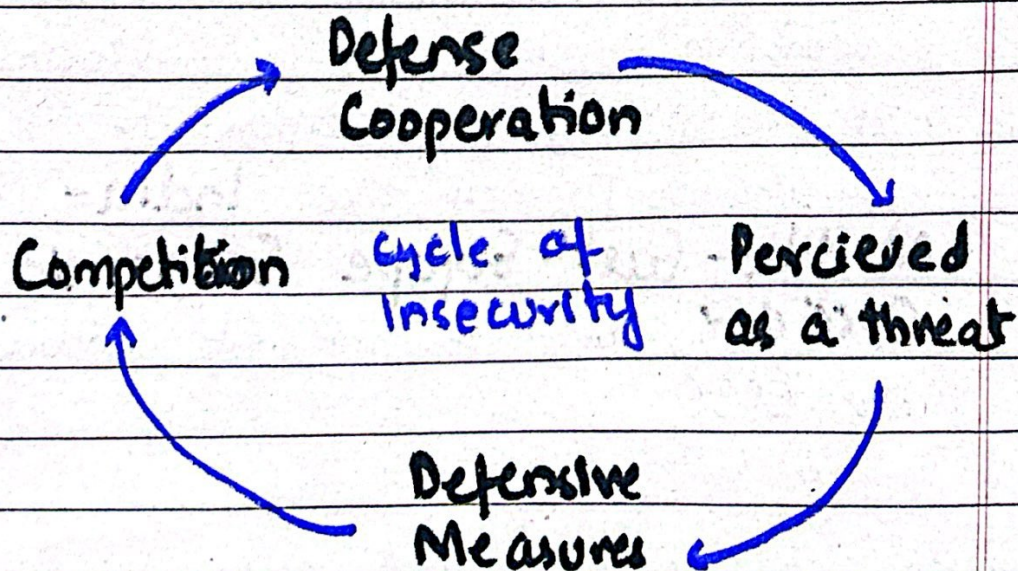
2. Suppression of Kashmir Issue and Human Rights Violations

US-India strategic partnership will sideline an important issue like Kashmir. India is a violator of UN Resolutions in Kashmir, which the US is

overlooking. Deepening of ties will further bury the issue. During Modi's visit to US, the issue of Abrogation of Article 370 was overlooked.

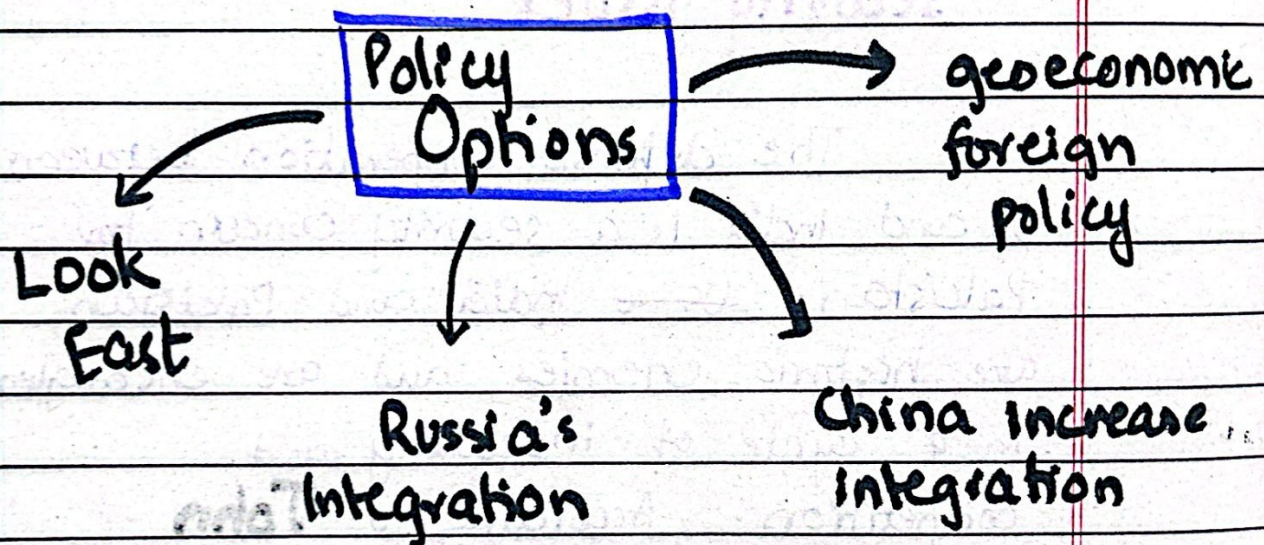
3. US-India Defense Cooperation and Pakistan Security Issues

The defense cooperation between US and India is a security concern for Pakistan. ~~US~~ India and Pakistan are historic enemies and are entangled in a cycle of insecurity and competition. According to John Mearsheimer's book *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, countries that are historic enemies perceive other's military build up as a threat.



India's military buildup is a security concern for Pakistan.

POLICY OPTIONS FOR ISLAMABAD



2. Geoeconomic Foreign Policy

Pakistan must shift to a geoeconomic foreign policy. Pakistan must use its strategic location to integrate in projects like India-Middle-East-Europe Economic Corridor and can integrate India into CPEC.

2. Integration with Russia, China and Eastern Countries

Pakistan must deepen its ties with China, its only ally in the region. Pakistan can look towards Russia for cheaper energy options. Pakistan must look for options in the East by joining the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Framework** led by ASEAN countries. Pakistan can also integrate itself into Central Asian Republics through projects like **CASA-1000**, **TAPI**. These projects must be completed to reap their full benefits.

CONCLUSION

US-India growing strategic partnership is a threat to China and Pakistan. Growing dominance of India in the region has isolated Pakistan and decreased its relevance. Pakistan must remain relevant through its geostrategic position and geoeconomic foreign policy.