

QUESTION - 01

Introduction:-

No state can live individually. To get developed, states need to maintain their relationships with each other so that they can live peacefully and get developed by trading with other states. States which interact with each other individually is called bilateral relationship e.g. Pakistan relation with China and Iran. States which interact with more than one state is called multilateral relationship. e.g. Pakistan is a member of different organizations where their mission is to maintain peace e.g. UN. Firstly, there is govt to govt communication between states. Secondly, there is non-official level between states in which people from different states get permit to work and to earn money. Pakistan is active member of UN, since 1948.

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• Domestic policy can only defeat us; foreign policy can kill us:

This statement means that Pakistan's internal matters ^{Policy} can only stop us to be developed country but Pakistan's external matters policy can ^{remove} undo Pakistan from the world map. Domestic policies are important but foreign policies are more important than ~~that~~ domestic policies. In every state, there is balance between domestic and foreign policies so that they can compete with other states. Pakistan's foreign policies are facing a lot of challenges in 21st Century, which is causing a lot of problems for Pakistan to make progress. However, policies need to be revised else its consequences will be bad and that is major threat to the Pakistan.

• Challenges of Pakistan foreign Policy:-

• Terrorism Extremism & sectarianism:-

Terrorism extremism and sectarianism

is one of biggest challenge to Pakistan's Foreign Policy. After 9/11, America invaded in Afghanistan, this causes increase in terrorism as well as sectarianism in Pakistan. Pakistan has lost almost more than \$100 billion in it as well as lives of a lot of people. Pakistan is considered as hub of terrorism and sectarianism on international level.

Swat is ^{called} "Switzerland of Pakistan"

but few years back people were afraid to visit that place due to terrorism.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, there is still sectarian violence between Shia and Sunni and people are afraid to travel in that places after sunset.

In 2023, there was major sect violence between Shia and Sunni in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Kashmir dispute:-

Kashmir dispute is another challenge to Pakistan's foreign policy. Since independence, this issue never sorted out. Pakistan a lot of times took this

matter in United Nations but nothing have been done. Pakistan and India fought almost three wars and still this issue is unresolved. Recently, Indian supreme court revoked the Article 370, in which Hindus can get domicile of Kashmir and they can also marry there. India considered Kashmir as its territory and they never want to give this area to Pakistan. Pakistan resisted their decision of revocation of Article 370 and took matter in UN but as usual it was unresolved.

Economic Instability:-

In fiscal year 2023-2024, Pakistan's fiscal deficit is 6.5% of its total GDP. Pakistan total GDP stands at \$378 billion which is significantly lower when compared with India. There is balance of payment and devaluation crisis, inflation, rise of unemployment and poverty. This

challenges causing hurdle in the development of country. Industries have been closed and more than 14 million people left country for the sake of employment in other countries. Pakistan needs to strengthen its economy so that they can compete with other countries.

• Afghanistan Refugees dilemma:-

When US invaded in ~~Amo~~ Afghanistan, a lot of refugees around more than 3 million refugees entered in Pakistan. Half of money for their survival was given by UN and half of money was in the hand of govt. of Pakistan. There were a lot of security issues because of refugees. Almost 60% crime was done by Afghanis for the sake of money as a lot of them unregistered and they came into Pakistan through open border.

In 2023, Govt. of Pakistan issued orders for them to get back to their country or else they will be arrested. Caretaker

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Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq called them "Aliens" as they were unregistered. More than 1 million ^{refugees} returned back to their country after Taliban took control over the Afghanistan.

Balancing between regional alliances:-

Pakistan's external posturing hinges actually on geo-strategic location. Pakistan's foreign policy often tends to involve balancing alliances with different regional powers. Pakistan's economic dependence and fragile democracy are among the key factors behind its dependence on power brokers such as neighbour China and western block led by US. Pakistan can ill afford to annoy China for the sake of US and vice versa. This is one of the biggest strategic challenge to the foreign policy. If war begins between US and China, Pakistan has to face a lot of consequences by choosing one side more than the consequence what Pakistan faced b/w Afghanistan & America.

Image perception:-

Pakistan often faces negative perceptions in the international community. Pakistan has been blamed for various issues, from human rights violations within its borders, persecution of minorities, militants, sponsoring Afghan talibans and safe heavens for international terrorists. Despite spread of blood, treasure, time and political capital combating religious militancy, US & western world have always accused Pakistan of duplicity and terrorism.

Way forward:-

Pakistan must strengthen its institutions, including foreign ~~poli~~ office, intelligence agencies and think tanks to formulate and implement foreign policies. Pakistan should actively engage in diplomatic efforts, including bilateral and multilateral dialogues to promote its interest & resolve conflicts.