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Test : PAK-Affairs (3)

Q No 1:- "Domestic policy can only defeat us; foreign policy can kill us." In the light of this statement, discuss the challenges of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Introduction:

It is true that "Domestic policy can only defeat us; foreign policy can kill us." In this era of multipolarity, foreign policy become a real challenge for policy makers. Pakistan remained in interest of with respect to geo-strategically and geo-politically for global powers since its inception. So, Pakistan faced many challenges while formulating its foreign policy. Not only in past, currently Pakistan is also facing challenges related to foreign policy. The current challenges are of different in nature and have multiplied. Currently, Pakistan has challenge of security concern because of growing terrorism and extremism of the region. Similarly, border dispute with neighbouring countries

like India and Afghanistan is another issue of foreign policy. Furthermore US-China rivalry and CPEC is another significant challenge for Pakistani policy makers. The India rival to Pakistan and its hegemonic role in South Asia also create tensions for Pakistan. To develop peaceful relations with Taliban government in Afghanistan is another challenge for the foreign policy of Pakistan. Similarly disputed territory Jammu Kashmir and its recent changed status by altering Article 370A and 35A by Indian government is posed another significant challenge for foreign policy of Pakistan. Moreover the growing US-India strategic ties create threat of balance of power for Pakistan. The stringent conditions of IMF and depletion of foreign exchange reserves is important factor which policy makers of Pakistan need to be considered.

The Foreign Policy Challenges of Pakistan:

Following are the some important foreign policy challenges of Pakistan:

1: Security Concern:

The important challenge of "security concern" which Pakistan's policy makers need to consider and to avert the situation. The growing terrorism and extremism in the region poses a serious challenge for Pakistan. Terrorism got intense after US withdrawal from Afghanistan and Taliban government took over there. As **Aziz Ahmed Chudary** wrote in his opinion article "Rising Terrorism" (Nov-2023) that since the Taliban took over Kabul in 2021, there has been a 60% increase in terrorist incidents in Pakistan. Similarly, according to (PICSS) Pakistan Institute of Conflict and Security Studies; in 2023 the country witnessed highest terrorist attacks since 2014. This shows that the growing terrorism and extremism is becoming a security challenge for the foreign policy of Pakistan.

2: Border Disput:

The second important foreign policy challenge of Pakistan is border dispute with its neighbouring countries like Afghanistan

and India. Durand Line is boundary line between Pakistan and Afghanistan. But Afghanistan do not consider it since the birth of Pakistan. Due to refusal of Afghanistan of Afghanistan, many Afghans passed through border and lived in Pakistan without having documentation. Similarly due to unrecognize of Durand Line, Afghanistan consider part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as its own territory. So in KP and Balochistan, terrorist organizations established their recruiting centres. Durand Line is still not resolved although International at international level countries Durand Line as border line between two countries. Hence, the border dispute between two countries presents a challenge for foreign policy of Pakistan.

3: US-China Rivalry and ~~my~~ Pakistan's position:

The ~~ex~~ current era is witnessing the multipolarity because of growing economic powers like China, Russia and India. China ~~is~~ become the second world economic power as it established (OBOR) one Belt one Road Initiative involving 67 countries. This create problem for US so US is doing every effort to contain China. We currently

Pakistan is facing challenge due to rivalry between US and China. As US Defense official **David Helvey** said for establishing military bases in Pakistan in order to monitor Taliban activities in Afghanistan and for counter terrorism. It was challenge for Pakistan to allow US bases in Pakistan as not as China's investment related to CPEC may be hindered. Although Pakistan refused US to establish its bases in Pakistan but it may have implications like Pakistan's exports to US may be halted.

4: India's hegemonic Role in South Asia:

India's hegemonic role in South Asia is another challenge for the foreign policy of Pakistan. Due to hegemonic role of India **SAARC** (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) become ineffective. This is the reason that the last summit of SAARC was held in 2014. Resultantly there is no regional cooperation among SAARC members. It led towards trust deficit, security concerns, lack of economic development and lack of people to people contact; among the whole region. Similarly the lack of

contact and loss of trade in the region
create challenging situation for foreign
policy of Pakistan.

5: Hindutva Ideology and distributed territory:

In India the
growing Hindutva ideology after BJP
government also poses challenge for
the foreign policy of Pakistan. Similarly,
India imposed its Hindutva ideology
on minorities Muslims in India as
well as in distributive territory Jammu
Kashmir. The BJP government altered
Article 370 and 35A, according
to which Indians were not allowed
to purchase land in distributive
territory. But in 2019 BJP government
abolished both articles which
gave a measure of autonomy to
the distributed Muslim majority
region. It means that Indian
government changed the status of
distributed territory and all this
create challenge for future foreign
policy of Pakistan.

6: US-India Strategic ties:

The growing US-India
strategic ties create another
significant challenge for the foreign
policy of Pakistan. As both countries

are against china's growing power & status.
So both countries ensure their endeavours
to contain china. For this purpose they
make efforts through projects in Pakistan
to haul CPEC. As Indian Summit

Walia suggests in her article (The
**Economics of CPEC: What are
the options for India, 2019**) that

"If there is no industrial growth
in Pakistan, the payment of loans
and return of chinese investment
will cripple its economy. we must
actively isolate Pakistan diplomatically
and economically making it more
difficult for it to secure loans."

This shows that how notorious Indian
policy was towards Pakistan. Similarly
USU also put Pakistan in difficult
situation because of having good ties
with china through CPEC. As the

financial institutions like IMF,
dominating by west put discriminatory
treatment to Pakistan, by As IMF
impose stringent conditions encompassing
devaluation of rupees and rise in
electricity and oil prices. (Navigating

**the path towards Geo-economics.
An analysis of challenges and
opportunities for Pakistan**). This

Shows that the growing India-US strategic ties poses challenge for the foreign policy of Pakistan.

Way Forward:

1: Need to effectively regulate NSC:

Pakistan need to combat security threat by effectively regulating National Security Council (NSC). The proper functionalism of council along with active ~~and~~ engagement of civil and military leadership leaders, so that security concern along with growing terrorism and extremism can be sort out.

2: Establishment of Peace relations with Afghanistan;

Pakistan needs to establish peace and friendly relations with Afghanistan. Similarly Pakistan needs to ensure along with Afghanistan that Afghan soil would not be used against Pakistan. With the partnership of Taliban government, Pakistan can overcome growing threat of terrorism in Pakistan. So, Pakistan needs to enhanced its relationship with Afghanistan in order to combat terrorism and extremism in the region.

3: Establish Relations with Russia and China:

Pakistan needs to establish its ties with growing world powers like Russia and China in order to combat US India's strategic aggressions. Similarly Pakistan needs to enhance defence agreements with both countries & in order to shield itself against India. Although Russia gave its Mi 35 (Hind E) helicopters, Pakistan needs to increase its strategic power.

4: Indulged International Community for Kashmir:

Pakistan needs to engage international community i.e. UN & O.A. in order to resolve Kashmir issue after aggressive step taken by Indian government. (Abolition of Article 370 and 35A). So, the effective diplomacy is needed for the resolution of Kashmir issue.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, there are different types of challenges face by foreign policy of Pakistan. The challenges are related to security concerns and border disputes with neighboring countries.

Similarly US-China rivalry and foreign policy challenges for Pakistan. Moreover growing strategies for between India and US also create challenge for Pakistan. Similarly Hindutva ideology in disputed territory Kashmir and Indian's hegemonic role in South Asia also pose threat for the Pakistan. However there are suggestions for ~~see~~ combating the challenges like strengthening and NSC, establish establishing ties with Afghanistan and world great powers. Similarly for the resolution of Kashmir; Pakistan need to engage international community.

Q No 2: To what extent has the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) influenced not only the economic landscape but also the geopolitical dynamics in the region, and what are the implications for Pakistan's relationships with other neighbouring countries?

Introduction:

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) influenced not only the economic landscape but also the geopolitical dynamics in the region. CPEC is part of China's BRI initiative. CPEC agreement was signed in 2013 and proper implementation was started in 2015. At first China allocated \$46bn as investment of CPEC but after that investment was enhanced to \$62bn. In 2023 the ^{6th} decade of CPEC was completed and till now \$25bn has been invested. CPEC is a project encompasses energy power plants, railroads, highways, industrial zones, agricultural advancement and advancement of Gwadar port city. CPEC gives impetus to Pakistan's economy as its GDP grows. Similarly CPEC has created job opportunities. The nine Special Economic zones (SEZs) will create economic development and passage towards

export processing. Although CPEC influenced Pakistan economically, it also enhanced geo-political influence of Pakistan. The geo-political influence include enhanced trade market for Pakistani exports, access to middle eastern countries and country's position become significant because of trade route through Strait of Hormuz. Similarly CPEC is a driver for China-Pakistan Naval cooperation. Moreover CPEC also counter US and Indian influence in the Indian Ocean, and CPEC also gives boost to Pakistan in developing foreign relations with neighboring countries.

CPEC Geo Political Dynamics:

CPEC is a geopolitical dynamics as it gives impetus to Pakistan to raise its status as significant state because of Gawadar city which is near to Strait of Hormuz (2100 km). So because of Strait of Hormuz from 13 billion barrel oil passes daily. In this way Pakistan's geo-political importance would be enhanced. Similarly because of geopolitical importance of Pakistan because of CPEC, Pakistan would be able to

normalize relations with Afghanistan and CARs (Central Asian Republics).

1:- Exporting market for Pakistan:

CPEC would give Pakistan access to foreign markets for its exports. In this way there is enhancement of industrial growth of Pakistan. Similarly through CPEC Pakistan also gain access to the oil rich countries in middle east and would be able to attain crude oil from safe way.

2:- China Pakistan Naval cooperation:

CPEC enhanced relations between Pakistan and China. And both countries engage in naval cooperation. In this way Pakistan would attain opportunity to boost its navy in order to combat India in Indian ocean region.

CPEC: Geo-economic Landscape:

CPEC also gives impetus to Pakistan geo-economic landscape. As it encompasses special economic zones, 14 energy power plants and railways and highways.

1:- Hydal Power plants:

CPEC include two hydal power plants located in Azad Jammu Kashmir. one is

Kohala Hydel project and the second is Azad Pottan Hydel power project, both are expected to be operationalized in 2026. The Kohala Hydel project is an 1100 MW energy project and Azad Pottan Hydel Power project was 701 MW energy project.

2: Special Economic Zones:

In CPEC nine special economic zones were planned.

The prominent among them is

(i) Allama Iqbal Industrial city, Faisalabad.

(ii) ICT Model Industrial zone, Islamabad

(iii) Rashakai Economic zone KPK.

3: Energy Power plants:

CPEC also encompasses energy power plants based on coal having 1320 MW energy. In this way Pakistan would be able to overcome energy crisis in the country.

4: Railroads:

In CPEC railroads M1 and M2 were also planned to boost transit corridor.

Implications for Pakistan's relationship with other neighbouring countries:

1: Develop Regional Political Power:

Pakistan would will be develop as regional political power after Gwadar city be operationalized. Gwadar port will become "Singapore of Karachi" and it will give special status to Pakistan.

2: Relations with CAR's:

Through CPEC, Pakistan would develop good relations with Central Asian Republics (Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan etc).

3: Stability in Region:

After Gwadar port city's operationalization the regional stability would be ensured because Gwadar city would be trade route of major powers and having interests of all major powers. Stability will be ensure by major powers.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, CPEC gives both geo-economic and geo-political impetus to Pakistan. Similarly through CPEC Pakistan stabilize its ties with

neighboring countries.