

GK (Current Affairs) - II

Sharjeel Shajgaril Khawaja

ID: 37409

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SUBJECTIVE PART

PART - II

Q1

South Asia, a region of population of around 1.9 billion, with combined GDP per capita of 1842.3 \$; agricultural value added growth as 3.2% GDP, a labour force of 0.7 billion, where total trade stands as 39.8% of GDP and with a median age of 26.4 years; today is at a brink of a security turmoil. The two nuclear armed countries in the region are in confidential mode with Pakistan arresting Abdul Majed from Jehlum an Indian intelligence agent involved in terrorism activities in Pakistan and ~~india~~ India on the other side blaming Pakistan for the attack on tourist in Phalgam, occupied Kashmir and moving out of TWT.

The past of both Countries:

Pakistan and India has been actively engaged conflicts with each other for the past several years.

The relationship of the region continues to be oppressed by the weight of the past. History, ideology and domestic politics have fostered divisive-^{ness} and the geopolitics has sharpened the fault lines.

Old disputes like Kashmir ~~issue~~^{task} in the background and overlap with the new ones, raising the ever

present potential for conflict. The problem is India and Pakistan relate to each other but only negatively. They have known no other way. Each has been engaged in weakening the other. And they have done so by arms competition and use of proxies that has created an enabling environment for forces of destabilization like insurgencies, terrorism, and local and transnational religious extremism.

Pahalgam Terrorist Attack:

Deadly militant attack in India-held Kashmir's Pahalgam, claimed 25 lives, India has blamed Pakistan for alleged cross-border involvement and taken drastic measures, including suspending the Indus Water Treaty, downgrading diplomatic ties, and shutting the Attari border. While Pakistan expressed condolences, it has convened its National Security Committee to assess the situation.

~~The attack~~ Pakistan's Defence Minister has suggested the possibility of a ~~fto~~ false flag operation, emphasizing that no justification exists for targetting civilians.

The incident, underscores the deep unrest in Kashmir, which has worsened since India revoked the region's autonomy in 2019. The Indian government's narrative is being questioned even within the country.

The decision to suspend the Indus Water Treaty, a longstanding agreement that has withstood wars and hostilities, marks a serious escalation and sets a dangerous precedent of politicizing critical shared resources.

Policy Recommendations for Pakistan:

- 1- Launch international campaign against Indian accusations
- 2- Engage United Nations, OIC, and key allies for support.
- 3- Challenge India's treaty violation in international courts.
- 4- Military deterrence
- 5- Strengthen ties with China, Turkey and Gulf States.
- 6- Use of SCO and SAARC for dialogue.
- 7- Improve water storage and management.

Q5:

A Trade war is when a nation imposes tariffs or quotas on imports and foreign countries retaliate with similar forms of trade protectionism. As it escalates, a trade war reduces international trade. In trade wars nations attempt to protect domestic industries and create jobs. In short run, it may work. But in the long run, a trade war costs jobs and depresses economic growth for all countries involved. It also triggers inflation when tariffs increase the price of imports.

Trump's Trade War:

President Donald Trump's aggressive tariff driven trade war with China initiated in 2018 and expanded during his term and has been widely viewed as the most extensive and high stakes trade conflict in recent history. Framed as a response to China's unfair trade practices, intellectual property theft, and trade imbalances, it involved hundreds of billions of dollars in tariffs. While aimed at reducing the U.S. trade deficit and bringing jobs back to USA, the broader implications were far-reaching and often counterproductive.

Implications for the United States:

US will be facing economic strain as there will be higher costs for US manufacturers who were relying on Chinese imports. The prices of goods will increase for normal people/consumers as those tariffs will be passed on to consumers. But jobs will be created in the US. Moreover, US farmers who were relying on Chinese products will be requiring billions from subsidies. Also, trade instability will discourage the private investors and will disrupt global supply chain.

Implications for China:-

China will be facing short term economic pressure where export-driven sectors are hit by the reduced US demand. However, China has diverse markets,

where it can continue its exports that is from Belt and Road Initiative and ASEAN.

Moreover, this anti U.S. part will deepen China's strategic alignment with Russia and other states.

Global Political Economy:-

Global the supply chain will see disruptions and there will be trade diversions countries like Vietnam, Mexico and India might gain production. Economic uncertainty can be observed with global growth being slowed down.

The trade war failed to fully achieve its targets while creating lasting strains in U.S. China relations and struggling structural changes in the global economy. It exposed the limits of unilateral economic coercion and showed interconnectedness of global trade.

Q:3

The grievances of Baloch people are manifold. The martial policy of the center in dealing with the recent insurgency has added fuel to the fire. The main complaint of the Baloch Nationalists has always been that the provincial autonomy promised in the 1973 constitution has not been recognized and practically non-existent till today. The Baloch people have demanded the right of self-administration to the province through a process of complete decentralization of powers.

According to Director General Frontier Corps

, Intelligence agencies of 21 different countries are active in Balochistan agency. Among them India tops the list, US involvement has rapidly increased.

Baloch nationalists main gripe and grumble relates to Pakistan's domestic natural gas industry. They complain the well paid people in the industry are invariably drawn from outside of Balochistan.

According to government sources, there are five militant outfits operating in Balochistan and Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) is most prominent.

Despite violent resurgence of the nationalists it is still an almost certainty that voice of Baloch nationalists is not really voice of all Balochis.

Jaffar express travelling from Quetta to Peshawar was attacked by BLA, demanding immediate release of Baloch political prisoners.

Policy Recommendations:-

- 1- Engage baloch leaders in meaningful talks.
- 2- Ensure local benefit from resources and major projects like CPEC.
- 3- Address enforced disappearances and ensure accountability in security operations.
- 4- Empower local institutions and improve basic services (health, education, infrastructure).
- 5- Launch media campaigns to promote peace, expose external meddling and highlight development.