

Pakistan Affairs

Q2. What are the main constituents of National Interests of Pakistan? Explain. In the changing regional apparatus, how Pakistan can align with this?

(a) INTRODUCTION:

National sovereignty, economic prosperity, regional peace and security, and social development are the main constituents of National Interests of Pakistan. The protection, upholding and enhancement of these interests lead to a collective growth of a nation. However, the shifting regional associations and intra-state priorities has complicated the relations between state. Establishment of Taliban government in Afghanistan, continued Indian aggression against Pakistan, growing Chinese influence in the region and Trump administration's erratic decisions and policy in ^{the} gulf has are the intricate happenings where Pakistan has to strategically align itself.

(b) MAIN CONSTITUENTS OF NATIONAL INTERESTS OF PAKISTAN:

National Security → Territorial integrity of Pakistan.
 → Protection against external influence.
 → Nuclear deterrence and strong military.

Sustainable development ← **Economic**
 Trade and FDI ← **Prosperity**
 Strengthening Energy sector ←

Regional Peace → Indian aggression and Kashmir issue
 → Peaceful relations with neighbours
 → Role in OIC and other regional organizations

Ethnic cohesion and nation building ← **Social Development**
 Health and education development ←
 Human security ←

(i) National Security:

The land and people of Pakistan are the crucial and integral part of Pakistan and their defence is the foremost priority of it as a state. The existence of strong military and nuclear deterrence makes it an independent nation whose sovereignty can not be compromised.

(ii) Economic Prosperity:

In an economically centralized global stage, the importance of economy cannot be ignored. Pakistan has strong potential to create economic growth through employing various policies; fiscal policy and monetary policy tools. Attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by strengthening national markets and providing investment security can give the national economy a boost. Furthermore, sustainable development in industrial, agricultural, and production sectors can add to the economic prosperity.

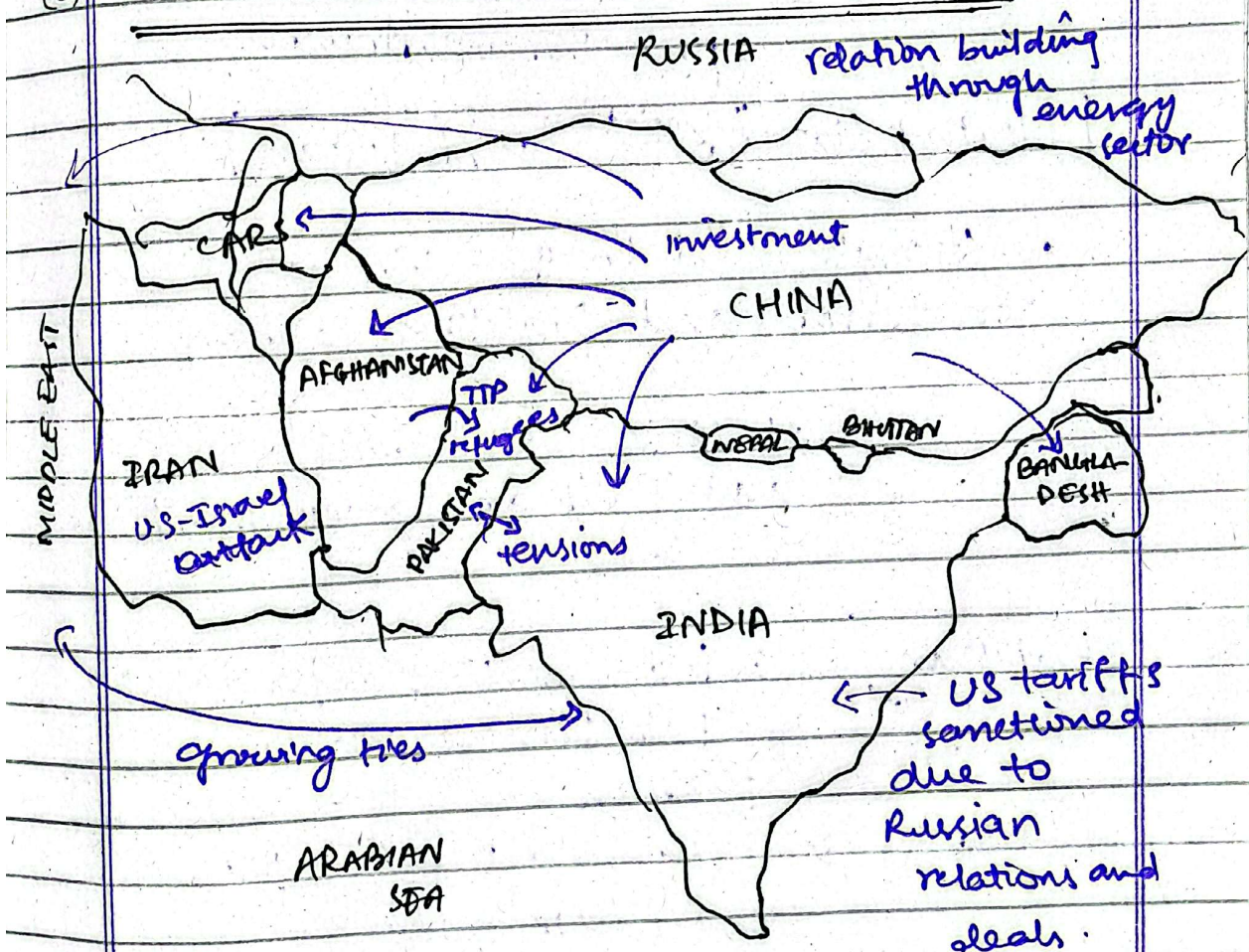
(ii) Regional Peace:

The existence of peace in a region also contributes to the national prosperity of a nation. Having peaceful relations with neighbouring states and an ~~unstrained~~ unstrained relationship between the states produces a window for collective economic growth. Pakistan plays its diplomatic role in establishing peace in the region through dialogues and strengthening ties with other nations through cooperation and strategic deals.

(iv) Social Development:

Provision of health, standard education, effective transportation and cohesion in ethnic and cultural relations can create a society that can compete globally. Improving the living standards and countering the sectarian divide helps in nation building and is integral to a productive society.

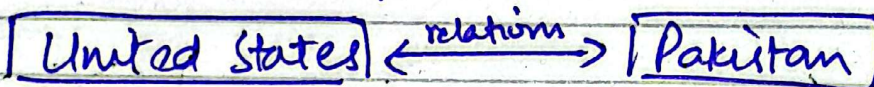
(c) CHANGING REGIONAL APPARATUS :



A nexus of relations, continuously in flux, and changing uni-polar world to multi polarity is a challenge for Pakistan to diplomatically remain neutral in other states conflicts and prioritizing its own national interest.

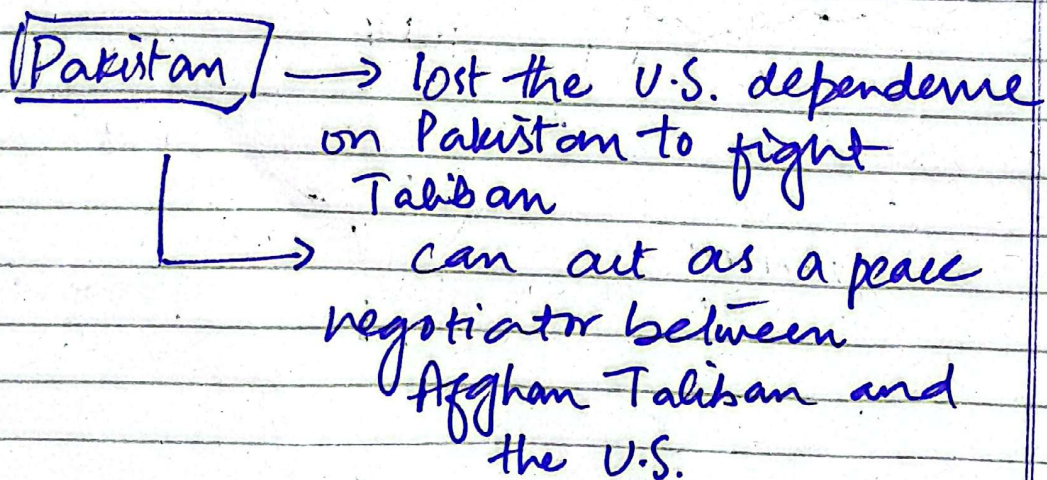
(a) Taliban government and post-U.S. withdrawal scenario

pre-U.S. withdrawal



- Strongly tied to the U.S. war on terror and fighting Taliban

post-U.S. withdrawal
and Taliban government
in 2021



Pakistan has to establish relations with the U.S. on a long term basis and strategically mutual agreements are the way to it. Recently, the U.S. has agreed to invest in the oil companies in Pakistan, which is seen as a positive step to extensive U.S.-Pakistan relations.

Rise of insurgency in Pakistan is also contributed to the terrorist sanctuaries in Afghanistan. Though, Pakistan has requested Afghanistan to annihilate the TTP (Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan) as it erodes the security factor of Pakistan.

(b) Changing world blocs:

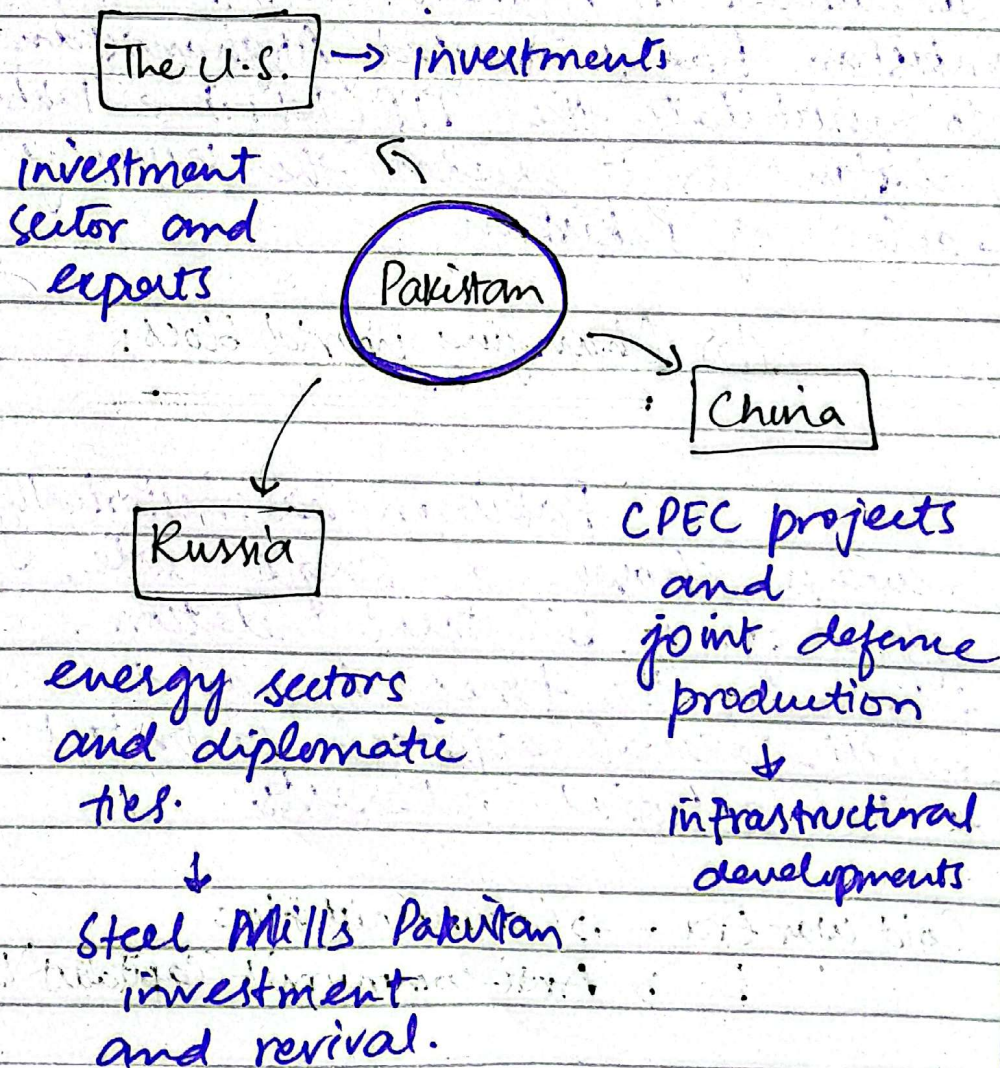
Pakistan has, historically, always chosen a single side, opting for a bilateral relation. However, the times demand a multi-lateral approach to protect the national interests.

Cold War Era → Communist bloc

↳ Anti-communist (Capitalist) bloc

Pakistan chose to side with the capitalist bloc i.e., America.

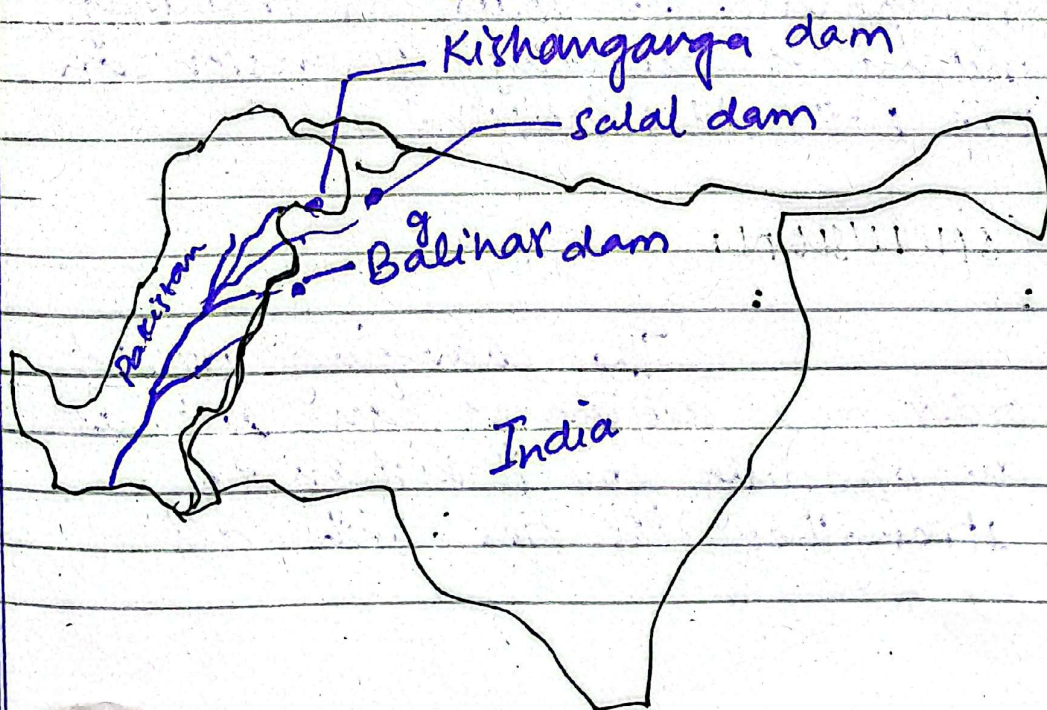
With the growing Chinese influence in the region through CPEC and other investment projects, coupled with Russia expanding its energy and resource market, Pakistan cannot ignore their importance for the sake of keeping friendly ties with the U.S.



(C) Growing tensions with India

The two enemy states have a history of geo-political, geo-strategic and ~~an~~ diplomatic conflicts since their inception in 1947. The two states have fought wars in 1948, 1965, 1971 and now recently the aggression from Indian side resulted in a few days war in May, 2025.

Furthermore, India has repeatedly violated international Indus Waters Treaty 1960 by building dams and completely suspended it unilaterally on 23rd April, 2025. This has strained the ties and also put the national security of Pakistan at risk.



(d) Nuclear deterrence and rising international tensions

After the Israeli attack on Iran and the U.S. targetting the nuclear sites of Iran in Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan, the Gulf States question their dependence on the U.S. for defence as it has remained erratic under Trump administration.

Pakistan can strengthen their ties with Gulf states by establishing Civilian Peaceful Energy Programs by assisting them to produce nuclear energy under regulatory frameworks. Pakistan can establish trilateral ties with the Gulf and the U.S. to keep the nuclear energy programs transparent. The focus on training instead of technology transfer can keep both sides satisfied.

CONCLUSION:

The changing world order and alliances can act as an opening for Pakistan to strengthen its ties with all

States on basis of mutual economic, strategic and geo-political ties. Pakistan must opt to establish ties that are integral to its national security, defence, social development and economic prosperity.

Q3. The recent floods have shown ill-preparedness of government at all levels. Explain the importance of disaster management.