

Pakistan Affairs

Part - II

Q#3

Recent Floods and Disaster Management of Pakistan :-

Pakistan has repeatedly suffered from devastating natural calamities, particularly floods, earthquakes, and droughts, which have exposed the vulnerability of its infrastructure and governance. The floods of 2010, 2022 and more recently in 2025 displaced millions, submerged $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of the country, destroyed agricultural land, and inflicted billions of dollars in damages. The 2025 flood season from pre-monsoon flash floods in June to destructive monsoon

Rains and cross-border dam discharges in August - has resulted in immense human suffering and systemic failure. Disaster management must move from reactive crisis response to proactive resilience building.

June Flash Floods and Pre - Monsoon Events:-

In late June 2025, flash floods triggered by intense pre-monsoon downpours ravaged northern Pakistan, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat Valley. At least 711 people were killed, nearly 965 injured, and over 209 reported missing as rivers surged unexpectedly. Tourist sites and communities, caught unprepared, faced crushing losses. This underlines the need for early warning systems and rapid-response mechanisms.

Mid-August Flash Floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

The situation escalated in mid-August when cloudbursts and heavy monsoon rains triggered catastrophic flash floods and landslides across K.P including Buner, Swat and Bajaur. Over 320 fatalities were recorded, with 158 alone in Buner District. Rescue operations were hampered by infrastructure collapse and a tragic helicopter crash that killed 5 relief personnel. This disaster emphasizes the moral urgency of elevating institutional readiness and emergency logistics.

Widespread Monsoon Flood and National toll:-

By mid-August, Pakistan had recorded more than 660 deaths, with over 360 fatalities in just 4 days across Swat, Buner, Bajaur, Torghar, Mansehra, Shangla, and

Battagram. The sheer pace and scale of the flooding exposed serious governance gaps in disaster risk management, coordination and public safety protocols.

Cross-Border Dam Releases and Evacuations in Punjab:-

Toward the end of August, torrential monsoon rains prompted India to release dam water, triggering flood alerts along the Ravi, Chenab and Sutlej rivers in Pakistan's Punjab.

This resulted in **150,000 – 210,000**

people displaced, including large-scale evacuations around Lahore and Narowal.

The revered Karbarpur Sahib Shrine was submerged, yet averted disaster thanks to timely community relocation.

The crisis illuminated both the value of diplomacy in sharing flood warnings and the gaps in bilateral coordination under stress.

Why disaster management is crucial for Pakistan:-

• Human Security and lives:-

Every flood wave is a human tragedy. Disaster management saves lives through early-warning systems, evacuation planning and community-centric resilience strategies. The differential outcomes across 2025 would have been less devastating with such systems in place.

• Economic Stability

Flooding disrupts agriculture, infrastructure, and livelihoods.

Pakistan's economy, still rebuilding from the 2022 floods, cannot afford repeated setbacks. Disaster preparedness protects development gains and ensures food security.

• Climate Change Adaptation:-

Pakistan is among the most climate exposed nations. Warming temperatures

intensify rain, glacial melts, and flash floods. The 2025 season - with monsoon down-pours, glacial lake outburst floods, and rising riverine levels - underscores the urgency of climate-resilient infrastructure and adaptive governance.

- **Governance and Institutional Capacity:-**

The failure to coordinate relief across federal, provincial, and local tiers - seen during this flood season - shows the need for strengthened bodies like NDMA and PDMA, empowered with autonomy, funding, planning, and rapid deployment capability.

- **Social Resilience and Trust:-**

Communities affected by floods are left vulnerable not just physically, but psychologically. Effective disaster management & rebuilds trust through transparency, efficient aid, and timely relief, reducing post-disaster trauma and instability.

• Regional Cooperation and Diplomacy:-

The 2025 crisis demonstrated how India's advance alert saved lives - but also how strained protocols (like suspending treaty mechanisms) can amplify risk. Pakistan needs a dual approach: assertive diplomacy for water management and robust internal systems to respond regardless of external signals.

Conclusion:-

The 2025 floods - from early flash floods to cross-border inundation - have brutally illustrated the cost of unpreparedness: hundreds dead, thousands displaced, infrastructure shattered. Disaster management is no longer optional - it is foundational.

Q #7

Kashmir Issue

The Kashmir issue remains one of the most enduring and volatile disputes in South Asia. Born out of the partition of the sub-continent in 1947, the conflict involves territorial claims by both Pakistan and India over the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. Despite multiple wars, bilateral dialogues, and international mediation efforts, the dispute persists, shaping the geopolitics of the region and threatening global peace due to its nuclear dimension.

Historical Background:

At the time of partition, princely states were given the option to join either India or Pakistan. The Muslim-majority state of Jammu and Kashmir, ruled by a Hindu Maharaja, initially opted for independence but later acceded

to India under controversial circumstances. Pakistan disputed this accession, arguing that the will of the Kashmiri people, being overwhelmingly Muslims, favored joining Pakistan. The United Nations intervened in 1948 and passed resolutions calling for a plebiscite, but these were never implemented, leaving the issue unresolved.

Humanitarian and Political Dimensions:-

The Kashmir conflict is not only territorial but also humanitarian. Since 1989, the valley has witnessed widespread insurgency, military presence, and human rights violations. The revocation of Article 370 and 35A by India in August 2019 further intensified the crisis, stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its official special status and increasing discontent among Kashmiris. Pakistan continues to highlight human rights abuses in international forums, while India insists the matter is an "internal affair".

Security Implications:

The Kashmir issue has led to several wars (1947-1948, 1965, 1971 indirectly, and the 1999 Kargil conflict) and ongoing border skirmishes. Both countries' possession of nuclear weapons makes the conflict a potential flashpoint for global security. Furthermore, the dispute drains economic resources, fosters extremism, and prevents meaningful regional cooperation through platforms like SAARC.

Prospects of Various Solutions:

1. Plebiscite under UN supervision:-

The most just solution, as per UN resolutions, would be allowing Kashmiris to decide their future. However, India has consistently rejected this option, fearing loss of territory.

2. Bilateral Negotiations:-

Several rounds of talks, including the Lahore Declaration (1999) and Agra Summit (2001), attempted to resolve the dispute. Yet, mutual mistrust and cross-border terrorism allegations have derailed progress.

3. Maintaining Status Quo:

India advocates for the Line of Control (LoC) as a de facto international border. While this may reduce tensions, it ignores the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and is unacceptable to Pakistan.

4. Autonomy / Joint Mechanism:

Proposals for greater autonomy within India or a joint Pakistan-India mechanism over Kashmir have been discussed. These options may reduce hostility but require political will and confidence-building measures.

5. International Mediation:

Mediation by global powers such as the United States, China or the UN could

facilitate dialogue. However, India rejects third-party involvement, adhering to the Shimla Agreement's bilateral clause.

Challenges to Resolution:-

The core challenges include India's rigid stance, Pakistan's insistence on Kashmiri self-determination, rising nationalism, cross border militancy, and global power politics. Moreover, the post 2019 constitutional changes have further narrowed the scope of compromise.

Conclusion:-

The Kashmir issue embodies historical grievances, political contestation, and humanitarian tragedy. While multiple solutions exist - plebiscite, autonomy, LOC-based settlement, or international mediation - the road to resolution is obstructed by deep mistrust and conflicting national narratives. Lasting peace requires not only political

flexibility from India and Pakistan but also recognition of the Kashmiri people as central stakeholders. Without addressing their aspirations, no solution can achieve legitimacy or durability.

Q#4

National Security Challenges for Pakistan

National security in the modern era goes far beyond military strength. For Pakistan, emerging non-traditional security threats such as population explosion, food insecurity, and climate related disasters are posing equally serious challenges. These interconnected issues not only undermine economic development but also erode internal stability, thereby threatening the very fabric of national security.

Population Explosion as a Security Challenge:-

Pakistan's population has crossed 241 million in 2025, making it the 5th most populous country in the world. With a growth rate of nearly 2%, the population burden has outpaced economic resources, leading to unemployment, urban overcrowding, and pressure on education and health-care systems. Youth bulge, if left unskilled and unemployed, can become a social unrest, extremism and crime, which directly threaten internal security.

Food Insecurity and its Implications:-

Pakistan ranks among the most food-insecure countries, despite being an agrarian economy. Rising population, low agricultural productivity, water scarcity and poor distribution systems contribute to chronic hunger. According to the Global Hunger Index 2024, Pakistan falls in the "serious" category. Food insecurity

not only causes malnutrition and poverty but also trigger public discontent, protests, and rural-urban migration factors that destabilize governance and weaken state control.

Climate Atrocities and Environmental Security:-

Pakistan is among the top 10 most climate vulnerable countries. The 2022 floods displaced over 33 million people, while the 2025 floods have again exposed the fragility of infrastructure and disaster preparedness. Rising temperatures, glacial melt, water scarcity, and erratic monsoons threaten agriculture, livelihoods, and human survival. Climate-induced migration and resource conflicts (especially over water) can escalate into national security crises, further straining Pakistan's weak economy.

Interlinkage of the Three Challenges:

Population explosion increases demand for food, water and energy. Food insecurity worsens under climate disasters, while resource scarcity fuels social unrest and militancy. These overlapping crises create a vicious cycle that weakens state capacity, undermines economic revival, and erodes public trust in institutions — ultimately endangering national security.

Policy gaps and weak Institutional Response:

Despite recognition of these threats, Pakistan lacks long-term planning and effective implementation. Family planning policies face cultural resistance, agricultural reforms remain stagnant, and climate adaptation strategies are underfunded. Weak governance and corruption exacerbate the crisis, making Pakistan vulnerable

to internal instability and external pressures

Way Forward:-

To safeguard national security, Pakistan must adopt a multi-pronged approach:-

- Effective population control through awareness, family planning and education
- Investment in modern agriculture, water management, and food storage
- Climate adaptation strategies including flood management, and ~~food~~ sustainable urban planning.
- Strengthening disaster management institutions and seeking international climate finance
- Integrating human security into the broader national security framework.

Conclusion:

Pakistan needs a holistic security paradigm, rooted in human development, environmental resilience and resource

management, is essential to ensure long-term peace and stability in Pakistan.

Q#8

INDIA - CHINA RELATIONS:

India-China relations continue to reflect a delicate balancing act rather than a tectonic ~~act~~ realignment. Their ongoing diplomatic engagement signifies pragmatic coexistence amid rivalry, shaped by regional competition, global pressures, and recent efforts to stabilize ties.

Economic engagement and Strategic Caliberation:

Trade in 2024-2025 soared to nearly \$128 billion, but India's exports to China stood at just \$14.3 billion while imports reached \$113.5 billion widening Trade imbalance.

India is reconsidering FDI restrictions on China signaling greater flexibility amid economic recalibration.

Modi's simultaneous outreach to China, Japan and Russia underscores efforts to strategically hedge amid growing US-Tariffs.

Managing Competition, Not ~~Embrace~~ Embracing it :-

While China acknowledging the complexity of the boundary dispute and expresses willingness to talk, it offers no timeline for resolution - reflecting the mistrust and enduring sensitivity.

India meanwhile reinforces its regulatory autonomy through SR, WMCC and defence coordination signifying a measured approach.

Both countries continue to operate through multilateral platforms (BRICS, SCO) showcasing

shared interest in global governance amidst strategic rivalry.

Critical Assessment:-

- No fundamental realignment: diplomatic developments are tactical rather than foundational.
- Confidence measures: (flights, trade, visas) facilitate normalization but core issues like LAC remain unresolved and politically sensitive.
- Strategic Interdependence: economic - geopolitical and institutional compels engagement, not strategic fusion. Both nations manage competition through calibrated relaxation.

Conclusion:-

Recent diplomatic thaw between India and China in 2025 reflects pragmatic compartmentalization, not a shift in

strategic loyalties. They are learning to coexist in an inherently competitive neighborhood - mitigating risks through structured dialogue, yet keeping their core ambitions distinct.
