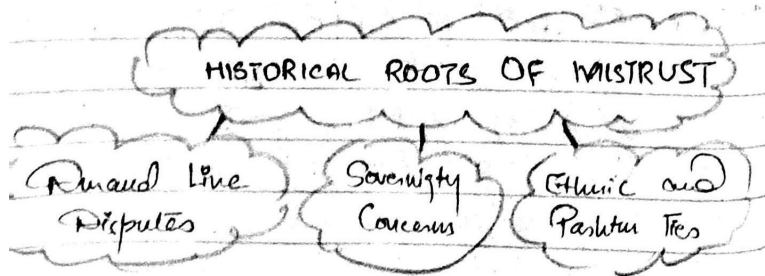


Q2: PAKISTAN AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS REMAIN TENSE EVEN AFTER MEDIATION FROM CHINA:

INTRODUCTION: Pakistan and Afghanistan's relations remain one of the most volatile in South Asia, characterized by historical mistrust, border disputes and security challenges. Despite China's repeated mediation through bilateral defence mechanisms tensions still persist. To understand why stabilization eludes both the countries we need to understand the underlying factors of friction and propose a concrete and realistic ways to improve these relationships.

MAJOR FACTORS:

1. HISTORICAL ROOTS OF MISTRUST:



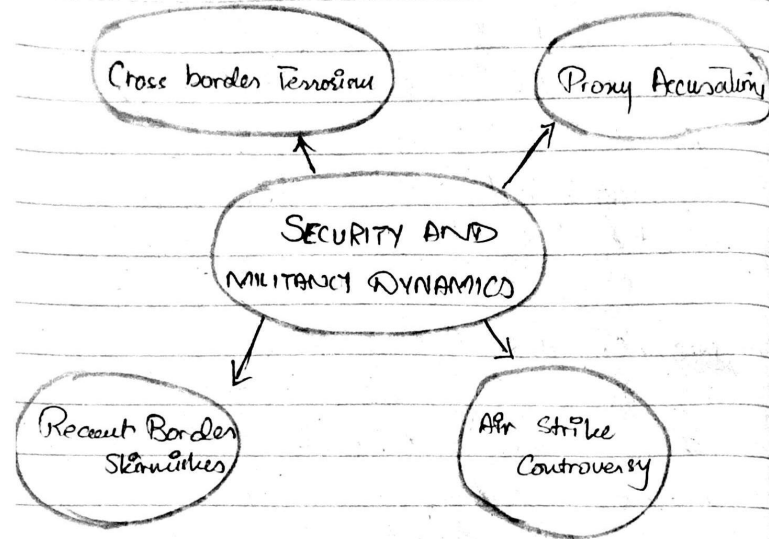
1) **DURAND LINE DISPUTES:** The legacy of Durand line continue to haunt bilateral ties since independence. Afghanistan has historically refused to accept it as an international border. This non-recognition of border marks a foundational strategic distrust.

2) **SOVEREIGNTY CONCERNS:** After the independence of Pakistan in 1947, Afghanistan's diplomatic posture was wary. Kabul was among the first few states that initially opposed Islamabad's membership of United Nations raising political trust deficit.

3) **ETHNIC AND PASHTUN TIES** The Pashtun population straddles both sides of the border, which fuels cross border nationalism. Kabul at times has leveraged Pashtun nationalism, raising Pakistan's fear of irredentism, while Pakistan on the other hand is often accused by Kabul of manipulating the Pashtun identity for strategic leverage.

PRO.

2. SECURITY AND MILITANCY DYNAMICS



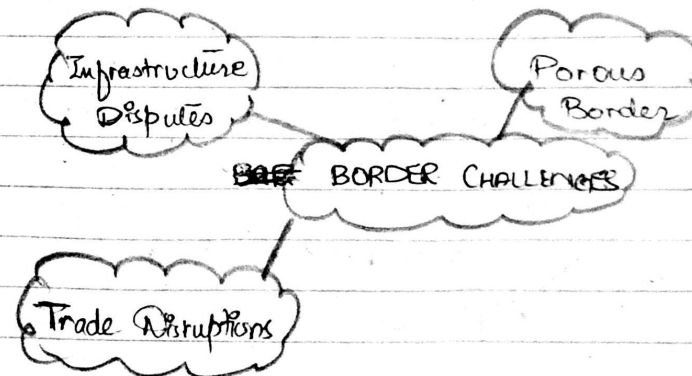
1) CROSS BORDER TERRORISM: Pakistan repeatedly ~~accuses~~ accuses Afghanistan of providing safe haven to TTP (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan) militants who carry out cross border militancy in Pakistan territory. This perpetuates a deep security dilemma.

2) PROXY ACCUSATIONS: On the flip side, Kabul often accuses Islamabad of supporting groups like Haqqani Network, implying that Pakistan meddles in Afghanistan's internal matters.

3- RECENT BORDER SKIRMISHES: In the early 2025 the Torkham border was closed following mortar and rocket exchanges. Over the construction of a Pakistani border outpost, a clear demonstration of border management challenge.

4- AIR STRIKE CONTROVERSY: According to Afghanistan's Taliban officials, Pakistan has carried out air strike operations which have killed civilians including women and children. Such incidents have exacerbated mutual hostility undermining confidence building.

2. BORDER CHALLENGES:-



1) **POROUS BORDER**: Over 2600 km long ~~porous~~ Durand Line is inherently porous. This facilitates illegal smuggling and militants' movements undermining security on both sides.

2) **INFRASTRUCTURE DISPUTES**: Pakistan's attempt to build outposts or fencing the border is seen as a divide among the Pashtun nationalists by Afghanistan. Kabul has been consistent in hindering Pakistan's efforts to construct borders.

3) **TRADE DISRUPTIONS**: Trade disruptions have been an important point of discussion between the two countries. Pakistan has recently closed trade routes from Afghanistan after the tensions between the two countries. This has led to disrupted trade in Afghanistan which is basically landlocked and is dependant on Pakistan for trade.

REFUGEE CRISIS AND HUMAN RIGHTS PRESSURE:

1) **REFUGEE BURDEN**: Pakistan has hosted

almost around 3 million refugees after Taliban took over Afghanistan. Mass numbers of people ~~have~~ sought shelter in Pakistan. This has caused Pakistan to bear economic, social and financial costs.

2) **FORCED REPATRIATIONS**: Pakistan has recently deported large numbers of Afghans, after their ultimatum to leave Pakistan came to an end. This has forced ~~many~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ people to move out of Pakistan and has created complications and hatred among the ~~refugee~~ people.

3) ~~STRATEGIC DEPTHTHS~~

3) **INTERFERENCE OF EXTERNAL ACTORS**: ~~The~~ The interference of external actors has continuously ~~been~~ been a cause of rift between the countries. Afghanistan's officials have been recently visiting India to give clear message of hatred towards Pakistan, India's provocation of Afghanistan to build dam and divert Pakistan's water have all served as a threat to the security of Pakistan.

This has affected Pakistan and its economic projects such as BRI, CPEC etc. China's interest in trilateral dialogue mechanism and attempt

for mediation since Pakistan-Afghanistan and China for smooth economic projects have failed to convince Afghanistan.

WAYS FORWARD:

i. STRENGTHENING SECURITY COOPERATION:

~~Strengthening~~ Strengthening of Joint border security commission with Chinese intervention to control the border and economic projects safely.

ii. MILITARY MEASURES: Agree on no-first strike policy for border outposts, buffers and hotlines.

iii. COUNTER TERRORISM TASK FORCE:

Create a force controlled triilaterally by mediation of China to trace funding, recruitment, and movement of militants.

ECONOMIC AND CONNECTIVITY BOOST:

i. EXTEND CPEC TO AFGHANISTAN Operationalize project CPEC to Pakistan to boost economy, focusing on transport corridors, power lines, etc.

ii) Trade and Transit facilitation: Reduce tariffs, ~~not~~ simplify custom duties and ensure Torkham border remains open for trade under stable conditions.

iii) REGIONAL ENERGY PROJECTS: Ensure resuming projects such as CASA, ^{100%} TAPI etc under Chinese funding and supervision.

DIPLOMATIC TIES:

1. Dialogue Exchanges: Exchange of dialogues ~~to~~ among ^{stable} the ambassadors to ensure diplomatic ties should be promoted. This has been done recently by Turkey's intervention for ceasefire among the two countries.

People To People Initiatives: Encourage scholarship, visa facilities, cultural ~~and~~ educational, and religious exchanges among the people to minimize the hatred ~~increased~~ boosted by wars.

HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION:

Designing of Policies for Refugees Design facilitatory policies which could help

Afghanistan provide economic and developmental stability to the people. The people of Afghanistan can stabilize their economy by building infrastructure and serving to their country. This could be ~~helped~~ done by the help of regional parties such as China. China could operationalize energy projects and fund Afghanistan to build infrastructure and stabilize economy. Through third party mediation.

CONCLUSION: To conclude the mediation by ^{both} China has brought some momentum to the countries but the mistrust between the two continues to fuel their relationships. Historical grievances, border ^{challenges?} security issues, and refugee crisis contribute to persistent friction. China and other potential regional actors mediation can help overcome these issues by funding in infrastructure building, economic projects and boosting security architecture to check the flow of militants. These efforts will not only help Pakistan and Afghanistan resolve disputes, but it is important for regional peace.

Q7. PAKISTAN NEED TO BALANCE RELATIONS AFTER ENGAGEMENT WITH US AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH CHINA

INTRODUCTION: Pakistan ~~for~~ today faces a classical problem and juggles between balancing relationship with China and US. ~~the~~ 2024-2025 deeper engagement with US (recent security and improved bilateral trade talks) along side China "an all weather ally" and Pakistan's strategic partner is centered on CPEC and defence cooperation. This duality requires a nuanced policy that protects Pakistan's sovereignty and ~~promote~~ maximizes economic gains while not being trapped in US-China rivalry.

RECENT US ENGAGEMENT:

Since 2024, Pakistan has resumed higher level of engagement with the US covering counter-terrorism trade talks and institutional ties. This has led to recent mediation by US in the India and Pakistan war in May. Pakistan has also been able to make agreements with US on a lower tariff rates of 20% when India was imposed with a 50%.

and China with almost 100%. These engagements have provided economic and security dividends but also increased US expectations on Pakistan's ^{regional} ~~security~~ posture and counter terrorism performance.

ONGOING CHINA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP:

China remains Pakistan's strategic partner - investor, infrastructure patron and defense supplier with CPEC Phase II continued active planning and high levels meeting continued in 2025. Beijing expects Pakistan to secure Chinese projects and officials/personnells and to act as a reliable BRI partner.

These expectations contain Pakistan's security options.

KEY CONSTRAINTS:

PERSONNELS 1) SECURITY OF CHINESE NATIONALS AND PROJECTS,

Attacks are being carried out on Chinese projects and personells to tarnish Pakistan's image as a responsible partner of the project. Attacks carried out in 2024 especially on Dasu and

Karachi convoy attacks have highlighted security gaps in Pakistan. As a result of this Islamabad faced pressure from Beijing in 2025 to take stronger protection measures - arrest and counter terrorism operations in Islamabad underlines Pakistan's urgency to reassure China of its role as a responsible partner.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS AND IMF FINANCIAL TIES:

Pakistan's macroeconomic stability hinges on IMF disbursements and access to the global capital. The IMF Extended Fund Facility approved in 2024 continued in 2025 with reviews and disbursement which underpins Islamabad's economic room for maneuvers. This makes US ~~for~~ relationships important for Pakistan politically and economically.

STRATEGIC DIFFICULTY - US CHINA RIVALRY COMPRESSING POLICY SPACE:

The accelerating US - China strategic competition compresses Pakistan's diplomatic choices. Deeper ties with US maybe considered as a ~~soft~~ drift by Beijing whereas closer alignment

with China can ~~to~~ raise US concerns. Pakistan must draft policies that extract benefits from both the sides, without provoking any of the allies.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Pakistan will have to take ~~a~~ calculated policy measures by strategically keeping both allies equally. This can be done by avoiding bloc alignments, pursue issue-based partnership; security with US infrastructure with China, and make each equidistant preserve autonomy, reduce pressure to choose and enable Pakistan to leverage from economic and security gains.

POLICY OPTIONS:

1) INSTITUTIONALIZE ISSUE BASED COOPERATION (SECURITY VS ECONOMY)

Pakistan must ~~treat~~ each domain equally, deeper counter terrorism and information sharing with US and ^{confining} ~~to~~ China ties to economic infrastructure and defense procurement. This prevents zero sum trade off and allows Islamabad to

meet the core interests of both the partners without providing strategic alignment to either.

2) ENHANCED CPEC GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY AND SECURITY GUARANTEE:

To reassure China and Western stakeholders Pakistan needs to improve CPEC transparency, local employment and security provisions for both the project and the Chinese personnel. Recent 2025 Counter Terrorism operations and public commitment on security must be showcased as proof of capability to protect investment and gain trust.

3) DEEPEN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND TRADE DIPLOMACY:

Use the 2025 trade talks with the US as an example and expand trade to the Gulf countries, Central Asia, EU, ASEAN etc to lower ~~reliance~~ over reliance on any single partner. Economic diversification strengthens bargaining power and reduces vulnerability to geopolitical pressure.

4) SYNCHRONIZE COUNTER TERRORISM AND SECURITY MESSAGING:

Coordinate and improve counter terrorism operations and public diplomacy to satisfy US concerns while delivering required security outcomes to China. of protecting infrastructure and workers.

5) LEVERAGE MULTI LATERAL ~~FRAMEWORK~~ FRAMEWORK AND REGIONALISM:

Use multilateral platforms such as SCO, ECO, DIC, EATF compliance and regional initiatives such as China led BRI, Gulf Investment to diffuse bilateral pressure and secure third party guarantee for major projects and trade arrangements. Multilateralization reduces the perception of binary alignments.

6) STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC RESILIENCE:

Ultimately balance depends on the domestic strength, credible governance and anti corruption, fiscal stability and social cohesion make Pakistan less ~~suscept~~ susceptible to external coercion. IMF built this resilience

and reduce strategic dependency

CONCLUSION: Recent 2024-2025 events with US trade talks, IMF reviews and disbursements, counter terrorism arrest linked to attacks on Chinese projects/personnel and continued China Pakistan high level exchanges ~~with~~ underscore both the urgency and opportunity for careful balancing. If Islamabad demonstrates capacity and transparency, it can use great power competition to its advantage rather than being dropped in between rivals.

Q8: Pakistan Saudi Arabia have signed a historic defense pact. Critically evaluate the causes and implications of the deal.

PAKISTAN - SAUDI DEFENSE PACT : CAUSES AND IMPLICATIONS:

1. INTRODUCTIONS: Strategic Turning Point in Pak-Saudi Ties:

On Sept 17th 2025, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) pledging that any aggression against one will be treated as an aggression against both. This formalizes decades of bilateral cooperation into binding security commitments. Giving rising Gulf tensions, diminishing US reliability, and Pakistan's economic vulnerability this pact is not just symbolic. - It defines regional power dynamic role in Middle Eastern security.

2 CAUSES OF DEFENSE PACT:

1) SHARED STRATEGIC INTEREST & HISTORIC TIES

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have long standing defense cooperation → training, joint exercises and

informal security understanding. The new pact builds on that legacy, institutionalizing what was once implicit brotherhood rooted in Islamic solidarity and geopolitical interdependence.

B) REGIONAL SECURITY VOLATILITY & GULF ANXIETY:

Escalating tensions in the Middle East - Israel strikes (eg Doha, Gaza), Houthi activity and Iranian nuclear uncertainty have unsettled Gulf states. Saudi Arabia, wary of over reliance on US guarantees, sees Pakistan as a reliable partner to bolster its deterrence.

C) DECLINING PERCEIVED RELIABILITY OF US SECURITY GUARANTEES:

Gulf States including Saudi Arabia, are increasingly questioning US commitments to their security. Amid this strategic shift, Saudi Arabia ~~realizes~~ formalizes its defense ties with Pakistan to reduce dependence on the unpredictable external partners/powers.

D) PAKISTAN'S ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC INCENTIVES:

Pakistan gains from this agreement through financial, defense, and political pathways. The pact paves the way for deeper Saudi investment, and after signing, Islamabad formed an 18 member committee for broader economic talks (energy, industry, labor). Moreover, Pakistan bolsters its strategic relevance by offering its military and possibly nuclear deterrence.

E) NUCLEAR DETERRENCE AND EXTENDED SECURITY AMBIGUITY:

According to Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Asif, nuclear capabilities can be made available to Saudi Arabia in some manner. While Islamabad denies a formal nuclear transfer, analysts interpret the pact as an important de facto nuclear umbrella for the Kingdom. The ambiguity serves both as a deterrent and a diplomatic signal.

F) INSTITUTIONALIZING DEFENSE COOPERATION (JOINT EXERCISE, TECHNOLOGY, INTELLIGENCE)

The agreement explicitly covers a "comprehensive spectrum" of cooperation: force training, intelligence sharing, joint exercises, technology transfer. This institutional depth reflects confidence in each other's capabilities and a long-term commitment to mutual defense.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEAL:

A) STRATEGIC DETERRENCE AND REGIONAL POWER PROJECTIONS:

The pact strengthens Pakistan's role as a key military actor in the Gulf. For Saudi Arabia, this means enhanced deterrence in a volatile region, especially against near-peer threats like Iran and non-state actors such as Houthis. The deal shifts Riyadh's shift towards regional burden sharing.

B) NUCLEAR AND PROLIFERATION CONCERNS

While Pakistan claims the pact does not equate to formal nuclear sharing, the

strategic ambiguity of "extended deterrent" crosses concerns. This could spark anxiety in the region (Israel, Iran) and prompt calls for arms control or proliferation risk assessments.

C) ESCALATION RISKS & ENTANGLEMENT IN REGIONAL CONFLICTS:

By aligning its security with Saudi Arabia, Pakistan risks deeper entanglement in Middle Eastern rivalries. Analysts warn that Islamabad may be drawn into Gulf conflicts (e.g. proxy wars, Israel-Iran rivalry) under the guise of mutual defense. Moreover, joint commitments may force Pakistan to take sides in future regional crises.

IMPACTS ON INDIA & SOUTH ASIAN STRATEGIC LANDSCAPES:

The pact is likely to send ripples through South Asia. India already concerned about Pakistan's nuclear posture, will closely watch this defense arrangement. The agreement could recalibrate Pakistan's deterrence strategy vis-a-vis India and reinforce Islamabad's role in Islamic and

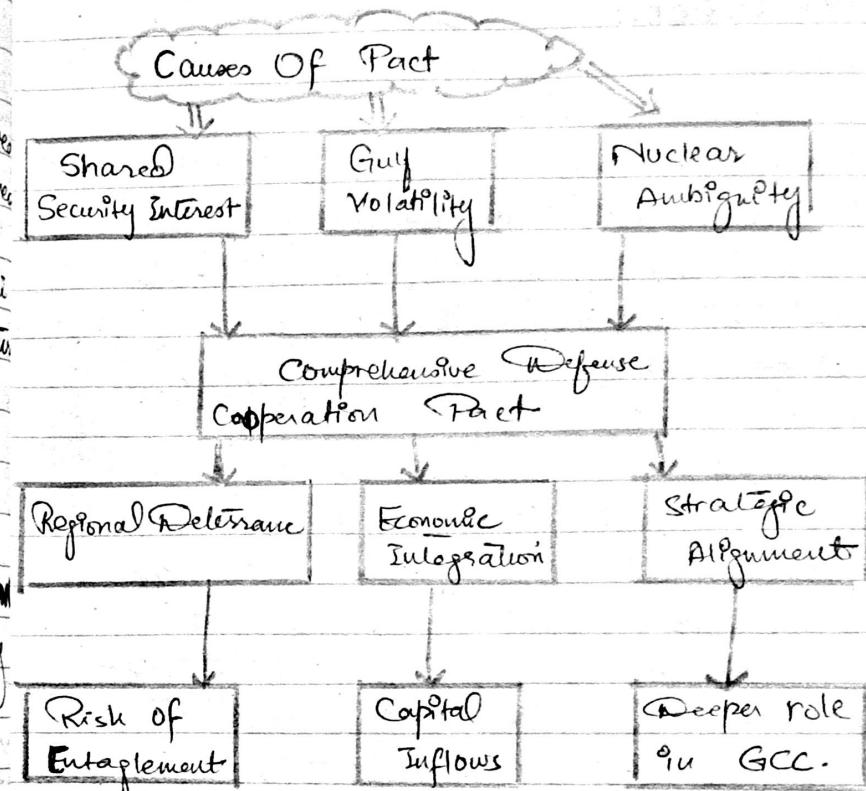
Gulf strategic circles-

ECONOMIC PAYOFF AND DEEPEDED BILATERAL COOPERATION:

Beyond defense that pact catalyzes renewed Saudi economic engagement. Pakistan has formed a high-level 18-members committee to negotiate investments under the Pakistan-Saudi Economic Framework covering energy, infrastructure and green technology. This may translate into long term capital inflow and strategic economic alignment.

DOMESTIC & GEOPOLITICAL RISK FOR PAKISTAN

Pakistan must manage several risks: financing and implementing the defense commitments, maintaining autonomy (especially regarding nuclear power) and avoiding over dependence. This agreement also complicates Pakistan's diplomacy with Iran and other regional actors. If Saudi relations with Iran or Israel worsens, Pakistan may be forced to navigate a difficult path.



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CONCLUSION: The Pakistan Saudi Arabia Mutual Defense Agreement 2025 marks a watershed in Muslim world security cooperation. It institutionalizes decades of bilateral ties under a formal collective security umbrella, providing both nations with enhanced deterrence ^{credibility} ~~capability~~ and enhanced ^{economic} ~~leverage~~ leverage. However, the pact also brings complex implications, potential nuclear ambiguity, entanglement in Middle Eastern rivalries and strategic risk for Pakistan. To maximize benefits and mitigate risks, Islamabad must carefully operationalize the agreement, maintain diplomatic autonomy and deepen economic frameworks. If managed judiciously, this defense pact could bolster Pakistan's regional influence and contribute to greater Gulf stability, but misuse or overreach could drag into wider geopolitical conflicts.

Q5: Trump once again pulled out of the Paris Climate Agreement. Critically evaluate the future efforts against climate change in the absence of the world leader.

1. INTRODUCTION: GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

IN LEADERSHIP VACUUM: The withdrawal of the United States - the world's second-largest emitter and historically the largest cumulative polluter - from the Paris Climate Agreement for the second time marks a seismic shift in the global climate governance. This move comes at a time when the global temperature have already crossed 1.3°C above pre-industrial levels, and the world is edging dangerously close to breaching the 1.5°C threshold set by IPCC. The absence of the U.S., a key financier, technological hub, and diplomatic leader, poses serious challenges to future global mitigation and adaptation efforts. This answer critically evaluates how climate initiatives will evolve without the US, what gaps will emerge, and how the world can still sustain momentum towards climate stability.

FUTURE EFFORTS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE: GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS OF US WITHDRAWAL

2. WEAKENING OF GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP:

The US has historically led climate diplomacy - particularly through COP negotiations, climate financing, and bilateral environmental initiatives. Its absence creates a power vacuum that no single country can immediately fill. While the EU and China may attempt to lead, diverging strategic interests may hinder coherent global direction. As leadership fragments, consensus building at COP conferences becomes slower and more contentious.

3. DECLINE IN GLOBAL CLIMATE FINANCING

CAPACITY: The US previously committed \$3 billion to the Green Climate Fund, of which only 1/3rd was delivered. With its renewed withdrawal, a significant gap reemerges in financing adaptation for developing nations. Future projects in the Global South - including coastal protection, climate smart agriculture, and renewable energy transition - may face delays due to funding shortages.

4. REDUCING TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT IN GREEN INNOVATION:

The US hosts some of the world's largest clean tech firms, including TESLA, GE, and Silicon Valley's renewable technology startups. Its exit slows the transfer of cutting edge green technologies, particularly in solar efficiency, battery storage and carbon capture. Countries depending on American climate R&D may struggle to keep pace with carbon decarbonization targets.

5. FRAGMENTATION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE DIPLOMACY

Historically, US diplomacy pushed ambitious global targets, especially during Obama's tenure. Without its political weight, future climate negotiations risks fragmentation. Regional blocs, EU, China, ASEAN, African Union - may develop separate policies, undermining unified framework of the Paris Agreement. This could lead to inconsistent emission reduction pathways among major powers.

6. SLOWING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION

IN DEVELOPING STATES: Many developing nations rely on climate financing, technology-sharing,

and diplomatic pressure to transition from fossil fuels to renewables. Without US, the transition in the countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, and Indonesia may slow down. These states may shift back towards cheaper fossil-fuels-based development due to limited alternatives and financial constraints.

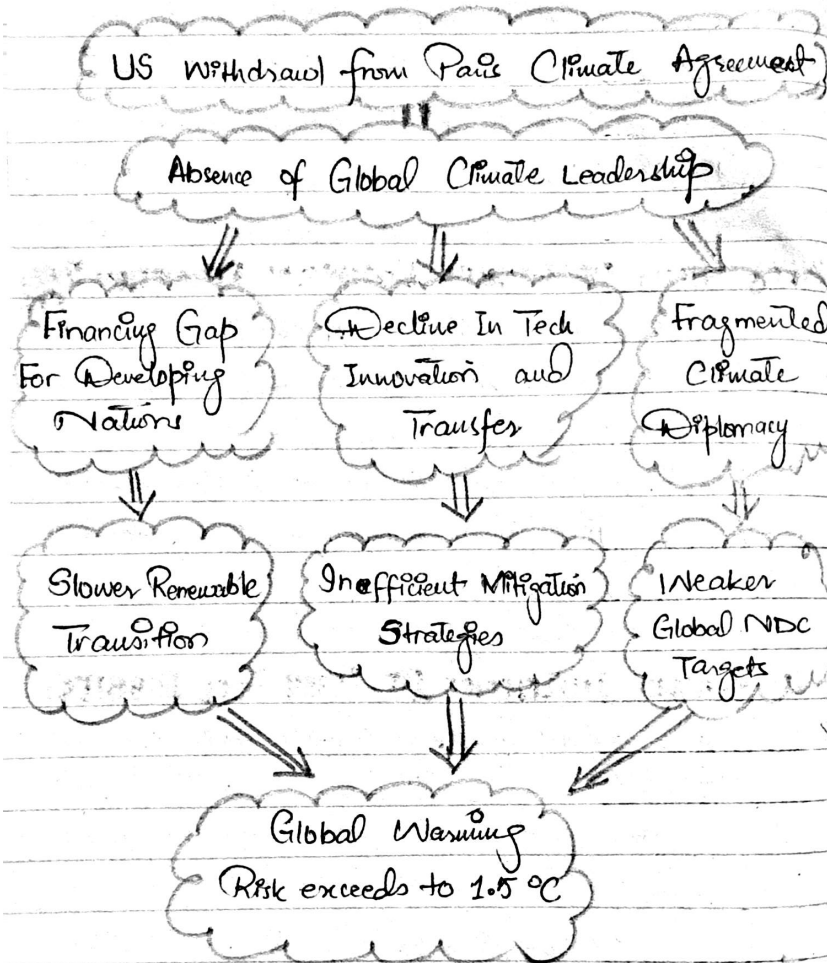
7. WEAKENING OF GLOBAL EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS

The Paris Agreement is built on Nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The US withdrawal weakens global ambition because its commitment accounted for nearly 15% of global warming projections exceed $2.3 - 2.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ (IPCC 2024). This undermines collective mitigation pathways.

8. INCREASED INFLUENCE OF FOSSIL FUEL LOBBIES:

In the absence of US federal commitment, petroleum corporations, coal companies and natural gas lobbies gain stronger influence. This creates detrimental ripple effects. Countries with aggressive fossil lobbies - such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, and the UAE - may push weaker global standards. Consequently, climate negotiations may witness stronger resistance to phasing out hydrocarbons.

IMPACT OF US WITHDRAWAL ON FUTURE CLIMATE EFFORTS:



9. RISE OF REGIONAL CLIMATE COALITIONS (EU-CHINA-INDIA AXIS)

Europe and China may fill part of the leadership vacuum by forming regional coalitions. Example include the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and China's massive renewable energy expansion. However, these initiatives may lack the inclusive legitimacy that US provided, especially for African and South Asian states. Regional coalitions may promote climate actions but without universal outreach.

10. FUTURE ADAPTATION CHALLENGES IN CLIMATE VULNERABLE REGIONS:

South Asia, Sub Saharan Africa and Island nations may face increased / heightened climate vulnerabilities without adequate financial and technological assistance. Higher risk of floods, prolonged droughts and heatwaves will require advanced adaptation mechanisms. Without the US, these states may struggle to build resilient agricultural systems, early warning systems, or climate proof infrastructure.

11. CRITICAL EVALUATION: IS GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION STILL POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE US?

A purely pessimistic outlook is inaccurate. Despite US withdrawal, several forces continue to drive climate action:

- 1) EU remains committed to ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- 2) China leads the world in renewable energy installation
- 3) India continues massive solar expansion (International Solar Alliance)
- 4) Non-state actors with the US (states, cities, corporations) remain aligned with Paris targets.

However, a complete replacement of the US leadership is unlikely. Fragmentation, financing gaps, and weaker enforcement mechanisms remain long-term obstacles.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS:

12.1) STRENGTHENING EU CHINA JOINT LEADERSHIP MECHANISM: To compensate for the US vacuum, EU and China must establish

a coordinated climate leadership platform focused on NDC enhancement, green technology transfers, and multilateral diplomacy. A shared roadmap can unify global objectives.

12.2) ENHANCING CLIMATE FINANCING THROUGH ALTERNATIVE FUNDS:

The Green Climate Fund must be supplemented with new financing mechanisms from EU, Japan, South Korea and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Innovative mechanisms such as carbon pricing, green bonds and climate insurance pools are crucial.

12.3) EXPANDING THE ROLE OF NON-STATE CLIMATE ACTORS:

Universities, multinational corporations and US states - such as California and New York - should continue aligning with Paris goals through networks like "We Are Still In" coalition. Their contribution can partially offset federal absence.

12.4) STRENGTHENING ADAPTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN CLIMATE VULNERABLE STATES:

Investments are needed for:

- 1) Climate Smart Agriculture
- 2) Early warning systems
- 3) Resilient infrastructure
- 4) Water management systems

Regional Organizations like SAARC, African Union and ASEAN must be strengthened to deliver adaptation solutions.

12.5) ACCELERATING TRANSITION TO RENEW-

ABLE ENERGY : Countries should diversify energy portfolios through solar, wind, hydel and green hydrogen. Chinese, European Union and India can lead technology sharing to ensure developing countries have access to affordable renewable systems.

12.6) INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IN GLOBAL

CLIMATE GOVERNANCE : The Paris

Climate Agreement requires stronger monitoring, verification and accountability systems. Future COP meetings must establish clearer penalties for non-compliance to prevent major power withdrawals from derailing global progress.

CONCLUSION: The withdrawal of the US once again from Paris Climate Agreement significantly complicates future global efforts against climate change. Leadership vacuums, financing gaps, weaker technological transitions, and fragmented diplomacy presents formidable obstacles. However, through strengthened regional cooperations, diversified financing empowered non-state actors, and more sensitive climate governance by the EU, China and India the World can still maintain forward momentum. A future proof climate agenda requires collective political will, innovative adaptation strategies, and a shared global commitment to safeguard the planet - even in absence of world's former Climate Leaders.