

Subjective Part

Q. No. 2

Pak-Afghan relations continue to remain tensed even after mediation by china. What do you think are the major factors & how it could be improved?

Introduction:

China has played important role in maintaing peace in region. So was the case with Pak-Afghan relationship. Till August there has been many trilateral conferences and a few cooperation agreements. But with the sudden change in worldwide politics, these growing ties began to deteriorate since last month. And according to analysts,

"They are writting off against each other without any positive sight." The conditions have grown so sour that the trade has been stopped at border for about a month and both countries are facing

problems. Yet considering The strategic and security interest, there is hardly any leniency from both governments. There are many causes for the decline in relationships between both countries. including border disputes and militancy rise in Pakistan.

Major Factors for Tensed Relations,

Here are some major factors behind these deteriorating relationships between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

1. Border Dispute

Pak-Afghan border has always been an apple of discord between both states. The border line itself was never acceptable to Afghans. But later after 1990s, The Durand Line got accepted and both made peace on the issue. The continued interaction among Pashtuns of both states never stopped and border was sometimes used for illegal activities by locals. The fencing of Durand Line was a great challenge and it was

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agreed upon by both countries in last decade. Still the reservations remained there. Now the border has become weak due to militant groups supported by Afghanistan. The border is now closed down by Pakistan government as it is tying the tension more.

2. Militancy Revival and Terrorism.

Last sixty days marked rise in militant attacks in KPK and Baluchistan. Around 900 citizens were killed collectively in these attacks. The ~~at~~ operations were conducted in both provinces by security forces yet the condition remained the same. TTP and Fitna tul Khawarij has been active in these attacks. TTP is knowingly doing so and Pakistani forces also tracked foreign funding to these groups. This led to the harsh decision of cutting all strategic and trade relations ~~with~~ between both states despite the peaceful agreements.

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going on between both.

3. Refugee Crisis.

It was a past issue. But refugees of Afghanistan are still staying in Pakistan. The agreement between both states was signed to return Afghan refugees in groups back to their country. It was creating problems for Afghan government to handle the returning people and their economy was stressed. The procedure stopped for the time being but militant groups started ~~reb~~ their actions and Pakistan had to take decision.

4. External Powers and Interference.

This is the main issue of rising tensions. Taliban government was growing ~~their~~ ^{its} ties with India. Until it was for their strategic and economic purposes, it was good. But later on India started interfering with Tehreek Taliba in Pakistan which was a clearly an attack to Pakistan's sovereignty.

So the conflicts rose to defend our state and making the ^{clear} decision of stopping all ties was ^{considered as} the need of hour.

5. Trade Issues:

Since the Taliban took over the government of Afghanistan, Pakistan has been unsure about accepting the regime change. But later on things got settled and everything including trade was going smooth. Lately the ~~can~~ trade of ~~illegal~~ goods faced restrictions and difficulties.

Impacts of This Tension.

Since both countries have always been in close relationship, whether strategic or economic, there was a huge disadvantage for both due to tensed relations. Especially due to border tension and trade cut, both nations are feeling at disadvantage.

Way Forward

Ahmad Rashid said,

"The relationship between both countries has always been complicated by mutual suspicion and interest. But peace depends on both things - building trust and cooperation."

Following are some solutions for its improvement.

a- Mutual Agreement for Border Conflict.

There should be a proper talk and agreement of both states on the issue of border and the trade through it. Only then will be the peace between two.

b- Border Security.

Security for both states must cooperate to make Durand line safe otherwise the conflict will never be get rid of. Moreover it will prevent the

reservations of one country. There must be a proper dialogue and agreement for this purpose.

c. Trade Promotion.

There should be a balanced check on trading on border. Cutting down the ties is not the solution. Medicine and other products were exported by Pakistan to Afghanistan and Afghans were highly dependent on them. Now the trade restriction has become more challenging for already struggling Afghans. In the words of Saira Yousaf

|| 'Human security should be central to Pakistan & Afghanistan' ||

d. Manage External Interference.

This is the most important thing to do for now. Both countries should manage their relations around the globe but it must not affect the other. If it does then there must be proper mitigation for that problem. Otherwise the misunderstandings will

keep rising up. India - Afghan relation must remain to their own interest. There should be no interference in Pakistan's sovereignty.

Conclusion:

The tensed relations between both countries must not go further. Both states are important for each other strategically and geologically. There must be talks and negotiations to bring out the mutual agreement beneficial for both states.

Q. No. 4

Introduction:

Pakistan is facing revival of militancy for last few months in KPK and Baluchistan. Although the problem goes way back to the first decade of 2000s yet the problem is that the country has not been able to counter the issue for so many

years and facing harsh consequences. Many militant groups in Baluchistan and KPK has been involved in terrorism. TTP, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Fitna tul Khawarij are militant groups attacking in both KP and Baluchistan while there are many separatist groups like BLA, BRA and ISISK which are rebelling in Baluchistan. They are mostly Gaurilla trained, they come, attack and hide again. That is why security forces of Pakistan has failed to counter them.

Reasons for Revival of Militancy.

Following are the factors that help in support of militancy.

1- Revival of Taliban Government:

Taliban came into government in 2022 and since then many militant groups has become strong as their leaders fled to Afghanistan and became the part of their government. For example Noor Wali Mehsud

is supposedly residing in Southern Afghanistan. Since the Taliban government made its regime in Afghanistan, more than 5000 prisoners of TTP were released by them and they again took their spots resultantly attacking in KP and Baluchistan.

2. Afghan Border and Afghanistan as Launching Pad.

Afghan border, after so many decades, is still porous. It has fence but still not safe from terrorism. Especially the area of Durand line on FATA is hardly protected. Moreover Afghan cities where there is hardly any check and balance is used as a launching pad of these militant groups.

3. Poor Dealing with Non State Actors.

Government of Pakistan has been failed to deal with these actors. Pakistan decided to start talks with them but there was no progress. At that time Pakistan ended FATA Reform bill

of 2013 and thus the dialogue went in vain. Moreover there was not final destination, decided by Pakistan's government.

4. Weak Policing System.

This is the huge problem in Pashtun areas where tribal system is still going on. Tribes have their own systems and they hardly accept any foreign entity interfering in their matters. Sardars take actions against police forces and internal conflicts result in the failure of keeping peace. Another important fact is that state remain un-decisive in this case. They never tried to devise or special force for those areas where normal policing is not beneficial.

5. Foreign Involvement.

Border enemy of Pakistan has ~~been~~^{be} supporting the narrative of militant attacks. TTP and other groups are found to be

funded by India. It is a huge cause of revival of attacks since the relationship across the border of India & Pakistan has been in deep waters since this February.

6. Separatist Groups in Baluchistan.

There are two school of thoughts who blame different sides for separatist activities

- a. Centralist School of Thought who consider that sardars of tribes of Baluchistan are the major cause of the separatist activities. As they are not aware of the current state of ^{the region} country they still want to get a separate identity
- b. Federalist School of Thought thinks that economic share provided by government is not enough and upto the needs of people of Baluchistan so sardars and Tribal people are not to blame but Federal government is.

Both these groups are right to an extent. There must be reformation in

NFC Award and Tribal heads should also consider the national sovereignty in consideration.

As **Zahid Hussain** said:

"Militancy is not merely a security problem - it is the outcome of unresolved ideological, political and socio-economic contradictions."

Recommendations:

1- Intelligence Based Operations

There must be the use of intelligence especially tech led intelligence to conduct operations instead of locking down the whole area. It will create less fear among civilians.

2- Comprehensive Negotiations.

There must be talks and negotiations with proper dialogue based on give and take. Pakistan should also consider the needs of civilians and specially ^{while} dealing with separatist groups, there must be a ~~give~~ support, economic and strategic.

3. Border Alignment and Joint Security Initiatives.

There must be proper dealing and agreements regarding border security. Securing border from one side is not the solution as it will take more energy & economy if only one do so.

Moreover there must be joint security initiatives to protect the people and land of the country.

Conclusion.

Although the problem of militancy is deep-rooted and is getting harder to deal with, there is still time to make amendments in our dealing with these non-state actors. Past solutions were in vain but there is still a way. In the words of Hussain Haqqani:

"Sustainable peace requires Pakistan to address not symptoms but root-cause — Political exclusion and extremist notions."

Q. No. 7

Introduction:

Changing global dynamics and political notions have been prevailing the year 2025. There has been a lot of ideological changes, regarding multipolarity, came into being. The world seems to be not working as it was. Russia-Ukraine war, China's economic strength, US and Trump dealing with tariffs, shift of India and many other incidents are taking us towards a different world order. Pakistan has been actively participating in all those changes since the small India-Pakistan conflict in April and May. Pakistan paid visits to US and to smooth the talks between Gaza and Israel, Pakistan was in front rows. The problem is challenges coming up in maintaining the foreign policy towards rivals - US and China. Both these countries are important for Pakistan.

Challenges Pakistan can Face:

◦ China and US Rivalry

It is the challenge Pakistan has to face while maintaining its relationship with both countries. US is going to compete against China in future as well and there is hardly any chance for peace among the two. So it is a test of Pakistan's foreign policy to take both of them.

◦ Economic and Strategic vs Geographic Position

This is a very important issue Pakistan has to face. China is not just an economic & strategic partner but also an important country with joint border. US is also economic & strategic partner but when it comes to peace in region, there will be the conflict of leverage.

How Pakistan can Balance:

1. Multi-Vector Foreign Policy:

Pakistan must come with the new notions of foreign policy. Multipolar world is

hard to walk along since it requires high balance of relations. Since Pakistan is going to maintain relationship with both powers in the world, it has to devise a multi-vector plan of foreign policy.

2. Emphasis on Common Interest.

Instead of choosing sides, Pakistan must consider the interest of its own. Since both countries are providing for the interest of Pakistan, it should manage its autonomy keeping the relationship sustained with both sides.

3. Economic Cooperation.

Pakistan must consider its own interest. China is a long time friend of Pakistan and is investing in CPEC and BRI. Pakistan is getting benefits as well so it will be better to keep the ties strong with china.

4- Strengthening Defense and Security Ties.

Pakistan must keep working on the defense and security for its own benefit especially after the IWT suspension and conflict between Pakistan and India. It is important for Pakistan to keep up its relation with US, since US is a great ally. China's support to Pakistan during conflict was unmatched. So it will be a challenge to carry both but Pakistan must devise a reckless foreign Policy to walk with both of them.

5- Leverage to Geopolitical Position.

Although US is very important for Pakistan. But when it comes to geographical position it is important to keep up with China. Geopolitical conditions of Pakistan will always take the leverage as it will be hard to keep peace in region if another border state will be mismanaged by Pakistan like Afghanistan.

and India. As 2

Conclusion:

It will be challenging for Pakistan to 'play on both sides' (Hussain Haqqani) but still state needs to come up with a refined and more autonomous foreign policy. It is must to tackle the ongoing world order where soft power like China and hard power like US and Russia are ^{not} ~~is~~ on good terms. As Zahid Hussain says:

"Balancing imperatives of foreign policy of Pakistan requires strict maintainance of autonomy and ~~of~~ management of external pressure."

Q. No. 8

Introduction.

Recently Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a defense Pact with the main clause saying 'the attack on one will be the attack on the other'. It was considered as the successful agreement between both countries since it was fulfilling each other's interests. The changing world dynamics, wars between Israel-Gaza and Israel-Iran and attack on Qatar was the driving force to make this agreement by KSA.

Causes of Pak-Saudi Defence Pact.

1- Saudi Security Concerns.

Changing regional security matters and attack on Iran and Qatar by Israel was the main reason for KSA to be under the nuclear umbrella of

2. Economic Leverage for Pakistan.

Pakistan is facing economic challenges since its creation. The foreign policy is mainly decided considering the economic factor for Pakistan. Same was the case for this pact. Pakistan gained various economic perks in exchange of giving defense to KSA.

3. Geo-Political Realignment.

Abraham accords onbb CPEC rivalry brought Pakistan into divide between sides. This pact will bring the gulf and Pakistan back on good terms.

4. Religious Importance.

Religious importance of Saudi Arabia has always been prior to Pakistan. The sanctity of city of Makkah and Madinah never once decreased despite various political conflicts. This pact brought the two nations together and it was the whole good reason for this pact.

c. Security In Gulf:

Pakistani forces deployed in KSA will be a huge benefit to Gulf security. The nuclear power forces standing on borders is a great leverage for Gulf countries.

Implications of Defence Pact:

1. Strengthened Bilateral Ties:

The ties between both KSA and Pakistan got more strength after this pact. It brought two countries and their dynamics together. Joint training sessions and military deals will open new doors for both.

2. Strategic Influence:

This pact has a great strategic impact on the KSA and Pakistan. Pakistan's presence in Gulf will enhance the importance of state and its forces. As Rizwan Hassan said

"Pakistan has become a key security player beyond south Asia. It must tread carefully and maintain balance."

3- Economic Benefits:

This fact brought various economic benefits to Pakistan's struggling economy. The citizens of Pakistan in KSA are now getting more benefits in Saudi Arabia. Moreover oil and gas deals were signed between both countries which will surely give the economy a hand.

4. Relation of Pakistan with Other Countries.

Pakistan's presence in Gulf is beneficial for state. In changing world order and multipolar and diplomatic ideologies, Pakistan's step into gulf is indeed better for making good relations with other gulf countries.

Analysis:

Although the implications of Pak - Saudi defence pact are in favour but there is still challenge to maintain defense and strategic balance between with other countries. Entering gulf will surely open up the broad

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world but still 'intricate politics of Gulf'
is standing on the way.
According to Ahmed Rashid:

"It requires careful navigation of
regional compliances to avoid
entanglement."

Conclusion.

Pak-Saudi defense pact
is beneficial agreement for both countries
yet it has its own challenges and
benefits. Hope is there that Pakistan
will successfully go through the
intricacies of Gulf border and will
get the economic benefits it is
wishing for.