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Current Affairs

Part II.

Question no 2:

Pakistan Afghan relations continue to remain tensed even after mediation by China.

Major Factors contributing to Tensions:

(1) Border Disputes and security concerns:

The Durand Line has long been a source of disagreement. Pakistan often accuses Afghan-based militants of launching attacks across the border. Afghanistan has concerns over cross border security operations by Pakistan.

(2) Militant and Terrorist Activities:

Groups like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) operate from Afghan territory. Pakistan expects Afghanistan to act against these militants, limited action fuels mistrust.

(3) Refugee and Migration Issues:

Millions of Afghan refugees reside in Pakistan. Strains on resources and security concerns create tension between the two countries.

(4) Political and Ideological Differences:

Afghanistan's Taliban led government and Pakistan have differing political

priorities and alliances. Alleged interference in each other's domestic affairs worsens trust.

- (5) Economic and limited cross-border trade due to insecurity and political tensions reduces mutual economic benefit.

Measures to Improve Relations:

(1) Strengthening Border Management:

- Joint border patrols and surveillance to prevent militant infiltration.
- Clearly demarcating the border and improving border security infrastructure.

(2) Counter-Terrorism Cooperation:

- Both countries should collaborate to dismantle militant networks.
- Intelligence sharing and coordinated operations can build trust.

(3) Economic and Trade Engagement:

- Expanding trade agreements and facilitating cross-border commerce.
- Investment in infrastructure like the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade could strengthen ties.

(4) Diplomatic Dialogue and Mediation:

- Continued mediation by neutral parties (like China) can help resolve

disputes.

11/04/2020

- High-level visits and regular bilateral meetings improve communication and reduce misunderstandings.

(5) Addressing Refugee and Humanitarian Issues:

- Joint programs for refugees and displaced populations to ensure safety, education, and livelihood.
- Reduces domestic tensions while showing goodwill.

Conclusion:

Pak-Afghan relations are shaped by history, security, and political complexities. While trust deficits persist, sustained dialogue, counter-terrorism cooperation, trade engagement, and humanitarian measures can gradually improve ties. Mediation by neutral parties like China can help, but long-term improvement requires mutual respect for sovereignty and shared security priorities.

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Question no 4:

Revival of militancy in KP and Balochistan:

Reasons for the Revival:

- a) Geopolitical and security Factors:
 - Spillover effects from Afghanistan, especially after Taliban takeovers, have emboldened militants.
 - Cross-border movement of extremist groups increases attacks in border districts of KP and Balochistan.
- b) Socio-Economic Underdevelopment:
 - High poverty, unemployment, and lack of education make youth vulnerable to radicalization.
 - Underdeveloped infrastructure and limited government services in remote areas fuel grievances.
- c) Ethnic and separatist Movements:
 - In Balochistan, some groups continue ethno-nationalist insurgencies demanding greater autonomy and resource control.
 - KP has witnessed revival of militant networks seeking ideological or sectarian agendas.
- d) Weak Governance and security Gaps:
 - Limited government presence in remote tribal and border areas.

- Corruption and ineffective law enforcement create security vacuums.

e) External Influence:

- Reports of external actors supporting or funding militant outfits to destabilize the region.

Recommendations:

a) Strengthen security Measures:

- Enhanced intelligence gathering and counter terrorism operations.
- Coordinated operations between federal and provincial security forces.

b) Promote Socio-Economic Development:

- Investment in education, healthcare, and employment programs in affected areas.
- Development projects must be inclusive and locally sensitive.

c) Political Engagement and Autonomy:

- Dialogue with local leaders in Balochistan to address grievances over resources and governance.
- Promote participatory governance and local decision-making.

d) Border Management and Regional Cooperation:

- Secure and monitor the Afghan-Pakistan border to prevent militant inflow.

- cooperation with Afghanistan and international partners for regional peace.
- e) Counter-Radicalization Programs:
 - Awareness campaigns and community programs to deter youth from militancy.
 - Promote moderate religious and cultural education to challenge extremist narratives.

Conclusion:

The revival of militancy in KP and Baluchistan is multi dimensional rooted in security, socio-economic, political, and external factors.

Effective solutions require combining military, developmental, political and community-based strategies.

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Question no 7:

Pakistan has strong ties with China (CPEC, defence, technology) and renewed engagement with the US (trade, IMF, security cooperation). To keep both sides satisfied, Pakistan needs to act smartly and neutrally.

Way Pakistan can Balance these Relations:

- (i) Follow a Balanced Foreign Policy.

Pakistan should avoid taking sides.

It should ~~not~~ openly say that relations with the US and China are not against any country but based on its own national interest.

(2) Use China for Long-Term Development, use the US for Economy/Trade:

- China helps with infrastructure, energy projects, and defence.
- The US is Pakistan's biggest export market and supports IMF/World Bank.
- Pakistan should benefit from both in their own areas.

(3) Keep Communication Open with Both:

- Regular meetings, dialogues, and diplomacy help reduce misunderstandings.
- Pakistan should assure both countries that cooperation will be transparent and peaceful.

(4) Strengthen the Economy.

A Strong economy gives Pakistan independence. It reduces pressure to choose between China and the US.

(5) Neutral Role in Global Rivalries.

Pakistan should stay out of the US-China competition, especially in areas like:

- technology rivalry
- south China sea.

- military bloc.

Instead, Pakistan should promote peace and regional cooperation.

(6) Focus on Regional Stability:

Better relations with neighbours (Afghanistan, Iran, India, if possible) help Pakistan reduce dependency on any one power.

Conclusion:

Pakistan can maintain good relations with both China and the US by being neutral, practical, and focused on economic development. A balanced approach allows Pakistan to gain benefits from both partnerships with entering global rivalries.

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Question no 8.

PAK-Saudia Defence Pact:

The 2025 Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan formalized decades of informal military cooperation including training, support, and defence collaboration into a legally binding treaty under which an attack on one is considered an attack on both. The pact reflects shifting regional dynamics: Saudi Arabia's desire to diversify its

security partners beyond traditional allies, and Pakistan's need for strategic relevance, economic support, and defence cooperation.

causes:

1) Rising Regional Insecurity:

Saudia Arabia wants stronger security partners as it doubts traditional guarantees.

2) Long defence ties:

Pakistan has trained Saudi forces for decades, so formalising cooperation was natural.

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3) Mutual interests:

- Pakistan needs economic help and investment.
- Saudi Arabia wants a reliable, experienced military partner.

4) Changing global politics:

Both countries are trying to diversify their alliances and reduce reliance on any single power.

Implications:

Positive:

- stronger security cooperation (training, intelligence, joint defence).
- Economic gains for Pakistan through Saudi investment.

- Higher strategic importance for both states in the Muslim world.

Risks:

- Regional tensions may rise, especially with Iran.
- Concerns about nuclear involvement, even if not openly stated.
- Pakistan may face pressure to support Saudi actions in regional conflicts.
- Implementation is unclear, so real benefits depend on future political will.

Conclusion:

The pact is a big strategic move that can strengthen both countries, but it carries risks of regional tension and requires careful diplomacy to avoid being dragged into wider conflicts.