

Q3: INDIAN OCEAN REGION (IOR)

INTRODUCTION:

The Indian Ocean region has significance in terms of geo-graphy, geo-politics and geo-economics. This region is influence the global trade, politics and security.

The recent developments by India, China and Pakistan have changed the global political dynamics.

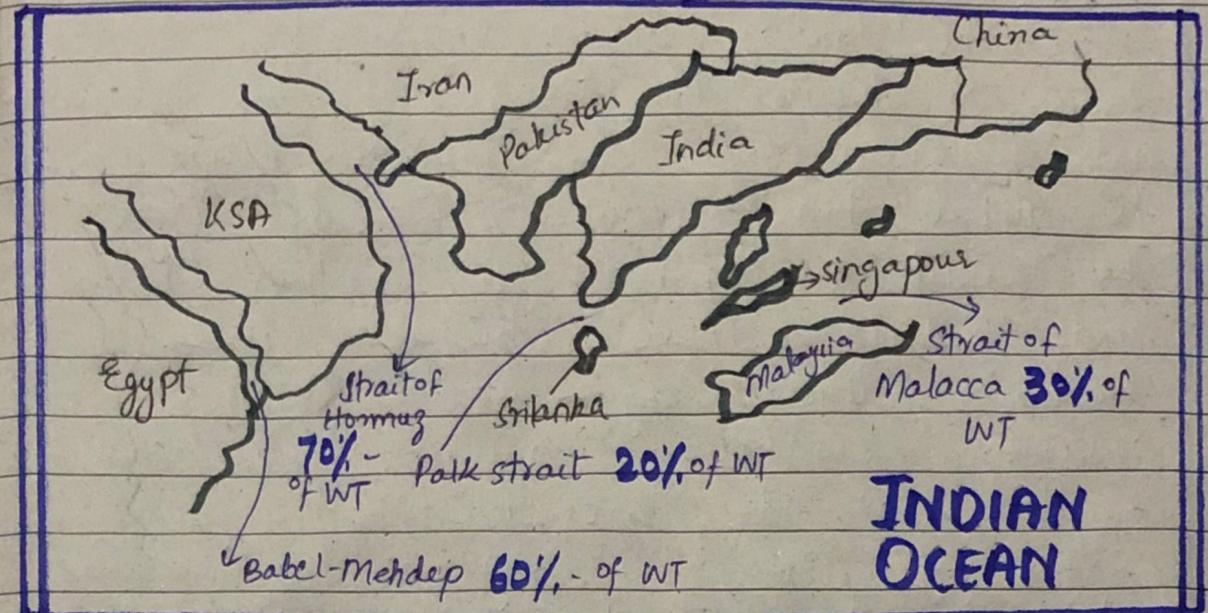
The recent escalation of conflict have further sensitiv increased the sensitivity of this region. Particularly, the Pakistan India conflict in may, 2025. Both countries have increased the naval operations in the Indian ocean region and shaped their maritime policies. Besides that, China's sea ports around the Indian oceans reflects its vested interest in the ocean.

GEOGRAPHICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIAN OCEAN REGION:

The Indian ocean region has the world's busiest straits such as strait of Malacca, strait of Hormuz, Babel-Mendep, and Palk strait.

Along with this, the significant choke points also have way into the

Indian ocean. Due to its immense significance, this region is also called "warm waters".



The amount of world trade these straits possess is imperative and it enhances the importance of IOR.

INFLUENCE OF THIS REGION ON GLOBAL SECURITY:

One prominent example in this regard is the recent Iran-US-Israel conflict. Iran constantly threatened the blockade of Strait of Hormuz. In this way, the trade will be disrupted globally. This poses threat to global security. Similar perception can be anticipated from other countries. To secure their interests, this region can play an important role.

PRESENCE OF CHINA IN THIS REGION:

China's increasing presence in the Indian Ocean is significant. China continues to increase its sea ports in many countries surrounding the IOR. These sea ports are established for the trade purpose, making a ~~set~~ "string of pearls". Its ~~set~~ project on the sea ports are:

1. Gwadar seaport, Pakistan.
2. Chabahar seaport, Iran (near Hormuz).
3. Hambantota Port, Sri Lanka
4. Mombasa, Kenya

In this manner, China is gradually increasing its influence in the region of Indian Ocean.

MARITIME SECURITY CONCERN:

China's increasing influence - to counter this

India increase its maritime force

Pakistan perceive this as a

threat and to counter this

Pakistan increase its maritime

capabilities to maintain deterrence

Considering the above scenario and recent escalation between Pakistan and India. Both countries are increasing their maritime security to maintain deterrence. On the other

hand, Pakistan and India also have a conflict over the region in "Siachen" territory. Therefore, both countries are aiming to increase the maritime capability in Indian Ocean through effective policies.

CONCLUSION:

Once the former President of United States of America - Michael Obama said, "the future superpower lies in the Indian Ocean Region". This shows the potential of Indian Ocean and growing presence of growing economies around this. Presence of China, India, Gulf states, straits enhances its significance. This also result in the potential growth in the maritime insecurity in the region of Indian Ocean.

Q4: INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

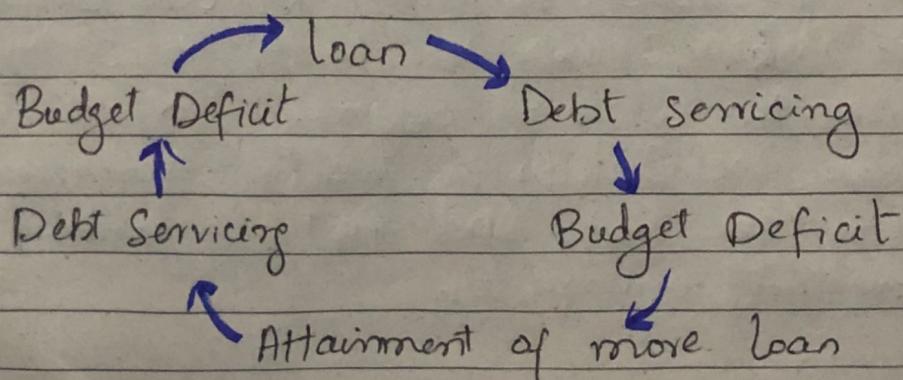
INTRODUCTION:

Since 1980, Pakistan has been part of IMF's assistance program. International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a financial assistance institution that assist countries' economy by providing them funds and sustainable policies.

The developing countries like Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Lebanon and many other are part of their program. IMF provides loan to the countries that faces economic crisis like budget deficit. To overcome the deficit, countries take loan from financial institutes to meet their needs.

Economic RECOVERY UNDER IMF PROGRAM:

Countries like South Korea and Malaysia also took loan from IMF to overcome the crisis. IMF set certain conditionalities before providing the loan. These conditionalities are mostly the economic policies that IMF suggests to implement for the betterment of the country. However, prolong attainment of loan can lead to vicious cycle of debt trap. The loan and its obligatory interest become so high that country has to attain more loan for the debt servicing.



IN CASE SCENARIO OF PAKISTAN:

Pakistan has been seeking loan from IMF since 1980s. Currently, Pakistan accounts of Budget Deficit 6 Trillion PKR in the fiscal year 2025. However, the Debt Servicing of the respective year is over 9 Trillion PKR. Pakistan has approached IMF for a loan package to meet the current fiscal year. However, IMF has suggested certain measures and targets to achieve. Such as,

ECONOMIC POLICIES SUGGESTED BY IMF:

1) AUSTERITY MEASURES: IMF suggested austerity measures and reduce in expenditure. To ~~the~~ implement this measure, Pakistan has to cut down its subsidies. The subsidies are mainly the electric subsidies and bailout packages to SOEs. Pakistan provides subsidies around Rs. 600 Billion in total. 600 Billion to electricity sector (in which the capacity payment to IPPs) is included). 100 Billion to welfare programs 60 Billion to PIA and rest to other State-owned enterprises.

3) CUT DOWN PENSIONS: Pakistan's economy provides Rs. 761 Billion pensions to its citizens. IMF suggests to cut down these pensions in order to reduce burden on economy.

3) LIBERAL ECONOMY POLICIES: IMF suggest to reduce trade barriers and liberalize the economy. But, this ~~op~~ strategy increases the trade deficit in Pakistan.

4) PRIVATIZATION: It is a dire need for Pakistan to adopt privatization strategy. IMF also emphasize to privatize its enterprises that are in deficit such as, PIA, National Steel Mill, Railway etc.

CRITICISM OVER THE POLICY MEASURES BY IMF IN LONG RUN:

The policy Analysts and Economists criticized the IMF's intervention in shaping the economic structure of Pakistan. The policies like liberalize the economy can further effect the already fragile and trembling economy of Pakistan. In the long-term, the policies of IMF posses negative effect to Pakistan's economy.

Economic Sovereignty: The economic sovereignty of Pakistan is undermined by the conditions of IMF. IMF demands the target that torn the socio-fabric of Pakistan. For example, by cutting subsidies the people could not afford the commodities as their purchasing power parity is already low.

State-owned enterprise: SOEs are the state's assets. By privatizing them, Pakistan will be deprived of its assets. This policy is a risk factor in the long-run.

Conclusion:

After the cold war and emergence of international financial institutions, IMF have stabilized many economies around the world. Similarly, Pakistan has also been gaining the bailout packages and loans from IMF. Some critiques criticized the policies and role of IMF in Pakistan's economic sovereignty. But, unfortunately Pakistan has to attain loan to meet the debt servicing and budget deficit. In such scenario, the role of IMF is essential for Pakistan's economic sustainability.

Q5: PAKISTAN- BANGLADESH RELATIONS:

INTRODUCTION:

Since after the ouster of Bangladesh former Prime Minister Hasina Wajid, the relation between Bangladesh and Pakistan begin to accelerate. A drastic shift in the ~~be~~ static behaviour of Bangladesh is seen after the change of leadership. Pakistan has always been opened the door of diplomacy and friendly ties even right after the partition. But, the presence of positive consensus was absent from the side of Bangladesh. Additionally, the involvement of India also hindered the both countries' relation. In the interim regime of Muhammad Yunus, exchange of several agreements and visit of key ministers took place between Bangladesh and Pakistan. Thus, the positive normalization of the ties shows a potential shift in between two nations.

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE RECONCILIATION:

Bangladesh have always been on the side of India since the

partition. The key factors that will influence the reconciliation are:

1) VACUUM OF FRIENDLY COUNTRY: Currently, the condition of Bangladesh requires the foreign assistance and friendly ties with countries. Thus, in the absence and vacuum created by India can be filled by Pakistan that will enclose the relations of both countries.

2) ROLE OF CHINA AS A REGIONAL PLAYER: China is a significant player in this region. The BRI project of China also play crucial role in Bangladesh. Therefore, through Chinese BRI and common interest of Bangladesh and Pakistan is one of the opportunity to start new dimension of friendly relations.

HISTORICAL ISSUES BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH:

The historical issues between Pakistan and Bangladesh roots into the miscalculations happened in 1970. These miscalculations leads to the partition of Bangladesh former East Pakistan. However, there are other perspectives that Bangladesh

show deprivation. These are the allocation of righteous resources and budget of Bangladesh. Previously, Bangladesh also demanded "formal apology" from Pakistan. However, the miscalculation and mishap that happened decade ago can be turned into a friendly relation as both countries are now independent and sovereign.

WAY FORWARD FOR PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH RELATIONS:

1) **DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE:** The relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh can be improved through effective diplomacy. Both countries through diplomatic channels can draw an agreement that help both countries to establish potential relation.

2) **ECONOMIC RELATIONS:** Pakistan and Bangladesh has already launched the joint Economic Commission that will open door for trade by decreasing trade barriers. The previous agreements on the trade of rice, textile and pharmaceutical goods can be further expanded to the IT, construction and security sector. Both countries

dire need to change invest in energy sectors, construction sector and metal industry. Both can mutually work on these aspects.

3) **SOFT-DIPLOMACY**: Both countries has launched "Pakistan-Bangladesh Knowledge Corridor" to provide scholarships to the potential students of Bangladesh.

CLOSING ARGUMENT:

Historically, the relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh were not good. However, recent development shows the potential growth in normalization of ties.

By firmly implementation of the signed agreements, both countries will establish friendly relation.

Through the platforms like OIC, Pakistan and Bangladesh can also uphold the unity and brotherhood of Muslim countries around the world.

Q7: PAKISTAN-SAUDI DEFENSE PACT:

INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan and Saudi has recently signed "Defense Pact". The reason behind this pact was the rationale to adopt sustainable security grantee for KSA. At the event of

Israel's violation of sovereignty of Qatar by bombing despite the US granted the security of KSA. Thus, KSA has to look for a security grantee. In this scenario, the Pakistan was the only viable option for KSA.

The defense pact is signed, its terms and conditions are confidential and not made public till now. This pact has influence on regional security in Middle East.

On the other hand, Pakistan's foreign policy of Pakistan is also impacted by this Saudi-Pakistan defense Pact.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF PAKISTAN-SAUDI DEFENSE PACT:

This pact has implications of the global and regional players and dynamics. U.S, Israel and KSA as the primary actors have implications but also the countries

like Pakistan, Iran and India also have implications.

IMPLICATIONS OF PAKISTAN AS SECURITY GRANTER.

The implication of Pakistan as a security grantor is essential. But, as US was previous security grantor and failed to protect in case when the bomber is Israel. In this case Reaction by state actors upon Pakistan as a security grantor:

U.S: U.S may not have any issue as long as nuclear umbrella is not provided.

INDIA: India might perceive as a threat and security imbalance as Pakistan is in conflict with India. Additionally, Pakistan is also part of "Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Alliance" (IMCTCA).

IRAN: Iran may also perceive it as a threat, but the possibility is that Iran may also join the alliance. However, Iran called IMCTCA as a "Sunni-military alliance" but at time the relations

of Saudi and Iran were unpleasant.

REGIONAL SECURITY DYNAMICS OF MIDDLE EAST:

The KSA's shift from the western granters to Pakistan has significant implications on the security dynamics. Further, the presence of violator and hegemon "Israel", this pact is essential in this regard. On the other hand, this pact was signed to counter the threat posed by Israel. Thus, in the center of the most influential Middle-Eastern players, the role of Pakistan is significant. Any improvement in Pakistan's nuclear capabilities will impact the security dynamics of Middle East.

FOREIGN POLICY OF PAKISTAN AFTER DEFENSE PACT.

A drastic shift in Pakistan's foreign policy is observed in the year 2025. Various events have shaped the foreign policy of Pakistan. This defense Pact between KSA and Pakistan may be a shift of Pakistan's foreign policy towards global alliance. The core doctrine of

Pakistan's foreign policy is yet intact to secure the National Interests. USA may provide financial assistance to Pakistan in order to provide defense security. The terms are confidential at the moment. But, the precedent event may reflect the broader implications on foreign policy.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, the draft Saudi Pakistan defense pact has significant implications upon the regional and global dynamics. This pact will also enhance the ties of Saudi and Pakistan.