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Question no 4

Multi-dimensional consequences of India's post Pahalgam misadventure on Pak-India bilateral relations

1- Introduction:

The Terrorist attack on April 22, 2025 in Kashmir's Pahalgam killed 26 tourists shattered the fragile peace between India and Pakistan. By swiftly attributing the attack to Pakistan and restoring to diplomatic coercion and limited military escalation, India adopted a confrontational posture that further eroded already fragile bilateral ties. This post Pahalgam misadventure

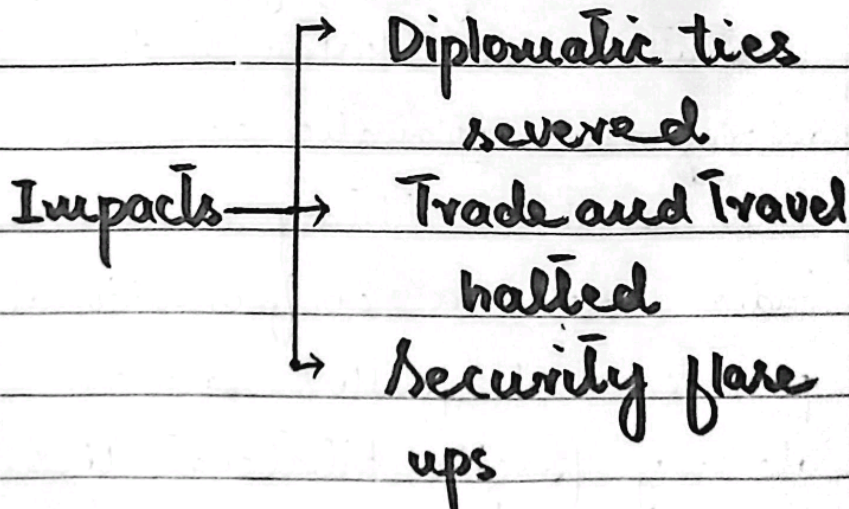
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not only intensified mistrust and securitization between the two nuclear-armed neighbours but also reverberated across South Asia, altering regional power equations. Moreover, the crisis invited renewed involvement of extra-regional actors, reshaping alignments and underscoring the enduring fragility of peace and stability in South Asian geopolitics.

2- Impacts on Indo-Pak Bilateral relations:



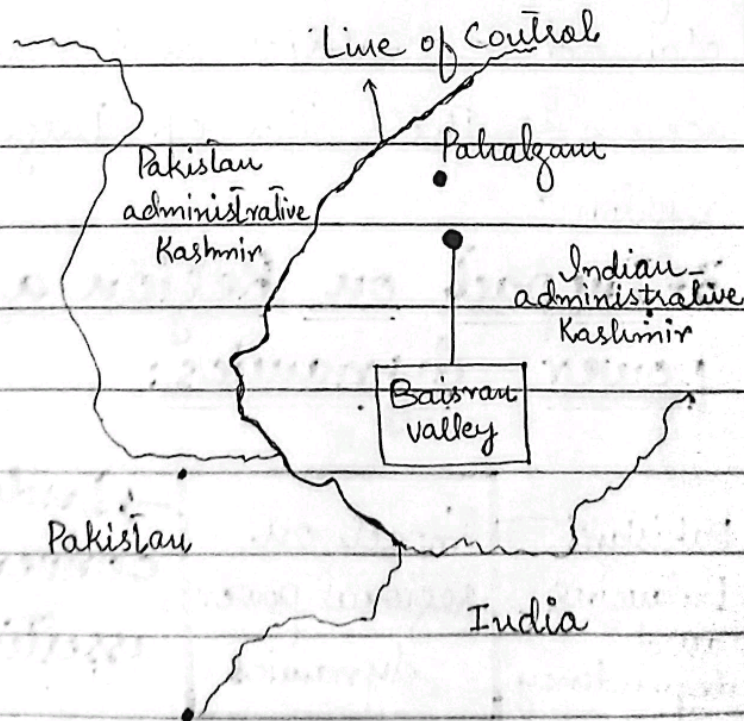
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2.1- Diplomatic ties severed:

India's suspension of the Indus Water Treaty and Pakistan's threat to abrogate Simla marked an unprecedented breakdown in decades old peace mechanism. Both countries also withdrew visas and reduced embassy staff, effectively freezing official contact.

2.2: Trade and Travel halted:



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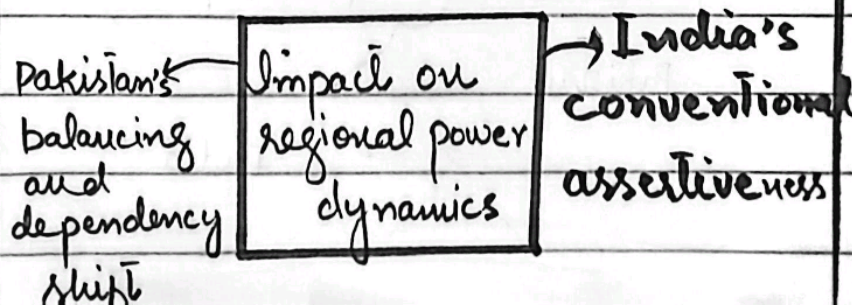
All bilateral trade was suspended and border closed. Pakistan scaled key checkpoints and airspaces, disrupting commerce and even third country trade routes.

23- Security flare ups:

Clashes

along the line of Control (LOC) intensified. India and Pakistan traded artillery and small arms fire almost daily after the attack. Both sides claimed casualties and each accused the other of targeting civilians.

3- Impact on Regional power dynamics:



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3.1: India's conventional assertiveness:

The crisis reinforce India's image as a regional actor willing to use precision military options while maintaining plausible restraint strengthening its conventional leverage in South Asia.

3.2: Pakistan's balancing and dependency shift:

Pakistan moved to deepen political and military reliance on key partners (chiefly China) while courting Gulf mediation to avoid international isolation.

4- Shifting alignment of intra regional actors:

4.1: United States and Europe:

Western powers publicly urged restraint and

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worked behind the scenes to prevent wider war. They positioned themselves as crisis managers but were careful to avoid taking sides openly.

4.2: China and Russia:

China publicly called for de-escalation while privately reassuring Pakistan. China's diplomatic relation was cover for Pakistan increased strategic space. Russia remained broadly supported of stability but refrained from decisive intervention.

4.3: Gulf state and regional mediator:

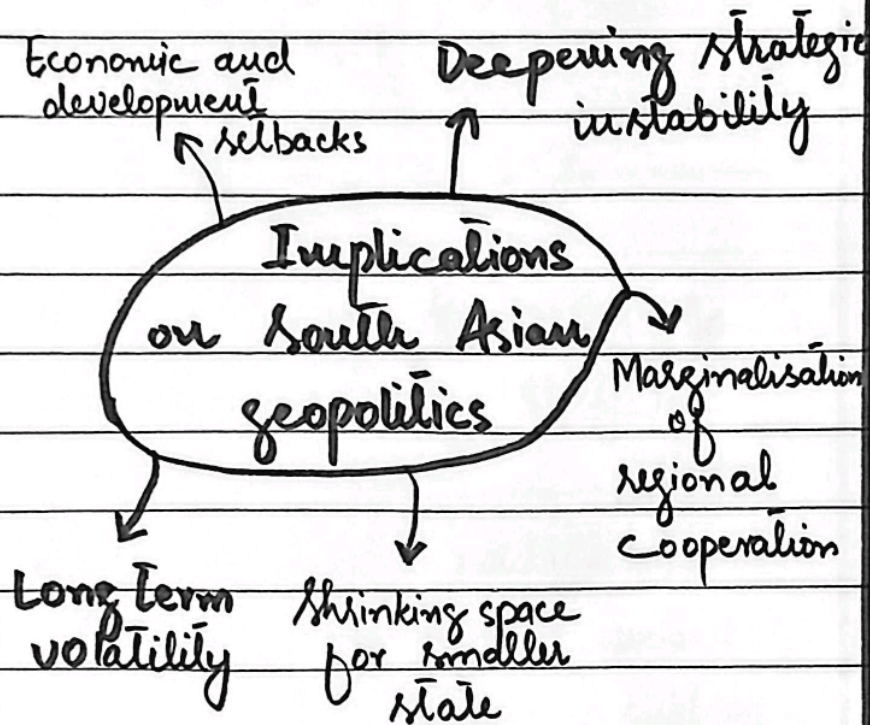
Gulf state acted as a discreet mediators using economic ties with both countries. Their involvement illustrated growing Gulf influence in South Asian.

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crisis management.

❖ 5. Implications on South Asian geopolitics:



5.1: Marginalisation of regional co-operation:

The post pahalgam escalation has reinforced a fragile security environment, increasing the risk of miscalculation between two nuclear armed neighbours. SAARC remain virtually

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defunct while regional economic integration and collective security initiatives have further weakened.

5.2: Economic and development setbacks:

Heightened tension divert resources toward defence spending at the expense of socio-economic development across the region.

5.3: Long Term volatility:

Absence of sustained dialogue and confidence building measures ensures a prolonged, crisis prone geopolitical environment in South Asia.

6- Conclusion:

 In sum, the Pahalgam crisis has redefined geopolitical network in South Asia. India's post-Pahalgam

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misadventure trade and travel
national diplomatic ties also
severed. The crisis has redefined
extra regional actor such as
United States, Europe, Russia,
China and Gulf States and also
have implications on South Asian
geopolitics such as economic and
developmental setbacks.