

Political Science II

Section - B

Q5

Analyze Pakistan's foreign policy towards Afghanistan in the context of recent developments following the visits of Afghan minister Hanef Muttalib to India. How have border security concerns, terrorist attacks, and regional diplomatic dynamics influenced Pakistan's strategic responses?

Pak-Afghan relations are mired with war conflicts, racial differences, security issues. These loopholes in the relations are since the history of border distribution and are still prevalent today but with more intricacy and security threats. Afghanistan's acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttalib's visit to India has given birth to many speculations about their propaganda against Pakistan. The two enemies of Pakistan can elevate the regional security dynamics. Here are following developments and concerns of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Internal security threat Pakistan is now at the verge of extreme terrorist attacks as India is using the Afghan's land to exploit Pakistan.

Supply and demand: The quantity of available products
Demand: quantity
product that people
consumption

Scrutinizing the regional apparatus as Pakistan's ministers are endeavoring to analyze the meeting between the two countries and to examine the ongoing regional and geopolitical apparatus in South Asia. Pakistan's concerns of India's engagement with Taliban is one of the major issues that Taliban are supposed to be acting under the surveillance and hypocrisy of Indian army. It could further lead to more serious consequences.

Resolving Border dispute: Pakistan may try to resolve the border issue between Pak and Afghanistan.

Kashmir Issue: Pakistan has staunchly opposed to the joint statement issued by India and Afghanistan during the visit which stated that Jammu and Kashmir as part of India. This is a violation of UN security council and an attempt to legitimize India's claim over disputed Territory.

Terrorism and security concerns have peaked after the meeting. Afghan government has denied the terrorist attacks accusations and the unfair liberation movement (TTP), while it is firmly trying to wipe the name of Pakistan.

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This meeting has greatly affected the border security concerns and terrorist attack for Pakistan. The brave army of Pakistan is keeping an eye on every movement of enemies at the border and defence ministers are firm on the strategies to protect Pakistan from internal and external threats. The diplomatic concerns and tensions have arose to a new extent. Pakistan is opting for diplomatic dynamics regarding this issue for conflict resolution, national integrity, to enhance economic cooperation in order to resist the future outcomes of the propaganda.

— Q: —

Critically Analyze the current economic situation of Pakistan, including challenges such as inflation, fiscal deficit, foreign debt and trade imbalance. Suggest viable policy measures to achieve economic stability and sustainable growth in near future.

The current economic situation of Pakistan is falling apart. It was assumed in 2023 that Pakistan will default, though it has not defaulted, the economy is crippled to a great extent.

Pakistan is facing numerous economic challenges.

Inflation is one of the major challenges that Pakistan is facing right now. Due to unemployment and increased prices of products, people are hardly managing to meet both ends. The excessive amounts of tax and increased prices of food, medicines and goods have caused economic disrupt. Poverty rate has increased and unemployment rate is 6.3% to 7.1% according to some reports by Dawn and The Express Tribune.

Pakistan's fiscal deficit for year (FY 2024) narrowed to 6.8% of GDP in the fiscal year (2023-2024), down from 7.7% of GDP in the previous year. Pakistan's fiscal gap widened to Rs 7.21 trillion rupees compared to Rs 6.53 trillion last year.

According to recent stats, Pakistan's budget deficit was recorded at Rs 6.17 trillion approximately 5.4% of the GDP, during the fiscal year 2024-25. This marks a 9-year low in history.

For year 2026, the IMF expects the fiscal deficit to clock in at 4.41% of GDP, the lowest in two decades.

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The total external debt is \$129.718 billion in 2024 with long-term external debt amounting to \$107.88 billion. However, 40% of export earnings go towards debt servicing, a significant burden on the country's economy.

IMF has approved a \$1.2 billion loan to Pakistan, the country received about \$3.3 billion since last year under the IMF bailout. Pakistan needs to repay \$100 billion in foreign debt within the next four years, with \$18 billion due in the current financial year.

[Sources: World Bank's International debt report, IMF, State Bank of Pakistan]

— Q8 —

Critically assess the 26th and 27th amendments in Pakistan in the context of military dominations and erosion of judicial norms. How have these amendments affected governance, institutional autonomy and balance of powers?

The 26th and 27th amendments to Pakistan's Constitution have significantly altered the country's governance structure, leading to concerns about military domination and erosion of judicial norms.

'Absolute power corrupts absolutely'

- The 27th amendment creates a new court that will have extensive jurisdiction over constitutional matters, potentially undermining the supreme court's authority.
- The amendments grant the executive significant influence over judicial appointments, with the President appointing the Chief Justice of the SCC on the advice of Prime Minister.

- The amendments codify the army chief's dominance by creating the position of Chief of Defence Forces which will be held by the army chief and it has bestowed many privileges to the military of Pakistan.

- The amendment provides lifetime immunity to the President and top military officials. It has resulted in the shift of balance of power in the favour of executive and military, eroded judicial independence, centralized power, weakening of check and balance, impact on institutional autonomy.

These are some of the significant implications for Pakistan's governance, institutional autonomy and balance of power and it has further raised concern about country's democratic future.