

Question 1.

INTRODUCTION

Foreign policy is a systematic framework through which international politics work. It is part of the national policy. It comprises all the factors that have impact on internally and externally on the country. It guides a state in satisfying its national concerns and secure lawful plans so it could be said that as long as state works independently, the foreign policy lives. Some suggests that it is the system of activities evolved by communities for changing the behavior of other states and for adjusting their own activities to the international environment. This is the policy that manages how country will act concerning the other countries politically, socially, financially and militarily. For Pakistan, its foreign policy is shaped by its strategic location, economic challenges and historical complexities. Pakistan faces the critical task of balancing the three interconnected priorities that are economic growth,

addressing security concerns and maintaining regional influence - These are not independent and require a strategic approach to ensure national stability and progress.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

1- China-Pakistan Economic Growth Corridor

It is a cornerstone of the foreign policy of Pakistan to boost economic growth through regional connectivity - As part of the China's Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI), CPEC includes infrastructure development, energy projects and Gwadar port - To combat the power shortage projects like Lahore Metro, Karachi-Peshawar Motorway and energy plants proved to be beneficial.

2- Trade Relations

Pakistan has actively initiated the trade agreements to reduce the reliance on Western financial aid. The Pakistan-Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTAA) connects the country with Central Asian states - Also, European Union supports the textile exports in Pakistan through GSP+ program - Moreover, to diversify the exports Pakistan has gotten opportunities in Africa and South Asia -

3- Remittances and Gulf Relations.

Ties with the Gulf countries especially Saudi Arabia and UAE remain crucial, these countries are significant sources of remittances, contributing to the foreign exchange reserve of Pakistan. While Pakistan provides military support and participates in peacekeeping missions in the Gulf region.

Security Concerns

1- Counter Terrorist Measures

Internal security has always been a biggest challenge for Pakistan, and lost number of citizens during last two decades. Military operations like Zarb-e-Azb (2014) and Radd ul Fasaad (2017) have been pivotal in destroying the terrorist networks and improved the environment. Also, these successes have also enhanced the reputation of country as a partner in counter terrorism efforts.

2- Border disputes with India and Afghanistan

Pakistan and India has always been on the edge since the independence and major reason being

the Kashmir issue - The tension in recent times have been escalated after India's revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's status in 2019 and also the Balakot - Pulawama crisis. On the western front Pakistan faces cross-border terrorism and smuggling issues with Afghanistan. Despite these, Pakistan played a key role in facilitating the US-Taliban Peace deal (2020), showcasing its commitment to regional stability.

Regional Influence

1- Participation in International Organizations

Pakistan actively participates in conferences with organizations like Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). These big platforms allow the country to put forward the global issues like Islamophobia, trade, strengthen security cooperation with regional partners.

2- Role in Afghanistan's Stability

Pakistan's policy toward Afghanistan is critical for regional peace. After the Taliban return to power in 2021, Pakistan has advocated for an inclusive government and economic support to prevent the extremism. Stability in Afghanistan aligns with

Pakistan's security and economic priorities, particularly in trade and connectivity-

3- Relations with India.

Despite Kashmir dispute that continues to dominate the Indo-pak relation, with little progress to resolution- After all of this, Pakistan has made goodwill gestures like Kartarpur Corridor, allowing Indian Sikhs to visit their holy sites, demonstrating the commitment to fostering peace and harmony-

Balancing the Factors

Integration of Policies through CPEC and Regional Stability

The foreign policy of Pakistan reflects an understanding of the interconnected nature of its priorities, with initiative designed to address economic, security and regional influence simultaneously- For instance CPEC serves not only as economic initiative but- strengthen the regional connectivity, Pakistan positions itself as a critical hub in transit of trade by connect- China, central Asia and Middle East.

Additionally, Pakistan's involvement in Afghan peace progress highlights its ~~to~~

Commitment linking security with regional stability.
Stable Afghanistan is important for trade
Initiative like TAPI (Turkmenistan - Afghanistan -
Pakistan - India).

Challenges of Balancing the Priorities.

Balancing them simultaneously remains a challenge for the country - Escalating issue with India often diverts Pakistan to spend more in the defense spending, detracting from economic development - Also, the over reliance on China limits the ability to diversify the trade and partnership, while domestic instability is another significant hurdle -

Conclusion

In conclusion, the foreign policy a dynamic effort to harmonize the objectives - Initiative addressed in the passage demonstrates the efforts - However, persistent challenges such as domestic instability, regional rivalries hinder progress - Moving forward, Pakistan must prioritize diplomacy, regional cooperation to ensure the sustainable growth and stability -

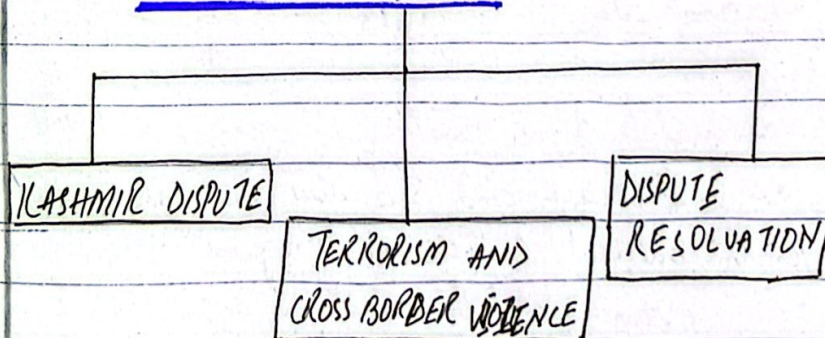
Question 2.

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan's geographic location is pivotal in regional security dynamics, connecting South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East. However, this position put the country's security at risk and complex security challenges, including, terrorism, border disputes and etc. These issues are intertwined with Pakistan's relation with its neighbor - India, Afghanistan and Iran. This is also emphasized by United Nations' Nations Development Programme (UNDP) "regional peace and stability in South Asia remain critical for global progress" highlighting the importance of Pakistan's role in addressing security challenges. Pakistan's security issues are rooted in historical conflicts such as the Kashmir issue, border issues with Afghanistan and Balochistan region bordering Iran. With the long decade war with the terrorism, that has resulted in the loss of number of lives of the civilians. The interplay between domestic and regional security concerns has forced Pakistan to adopt a multifaceted approach including military strategies, diplomatic engagement and balancing counter-terrorism measures. While

these approaches have aimed at stability, but they have also resulted in strained relationships, ~~mutual~~ mutual distrust and accusations from neighboring states -

IMPACT ON RELATION WITH INDIA



1- KASHMIR DISPUTE

Kashmir issue goes back in the history to the times of independence - This issue has always caused and increased the tension between the neighboring countries but it remained unresolved - The things became worse when India revoked Jammu & Kashmir's issue in 2019, with Pakistan condemning the act as violation of law -

2- Terrorism and Cross border violence

It has been a central issue in the relation of both the countries. India accuses Pakistan of supporting Jaish-e-Mohammad (JEM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LET), this has been linked to high profile cases in India that are 2001 Indian Parliament attack, 2008 Mumbai attacks and 2019 Pulwama attack. These allegations have further strained the relations between the two nations.

3- Efforts at Engagement

Despite these allegations, there have been dialogues and peace building. Pakistan's commitment to the cause was proven when Indian Sikh were allowed to visit for pilgrimage through Kartarpur corridor.

IMPACT ON RELATION WITH AFGHANISTAN

1. Border disputes and Durand line

The biggest border of Pakistan is with Afghanistan and is known as "Durand Line". Although this border was never accepted by Afghanistan, but Pakistan

constructed the border fence to curb cross-border terrorism and this has strained the relation of the countries.

2- Role in Afghan Peace Process

Pakistan has played a significant role in this initiative, particularly by facilitating the US-Taliban negotiation took place in 2020 that led to the Doha Agreement. While Afghans have often accused Pakistan of supporting the Taliban and interfering in Afghan Affairs.

3- Cross-Border Terrorism

Afghanistan has accused Pakistan of carrying out military operations on Afghanistan. With that Pakistan has faced challenges from terrorist groups operating in the Afghanistan. These mutual accusations have hindered trust and cooperation, even as the both countries share economic and security interests.

IMPACT ON RELATIONS

WITH IRAN

Border Security
and Insurgency

Sectarian
Concerns

Economic
Cooperation amidst
Challenges.

1. Border Security and Insurgency.

The Pakistan-Iran border in Balochistan region, has been a hotspot for cross border insurgencies and smuggling. Groups like Jaish Al Adl have targeted Iranian security in the region.

2. Sectarian Concerns

Pakistan is a Sunni majority population with its historical ties with Saudi Arabia have occasionally strained its relation with Shia Majority Iran. Iran at times have expressed the concerns about the violence in Pakistan against the Shias in the region.

3. Economic Cooperation amidst the Challenges.

Despite the security issues, Pakistan and Iran have worked on enhancing economic ties through the initiative of Pakistan-Iran Gas pipeline project. It remains stalled due to US Sanctions against Iran.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR

IMPROVED REGIONAL RELATIONS

Enhanced
Border Management

Economic Integration

Diplomatic Engagement

Counterterrorism Cooperation

Revitalizing Multilateral Platforms

CONCLUSION

Pakistan's approach to regional security challenges, shaped by counterterrorism, diplomatic initiatives has had profound implications with its relationships with the neighbors. While progress has been made in some areas, deep rooted mistrust and unresolved disputes remain hurdles. Moving forward it requires the balanced approach to overcome the challenges and foster the relations. As highlighted by the United Nations Development Program "Sustainable peace in South Asia hinges on regional cooperation and mutual trust".