

## QUESTION NO. 2-

# Syrian Change

### 1) Introduction-

The toppling of the Assad regime in Syria had been a long-standing goal for many opposition groups and international powers. The regime, led by Bashar al-Assad since 2000, had faced growing internal and external pressure, particularly after the outbreak of Syrian Civil War in 2011. These are several reasons, contributed to the downfall of Assad regime including use of the brutal force against civilians, authoritarianism, Economic mismanagement and sectarian divide etc. This downfall had profound implications for the country, region and international community including rise of extremist groups, Humanitarian Crisis, Social and economical challenges, and impact on refugees.

## 2) Reasons for unprecedented change in Syria:-

These are several internal and external reasons, which contributed to the downfall of the Assad regime.

### 2.1) Use of Brutal Force Against Civilians:-

The Assad regime responded with extreme violence, as the conflict escalated. These violences include:-

chemical weapons

barrel bombs

other indiscriminate tactics

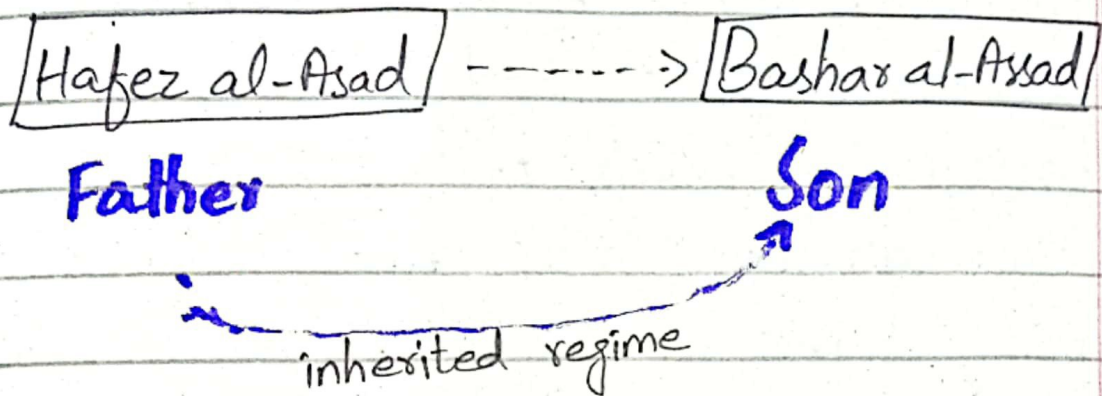
### Example:-

In 2013, the Ghouta chemical attack, where chemical weapons were used by the Assad regime, which killed hundreds of civilians.

### 2.2) Authoritarianism inherited to Bashar al-Assad:-

Bashar al-Assad inherited a deeply

authoritarian regime from his father, Hafez al-Assad, who ruled Syria from **1970** until his death in 2000.



### 2.3) Economic Mismanagement by Assad's family & Loyalists:-

The Assad family and its loyalists have controlled Syria's political and economical life, consolidating wealth and resources at the expense of ordinary Syrians.

Syria's economy was already suffering from high unemployment, a lack of growth, and increasing inequality before the civil war began.

(World Bank)

### 2.4) Sectarian divide during Assad's regime:-

The Assad regime was from the **Alawite sect**, an offshoot of Shi'ite Islam, while the majority of Syria's population was Sunni Muslim. This sectarian divide had been a source of tension. The **2011** protests, evolved into a broader opposition movement, with many Sunnis calling for a more inclusive government.

## 2.5) International & Regional Dynamics:-

The international community supported opposition to overthrow Assad.

The U.S. imposed sanctions on Assad regime, including restrictions on trade and military equipment.

Saudi Arabia and Qatar provided financial support to Syrian Rebel groups.

## 3) Implications for unprectended change in Syria:-

The key implications are:-

### 3.1) Potential Rise of Extremist Groups:-

A sudden collapse of Syrian's Assad regime could again provide a breeding ground for extremist groups. This could make Syria a more chaotic and dangerous state, not only for Syrians but also for neighboring countries and international peace.

ISIS declared its "caliphate" in 2014 in Syria, controlling significant parts of country, including Raqqa and large parts of Deir ez-Zor.

### 3.2) Humanitarian Crisis in Syria:-

A post-Assad Syria would require immense humanitarian aid for reconstruction, resettling displaced people and addressing infrastructure damage.

"Nearly half of Syria's population have been forced from their homes."

(UN)

### 3.3) Social & Economical Challenges in Syria:-

Syria would face enormous challenges in rebuilding its economy and infrastructure. Social unrest could continue as Syrians struggle and would require international financial support. The economic collapse in Syria during civil war resulted in-

Destruction of Infrastructure

High Unemployment rates

Scarcity of essential services

### 4) Conclusion

The call for toppling of the Assad regime in Syria had been driven by a combination of the authoritarian rule, economic mismanagement and brutal oppression etc. The downfall of Assad would create a set of challenges socially, economically and politically, like to be positive and negative for country and the region.

## Question No.6:-

### 1) Introduction:-

Tension between Islamabad and Kabul have escalated due to several inter-related factors, including cross-border terrorism, military actions, and shifting diplomatic relations. As of January 2025, tensions between Islamabad and Kabul have intensified. The TTP is using Afghan land as a source of terror attacks. To ease tensions of this terrorism between Afghanistan and Pakistan, both countries need a diplomatic engagement, border security cooperation, system of combating the terrorism and promotion of people-to-people ties. Because thousands of people have got martyrdom since these attacks. So, these must be prevented to stop human losses.

### 2) Current situation of the Islamabad-Kabul Tension:-

## Q.1) Surge in Cross-Border Terrorism:-

The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), operating from Afghan territory, has increased attacks within Pakistan. In 2024, over **2500 people** were killed in terror incidents, a significant rise from the previous year. The TTP has utilized sophisticated weapons left after NATO's withdrawal and benefited from release of imprisoned figures.

## 2.2) Pakistan's Military Response to TTP attacks:-

In reaction to the TTP's activities, Pakistan has conducted military operations targeting militant hideouts in northwest regions.

e.g.,

In January 2025, Pakistani security forces killed 19 people (insurgents) in separate raids in Peshawar, Mohmand,



and Karak districts, though three soldiers lost their lives during these operations.

### 2-3) Diplomatic Strains & Accusations:-

The relationship between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban has deteriorated, with Islamabad accusing Kabul of harboring TTP militants. Despite Pakistan's requests, the Afghan Taliban has been reluctant to act against TTP. Conversely, Afghan authorities have accused Pakistan of supporting Daseh (ISIS), allegations that Islamabad has termed "unwarranted and irresponsible".

### 2-4) Shifts in Regional Alliances.

In January 2025, Indian and Afghan officials held a meeting to discuss business and humanitarian aid, including the use of Iran's Chabahar port for trade. This development has raised

concerns for Islamabad.

### 3) Summary of the key points about current situation of Islamabad-Kabul Tension:-

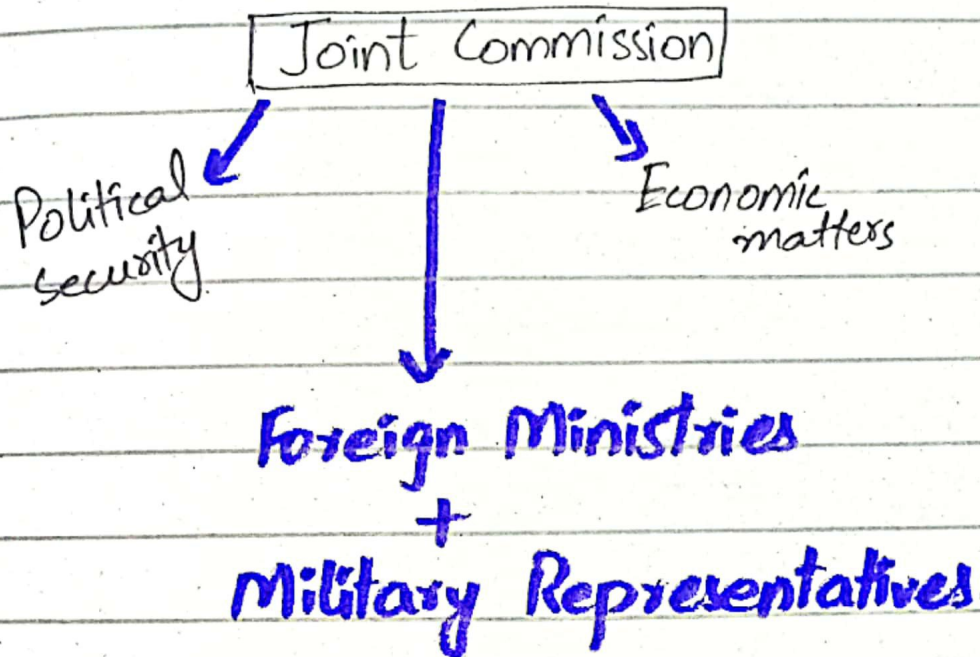
Issue	Description
Cross-border Terrorism	Significant rise in attacks by TTP; over 2500 deaths in 2024.
Pakistan's Military Actions	Raids conducted in north-west region, 19 insurgents killed.
Diplomatic Accusations	Mutual allegations, Both countries accuses each other
Regional Alliances	Taliban's efforts to strengthen ties with India, causing the strategic concerns for Pakistan

### 4) Recommendations to reduce Islamabad-Kabul Tensions:-

To reduce tensions and foster a stable relationship, several recommendations are given :-

## 1) Enhance Bilateral Diplomacy:-

It including establishing a high-level dialogue between Pakistan and Afghanistan to address mutual concerns.



## 2) Strengthen Border-Security and Counter-terrorism:-

Improve border management and cooperate on counter-terrorism operations.

e.g,

The "Tripartite Border" Coordination Mechanism" involving NATO forces, Pakistan and Afghanistan in 2000s.

## 3) Addressing Humanitarian Concerns:-

Improving the humanitarian situations for refugees and displaced persons is a key recommendation to address humanitarian crisis.

Joint Plan ⇒ Managing Refugees ⇒  
Coordination with international org. ⇒  
Aid distribution

#### 4) Promote People-to-people Connectivity.

Fosters cultural, educational, and societal connections to build trust between the population.

e.g.,

Kabul-Peshawar bus service (1990s)

#### 5) Conclusion:-

Islamabad-Kabul

Tensions have become immense due to the border disputes, military attacks and alliances. These reasons are needed to be addressed to reduce the complexity of the future challenges to both Pakistan and Afghanistan.