

37 Drees

Total = 37 days.

QUESTION: 01

Pakistan Foreign Policy navigates the complex balance between Economic Growth, Security Concerns and Regional Influence:

Introduction:

A balance foreign policy is the one which considers all three major areas, that is geo ~~centric~~ political, geostrategic and geo economic. Traditionally, Pakistan's foreign policy was totally geostrategic but from 2018 onwards it is shifting its attention towards geo economics. Foreign policy refers to a policy created by a state through which a state tries to fulfill its national interests within other states.

Pakistan foreign policy navigates the complex balance between economic growth, security concerns and regional influence by strengthening ties with neighbours, Russia and U.S, collaborating against terrorism,

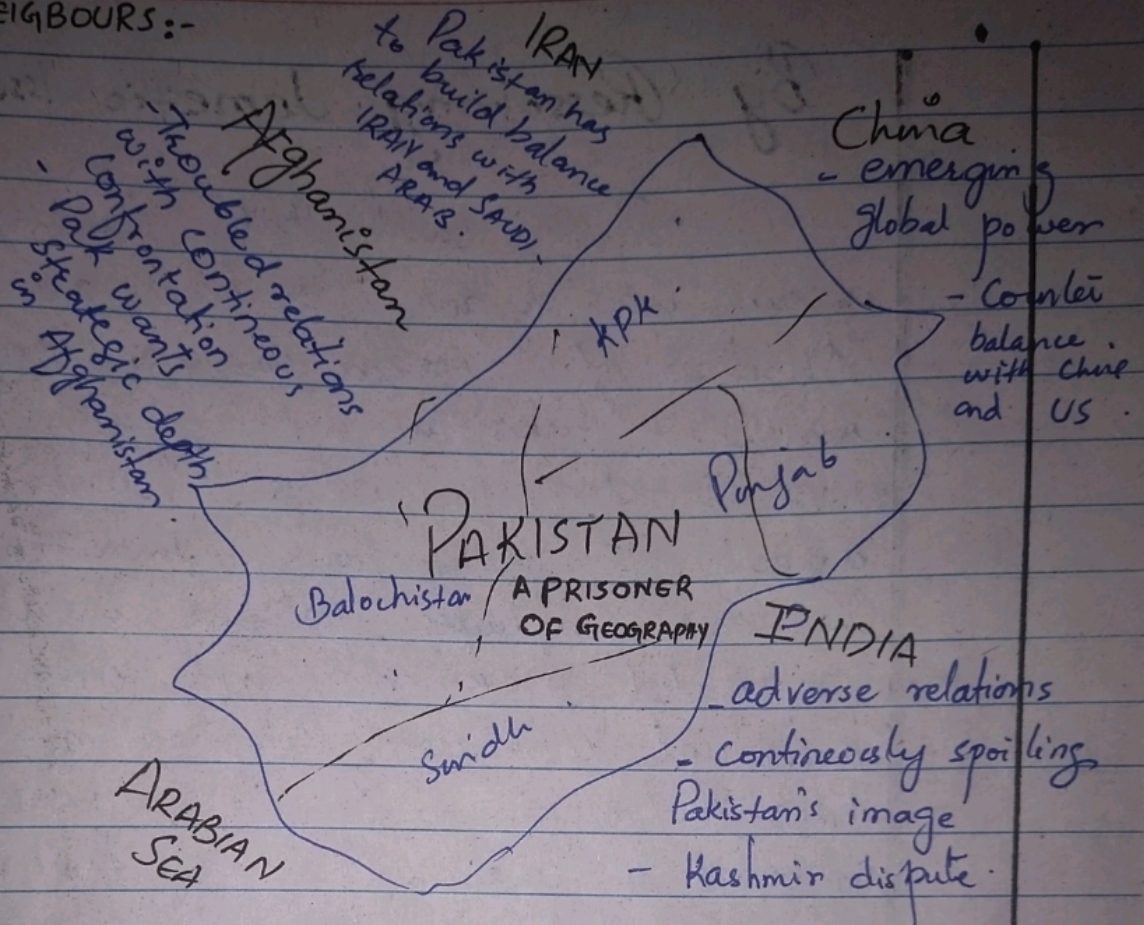
tackling domestic issues such as political instability, raising diplomatic game, and utilizing opportunity of the membership of United nation Security Council.

Challenges to Pakistan's Foreign Policy in navigating the complex balance between economic growth, Security growth, regional influence: (An Overview)

Pakistan foreign policy ~~has~~ is facing severe challenges, as unstable global environment is further escalating day by day. Pakistan needs to build balanced relations with both US and China, without getting into crosshairs of their confrontation, Pakistan has to maintain its trouble shooting relations with Afghanistan and India. Moreover Pakistan has to take balanced approach while dealing with Saudi Arabia and Iran and it has to keep its relations with European Union on positive track.

MAP ILLUSTRATING CHALLENGES TO PAKISTAN FROM ITS

NEIGHBOURS:-



How Pakistan can Navigate the complex balance between Economic growth, Security Concerns and Regional Influence:-

- By Resolving Domestic Issues
- By Raising diplomatic game
- By taking advantage of UNSC membership
- By Balancing relations with neighbours
- By restoring ties with Washington
- By collaborating on Anti terrorism Campaigns
- By Participating in regional organization
- By taking advantage of its geography

By Resolving domestic Issues:-

It is said that domestic affairs whether good or bad are reflections of foreign policy of any country. Pakistan is facing numerous domestic issues, which affects its foreign policy devastatingly. The issues includes political instability, separatist movements and inter provincial conflicts. Pakistan must have to tackle with these issues in order to deal with navigation of complex balance between economic growth, security concerns and regional influences.

Raising diplomatic game:-

Pakistan's foreign policy is based on emotions rather than traditional rational goals. Today is the era of diplomacy. The one who focuses only on its national interests, only that country can get advantage. For instance, in Cold war, Pakistan supported US.

Over Russia, and then Pakistan-Russia relations affected. But now, as Russia has strategic interests in Pakistan, so, it is making better relations with Pakistan. Pakistan should also focus on its interests in order to navigate the complex balance economic growth, security concerns and regional influence.

Pakistan should take advantage of UNSC membership

As Pakistan has become member of United Nations Security Council for two years, again, it should take its advantage in order to present its strong diplomatic standing not only for region but for whole world.

Pakistan membership of UNSC, is an opportunity to raise country's diplomatic standing on world stage.

~ Maleeha Lodhi

This will help Pakistan to navigate the complex balance between all.

three tiers of foreign policy.

Balancing relations with Neighbours

In order to navigate the complex balance between ⁱⁿ Pakistan's foreign policy, between economic growth, regional influence and security concerns Pakistan should balance its relations with neighbours. Pakistan is prisoner of geography as it has disturbed relations with all its 7 neighbours. For instance, Pak has adopted coercive policy approach in order to deal with Kabul, that is not the solution as Pakistan wants strategic depth in Afghanistan. With India, Pak has frozen relations and their trade is suspended since 2019. Pakistan immediate task is to manage tension with India to prevent crisis from erupting. Similarly, Beijing's concerns over security issues are deteriorating the relations between China and Pakistan. Thus by maintaining the relations between each neighbour Pakistan can navigate the balance.

Restoring ties with US

Pakistan should must shift ~~its~~ towards restoring ties with US.

Since US withdrawal from Afghanistan Pakistan's geopolitical importance has be decrease for Pakistan.

US is biggest ~~exporter~~ destination for Pakistan, so the relations should must be re-arranged with US.

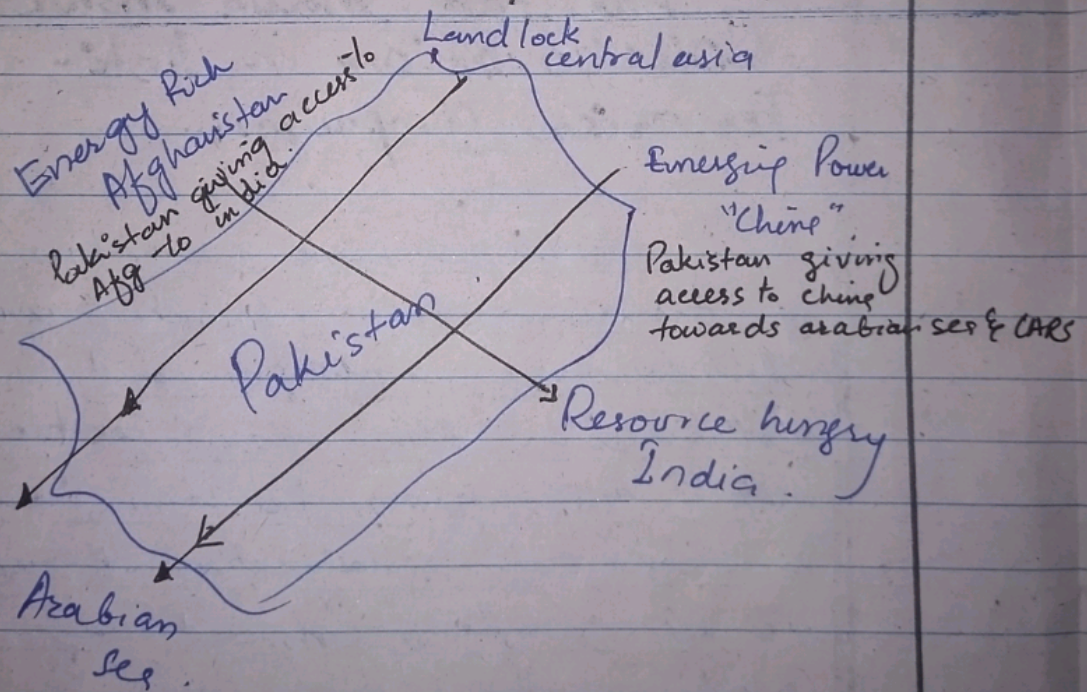
Pakistan should showcase Collaboration in Anti-Terrorism Campaigns:-

Pakistan being a victim of terrorism, have launched numerous Anti-terrorism campaigns and collaborated with other countries too. But now, Pakistan should showcase its collaboration, through use of media. Instead of taking any action alone, it should must collaborate with other countries especially UN to erase -the blame of "terror prone country suitable for terrorists".

Operationalization Of Regional Organization

Recent conducted SCO Summit serve as a opportunity for Pakistan to navigate the complex balance. Like wise OIC and SAARC operationalization can also pave way for creating a balance in Pakistan foreign policy.

Pakistan's Geography:-



The geography of Pakistan is a potent tool that can be use to take advantages from neighbour states and for maintaining a balance.

Trans - Afghanistan Railway track, KPEC, CPEC, RPEC, TAPI, CASA 1000, CAREC, all such efforts in order to maintain strong geo political and strategic interest can serve to achieve a balanced foreign policy.

Conclusion :

Pakistan foreign policy is facing so many geo political, geo strategic, and geo economic challenges. In order to create a striking balance between these tiers, Pakistan shouldn't adopt coercive policy towards its neighbours. Moreover, its role in regional organizations, its geography and its relations with US can create a positive impact and navigate a balance between geo political, security concerns, and regional influence.

QUESTION NO: 02.

Regional Security Challenges to Pakistan: Impact on Relations With Neighbours:

Pakistan, a country that has been victim of terrorism for two decades is firmly against ^{terrorism} Pakistan's gradually deteriorating relations with its neighbours due to its approach to regional security challenges, that includes terrorism, border disputes depicts clear picture of its success at some place and failure at others. Recent air strike at Afghan border further escalate the situation. India on the other hand, a adverse enemy of Pakistan is posing threat at LOC, and with Iran its frequent border clashes results in delayed of Iran - Pakistan gas pipeline. Moreover the difference of sects is also a big threat, further exacerbating the situation.

Regional Security Challenges to Pakistan

- Rising terrorism (Cross-Border)
- Border disputes with India
- Border dispute with Afghanistan
- Border dispute with Iran
- instability in Afghanistan
- CPEC security

Pakistan is facing huge challenges in the region. The cross border terrorism resulted into deaths of civilians and Chinese nationals, which impacted China Pakistan relations. Afghanistan refusal to negotiate between Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Pakistan, resulted into a strong act of air strike by Pakistan on Afghan border, further exacerbate the situation. Moreover, the adversarial relations with India, both at LOC and Kashmir issue is posing a threat. India's possible interference in Balochistan insurgency is also rising concerns. Similarly the frequent border skirmishes with Iran results into disastrous effects.

Pakistan's Approach to Regional Security Challenges

With India:-

Pakistan calls for strategic restraints to prevent arm race with India. Further it wants dialogue over military escalation. In issue of Kashmir Pakistan is urging India to engage in meaningful dialogues and peaceful resolutions.

With Afghanistan:-

Pakistan has launched operations "azm-e-Istehkam" which was to counter terrorism in the country. Pakistan wants Afghanistan's support without discrimination. Further Pakistan advocates peace in Afghanistan, viewing it as critical to regional security.

With Iran:-

Pakistan, despite frequent tensions over sectarianism and border clashes with Iran, wants a better and balanced relations

ges

With Iran. Several economic projects has been signed in between. both countries especially in gas and oil sectors highlights mutual desire to secure energy sources and maintain relations.

STEPS TAKEN BY PAKISTAN IN ORDER TO TACKLE REGIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

→ Intelligence based operations like Operation Zarb-e-Azab, Azm-e-Istehkam and Raddul Fasad.

→ Suspension of trade with india after India's act of Revoking Kashmir special status: Article 370 and 35A.

→ Counter Extremism and De-Radicalization programs: NACTA policy frameworks

→ Pakistan shifting its foreign policy from geo strategic to geo economic.

Impacts of Pakistan's Approach on its Relations With India, Iran, Afghanistan

Impact on India Pakistan Relations :-

Despite Pakistan's positive intentions of building "peaceful relations with India", India is giving a cold shoulder. The remarks of Jai Shankar Prasad, Foreign Minister of India on SCO summit invitation clearly illustrates India's animosity towards Pakistan. Further, after revoking of Article 370, 35A by Modi government and suspension of trade since 2019 creates volatile security environment.

"India's claim to have settled Kashmir and refusal to talk to Pakistan presents formidable obstacle to normalization of ties."
~ Malecha Lodhi

Impact on Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations

The recent air strikes in Afghanistan by Pakistan due

to Afghanistan refusal to mediate TTP and Pakistan less to resist its activities of terrorism in Pakistan, results into escalating tensions between two countries. Pakistan targeted insurgents hideouts aiming to dismantle training facilities and eliminate militants. But the opposite impact has been seen as Pakistan-Afghanistan relations further deteriorated. The non recognition of Durand lines, refugee crisis, informal trade by Afghanistan further exacerbated the situation.

Impact on Pakistan - IRAN Relations :-

'Pakistan's' approach towards Iran, at one place results into good economic progress, but due to sanctions on Iran, the relations are affected. Iran claims missile and drone attacks into Balochistan, against Jaish-al-Adl, in response Pakistan conducted retaliatory airstrikes on Iran. These escalating frequent border

Clashes results into delayed projects like Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline. Furthermore, the sectarian conflict in Parachinar, according to experts is also deteriorating relations of both countries. As Iran supports Shia ideology. Thus, the relations between both countries is getting strained day by day.

Conclusion

Pakistan is struggling with multifaceted challenges with regional security. which results into deterioration of its relations with its neighbours. Pakistan's approaches are positive, but the timing decided for them, is might be a obstacle due to which the relations are deteriorating. However by ~~taking~~