



Q.2

Introduction:

Pakistan's pursuit of nuclear power has ^{been} reactive in nature against Indian hegemonic ambitions. Indian assertiveness and hostility against the sovereignty of Pakistan has fostered an environment of trust deficit since the independence of the country. Indian nuclear tests in 1974 started Pakistan's nuclear journey, and the polychron test in 1998, were evoked by Pakistan's nuclear tests in Balochistan. With regards to International non-proliferation discourse, Pakistan has been consistent in its policy that any denuclearization of the region must start with Indian commitments to do, and Pakistan would then follow the suit. To protect nuclear command, Pakistan has taken several measures to protect its nuclear arsenal with high level executive body, NCA, and SPD as its secretariat. Although there are international concerns regarding terrorist's theft

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of Nuclear and nuclear proliferation in the region, Pakistan has ensured that its Nuclear command authority is full proof and has aligned with all IAEA safety protocols. Moreover, with changing Regional apparatus, Pakistan's nuclear power ensured Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity by maintaining its Nuclear deterrence.

Pakistan's Nuclear program: Minimum credible deterrence along with full spectrum deterrence

Pakistan's Nuclear policy has been consistent that its nuclear arsenal is a tool to protect Pakistan's sovereignty and existence by maintaining minimum credible deterrence. Due to threat of Indian aggression and a history of its complicity in breaking the country into two (1971: fall of Dhaka), Pakistan Nuclear posture asserts that any attempt to compromise its territorial integrity would invite mutually assured destruction. It is this Nuclear deterrence that has prevented India from



any hawkish adventure. Although, after 2001 parliament attack, Indian strategic think tank formulated cold start doctrine — a surprise, concentrated, and limited attack before nuclear threshold could reach — Pakistan replied with tactical nukes that can be used in live battlefield if its conventional force is neutralized. Thus, it gave Pakistan full spectrum deterrence. It means that Pakistan can use Nuclear arsenal even if its existence is threatened in conventional war. It gives Pakistan an ambiguous nuclear policy, unlike No first Use of India, with a blurry red line, making adversary to believe that any small adventure can lead to ~~enter~~ nuclear catastrophe. Thus, Pakistan's nuclear program has potential to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. To protect this strategic weapon, Pakistan has centralized its authority and made it fool proof from any leakage or theft.



Pakistan's Nuclear command authority under NCA:

National command authority is the apex body of controlling and managing Pakistan's Nuclear program. It is headed by Prime minister and includes top military and government executives. The strategic division plan works as its secretariat, which includes top bureaucratic officers, handling day-to-day procedural works. This Nuclear command framework is formulated to insure Nuclear safety and security from any theft, unauthorized use, and leakage. Since its inception, Pakistan has proved its capability to ensure Nuclear responsibility by adhering to IAEA Safeguard protocols.

International concerns of Nuclear theft by non-state actors and Nuclear proliferation:

The International concerns regarding

Nuclear theft by non-state actors and nuclear proliferation have solid reasons for skepticism on Pakistan's Nuclear safety. The grounds for such concerns lie in Pakistan's national security under constant threat of terrorism since global war on terror. Pakistan has remained a severe victim of terrorism since US occupation of Afghanistan. Its peripheral provinces, KPK and Balochistan, have remained under terrorist insurgencies, in part. Although in post-2014 era, after comprehensive, large scale military operations in frontier areas along Afghan border, Pakistan has reclaimed its territorial sovereignty and pushed back all non-state actors from its soil. Pakistan's successful national action plan against terrorism and adherence to FATF's concerns that led to coming out of grey list in 2022, substantiate Pakistan's claim that its nuclear program is currently safe from any theft. Moreover, the concern regarding nuclear proliferation is founded in



what came out as Ichen's network in early 2000's. Pakistan, as a responsible Nuclear state, conducted its investigation and charged those who were complicit in this network. Although since then, such debacle has never happened. Pakistan ensured that all sensitive information remained confined to few people under constant state's surveillance.

Pakistan's Nuclear Program in changing Regional apparatus:

Within South Asia, there is the largest concentration of nuclear arsenal. The three neighbouring countries China, India, and Pakistan, are all nuclear states. With unrecognized Taliban regime in neighbourhood, there is already a growing international concern of nuclear theft. Besides, the western world has been under high alert regarding granium pursuit of Nuclear bomb. With regards to ~~the~~ three nuclear states, the region is one of the least



interacted, with constant mutual ~~to~~ mistrust. SAARC the only regional organization has been dormant since 2014. India is pivoted under US's alignment against China. China has border disputes with almost all of its neighbours except Pakistan. And Pakistan is under constant threat of Indian aggression. Whereas, Afghanistan exacerbate the ongoing situation with its instability. Thus, to put in perspective the region is in a unstable flux with mistrust and least diplomatic engagements. In this changing Regional apparatus, nuclear security is one of the major concern. Every state is concerned regarding its own territorial integrity and sovereignty. Therefore, nuclear deterrence has proved to date as a credible source of security from any threat of aggression by other state.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's Nuclear program has been a pragmatic calculation to balance India's ~~conventional~~ conventional superiority by establishing nuclear deterrence with full spectrum.

Its safety and security is managed by high bureaucratic, military, and political brass. It follows IAEA safety protocols. The international concerns regarding theft and proliferation are understandable given the historical mis-handlings; however, NAP, and secure uranium center make it plausible to believe that Pakistan's nuclear program is safe from any leakage and theft. Furthermore, the changing regional apparatus is accelerating towards an environment of instability, insecurity, mistrust, and concerns of sovereignty.

Thus in such uncertain settings, nuclear deterrence is a wish to only national security. Pakistan's safe and secure nuclear program deters any aggression against its sovereignty.



Q No. 6

Introduction:

The national integration is one of the major prerequisites for the sovereignty of any country. For sovereignty to establish, it is necessary for a Nation-State that its members have common national incentive to live side by side under a common sovereign government.

In Pakistan ethnic issues and concerns of national disintegration are not new. Its roots are connected to early years of the country in post-independent period. But in the contemporary settings the contours have drastically changed. Today, the major reason of ethnic issues lay in unequal distribution of resources, inequality, poverty, and lack of cultural assimilation.

Whereas National integration is to envisage ethnic harmony at macro level. It deals with inter-provincial and province-center harmony. The National integration is possible once all outstanding issues are resolved and



Confidence building measures are taken. It requires rebuilding social capital and delegation of power as envisaged in 18th amendment. Thus, national interests revolves around the principles of nation-state system. whose first and most important principle is sovereignty, which is impossible to establish if social capital of trust and integration are absent.

Ethnic issues in Pakistan and Reasons:

All the following ethnic issues have common causality of disalignment from state, non accommodating political setup, inequity, misinformation and misunderstanding regarding other ethnicities, and trust deficit among communities.

(i) Baloch resentment:

One of the major contemporary threat to country's sovereignty lay in Baloch resentment. The people of Balochistan visualize state (center)

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as a colonial power exploiting the Balochistan's ^{done} reserves. The ethnic coloring is ~~matched~~ ^{done} by seeing the state as Punjab-centric and anti-Baloch. Although not all the people in Balochistan support this narrative, a minority faction do internalize it and a few take military action too. The recent terror attacks by BLA, a Baloch terror outfit, against civilians on basis of one's ethnicity widen the ethnic faultlines in the state.

ii) Sindhi-muhajir mistrust:

Karachi politics especially in 1980's is a best visualization of how ethnic skirmishes can turn violent and cause massive bloodshed. Since the inception of Pakistan, Muhajir's separate identity within larger Sindhi nationalism has fostered an ethnic conflict between the two ethnicities. The political backing by PPP for Sindhi ethnicity and by MQM for Muhajirs, further implicate the issue.



iii) Anti-Punjabi sentiments shared by marginalized ethnicities:

Almost all extremist factions of ethnic groupings see Punjabis as exploitative class, hijacking top military, political, and bureaucratic establishment. It turns ethnic skirmishes violent from time to time.

National Integration requires resolving outstanding issues and building confidence: btw

A) Outstanding issues between center and province and inter-provincial conflicts:

(i) Water crisis: Water crisis between Punjab and Sindh from time to time resurface ethnic skirmishes between the provinces. Though there are institutions like, CCI, using such institutions regularly is not the common practice, increasing trust deficit. For instance, the recent canal crisis



on Indus river substantiate the concerns regarding trust deficit between the center and province. Kaleshgarh dam, too, is a victim of absence of social capital of trust.

(ii) Delegation of power and authority to provinces:

Although 18th amendment legally made federating units much more autonomous than before, provinces still demand the realization of 18th amendment in its true spirit. For instance, the recent opposition to mineral bills in KPK and Balochistan is based on these similar discourse; letting provinces choose what they want and how they proceed to achieve it.

(iii) Representation of peripheral provinces:

People in Balochistan, KPK, and Sindh allege that they are discriminated on basis of their provincial identity when they

compete with people of Punjab at central level. Even if the allegations have minimal grounds to stand, how and what people believe will shape their understanding of the state. There is a growing concern of state-centric narrative to be propagated in the peripheral provinces. Quota systems be enhanced and marginalized groups must be enfranchised at central level.

B) Necessary confidence building measures to establish trust and integrate different ethnicities:

(i) Political accommodation:

The marginalized ethnicities and provincial identities must be accommodated in current provincial setup. It will institutionalize their resentment and democratize dispute resolution mechanisms.

ii) Awareness campaigns:

To establish



trust and enfranchise the disillusioned population, it is necessary to eradicate misunderstandings by conscious media presence that provide state narrative for amalgam and integration. Non-state actors like NGOs and community-based civil society must be encouraged to take active part. It will change the ethnic deadlock between communities, clear the misunderstanding and foster national integration.

iii) Cultural unification in diversity and use of Islamic brotherhood:

Pakistan's identity, related to its diversity in culture, must be encouraged in the country's media and educational discourse. Instead of suppressing diversity, unity can be achieved by letting diverse cultures prosper within a larger identity of being Pakistani. In addition, Islamic ideology can be used as a unifying, common factor among all different ethnicities and cultures.



Conclusion:

Summing up, Pakistan's sovereignty will continue to remain under threat unless national integration and ethnic harmony is not realized. To achieve inter-provincial, province-center, and inter-ethnic integration, it is necessary to foster trust among communities. It is the very mistrust ~~and that~~ gives birth to misunderstandings, ethnic deadlocks, violence and at large threat to sovereignty. To establish confidence it is first necessary to assess what are the ongoing ethnic issues. Later on, it is necessary to resolve outstanding issues between the units, and at last embark on confidence building measures. It necessitates political accommodation, cultural harmony, and awareness campaigns. If all these steps are taken, Pakistan can ensure its national security, and can pursue its other national interests. Both at home and at outside.