

Part - II

Batch no: 067

Q.5 Introduction:

The post conflict diplomatic engagements between Pakistan and India, two nuclear-armed neighbours in South Asia, are marked by cycle of hostility, deescalation and cautious re-engagement. While historical grievances and territorial disputes particularly over Kashmir continue to hinder long term peace, both nations have intermittently pursued diplomatic efforts following periods of tension. These efforts reflect a blend of strategic interests, domestic, political considerations and international pressure.

1.

Initial Diplomatic Freeze post - Conflict:

After major military or terrorist incidents, such as the Kargil war (1999), Mumbai attacks (2008) or Pulwama-Balakot crisis (2019), the first diplomatic reaction is typically a breakdown in official communication. High commissioners are often recalled, bilateral -

dialogue is suspended, and relations worsen in public and media.

These initial responses reflect:

- Public pressure for a strong stance.

- Political exploitation of nationalist sentiments.

- A deep-rooted trust deficit between the two states.

2.

Backchannel Diplomacy: The Invisible Hand:

It despite the public hardline stance, both countries have regularly engaged in backchannel diplomacy. These behind the scenes interactions aim to:

- To prevent further escalation.

- Keep diplomatic channels open.

- Explore space for future formal talks.

Example:

In 2021, LOC ceasefire reaffirmation reportedly facilitated through backchannel talks with UAE's mediation. Such

informal diplomacy often lays the foundation for later official engagements.

b. Bilateralism vs Multilateralism:

While India insists on bilateral talks per the Simla Agreement, Pakistan often seeks third party mediation.

c. Role of Domestic Politics:

Leadership changes, military influence, and nationalist politics in India impact diplomatic continuity.

d. Global Pressure and Mediation:

International stakeholders such as the US, China and Gulf states play subtle but crucial role in encouraging de-escalation.

5

Confidence building Measures:

Some diplomatic show promises:

Kartarpur Corridor (2019):

Opened a visa-free religious corridor for Sikh pilgrims praised globally as a soft diplomacy success.

Releases of prisoners and soldiers:

Such as wing Commander Abhinav Kumar's return (2019) after Balakot strikes.

Military hotline communication:

Cultural exchange, sporting events serve as valuable tools for reducing hostility.

6. The Role of Regional and Global Forums:

While SAARC remains dormant due to India-Pakistan tensions both countries interact at forum like:-

- SCO
- UN General Assembly
- OIC and G20 events

7.

Assessment of Diplomatic Effectiveness
Post conflict diplomacy between India and Pakistan has shown periodic success, but remains fragile. Durable peace has remained elusive due to:-

- The unresolved Kashmir issue
- Non-state actors and terrorism
- Strategic competition and nuclear posturing

Conclusion:

The post-conflict diplomatic drives between Pakistan and India reflect a pattern of short-lived engagements followed by long periods of hostility. While both nations occasionally demonstrate diplomatic maturity, peace remains hostage to security concerns.



Scanned with CamScanner

and unresolved core disputes. A forward looking strategy involves sustained dialogue, confidence-building and respect of mutual concerns is essential for transforming episodic diplomacy into a lasting peace process.

Q.6

Introduction:

The Russia china relationship has deepened significantly in recent years, particularly following the 2014 Ukraine and intensifying after Russia full scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Both countries increasingly challenge the western-dominated global order and seek to build a multipolar world. However, despite their strategic convergence, there are underlying asymmetries and limitations. This evolving partnership has profound implications for global power politics.

1.

Strategic Convergence Against the west:

- Both Moscow and Beijing oppose U.S global dominance and NATO's influence

• They often coordinate diplomatically in forums like the UN Security Council and BRICS to block western initiatives.

• The 2022 "No Limits" partnership declared by Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin emphasized their unity in shaping a new international order.

Reference: "Joint Statement on International Relations: Entering a New Era" Kremlin and Xinhua.

2

• Economic and Energy Interdependence
• After western sanctions, Russia turned eastward, becoming increasingly dependent on China for trade, technology and energy supplies.

• However, the trade balance heavily favors China, making Russia the junior partner.

Data: Bilateral trade reached \$140bn in 2023, according to China's Ministry of Commerce.

3

• Military Cooperation and Strategic Signaling:

- Joint military drills showcase growing security ties.
- Cooperation in military technology and arms sales reflect trust, though China is cautious not to antagonize the west overtly.

Implications for Global Power Politics:

- The west now faces a de facto axis of autocracies challenging liberal value and institutions.
- The Global south may increasingly tilt toward alternative development models backed by China-Russia led platforms like SCO and BRICS.
- The relationship fuels like bloc politics, reviving cold war-style polarization.

Implication: Undermines efforts at global consensus on climate, human-rights and conflict resolution.

Asymmetrical and Limits in the Partnership:

- Russia is increasingly the junior

partner, reliant on Chinese economic and political support.

- China is careful not to violate global sanctions or directly assist Russia militarily in Ukraine.

- Competing interests exist in Central Asia, where both vie for influence via BRT and the Eurasian Economic Union.

Critical View: The alliance is more marriage of convenience than a full-fledged strategic union.

6.

Impact on US and NATO strategy:

- The west now faces dual-front strategic competition: militarily with Russia in Europe, economically and technologically with China in the Indo-Pacific.

- NATO's strategic concept now includes China as a "systemic challenge".

- US has increased alliances in Asia (AUKUS, Quad) to counterbalance China, while aiding Ukraine to contain

Russia.

7

Global Polarization and Risk of Conflict Escalation:

- Growing Russia-China alignment reduces space for global cooperation.
- The UN Security Council is increasingly paralysed due to Sino-Russian vetoes.
- Risk of regional flashpoints escalating border conflict is growing.

Conclusion:

The growing Russia-China relationship is significantly challenges the post-cold war liberal order and accelerates the shift toward multipolarity. However, this partnership is rooted more in shared opposition to the west than in deep mutual trust. While their cooperation intensifies global power competition, internal asymmetries and regional divergences may limit its durability in the long term.

Q.3

Introduction:

The future of nuclear politics in the middle east after a potential US-Iraed attack on iranian nuclear sites is likely to be turbulent, uncertain and fraught with strategic and security challenges. The region, already a hotspot for geopolitical rivalry and proxy wars may face a dangerous escalation in nuclear ambition, arms race dynamics and diplomatic polarization.

1.

Strategic Backlash and Regional Instability:

An attack on Iran's nuclear infrastructure will not completely erase its nuclear know-how but may provoke a strong retaliation. Iran could abandon any remaining cooperation with the IAEA, withdraw fully from the NPT and accelerate a clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

2. Breakdown of Non-Proliferation Norms:

The pre-emptive strike doctrine sets a dangerous precedent in the region. Other regional states like Saudi Arabia, Turkey or Egypt may perceive that nuclear capability is the only credible deterrent against aggression. This would undermine the global non-proliferation regime and could lead to multiple regional powers pursuing nuclear weapons covertly or openly.

3-

Emergence of Regional Nuclear-Arms Race:

With Iran potentially doubling down on its nuclear ambitions post strike, Saudi Arabia may seek to match Iran's nuclear capabilities, possibly through technology-sharing deals with Pakistan or Western allies. Turkey and Egypt, too, might initiate or accelerate their own programs.

4. Weakening of Diplomatic Channels:
Such military action would likely
cripple the possibility of future
diplomatic negotiations, including
the revival of the JCPOA (Joint
Comprehensive Plan of Action).
European powers, China and Russia
may criticize the US and Israel,
leading to a fractured global
approach to Iranian nuclear
containment and weakening collective
efforts at arms control.

5.

Increased Role of Non-State
Actors:

Iran's proxies such as Hezbollah,
the Houthis and PMF (Popular
Mobilization Forces) may respond
violently, escalating regional
tensions. The risk of nuclear-
terrorism also grows if states
under attack decide to share
nuclear technology or materials
with allied militant groups
as a deterrent or retaliatory
strategy.