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Q.No. 2

* Nuclear program of Pakistan - introduction:

Pakistan's nuclear program, established in the 1970s, is a cornerstone of its national security strategy. Developed in response to regional threats, particularly from India, Pakistan's nuclear arsenal serves as a deterrent against aggression. However, the program has raised international concerns regarding safety, security, and its impact on regional stability.

Evolution of Pakistan's Nuclear Program.

Pakistan's nuclear journey began after its defeat in the 1971 war and India's 1974 nuclear

test (Smiling Buddha). Dr. A.Q. Khan played a pivotal role in developing uranium enrichment capabilities. Pakistan conducted its first nuclear tests in May 1998 (Chagai-I and Chagai-II) following India's tests, achieving credible deterrence.

Nuclear Safety and Security measures

Pakistan has implemented robust safety and security mechanisms to prevent unauthorized access and accidental use.

1 Institutional Oversight:

The Strategic Plans Division (SPD) oversees nuclear assets, ensuring strict command and control.

2 Personnel Reliability Program (PRP):

Vetting of personnel involved in nuclear operations to prevent insider threats.

3 Physical Security:

Multilayered protection, including biometric controls and rapid-response force.

4) Export controls:

Adherence to international guidelines (for example, Nuclear Suppliers Group Standards) to prevent proliferation.

5) International Control:

Engagement with the IAEA and participation in the global initiative to combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT).

• International Concerns

Despite Pakistan's efforts, global apprehensions persist.

1) Proliferation Risk:

Past controversies, such as the A.Q. Khan network's illicit transfers have damaged credibility.

2)

Regional Arms Race:

India-Pakistan rivalry fuels a dangerous nuclear and missile race (for example, development of tactical nuclear weapons).

3) Terrorism Threats:

fears that extremist group could exploit instability to access nuclear materials.

v) Lack of NSG membership:

Pakistan seeks entry into the nuclear suppliers group (NSG) but faces opposition due to non-NPT status.

i) Impact on Regional Dynamic

Pakistan's nuclear capability has reshaped South Asia's strategic landscape.

minimum description under a heading should be 5 lines.

i) Deterrence stability:

Prevents large scale war with India (for example, no full-scale conflict since 1998).

ii) Limited war dilemma

Encourages sub-conventional conflicts (for example Kargil, Balakot crisis and recent war may 2025 operation Binyanul massad) due to mutual nuclear restraint).

iii) Strategic Parity:

Balances India's conventional military superiority, forcing dialogue for example the Kashmir disputes.

iv)

China Pakistan Axis:

Strengthens Sino Pakistan ties - with China supporting Pakistan's nuclear projects (for example Chashma reactors).

add more arguments.

Conclusion

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments and be on 7

Pakistan's nuclear program ensures its survival in a hostile region but faces security over safety and proliferation risks. While it has stabilized deterrence, the arms race with India remains a global concern. Strengthening transparency further enhancing security protocols, and engaging in confidence-building measures can mitigate fear while maintaining strategic stability.

Q. No. 3

Introduction

Regional Cooperation

organizations play a crucial role in fostering economic, political, and security collaboration among member states.

South Asia, Central Asia, and Eurasia host three key organizations - SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) and SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) - each with distinct objectives and varying degrees of success. Pakistan, as an active member, contributes to these groupings while advancing its national interests.

1) SAARC: Promoting South Asian Integration: objective:

- i) Enhance regional cooperation in economic, social, and cultural fields
- ii) Reduce poverty and accelerate development.
- iii) promote collective self-reliance among South Asian nations.

Achievements:

i) Limited Success:

Hindered by India-Pakistan tensions; Summits often stalled.

ii) SAFTA Lobby:

Established ✓ free trade area but underutilized due to political distrust.

iii) Cultural & Humanitarian Initiatives:

Some progress in disaster management (SAARC Disaster management centre) and education (SAARC university).

• Pakistan role:

i) Advocates for conflict resolution but faces roadblocks due to India-Pak rivalry.

ii) Supports connectivity projects (e.g., SAARC motor vehicles agreement, blocked by India).

iii) attempt by giving subheadings; not points.

Hosted summits but progress remains stagnant due to geopolitical tensions.

2) ECo: Economic integration in Central Asian & Beyond.

• objectives:

i) promote trade, transport, and energy connectivity among member states.

ii)

Enhance economic development in the region.

iii)

Strengthen cultural and historical ties among muslim-majority nations.

Achievements:

i) Trade Expansion:

ECo Trade Agreement (ECOTA) aims to reduce tariffs but implementation is weak.

ii) Transport Corridors:

Projects like Islamabad - Tehran - Istanbul (ITI) railway improve connectivity.

iii) Energy Cooperation:

Focus on oil and gas pipelines (eg, TAPI Pipeline project).

Pakistan's Role:

i) Key player due to its ~~geopol~~ strategic location (Gawadar port as a regional hub).

ii) ~~Advocates for energy and infrastructure project~~ (for example Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline).

iii)

~~Hosts ECO Summits and supports regional trade but faces challenges due to sanctions on Iran.~~ references??

3)

SCO: Security & Economic Cooperation in Eurasia: objectives:

i)

Strengthen regional security (Counterterrorism, anti extremism).

ii)

Promote economic cooperation (trade, energy, ~~infrastructure~~).

iii)

Enhance political and cultural ties among member states.

Achievements:

1. Security Collaboration:

Joint military exercises (for example Peace mission) and intelligence sharing.

2. Economic Initiative:

SCO Development Bank Proposed but not yet fully operational.

3. Diplomatic Influence:

Acts as a counterbalance to westernised blocs.

Pakistan's Role:

i) Joined as full member (2012), enhancing its Eurasian outreach.

ii) Actively Participated in counterterrorism efforts (KATs - Regional Anti-Terrorist Structures).

iii) Seeks energy and transit benefits via China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under SCO framework.

4. Comparative Analysis.

Primary Focus	SAPAR	Eco	SCO
	Socio-economic integration	Trade & connectivity	Security & economics

key members	India-Pakistan Bangladesh.	Iran, Turkey Pakistan.	China, Russia, Pakistan.
Achievements	Limited due to political	moderate electronic port/energy .	Strong in Security.
Pakistan's priority	Low due to India tension)	moderate (economic gains)	High (Security & CPEC)

Conclusion:

while SAARC remain stagnant due to Pakistan India rivalry, ECO shows modest progress in trade and connectivity, and SCO excels in security cooperation. Pakistan plays a vital role in all three but prioritizes SCO for strategic security and ECO for economic benefits.

For regional stability, Pakistan must balance its engagements, push for SAARC revival, and leverage SCO for counterterrorism and economic gain.

Q. No.

Introduction

Pakistan's geopolitical

Significance has grown due to shifting regional dynamics, including the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, rising India-China tensions, and the resurgence of militant groups. While its strategic location offers opportunities, it also exposes Pakistan to complex security challenges. This critically evaluates these threats and their implications for national security.

1) Pakistan Strategic Importance in Changing Regional Dynamics:

i) Geopolitical Pivot:

Act as a bridge between South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East.

ii) CPEC & BRI Hub:

Central to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), enhancing economic and military ties with Beijing.

iii) Afghanistan Factor:

Key player in Afghan

Stability post U.S. withdrawal (2021)
influencing Taliban-led Afghanistan.

iv)

Nuclear Deterrent

maintains strategic balance against India, preventing large-scale conflict but fueling an arms race.

2) Critical challenges to Pakistan's National Security.

A

Internal Security Threats

1) Terrorism and Extremism.

i)

Resurgence of TTP

Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan after Afghan Taliban's takeover.

ii)

Sectarian violence (for instance, attacks on Shia and Sufi groups by banned outfits).

iii)

Baluch Separatist insurgency

(For instance, attacks on CPEC projects.)

2. Economic instability:

• High inflation, debt crisis, and energy shortages leading to public unrest.

• Dependence on IMF bailout weakens sovereign policy-making.

3. Governance & political fragmentation:

• Weak institutional, corruption, and political polarization undermine stability.

• Military - civilian tension disrupts long-term policy continuity.

B External Security Threats:

1) India-Pakistan Rivalry.

• Persistent Kashmir conflict (Post-2019 Article 370 revocation).

• Risk of escalation (e.g. 2019 Balakot crisis, 2021 ceasefire violations and recently Escalation).

• India's military modernization

~~cross-border terrorism (TTP Sanctuaries in Afg)~~

~~India's military~~

- (S-400, Rafale Jets) alters strategic balance.

2) Afghanistan's instability.

1)

- cross-border terrorism (TTP Sanctuaries in Afghanistan.)
- Refugee influx and drug smuggling (opium trade fueling crime).

3) Great Power Competition:

i U.S - China rivalry, Pakistan's alignment with China risks U.S. sanctions (for example, FATF grey list past pretenses).

i Russia's growing influence in the region complicates traditional alliances.

C Non-Traditional Security Threats

1) Climate change

- floods (2022 disasters and recently)

Heavy rain (clouds break), water scarcity, and food insecurity exacerbate vulnerabilities.

2) Cybersecurity Risks:

- Increasing digital threats and future digital terrorism (e.g. hacking of critical infrastructure).

3)

Demographic Pressures:

- Youth bulge without adequate jobs fuels radicalization and migration crises.

3. Pakistan Response & Policy Gaps.

Counterterrorism Efforts:

Military ops (Zarb-e-Azad, Redf - ul - Fard) reduced terrorism but not eradicated it.

Economic Reforms:

CPEC offers growth but faces delays and security risks.

Diplomatic Outreach:

Balancing relations with U.S., China, and Russia remains challenging.

Nuclear Deterrence,

credible but costly; diverts resources from human development.

Critical Evaluation:

i) Strengths:

Strong military, nuclear deterrence and CPEC Potential.

ii) Weaknesses:

Poor governance, economic fragility and internal divisions.

iii) Opportunities:

Regional connectivity (SCO, ECO,) can boost trade and security.

iv) Threats:

Escalation with India, Afghanistan instability, and economic collapse risks.

Conclusion

Pakistan's strategic role is both an asset and a vulnerability, while its military and nuclear capabilities ensure survival, internal instability, economic crises, and external

threats pose existential risks. A multi-pronged approach - combating extremism, stabilizing the economy and pursuing balanced diplomacy is essential for sustainable security. Without structural reforms, Pakistan's strategic advantages may be overshadowed by its systemic challenges.

Q. No. 7

Introduction,

The Twenty-Sixth Constitutional Amendment (2017) to Pakistan's 1973 Constitution merged the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), ending the region's semi-autonomous status under the Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR). While hailed as a step toward mainstreaming tribal areas, this amendment has significantly altered Pakistan's federal structure, security dynamics, and political landscape. This critically

evaluated its implications on Pakistan's Polity.

1) Background: FATA's Special Status Before the Amendment

• Colonial Legacy:

Governed under the FCR (1901) a draconian system denying judicial rights.

• No Political Representation

FATA had no seats in the Senate and only limited NIA Seats.

• Security challenges:

Became a haven for militancy (For example; TTP, Al-Qaeda) due to weak governance.

2 Key provisions of the 26th Amendment:

1) Merger of FATA with KP.

Ended 120 years of Separation administrative status.

2 Extension of Superior Court's Jurisdiction

Peshwar High Court & Supreme

Court now oversee FATA.

~~3) Political Representation: Financial Ministry~~
FATA included in the National

Finance Commission (NFC) Award.

4) Political Representation:

FATA allocated 12 General Seats in KP Assembly.

(3) Positive impact on Pakistan's Polity:

A Strengthening Federalism
& Constitutional Involvement.

Eliminated a 'State within a State' reinforcing the 1973 Constitution's Federal spirit.

Judiciary Reforms.

Reverests now enjoy fundamental right under Pakistan's Judiciary.

B. Political Inclusion. Electoral Participation:

FATA's representation in the KP Assembly ensure Political Voice.

End of Feels Arbitrary Rule;

Table makes both unchecked

Power's democratic governance introduced.

c) Security & development.

1. Counterterrorism Gain:

Lowered counter-military operations under uniform law.

2. Development Funds:

Access to NFE Funds for infrastructure (e.g. school, hospitals).

discuss this part in more detail.

4)

Critical challenges and unintended consequences.

As Resistance from tribal Elders & Pashtun Nationalists.

1. Loss of Privileges: Malik's opposed the merger, fearing reduced influence

2. Ethnic - Political Tensions:

Some ~~Protestions~~ (by PTM) demand
a) Separate Province instead of
KP merger.

Weak Implementation & Bureaucratic Hurdle:

• Delayed Devolution:

Police and Judiciary Systems remain underdeveloped in ex-FTA.

- Lack of funds, promised 3% NFE share not fully allocated, hindering development.

c) Security vacuum & military behaviour;

- Power Struggle: Weak

State presence allowed TTP to regroup.

Military's continued

Role:

Despite merger security operations still dominate governance.

1) Political marginalization concerns.

- KP's Dominance. Fear that FATA's unique identity may be overshadowed by Pakistan Centre

Policies.

- Slow Electoral integration.

low voter turnout in 2018 & 2024 elections reflects disengagement.

5) Broader implications on Pakistan's Polity:

1) Shift From Security-Centric to Light-Based Governance:

- Transition from military-led control to constitutional rule.

2) Test case for Federalism:

- Success or failure will influence future segments (e.g., Eighth - Baluchistan's status).

3) Impact on National Security Strategy:

- Merges ~~forces~~ Pakistan into adopt ~~new~~ - enforcement over military operations in tribal areas.

Conclusion:

The 26th Amendment was a landmark move to integrate PATA into Pakistan's constitutional mainstream, aligning with democratic

Principles. However incomplete, implementation, financial delays, and lingering security threats expose gaps between policy and reality. For the merger to truly succeed, Pakistan must.

A Step Forward with unresolved contradictions.

- Expedite judicial and administrative reforms in ex-FATA.
- Ensure fair resource allocation via NFC.

Address - ethno-political grievance through inclusive dialogue.

Without these measures the amendment risks becoming a cosmetic change rather than a transformative reform.

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