

NATIONAL OFFICERS ACADEMY

TEST SERIES

CURRENT AFFAIR TEST THREE

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Question No: 01

Pak-Afghan relations continue to remain tensed even after mediation by China. What do you think are major factors and how could it be improved?

(I) Introduction:

Pakistan and Afghanistan share a long history of interconnected socio-cultural, political and economic ties. These links, however, have often been complicated by historical grievances, security concerns and conflicting regional interests. Though they share a 2670 km-long border,

they are unable to develop a stable and cooperative bilateral relationship.

(II) Pakistan-Afghanistan Clashes in October, 2025:

Pakistan claims that 600 terrorist attacks were launched against Pakistani forces in 2024 by Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which is operated from Afghan soil.

It is, therefore, Pakistan conducted airstrikes in Kabul, Khost, Jalalabad and Paktika targeting TTP militants, particularly main target in Kabul was Noor Wali Mehsud, the TTP leader. The Pakistani airstrikes were on 09 October, 2025.

(III) Afghan Taliban Retaliatory Attacks:

The Taliban launched attacks on Pakistani military posts along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. In response, Pakistan continued military operation. These attacks caused casualties on both sides and hatred among the masses of respective states.

(IV) Ceasefire Agreement and Failed Peace Talks

Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to an immediate ceasefire on 19 October through a mediation by Qatar and Turkey. Later, the delegation of two countries met in Istanbul for peace talks. Despite four days discussion

over bilateral issue and ensuring long-lasting peace, they got failed to reach negotiable terms.

(V) Factors Responsible for Intensifying Pak-Afghan Relations:

Pakistan and Afghanistan have been facing security issues, refugee crisis and regional rivalry owing to conflicting interests. Some factors are as:

① Durand Line Dispute

The Durand Line Agreement was between British India and Afghanistan. It established an official border, however, it rejected by the Taliban regime, which also

objected Pakistan's efforts to fence the border.

② Cross-Border Militancy:

Pakistan accused Afghanistan of providing safe heaven to Baloch insurgents and Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). These terrorist organizations have been targetting civilians and military forces in Pakistan.

③ Afghan Refugees:

Pakistan hosts around 3 million Afghan nationals, as of early to mid 2025. However, the total number of repatriation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan was approximately 1.4 million from September 2023 to October, 2025.

④ Prevailing Challenges between the Two States:

Despite their geographical proximity, bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan remains well below its potential. Moreover, India's start of embassy in Kabul and Taliban's bilateral relation seems a direct threat to Pakistan's regional interests. In addition, hydropolitics is another factor, particularly the unilateral project of construction of Shahoot dam with Indian support will surely effect the water flow of Kabul River in Khyber Pakhtoon Khwa and Punjab.

(VI) Ways to Improve Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations:

Pakistan and Afghanistan must adopt multi-dimensional approach focused on security cooperation, diplomatic engagement and regional integration.

① Mutual Commitment to Counterterrorism:

Pakistan and Afghanistan must work together against militant groups such as TTP and BLA and Pakistan must respect Afghan sovereignty. In this way, mutual interests can be met through collective efforts and commitments.

② Strengthening Diplomatic Channels:

The Pakistan-China

Afghanistan Trilateral Dialogue can serve a valuable platform for building mutual trust and resolving misunderstandings through diplomatic engagement rather than confrontation.

③ Economic and Connectivity Initiatives:

The full implementation of Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) can facilitate trade flows and enhance economic interdependence.

Similarly, expanding CPEC to Afghanistan, along with collaborative infrastructure projects such as cross-border railways etc.