

Q1. Introduction

Pakistan came into existence in 1947 with unstable and unpredictable neighbours, comprising Afghanistan, India, China and Iran. With growing multipolarity, there is a rise in power consolidation among regional blocs.

Pakistan's foreign policy with Afghanistan revolves on trade, security and migrants.

Indian quest to become regional hegemon has created security-centric approach for Pakistan revolving around Kashmir, terrorism, Indus Water Treaty and nuclear politics.

With China, Pakistan has maintained deep strategic relation comprising of Belt and Road Initiative project (BRI) and defence cooperation. Iranian regime, laden with International trade sanctions and a key regional power, created limited space for trade and high sectarian issues. Each of these countries, therefore, has variation to Pakistan's strategic interest in the region.

Foreign Policy of Pakistan with Afghanistan and its impact on the region

Foreign policy of Pakistan with Afghanistan:

Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan focus on regional stability and trade cooperation. Although, both countries upgraded to ambassadorial status, the recent clash between both the countries have severed the relations. Hence, Pakistan has adopted 'hard approach' along with soft approach, to pressurise Kabul on taking action against militant groups of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), residing in Afghanistan and conducting terrorist attacks in Pakistan. Moreover, it has also gained an edge in current negotiation through repatriation of refugees and blocking of trade transit. After guaranteed security measures by Taliban regime, Pakistan seeks to expand CPEC into China.

Afghanistan and increase initiate key trade with Central Asian countries.

Pakistan's 'security approach' to enhance ties with Kabul and establish regional trade:

Pakistan reserves its step to recognize Kabul regime of Taliban amidst global consensus and security concern. Pakistan blames Taliban government of giving sanctuary to terrorist organizations, which ^{act} as proxies to further Indian interest. In order to fulfil ambition of regional cooperation with Central Asian countries and China, attract Foreign Direct Investment and enhance bilateral relations with Afghanistan, it Pakistan has focused on security guarantees from Kabul regime through international diplomacy, transit trade, migrants, ^{and} use of force.

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Foreign policy with India - arms race,
international diplomacy, Kashmir and
water resources

Foreign policy with Eastern neighbour
as security-focused:

Pakistan perceives India as threat
to its national interests, sovereignty and
security of the country. Foreign policy
focuses on Kashmir issue, Indus Water
Treaty, Indian-sponsored terrorism,
nuclear posturing, International politics
and conventional warfare, Indian recent
attack on Pakistan, code named Operation
Sindoor, Balakot incident, proxy terror network,
2022 Brahmos ballistic missile incident
and recent threats of war has enabled
Pakistan to resort to both soft and hard
approach. Soft approach include information
warfare such as the public release release

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of dossier containing evidence of Indian involvement in terror attacks. In addition, Cyber warfare, International diplomacy with White House, Gulf states and Türkiye strengthens Pakistan narrative against India. Hard approach includes nuclear posturing, strengthening and modernizing the defense system, and effective retaliation against enemy such as successful dogfight with Indian Jets.

Calculated tactics by Pakistan against Indian 'bullying' approach:

Pakistan balances its strategic interest with India through various channels. First, Indus Water Treaty annulment by India was responded through narrative of 'declaration of war', ^{utilization of} channels of World Bank, United Nations and International Court of Justice. Strategic ambiguity and time-tested relations with China acts as deterrence.

Foreign policy and Chinese BRI and defense cooperation

All-weather friendship with China:

Pakistan has deep strategic, economic and security relations with China. It maintained its ties by balancing the relations of China and its rivalries with Pakistan. Foreign policy with China focuses on trade, investment and defence cooperation. But Till the mid-2025, Pakistan managed to attract \$8 billions investment from China. However, the flaws in Pakistan's relations with USA and Trump's tariff war against China ^{made} ~~created~~ it very challenging for Pakistan to maintain relations with both in which it attained success.

Strategic interest and regional cooperation:

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Pakistan maintains strong ties with China. Pakistan attracted billions of dollars in investment from China through CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) to improve economic indicators such as Balance of Payment, economic growth rate and inflation. It continues having strong defence ties with China which led to transfer of technology for JF-17 Thunder, provision of anti-ballistic missile similar to Indian S-400, Hargos-class Submarine (to be delivered in 2028, etc). Hence, China helps balancing Indian threat by enhancing Pakistan's defence.

Comprehensive Iran-Pakistan relations

Pakistan and Iran maintains peaceful ties. Pakistan is successfully managing balanced ties with Iran and Saudi Arabia. It pledges on enhancing track to stabilisation, strengthening anti-terrorism cooperation and

supporting Iran against Israel.

Conclusion -

Pakistan's foreign policy varies with each neighbour. With India and Afghanistan, it has taken a more security-centric approach. While Iran is laden with sanction, Pakistan enjoys trade and defence cooperation with China.

Q₂Introduction

Kashmir remains as a 'bone of contention' between Pakistan and India since independence. It is contested by Pakistan^{both} on historical, legal and diplomatic basis. Pakistan has continued maintaining its stance on Kashmir which is referendum. Historical dimensions include Redcliffe Award, UN resolution^{both}, various ~~cause~~ different conflicts^{and}, Musharat's Formula. Legal Aspects constitute of UN resolution 47^{and} revocation of Kashmir articles. Diplomatic dimension includes narrative on Kashmir^{and} diplomatic pressure.

Historical events revolving^{around} Kashmir conflict and their significance

Redcliffe Award:

Redcliffe Award was the territorial distribution of Subcontinent between Pakistan and India. According to the Award, princely states can either join Pakistan or India or declare independence. Kashmir under Ranjit Singh, joined India. Pakistan protested

it as unfair since referendum of people was required because of Muslim majority. This led to war of 1947 between both nations. Trised people of KPK captured Azad Kashmir. Later, this boundary was termed as line of Commission (LoC).

Conflicts involving Kashmir:

Many conflicts have erupted between Pakistan and India over Kashmir. Some of these conflicts were initiated by India over its accusation of terror attacks through Kashmir. This includes the recent Pulwama attack, 2019 and Pulwama attack, 2019 in which India violated and engaged in aerial warfare, drone attacks and missile attacks on Pakistan.

Musharraf's formula:

During the rule of President Pervez Musharraf, a formula was proposed to end Kashmir conflict. It involved divided Jammu and Kashmir between India and Pakistan based on demography with Muslim majority territories joining

Pakistan while that of Non-Muslims joined India. India refused and the formula failed.

Legal aspects and events with respect to Kashmir issue

UN resolution 47:

UN resolution 47 was passed by United Nation to address Kashmir's disputed status. It ~~stated~~ announced that a referendum will be held and people of Kashmir will determine if it wants to join Pakistan or India. However, it was a non-binding resolution, pending till date. During 1960s, a resolution was vetoed by Soviet Union in favour of India to make resolution 47 a binding.

Revocation of article 30 and 35A:

After Balakot incident, India revoked article 30 and 35A of its constitution.

This move stripped Kashmir of its special status and it was made part of India. Through these articles, an Indian

cannot buy land in Kashmir and the government of Indian Occupied Kashmir was in control of all subjects except for defense, currency and communication. Pakistan protested this move in international platforms with no significant outcomes.

Diplomacy over Kashmir Conflict

Diplomacy on International Platforms:

Pakistan utilise various global forums to forward the cause of Kashmir. For instance, it used media, ambassadorial channels and international organisation to highlight atrocities and human rights violation by India in Indian Occupied Kashmir. It pushes United Nations to honour resolution 47, a written framework to strengthen Pakistan's legitimacy of its demand.

Diplomacy through patron countries:

Pakistan has used various of its

allies to forward the cause of Kashmir. In Recent meeting with President Trump and related relations between Pakistan and United States, the executive informed Trump of ingrained Kashmir issue. Similarly, Defence pact of Pakistan with Saudi-Arabia, a strategic partner of India, puts pressure to forward Kashmir issue. Finally, friendly countries like Turkey and Azerbaijan provide symbolic support to Pakistan for the cause.

Pakistan's policy on the issue

Pakistan maintains its stance of referendum on Kashmir issue. It claims that Redcliffe Award provided the chance of referendum. Islamabad demands this action through UN's resolution 47. Based on Islamic ideology of Pakistan and territorial geographical continuity of Kashmir with Pakistan, it claims Pakistan claims it as integral part of Pakistan. It continues highlighting Indian atrocities in Indian Occupied Kashmir and its threat in bringing two nuclear countries to confrontation catastrophic for the region and the world.

Conclusion

Kashmir has been a flashpoint of conflict frequently between Delhi and Islamabad. It resulted in major conflict historically. Both the countries claim the region through Redcliffe Award. Although Pakistan strengthened the legitimacy of its demand for referendum, India continues undermining it such as by passing revoking the special status of Kashmir. Pakistan continues to use International platforms to challenge the issue of Kashmir.