

Pakistan Affairs (Test 3)

QNo 3.

A. Introduction

After the 9/11 era, Afghanistan has had many grievances with Pakistan and both the neighbouring countries witness a fractured relationship, leading Pakistan to change its policies towards Afghanistan. Pakistan's foreign policy sought a strategic depth in the region and prioritized increased security ~~on~~ from the Afghan front. With rising concerns about increased terrorism and attack from TTP, Pakistan and Afghanistan ties have seen bilateral erosion. From border confrontations, border fencing and failed diplomacy, Pakistan has been facing two enemies at the border with the regime change in Kabul. With recent escalations in 2025, both the countries witness a strain in bilateral ties and lack of cooperation and accountability persists, resulting in increased cross border terrorism.

B. Pakistan Foreign Policy Towards Afghanistan in Post 9/11 era:

1. Security and Counter Terrorism:

After the 9/11 era, militant groups like 'TTP' have been proliferating on Afghan soil to endanger Pakistan's security. Therefore, Pakistan has been security conscious and has been countering terrorism coming from the Taliban side.

~~2. Concern over TTP~~

Pakistan's foreign policy has expressed its serious concerns over militant groups operating from Afghanistan and accused the Taliban regime for supplying weapons and support to the terrorist group.

3. Seeking Strategic Depth

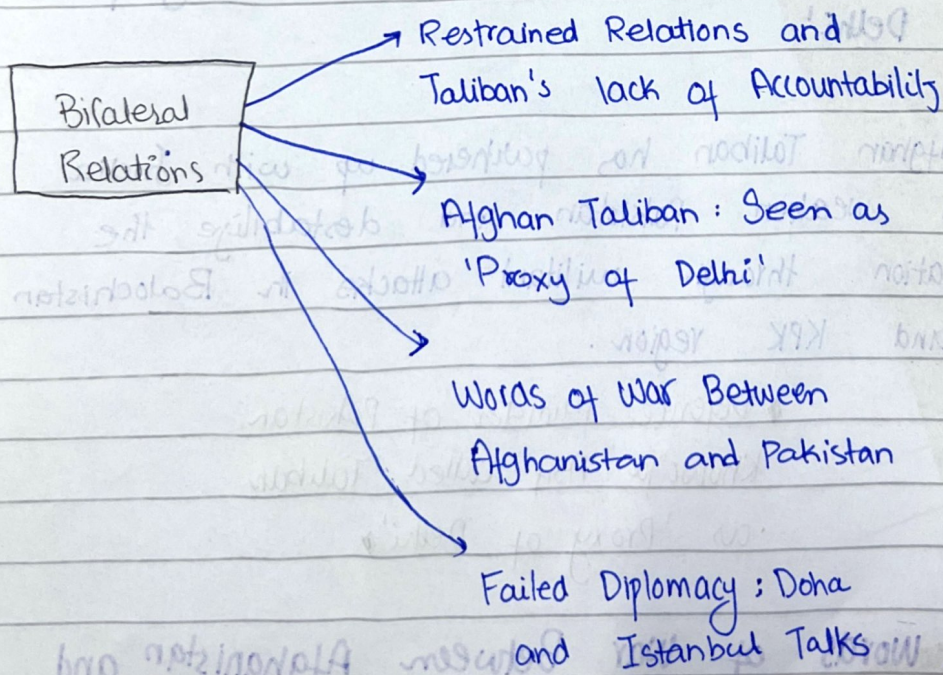
Pakistan has also been seeking strategic depth in the region with balancing ties with Afghanistan so that it maintains its geopolitical leverage in the South Asian region and does not have to balance two enemies at the border.

4. Border Tensions and Fencing

Due to increased cross border terrorism, Pakistan has expressed concerns over tensions with Afghanistan and also used border closures as a political pressure tool to halt-trade. It also covered duand line with a fence

- ♦ Pakistan constructed a fence along the 2600 km Duand line to regulate cross border movement ♦

C. Changing Regimes in Kabul Influencing Bilateral Relations and Border Management:



1. Restrained Relations and Taliban's lack of Accountability

Pakistan has repeatedly shown concerns with Taliban regime to show cooperation with respect to containing militant attacks but Afghanistan denies supporting the militant group.

- ◆ In recent clash of 2025,

Afghanistan called the issue

as 'Pakistan's own internal security issues', and stated

that internal issues ~~are~~

are not Afghanistan's business.

2. Afghan Taliban : Seen as 'Proxy of Delhi'

Afghan Taliban has partnered up with India to weaken Pakistan and destabilize the nation through militant attacks in Balochistan and KPK region.

- ◆ Defence Minister of Pakistan,

Khawaja Asif called Taliban

as 'Proxy of Delhi'.

3. Words of War Between Afghanistan and Pakistan

Bilateral ties during the recent escalations has also been eroded by words of war. With both the countries highlighting hostile behaviour towards each other.

◆ Khawaja Asif accusing Afghanistan of 'sitting in India's lap' and Afghanistan calling security issues 'Pakistan's own business' ◆

4. Failed Diplomacy: Doha and Istanbul Talks

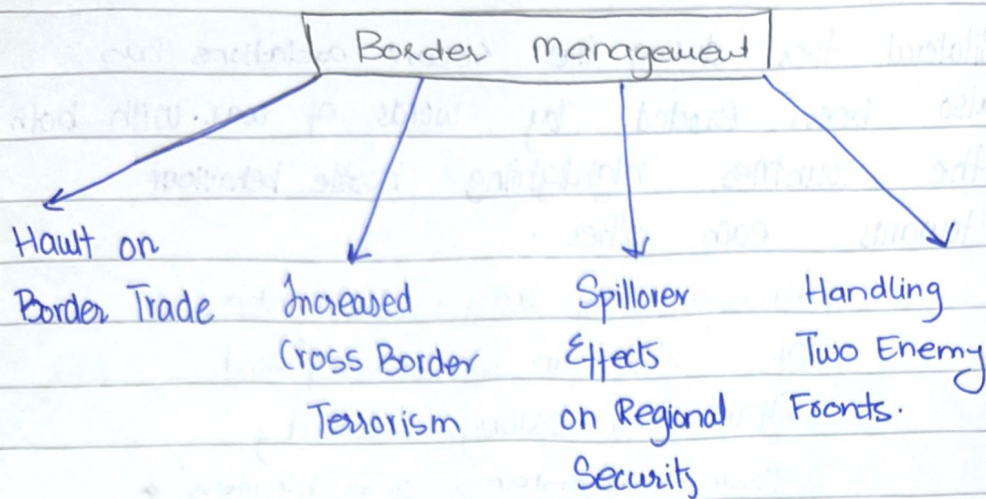
After the recent escalations, many countries like Turkey and Qatar have played its part in mediating the escalation. Though a fragile ceasefire was negotiated in Doha but security remained a major issue. With Taliban calling Pakistan's demands 'impossible' during Istanbul talks, diplomatic connections remain at failure.

◆ Afghanistan showing no accountability or assuring

~~the~~ Pakistan that its

soil will not be used for

terrorism against Pakistan ◆



1. Hault on Border Trade During Recent Escalations

During the recent skirmishes, Pakistan has closed its Afghanistan border, halting trade routes impacting both the countries:

- ▶ Pakistan has shut down of major crossings of Torkham and Chaman, halting all kinds of trade

2. Increased Cross Border Terrorism

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in attacks on its military as well as civilians. Regions like KPK and Balochistan have been prey of cross border terrorism for TTP attacks

- ▶ 2024 as the deadliest year for Pak Armed forces - ISPR

3. Spillover Effect on Regional Security

Rising tensions between countries result in spillover of militants into Pakistan from the Afghan border endangering its regional security

- ♦ Pakistan National Security Council warned of "militant spillover from Afghan territory" ♦ - March 2025

4. Handling Two Enemy Fronts: India - Afghanistan Bonhomie

Pakistan's border management is challenged as India and Afghanistan prove that enemy of my enemy is my friend. Both the countries have partnered up against Pakistan, posing a border management challenge for the security driven country.

- ♦ Foreign Minister of Afghanistan visited India and sought cooperation during border skirmishes with Pakistan in October ♦

D. Conclusion

Pakistan and Afghanistan have witnessed fractured relationships and the past grievances are now taking shape of increased militant attacks and a constrained relationship. Though, Pakistan's security cannot be compromised. Pakistan has shown enough deterrence and has been open to diplomatic talks but its time for Taliban to confront ~~the~~ its militant groups and take accountability. If responsibility cannot be taken and only concealed in diplomatic talks, Pakistan must prove its serious intent that it will not be compromising its security and will make Afghanistan witness real consequences because demanding to stop terrorism is definitely not 'impossible', as stated by Afghan Taliban.

Qno 2:

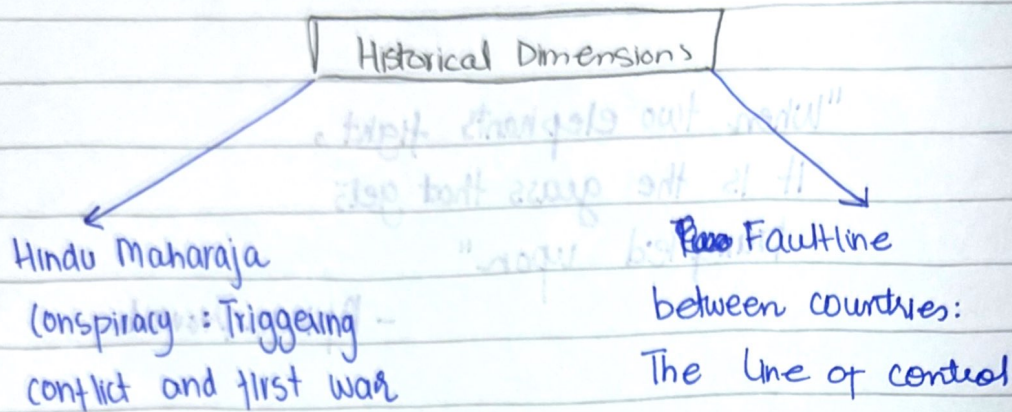
A. Introduction

"When two elephants fight,
It is the grass that gets
trampled upon"

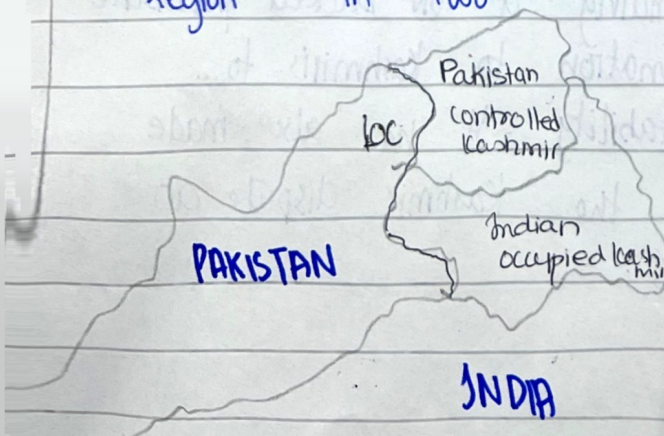
- African Proverb

Kashmir has always been the grass that suffers in the geopolitical tug of war between India and Pakistan. It has always been the flashpoint of rivalry between two nuclear states in the South Asian region. The Kashmir Crisis has several dimensions comprising of historical wars, legal autonomy denied with revocation of article 35A and a tool for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to increase its influence in India. Whenever two ~~con~~ countries confront each other, Kashmir witnesses the tensions. Moreover, Pakistan's policy towards the Kashmir issue has been strict and straight forward, with demanding a UN backed plebiscite and self determination to Kashmiris to maintain regional stability. It has also made efforts to make the Kashmir dispute an international crisis.

B. Analysis on Dimensions of the Kashmir Conflict.



After the independence in 1947, Kashmir was a prey of Hindu Maharaja wanting to join India, but its population being a muslim majority triggered a conflict and both the countries confronted each other in the form of war over claims of the disputed territory. As the time passed, more and more casualties were resulting that led UN interfere and backed a ceasefire between two countries. It halted military at their positions and formed a de facto border called 'Line of Control' dividing the region in two.



Legal Dimensions

Revocation of
Article ~~370~~ 370
and Modi-fication
of Kashmir

Article 35A
and grant of
Special rights to
Indians.

The Kashmir dispute also comprises of legal dimensions when Prime Minister Narendra Modi revoked Article 370, ~~a~~ ~~and~~ that allowed Kashmiris to have their own constitution and flag. This revocation threatened legal sovereignty of Kashmir and it was led as a police state. The modification of Kashmir also gave Indians special rights to buy property and land, completely ripping off Kashmiris of their rights and authority.

Diplomatic Dimensions

Geopolitical
Tug of War
in South Asia

Indian Accusation
of Pakistan
backed Terrorism

Kashmir has always been a flashpoint of unstable geopolitics and a tug of war between India and Pakistan. When both the countries confront each other, Kashmir pays the price of conflict and faces increased humanitarian crisis and displacement along the lines of border. The loc witnesses military attacks and constant shelling. Moreover, Modi also accuses Pakistan for backing the terrorist attacks in India through Kashmiri hotlines but the accusations only consists of false narratives that deepen the diplomacy of ~~India~~ Modi in India.

C. Pakistani Policies towards Kashmir

1. Favouring a UN backed Plebiscite.

UN promised a plebiscite in Kashmir, a promise that never happened because of Indian politics. The UN backed plebiscite enforces Kashmir's determination and sovereignty to choose what they want but India cannot let the plebiscite happen due to its own interests. Pakistan supports a UN backed plebiscite and prioritizes Kashmir's right of self determination.

2. Prioritising Humanitarian and Moral Frameworks

Pakistan's policies consist of prioritizing humanitarian welfare in Kashmir and promoting moral frameworks so that Kashmiris do not have to suffer at the hands of Indian aggression.

- ♦ Pakistan greatly condemned revocation of Article 370 and took the matter to UN ♦

3. Internationalization of Kashmiri Dispute :

Pakistan wants that the Kashmiri conflict is internationalized so that it can be resolved on multilateral platforms. As it is the frozen dispute going on for many years and leads to no new result, Pakistan wants the world to recognize the Kashmiri conflict and seek UN and ICJ support.

4. Opposition to Demographic Changes :

Pakistan argues India's new domicile laws seek to convert Kashmir into a Muslim minority area. It opposes the right of Indians to buy land and property that weakens Kashmiri sovereignty and results in humanitarian crisis.

5. Moral, Political and Diplomatic Support to Kashmiris:-

Pakistan also promotes moral and political and diplomatic support to Kashmiris. It expresses its concerns over communication blackouts, increased military and police control in the Indian occupied Kashmir region.

¶. Conclusion ..