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Question No. 2

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(1) Introduction

Kashmir is a core issue between Pakistan and India. Both countries claim its legitimacy. This issue initiated after Redcliffe's injustices during boundary agreement between Pakistan and India.

Historically, this issue has remained one of the main causes of India-Pakistan tensions. India claims Accession Instrument by Maharaja of Kashmir, whereas, Pakistan emphasizes on United Nations Resolution. The major wars of 1948, 1965, 1971 and 1999, Kashmir was main basis of these conflicts. Especially, after 2019 revocation of Article 370, Pakistan's diplomatic efforts revived to ensure Kashmir's self-determination and humanitarian assistance against oppressions by India. Pakistan's policy has remained explicit to conduct plebiscite and prevent human rights violation on Kashmir land. However, to enhance pressure on India, Pakistan needs to continue raising issue on multi-lateral forums while making internal diplomacy with India to resolve this

year long issue.

(2) Historical Dimensions of Kashmir Conflict between India and Pakistan

During Independence of Pakistan, Redcliffe's injustices to give muslim majority area (Kashmir) to India initiated Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan.

(4) Instrument of Accession and

War of 1948: Maharaja of Kashmir signed an instrument of accession on 26-october-1947 to give Kashmir to India. However, this accession agreement has not still publicized by India, which questions its legitimacy. On the basis of this document, India claimed authority of Kashmir. In 1948, India stopped flow of water towards Pakistan that led to 1948 war, 1st war between India and Pakistan.

(3) Legal Dimensions of Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan

(a) United Nations Security Council's

(UNSC) Resolution (47);

In 1948, India raised issue at United Nations (UN) which led to UNSC Resolution 47. According to this Resolution, a ceasefire line was created. Additionally, it was decided to hold plebiscite in Kashmir to determine demands of Kashmiri people. Additionally, a commission called United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) also formed.



Pakistan-India
Kashmir Issue map

(b) 1972 Simla Agreement established Line of Control;

In 1972, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto signed the agreement with India after war of 1971 and separation of Bangladesh.

According to Simla agreement, Kashmir issue was declared as bilateral between India and Pakistan and no international mediation required. Additionally, ceasefire line was converted into Line of Control (LoC) between Indian-administered and Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

(c) Revocation of Article 370 and Condemnation by Pakistan

On 5th August 2019, India revoked Article 370 and reshaped Kashmir's status into a territory instead of state. This unilateral act of India not only violated Simla Agreement but also wrecked humanitarian crisis in Kashmir due to forced changes.

(4) Diplomatic Dimension of Kashmir issue between Pakistan and India

(a) Pakistan's diplomacy on multi-lateral

platforms to internationalize Kashmir issue

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As Kashmir is like jugular vein of Pakistan because of headworks of water in this area and similar ideological basis (Islam). So, Pakistan has always remain clear in its stance. It has raised this issue on various international platforms like United Nations (UN), Organization of Islamic Council (OIC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Recently on 80th session of United Nations General Assembly, Pakistan showed its diplomatic stance on Kashmir issue to demand its self-determination.

b) India's reluctance on bilateral dimensions; and claiming Simla Agreement's basis, India rejects international mediation including UNSC's plebiscite, and emphasize that it is a bilateral issue between both countries.

c) Rigid policy of India and Non-cooperation for negotiation
India is reluctant to negotiate

and hold talks with Pakistan on Kashmir issue. Especially after 2019 revocation of article 370, rigid policy of India has hindered peaceful talks. Apart from this, India blamed Pakistan for recent **Pahalgam Attack (May-2025)** without thorough investigation. It led to further tensed relations and clashes between them.

(5) Pakistan's Policy on Kashmir Issue

(a) Efforts to internationalize Kashmir Issue to stop India's blatant Human rights violations in Kashmir:

Pakistan continuously raise this problem on various platforms like UN, OIC, SCO, to pressure India against humanitarian violations. During 2019, Article 370's revocation, India hold complete blackout, isolating Kashmir from the world. This illustrates India's violation of international law.

(b) Demand for plebiscite to ensure Kashmir's self-Determination

Pakistan continuously demand

to hold plebiscite to ensure Kashmir's Self-Determination. Since, years, this is the policy of Pakistan on Kashmir issue. Pakistan should continue its efforts and simultaneously, increase its ~~int~~ economic and political resilience to strengthen its standing against India.

(6) Conclusion

To conclude, Pakistan's core issue Kashmir is indispensable for its survival. Initiated from boundary injustices, it remained basis for major wars between India and Pakistan. Instrument of Accession, Simla agreement, Line of Control, and Revocation of Article 370 are some of its major legal dimensions. Pakistan's policy is clear to hold plebiscite and ensure self-determination of Kashmir. However, due to India's rigid policy of non-cooperation, there is stalemate. Pakistan should continue its diplomatic efforts in international arena and simultaneously increase its internal resilience to resolve this core issue.

Question No: 3

(1) Introduction

The incident of 9/11 reshaped various international and national policies. Similarly, it impacted Pakistan's foreign policy and internal conditions. Pakistan had supported Afghan brother in 1980s during Soviet Invasion. However, post-9/11, Pakistan changed its policy and became a front line ally of United States to counter terrorism. In 2001, after U.S. withdrawal, both countries tried to revive their relations. But militant insurgency, security issues, terrorists, attacks and border problems have undermined relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. These issues also became basis for recent escalations because of reluctance of Taliban regime to take adequate steps against militant sanctuaries on their land.

(2) Pakistan's foreign Policy towards Afghanistan in the post 9/11 era

(a) Pakistan emerged as a front-line ally of United States against terrorism

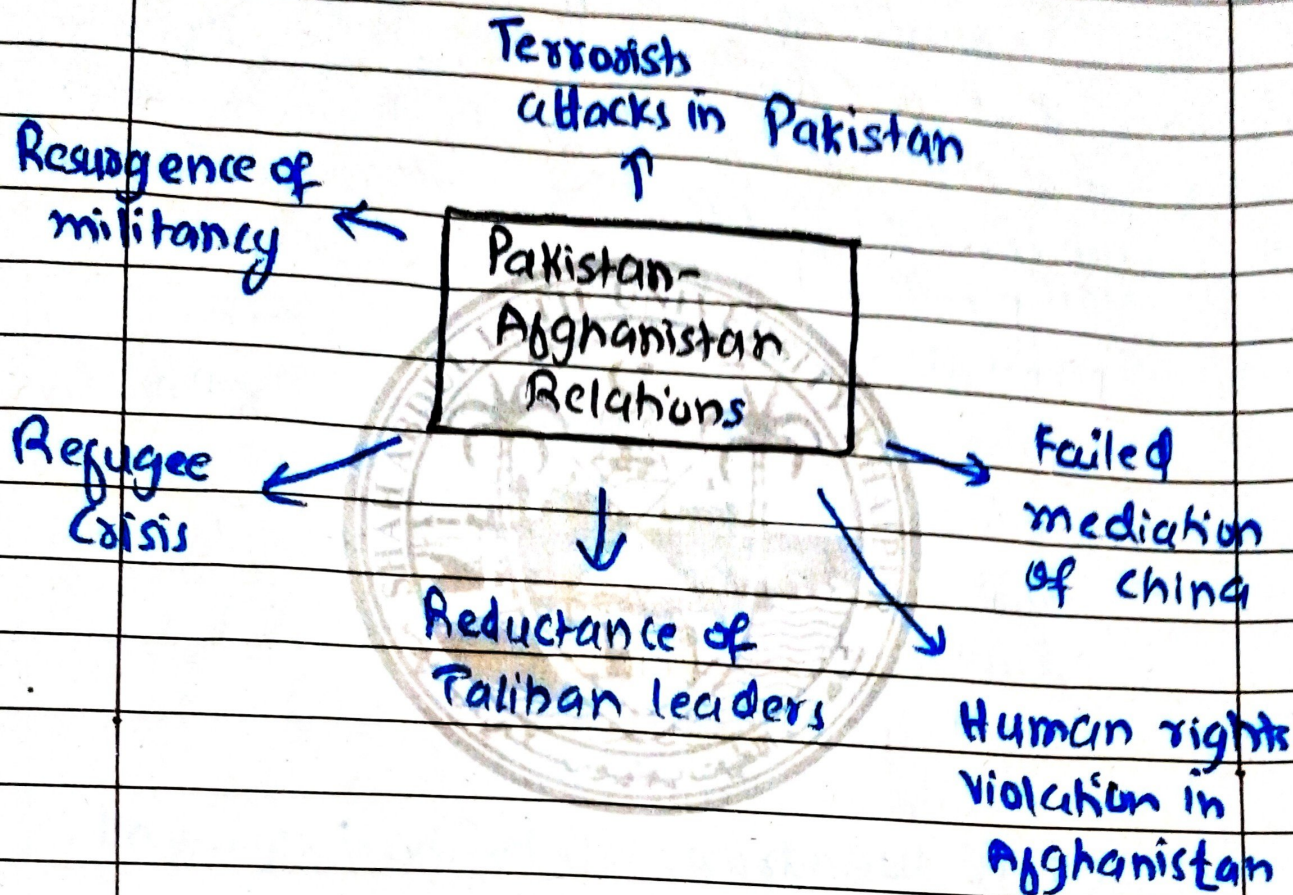
After 9/11, United States demanded Pakistan's support due to its strategic location. Pakistan changed its foreign policy and became an ally of U.S. It provided logistic support, aerial permission to use Pakistan's air against Afghanistan. Additionally, Pakistan provided air base and intelligence support to NATO and U.S. to persecute terrorists responsible for heinous attack.

(b) US withdrawal of Afghanistan and Taliban Takeover

In 2021, ~~as~~ U.S. withdrew after its 20-year long war. Taliban took over Afghanistan's control. There ~~is~~ was a hope of improving relations. Pakistan continuously made efforts both diplomatic and internal to establish improved relations with Afghanistan.

(c) Bilateral Relations and Border management and recent

Confrontation between Islamahadi and Kabul



(a) Unprecedented Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan:

There are various attacks of terrorists targetting military personnel, police officers and even' civilian. ~~Since~~ In 2024 and 2025, these attacks have been increased unprecedentedly.

Despite Pakistan's frequent warnings, Taliban government did not ~~take~~ take action against militant sanctuaries like Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). This

has tensed bilateral relations between both countries.

(b) Resurgence of militancy in Pakistan after Taliban Takeover;

In Pakistan, there is resurgence of militant attacks by Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Majid Brigade. These groups cross Pak-Afghan border and take logistic support across border. Afghanistan doesn't cooperate to control border infiltration. It has further deteriorated relations between both countries.

(c) Reluctance of Taliban government to take adequate step against terrorists;

Pakistan has continuously demanded to take action against TTP sanctuaries. However, reluctance of Taliban regime led to recent confrontation between Islamabad and Kabul.

(d) Human rights violation in Afghanistan after Taliban Takeover (2021);

Since Taliban takeover, violation of human rights especially women's rights has become a norm in Afghanistan. They have banned girls education, jobs, higher education. Due to these radical laws by Taliban, Pakistan doesn't recognize Taliban government.

(e) Failed mediation of China in recent escalation

Even China's mediation failed during Pakistan-Taliban talks. This highlights Taliban's unwillingness to take action against TTP. However, Pakistan continuously demands cooperation in its counter-terrorism measures.

(f) Refugee Crisis in Pakistan:

Pakistan holds one of the largest number of refugees from Afghanistan. Almost 4.4 million Afghan refugees reside in Pakistan. But it has started their repatriation in waves.

(4) Conclusion

To sum up Pakistan-Afghanistan have similar ~~at~~ historical basis. However, due to issues of terrorism, especially after 9/11, Pakistan changed its foreign policy and inclined with U.S due to its strategic interests.

After withdrawal of U.S in 2021, Pakistan made efforts to improve ties. However, militant attacks, terrorism and security dynamics led to recent escalations between both countries. Pakistan needs to take pragmatic approach to pressurize Taliban to take adequate steps against terrorist groups to establish regional peace in South Asia.