

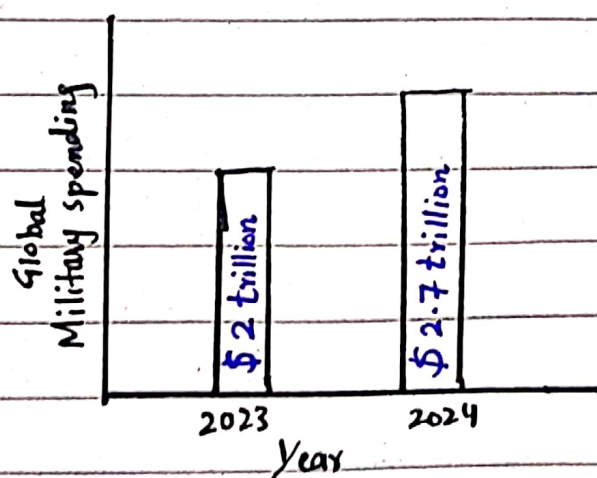
Question #3

Increasing armament reasons and implications for world peace

1- Introduction

Increasing armament is one of the concerning issues of the 21st century. There are multiple reasons behind this increasing armament. These reasons include increasing great powers rivalries, escalating regional conflicts, collapsing of arms control agreements, and rising importance of defense industry for economy. Unfortunately, this profound increase of armament have grave implications for the world peace, including increasing risk of conflict between major powers, diverting resources from development, and rising chances of nuclear war. So, to save the world peace, increasing armament needs to be controlled.

2- Current trend of increasing armament



Source: SIPRI report on increasing global military expenditure

3- Reasons of increasing armaments

3.1) Increasing great powers rivalries

To begin with, the first reason behind increasing armament is the increase in great power rivalries, like US-China and US-Russia.

To remain dominant player in the world affairs, every power is trying to become strong military, consequently increasing the armament process.

For example, the US military expenditure has increased by 37 per cent in recent years, as per SIPRI report.

3.2) Escalating regional conflicts

Next, the escalating regional conflicts has also given rise to the armament process. Every country wants to increase its sphere of influence in its region, for which military domination is of paramount importance.

Such as, during Israel-Palestine conflict, Israel has increased its military spending by 65 per cent to emerge as dominating power.

3.3, Collapsing arms control agreement

Moreover, the erosion of arms control agreement acted as a catalyst for speeding up the armament process as no country has fear of being held accountable.

For instance, INF ended in 2019, and Nuclear Non Proliferation is also in limbo with no significant scrutiny process of countries.

3.4, Rising importance of defense exports for economic growth

Besides, increasing armament in the world is also due to rising importance of defense exports for economic growth. In this era of conflicts, the warring countries import defense equipments to gain leverage, which ultimately boost the economy of the country who exported arms.

As an illustrative, the US was one of the largest exporter of arms to Israel during Israel - Palestine conflict.

3.5, Technological ^{advancement} warfare in warfare

Additionally, the technological revolution in the warfare has compelled states to invest more in their armament to keep pace with their rivals.

Cyber warfare and AI-driven defense automated equipments are the examples of technological advancement in warfare.

3.6) Weakening of international organization

Finally, the erosion of international organization for swift conflict resolution has left the countries vulnerable. Therefore, instead of relying on international organizations, states moved towards self-help and military preparedness, which ultimately results in increasing armament.

The stagnant role of the UN in resolving Israel-Palestine Conflict shows the decreasing credibility of the international organizations.

4- Implications of increasing armament on the world peace

4.1) Pushing major powers toward conflict

First, the increasing armament

can undermine the world peace by pushing the major powers towards large-scale conflicts.

For example, WWII was also a result of the increased armament, if not stopped timely, the world can see another war.

4.2, Militarization of the foreign policy

Moreover, the increasing armament has another profound implication for world peace is that it can move the countries to militarize their foreign policies. As a result, states will become offensive rather than defensive.

4.3, Erosion of international trust and diplomacy

Furthermore, increasing armaments, another implication of world peace is that it can erode international trust and diplomacy. And states with great arms power will directly launch military attacks rather than going for diplomatic solutions.

UNSG Antonio Guterres says, "Excessive military spending undermines peace, fuels arms race, and deepens mistrust in the world."

4.4) Diverting resources from development

In case of increasing armament, states will divert their all resources from development to military spending.

For example, climate change, health crisis, education problems, and poverty will remain unaddressed, ultimately undermining the world's peace.

4.5) Increasing risk of nuclear war.

To add more, the increasing armament can erode the world's peace by increasing the risk of nuclear war. In case of war, every country would try to emerge victorious, and for it they can even go for nuclear war.

4.6) Instability in nuclear deterrence

Lastly, the increasing armament can destabilize the nuclear deterrence that will unfold in the form of conflicts, automatically posing significant threat to the world's peace.

The increasing instability in nuclear deterrence in South Asia is perfect example in this regard.

5, Conclusion

To conclude, the increasing armament in the world is great point of concerns. The reasons behind this increase are increasing rivalries of the great powers, escalating regional conflicts, and technological revolutions in the warfare. Consequently, it has dangerous implications on the world peace as it lead towards risk of nuclear war, instability in nuclear deterrence, and erosion of international trust and diplomacy.

Question # 7

Opportunities for Pak - Bangladesh relations

1- Introduction

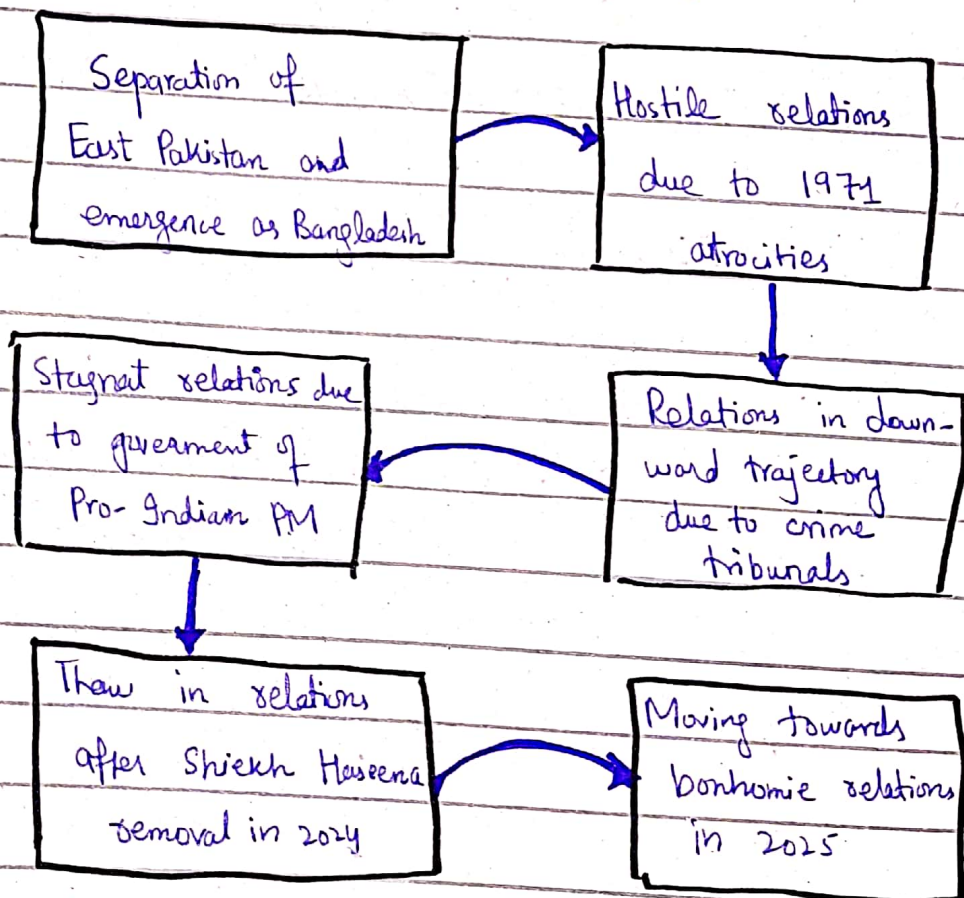
"The historic foes have become best friends."

Prof. Zafar Jaspal, referring to Pak-Bangladesh emerging relations

Pakistan and Bangladesh relations have moved towards normalization after a decades of stagnant ties. Pakistan has a plethora of opportunities to establish good relation after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina, a pro-India former

PM of Bangladesh. These opportunities include trade renaissance, normalization of diplomatic ties, boost security cooperation, and bolster cultural diplomacy. And as far as Pakistan's efforts are concerned regarding seizing the long awaited opportunity, the country is doing enough, like providing visa facilitation, increasing intelligence sharing, and focusing on maritime connectivity, to establish cordial relations with Bangladesh.

2- Overview of Pakistan-Bangladesh relations



3- Opportunities for Pakistan to establish good relations with Bangladesh

3.1) Seize the opportunity of Trade renaissance

First, Pakistan has biggest opportunity of trade renaissance. The renewal of trade relations with Bangladesh can make the relations of both the countries sustainable and longterm.

As per Finance Ministry, the trade potential between Pak-Bangladesh is \$3 billion.

3.2) Boost security cooperation

Next, Pakistan has opportunity to boost the security cooperation with Bangladesh for establishing friendly ties. This cooperation will help both the countries to help each other in countering any potential regional threat.

For example, Bangladesh is assessing the purchase of JF-17 fighter jet, and Pakistan should finalize the deal as soon as possible for good relations.

3.3, Normalize diplomatic ties

Another opportunity that Pakistan

can leverage is normalizing diplomatic ties with Bangladesh, which will ultimately establish good relations between both the states.

For instance, the diplomatic visit of Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Ishrat Dar, to Dhaka after years is showing Pakistan's commitment towards establishing cordial relations with Bangladesh.

3.4) Increase institutional cooperation

To establish good relations with Bangladesh, Pakistan should increase institutional cooperation. This will help in negotiating free trade agreement and make economic ties stable.

Establishment of Joint Economic Commission will prove helpful in this regard.

3.5 Bolster cultural diplomacy

Moreover, the opportunity of bolstering cultural diplomacy should also be materialize Pakistan. This will create feelings of goodwill between ^{people of} both the countries.

For instance, Qawali Performance of Rahat Fateh Ali, Pakistani artist, has played constructive role in cultural diplomacy.

3.6, Enhance education exchange programs

Lastly, the opportunity of enhancing education exchange programs by Pakistan can also materialize the establishment of cordial relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Pakistan has provided 500 scholarships to Bangladeshi students more such initiatives can further make relations better between both the nations.

4) Steps taken by Pakistan showing that the country is doing enough to grab the long awaited opportunity.

4.1) Provided ease in visa

To begin with, Pakistan has taken significant step to establish good relations with Bangladesh by providing ease in visa facilitation.

For instance, Pakistan orders to issue visa to Bangladeshi citizens within 24 hrs.

4.2, Boosted people-to-people ties

Moreover, Pakistan has done enough to seize the long awaited opportunity of making relations with Bangladesh good by boosting people to people ties.

The visit of renowned Pakistani actress, Hania Amir, to Dhaka for Sunilk promotion is significant illustration in this regard.

4.3, Prioritized trade engagement

Likewise, Pakistan also prioritized trade engagement with Bangladesh for establishing cordial relations.

For example, Pakistan has finalized the deal of exporting 50,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh.

4.4, Focus on maritime connectivity

Pakistan's focus on maritime connectivity is another step that it took in right direction for boosting its ties with Bangladesh.

For the first time after 1971, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation vessel has docked in Chittagong port.

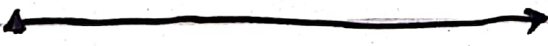
4.5, Openness for defense cooperation

Last but not least, Pakistan has also signalled to open its defense cooperation option for Bangladesh. By this, both the countries can advance on the path of meaningful relations.

Meeting of top defense leaderships of both the countries at GHQ Rawalpindi shows Pakistan's openness for defense cooperation.

5, Conclusion

In conclusion, Pakistan and Bangladesh are on the path of establishing good relations. Pakistan has various opportunities by which it can make its relations with Bangladesh longterm. These opportunities include boosting security cooperation, reviving trade, and increasing educational exchange programs. For this purpose, Pakistan has taken various steps, like focused on maritime connectivity, opened defense cooperation, and boosted people-to-people ties, to fully materialize the long awaited opportunity of establishing cordial ties with Bangladesh.



Question #4

China-India collaboration and impact on Pak-China relations

1- Introduction

"China and India are cooperative partners, not rivals."

Xi to Modi

China and India are striding towards path of collaboration after strain in US-India relations. China has various opportunities to start collaboration with India by reviving border trade, resumption of people to people contact, and coordination at multilateral forums.

However, this collaboration between China and India presents grave impacts for future relations between Pakistan and China. Due to this collaboration, Pakistan-China relations can be impacted by destabilizing Pakistan's economic plan, weakening Pakistan's stance on Kashmir, and decreasing Chinese investment in Pakistan.

2- Opportunities with China to establish collaboration with India

2.1) Institutionalize border management mechanism

First and foremost, China has opportunity to institutionalize border management mechanism with India. This will ultimately decrease tensions between both the states and start collaboration.

According to Chinese Foreign Ministry, "China and India will setup Expert group for managing differences and maintaining peace."

2.2) Revive and expand border trade

Moreover, by reviving and expanding border trade, the tensions between China and India would decrease and increase collaboration.

For example, as per Global Times Report, "China and India are thinking of expanding trade through border passes."

2.3, Working on joint economic infrastructure project

Furthermore, China and India collaboration are advancing as both the country's are working on joint economic infrastructure project.

Such as, talks on Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor are going on for promoting trade, industrial zones, and connectivity.

2.4, Resumption of people-to-people contact

Additionally, the opportunity of resumption of people-to-people contact between India and China presents chances of great collaboration between both the states.

India's recent decision to resume tourist visa for Chinese Nationals after a five-year freeze is significant illustration in this regard.

2.5, Coordination at multilateral forums

To add more, the coordination of India and China at multilateral forums presents great opportunity for start of collaboration between both the states.

For example, both countries often advocate for Global South at BRICS and G20.

2.6, Political volatility in the West

Lastly, with return of Trump's second administration, the political volatility in the West has increased, which created opportunity for China to push towards India as the relations between US-India are in downward trajectory.

For instance, the 50 per cent tariff imposition of the US on India, and India visit of China during SCO summit presents opportunity for starting collaboration between India and China.

3) Collaboration between India and China impact on Pak-China relations

3.1) China can relocate investment towards India

First, the start of collaboration between China and India can significantly impact Pak-China relations as China can relocate its investment towards India.

It is due to India presents great market potential and have strong economy.

This step of China can slowdown the momentum of CPEC phase-II

3.2) Pakistan as less central to China

Moreover, with renewed India-China collaboration, Pakistan-China relations can deteriorate, and Pakistan will become less central to China.

For example, China perceives ^{importance of} Pakistan as counterbalance of India will decrease, leading to isolation of Pakistan.

3.3) Weakening of Kashmir stance

Going down the ladder, another impact of start of collaboration of India-China will be that Pakistan's stance on Kashmir will become weak.

As Akbar S. Zaidi opines, "Normalization of Sino-India ties will help ^{India} secure permanent membership in UNSC, automatically weakening Pakistan's Kashmir stance."

3.4) Destabilization of Pakistan's economic plan

Another impact of collaboration between India-China on Pak-China relations is that it will destabilize Pakistan's economic plan. It is because Pakistan's economic plan is mostly linked to Chinese investments. For example, energy and infrastructure sectors of Pakistan will see significant blow due to Sino-Indo collaboration.

3.5) Risk of dilution of all-weathered commitment of China.

Lastly, as Pakistan has relied on China's all-weather friend narrative, China's collaboration

will India will dilute this stance, and relations between China and Pakistan will become nose-diving.

4, Conclusion

To sum up the discussion, China has golden opportunity to start collaboration with India by institutionalizing border management, increasing people-to-people contact, expanding trade, and coordinating on multilateral forums. However, start of collaboration between India and China has profound impact on Pak-China relations as it will relocate Chinese investment to India, make Pakistan less central to China, and weaken Pakistan's Kashmir stance, ultimately deteriorating the ties between both the countries.

