

Test 3Q1. Introduction

In June, 2025, conflict erupted between two great historical rivalries, Iran and Israel. Later onwards, United States joined the conflict and destroyed nuclear facilities in Iran. This attack on nuclear facilities has reshaped future nuclear politics in a number of ways: It included direct force as a possible way to restraint nuclear development in addition to sanctions; It drove Saudi-Arabia to sign a defense pact with nuclearized Pakistan. It drove Iran further in pursuing nuclear weapon development; It induced neighbouring Pakistan to adopt a mix of diplomacy and power to safeguard its nuclear arsenal; It sets a new norm that can result in nuclear escalations in other regions like Pakistan.

Future nuclear politics in the region

Threat / use of direct force in the nuclear negotiating table:

Date: _____

Day: _____

United States and Israel set a new way of getting favorable negotiations if talks of United States with Iran pursued over ~~with~~ nuclear weapons.

Historically, sanctions were used as pressure tactics. Now, the threat of attacking nuclear facilities via bunker-busters bombs in Iran became a new edge in negotiations. During the conflict, Nuclear facilities at Natanz and Trishan were ~~in~~ targeted.

Iran's persistence of nuclear enrichment after end of deal with P5+1:

In 2015, Iran agreed to halt the nuclear enrichment process after a deal with UN's P5 members. However, the United States under Trump's first presidency backed away from the deal.

The year 2021 marks an end to the treaty and restriction of JAEA ~~to~~ to inspect nuclear sites has already been put into effect. The recent attack on Iran has drove it further to keep pursuing nuclear enrichment program. Hence, the region can become flashpoint to

Date: _____

Day: _____

future attacks.

The attack may induce many countries to pursue nuclear programs or create nuclear security partners.

The attack of United State on Iran's nuclear facility has raised concerns among the regional powers. Despite negotiations, U.S attacks on Iran creates ambiguity among other states. U.S indispensable support in attack on Iran and air strikes in Qatar created a sense of insecurity among Gulf nations. They do not view U.S as reliable partner in case the rogue attacks of Israel also lands in their territory. Hence, Saudi-Arabia signed a joint defense with nuclearised Pakistan to deter both the threats of Iran and Israel. According to the pact, an attack on either will be considered as an attack on both.

Pakistan's reaction to the event included both diplomacy and strategic deterrence.

- 1- Pakistan's adoption of diplomacy to avoid attracting eyes on its nuclear weapons

Pakistan overtook successful diplomatic strategies to avoid any threats to its nuclear weapons. In the history, Israel did intend to target nuclear sites but the event did not occur. Sensing security threat, Pakistan established meaningful strategic relations with United States. Moreover, it managed to balance ties with China and U.S.

In the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), it played a crucial role in Gaza ceasefire and is planning to send International Stabilisation Force (ISF) to Gaza as a part of the peace deal.

- 2- Pakistan's attempt to create strategic deterrence to avoid any attack on its nuclear facilities by India and Israel.

Post-Pakholgan events included rising Indian threat to attack Pakistan.

Date: _____

Day: _____

The recent pre-emptive of nuclear facility destruction creates a high alert in the country. India's nuclear doctrine of penetrating into Pakistan to capture nuclear weapons before response provides strong evidence to the threat to its nuclear facilities. Pakistan must use both strategic ambiguity and International diplomacy to ~~assist~~ ensure its nuclear arsenals are sufficiently safeguarded.

Rise in nuclear weapon countries and risk to instability in Middle East.

The recent attacks by Israel and U.S creates a sense of vulnerability among regional powers. Hence, they may start nuclear weapon program, which could result in destructive reaction from the West. According to ex. Foreign Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi, 40 countries may acquire nuclear arsenal in the future.

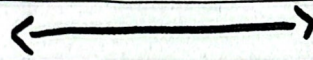
Conclusion

The recent attack on Iran's nuclear

Date: _____

Day: _____

Facility has changed nuclear-political landscape. Iran continues pursuing Uranium Enrichment program despite the ~~the~~ attack. Other regional powers like Pakistan and Saudi have taken cautious measure to safeguard their security. Finally the success in diplomacy with U.S has given Pakistan an edge in protection of its nuclear weapons.



Q3. Introduction

After Taliban's rise in government in ~~2021~~ 2021, Pakistan expected warm ties with Kabul. However, the new government and Islamabad felt rifts in their relations. Although China conducted mediation between both countries, various factors continues increasing tension between both the nation. These factors include refugees, border management, trade transit and terrorism. However, both countries may improve their ties through addressal of terrorism, enhancing trade through CPEC, formal recognition of border and managing refugee issue.

Date: _____

Day: _____

China's role of mediation

China tried establishing ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan through trade and foreign affairs. In a historic moment, China decided to expand China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into Afghanistan. This resulted in thaw in relation between both Muslim neighbours. In addition, it pushed Pakistan to establish ambassadorial level diplomacy with the Taliban regime. However, it were not sufficient to suffice tension, as multiple factors continue straining relations.

Factors causing strained Pak-Afghan relations

Pakistan accuses Taliban regime of providing sanctuary to terrorist groups:

Pakistan had shown great frustration in attack on its territory by terrorist groups taking refuge in Afghanistan. It accuses Taliban government of providing safe havens to Tadrrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and Baloch Liberation army. These proxies

are allegedly run by India to destabilise Pakistan. In ~~Sept~~ Oct/Nov, it conducted military strikes to target the areas where TTP was hiding. On the other hand, Kabul denies any such claims.

Kabul's refusal to recognize Durand line:

Kabul government has rejected the demarcation of 2611 km long border with Pakistan. It claims that the agreement of Durand line was with British Government back in 19th century. Pakistan refuses such claim and created a tangible boundary in 94% of the border area. Afghanistan considers this as an act of violation, terming it inappropriate. Frequent clashes occur in the border regions.

Border blockade and trade transit:

Pakistan frequently close the border area amidst security concerns. This creates challenges for Afghanistan who

Date: _____

Day: _____

use trade route from Pakistan to access international seas. Pakistan use border blockade as a pressure tactic to force Taliban on taking actions against TTP members in Afghanistan.

Refugee Crises and repatriation process:

Pakistan has started repatriation drives of Afghan refugees, citing peace and stability in their native land.

It also claims that terror outfits also originate from among these refugees.

In response, Afghanistan protested this action, calling it inhumane and un-Islamic, straining the relations further.

Way-forward to improving ties between both the neighbours

Guarantees by Afghan government of preventing the terrorist from using Afghan territory.

The first and foremost concern of

Date: _____

Day: _____

Pakistan is the sanctuaries of TTP in Afghanistan. If Afghanistan provide concrete guarantee of ~~not~~ taking action against TTP members, the relations could significantly thaw. However, the recent mediation process in 2025 has failed due to inability of Afghanistan's government to agree in writing on ~~the~~ taking action ~~on~~ against this issue.

Formal recognition of Border:

Pakistan and Afghanistan can develop sustainable relations if the border issue is resolved. Pakistan can ink this deal in exchange of recognition of Taliban government. In fact, Durand line is an established international border challenged only by Afghanistan.

Enhancing trade ties:

Along with China, Pakistan can built sustainable trade relations with Afghanistan. This could include continued presence of CPEC into Afghanistan,

Date: _____

Day: _____

free trade agreements, restarting the TAPI pipeline, establishing Afghanistan as a trade transit toward Central Asian countries, and creating investment into Afghanistan. However, this requires stable security and understanding between both the nations.

Establishing protocols for migrants:

Pakistan can divide migration repatriation into different phases and coordinate it closely with Afghanistan. This could include the phase 1 of illegal undocumented migrants. The phase should last for a few years by close communication with Taliban, ensuring the Afghanistan has enough enough ~~strong~~ economic strength to absorb the influx. Phase 2 may involve the documented migrants. Ease in passport process, duration and fee may also become an option. Furthermore, Pakistan can provide aid to address the challenge of influx Afghanistan is facing. This will smoothen the ~~rough~~ rough path of relations between both countries.

Conclusion

Pakistan and Afghanistan conflict on various issues such as terrorism, border management, trade transit and refugees issue. For relations to improve, the first addressal should have to be related to security. This will trigger positive engagement in border issue, migration and bilateral trade as well.