

Part-2 [Subjective]

Current Affairs

Q. No-2

Pak-Afghan relations continue to remain tense even after mediation by China. What do you think are major factors and how could it be improved?

Pak-Afghan relations are one of the most crucial issue in relation to Pakistan's security and stability. After 2021 when ^{the} US left, Pakistan began to have a good will in sense of mutual relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan and expected a break in terrorism which had been a persistent phenomenon in Pakistan ^{by conducted} ~~backed~~ from Afghan-Land. But, ironically ~~&~~ after 2021 ~~and~~ — the establishment of Afghan govt. in Afghanistan — then terrorism even increased further. While the Afghan ~~back~~ Taliban-backed TTP continued their extremist actions inside Pakistan. Although Pakistan had warned Afghanistan several times and also retaliated against their actions by striking Taliban ~~for~~ ⁱⁿ ~~placements~~ ⁱⁿ Afghanistan back.

in late 2024 ~~and~~ early 2025 but it didn't work so well. In fact, after that, Taliban extremism even increased. Recently, the strikes in K-P resulted in martyrdom of several Pakistani soldiers because intolerable and Pakistan's considers these actions of TTP ~~are~~, backed by Afghanistan, an attack to its security and sovereignty. Hence, as a right to retaliate, Pakistan struck several attacks on TTP in Afghanistan which further escalated the tension between the two countries.

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The reason factors

During the ^{ice} cold relation era between Pakistan and Afghanistan, China wanted and tried to be a mediator. It settled Pak-Afghan relation earlier as well as recently it conducted trilateral meetings of Pakistan - Afghanistan and China - to reinforce, reestablish and reinforce good mutual relationship for the stability of the region and ~~progre~~ efficient progress.

of CPEC - China, because it wants to extend CPEC from Gwadar to Afghanistan and central Asia, continuously add its effort to normalize the delicate relationship, but as the causes of conflict remain stable b/w the countries, all the negotiations conducted by China, also, were failed.

The major factors behind Pak - Afghan tensions is TTP - Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan - who are supported by Afghan Taliban and use Afghan land to spread terrorism inside Pakistan. The persistent instability in Pakistan caused by TTP is the root of many other non traditional threats for example: instability of progress and economy - the hinderance in the FDI foreign direct investment -, smuggling and money laundering ~~and other threats~~. It also affects Pakistan's global image hugely as ~~terrorism~~ portraying it to be backing terrorist groups and organizations, hence curbing several opportunities of promotion and progress for Pakistan. Thus Pakistan deeply wants an end

of TTP conducted terrorism backed by Afghanistan. But Afghanistan failed to help the issue. Afghanistan although has its own reasons which obstruct it to help Pakistan against TTP, but its direct cost has been payed by Pakistan.

Another reason is Afghan refugees problem. After 2001 9/11 war on terror, Pakistan became one of the country who gave refuge to a great number of Afghan citizens in the history.

the country gave refuge to the biggest number of people in history — to Afghan refugees — since the country who faced biggest refugee problem ^{in history}. It gave refuge to a great number of Afghan citizens in its land. Since then, hence, Pakistan facing several issues or resources or because of heavy population such as congestions in water, food, employment. Recently, Pakistani government took initiative to send Afghans to their home back-

while Afghan government isn't ready to face the big challenge to settle a monolith of returning Afghans in Afghanistan. This also creates a coldness between Pak - Afghan relations.

There's also an interference of RAW - the Indian backed groups to escalate terrorism and instability in Pakistan many of which have been killed by Pakistani Army during recent operations in KP and other areas.

~~The Relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan will be reso~~

Pakistan and Afghanistan share a mutual religion, culture and historical ties. The conflict between both is not innate but it is caused by some key factors some of which are discussed above. Hence, the solution to Pakistan-Afghanistan relation is the curbing of the key root of the conflict - an end to TTP and Afghanistan's co-operation with Pakistan in the mutual curbing terrorism ~~with is the only way to resolve the~~ will help the

revival of Pak-Afghan Relation / friendship
in real sense.

~~Apart from that,~~ in

Q. no. 4

There is a dangerous revival of militancy
in KP and Balochistan. Critically
evaluate the reasons and give recom-
mendations.

Answer

Reasons for the revival of militancy
in KP and Balochistan:

• Militancy in KP:

1. The release of Taliban prisoners after
Afghan Taliban established govt in
Afghanistan - When Afghanistan made
their govt, they released almost
12000 prisoners - 5000 out of them
were Pak's TTPs and other Pak-
istan backed militants. They all came
back to Pakistan which gave a
revival and an immense rise
to terrorism.

2. Victory of Afghan Taliban against

USA. Whenever security forces fail to defeat insurgency or non-state actors, it is the loss of the state forces and victory of the Guerrillas — Exactly that has happened in case of Afghanistan. The U.S. back-up encouraged militant activists such as TTP in Pakistan to fight against their state — a major cause to insurgency in KP.

3. Tehreek-e-Taliban Afghanistan (TTA) and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) are ideological brothers. They both believe that they fought Jihad against the US and other NATO forces, — therefore TTA doesn't stop TTP from attacking Pakistan. TTP uses Afghan soil for terrorist attacks in Pakistan, for example the areas like Paktiya, Nouristan, Khost etcetera. Hence ~~the eastern~~ Afghanistan

4. Eastern Afghanistan areas are used as launching pad for militant attacks in Pakistan.

5. Border disputes are also one of the key reason for the militancy in KP. The merged districts still not settled completely therefore infiltration of TTP is common - causing increase militancy in Pakistan (KP).

6. The serious loopholes in Policing system and overall security apparatus - There are a number of problems in security system of Pakistan. Although our military is highly equipped and trained to counter insurgency but our policing here is neither properly trained nor efficiently equipped. Moreover, the financial condition of policing department is also weak. Hence the weak policing is a vacuum filled by militants; because police, due to its weak and unstable situation and status, is not capable to maintain the areas which military leaves after operations or insurgencies which becomes a reason to the return of the militants in those areas - hence a removal of militancy.

2. Problems in Balochistan

A key reason for the revival of militancy in Balochistan is believed to be the alienation of common people from the state due to the deprivation of their socio-economic rights. For instance, Sui gas was found in Balochistan in 1952 while its benefit or advantage / share was first given to Punjab, Sindh, and KP — while Balochistan got its share in 1984, 20 years later. According to the centralist view point, Balochistan is big area and less population so the procedures are expensive but this is not the reason to leave deprive according to separatists. Similar is the issue with other minerals share.

Another reason is involvement of RAW — the Indian backed terrorist who continuously penetrate the centre-unit conflicts. They give Baloch separatist financial and weaponry support which help Baloch militancy increasing.

Solutions / Recommendations :

A good Military in Pakistan specifically K.P and Balochistan is strongly required to be eliminated. In this relation, the government must seek soft power projection rather hard power. The non-kinetic, intelligence based operations is a great method to eliminate military. This will ensure least collateral damage in the form of both public displacement (in the militant areas) and public confidence. Another solution is socio economic development in war zones. Militants should be given privileges after negotiations, for example: if they're supported for their security and finance in replacement of dropping the fight and cooperate with the state.

Besides this, the country needs Police reforms, strongly. The physical empowerment, such as good training and financial empowerment, for instance: good weapons, fuels, vehicles, will enhance the functionality and efficiency of Police. Thus they will be well capable to cope up the militants themselves and (Singular)

it won't be vacuum for the terrorists any more.

De weaponisation of militant areas will be helpful to decrease militancy. The Problems or issues of BLA must be resolved through negotiations and state must make efficient efforts to build the centre-province relationship strong and earn people's confidence specially in the areas where people think themselves alienated due to terrorism and narrative warfare like in Balochistan.

Q. No. 8

Pak. Saudia has signed a historic defense pact. Critically evaluate the causes and implications of the deal.

Answer.

The Pak-Saudi Arabia Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) was signed on September 17, 2025, by PM Shabbaz Sharif and Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman in Riyadh. It declares that "attacks on one state will be treated as an attack on both". The kind of the pact marked the first such pact between a nuclear state and an Arab nation.

The agreement came right after Israeli air strikes on Doha (Qatar), which exposed weakness in Gulf air defenses and also raised doubts about the U.S. reliability as a security guarantor.

The pact symbolizes a shift from western dependence to regional self-reliance, highlighting

multipolarity and localized security cooperation in the middle east and south Asia.

• Causes Behind SMDA :

1. Shared Threats and Deterrence —

Triggered by Israeli aggression against Gaza primarily and later on ~~Israel~~ Iran — most recently and importantly on Qatar and Iran's regional activities for nuclear proliferation — which is considered a threat by ICSPA in the region, both states Pakistan and Saudi Arabia seek collective deterrence to discourage attacks. Pakistan strengthens its regional standing, while Saudi Arabia gains a credible military partner.

2. Financial and Strategic Gains:

• Pakistan faces severe economic challenges for example: debt, inflation and forex shortages. Therefore, it hopes for Saudi investment in the form of lowering oil payments and boosting trade and jobs — employment.

On the other hand, Saudi Arabia aligns with vision 2030 aiming for Defence self sufficiency and growth of domestic arms industry. Besides it wants to reduce reliance on U.S and western defense suppliers in the light of current events. To accomplish these goals, Pakistan is supposed to be a great security and defense partner of Saudi Arabia.

Reducing Reliance on Old Powers:

After U.S reaction during Israeli attack on Qatar, Gulf states - including Saudi Arabia - realized that western guarantees are no longer reliable or dependable.

The SMPA formalizes long standing informal defense cooperation into a legally binding alliance. This is not only about the rise of multipolarity where the states build regional networks instead of relying on one super power.

Implications:

The SMDA ~~is~~ is supposed to shift the India - Pakistan balance by giving Pakistan an influential Gulf partner. India after its recent conflict will ~~not~~ be prudent for another stand off with Pakistan specially because of its strategic good relations with Saudi Arabia.

The agreement will also expand Pakistan's role as a bridge between South Asia and the middle east, linking issues like energy & security and counter terrorism.

An important impact could be ~~was~~ emerged as a Muslim security Bloc. The SMDA could inspire similar defense pacts among muslim majority countries - aiming for Islamic world unity, shared defense and regional autonomy.