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Date: _____

Name: Yoor FATIMA
Subject: Current Affairs.

(QNO.2)

Pak - Afghan RelationsI- Introduction

Afghanistan is the second largest border-sharing neighbour of Pakistan. However, their relations had a long history of conflict. Despite the mediation of China, their relations remained strained due to numerous factors including border line conflict and Afghan refugees issue. Moreover, cross-border terrorism is the key irritant towards their relation. External intervention is another cause of dispute. However, the prospects of peace lies in the revival of regional and international diplomacy. Alongside, serious efforts for the eradication of terrorism and socio-economic linkages at national level can further improve their ties.

II- Burden of History in Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations

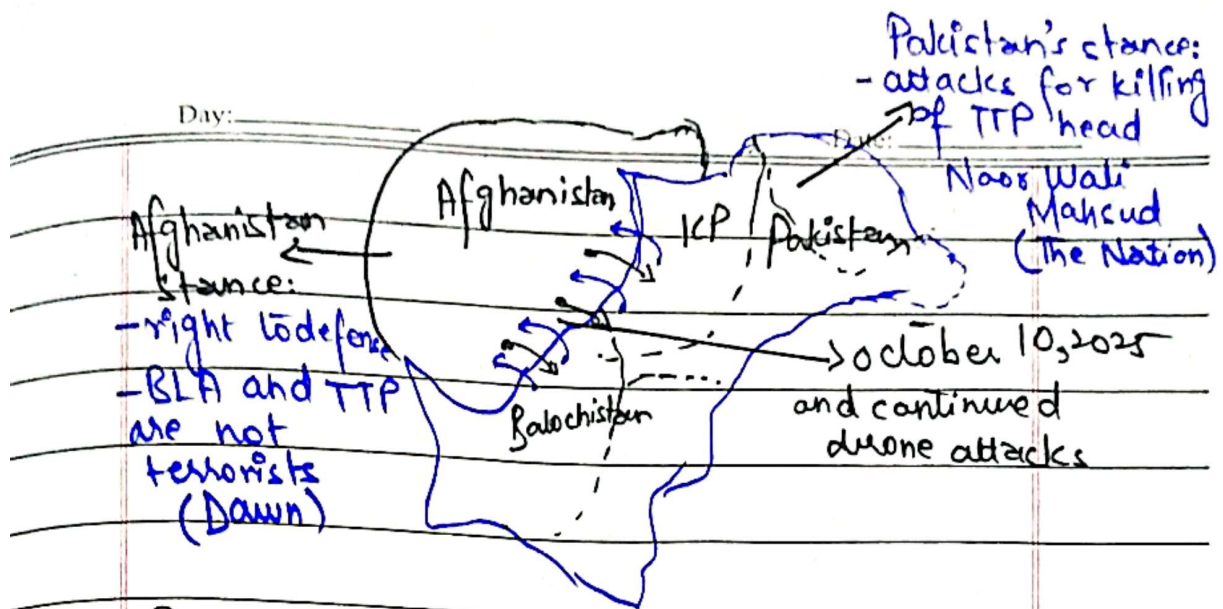
only vote of Afghanistan against Pakistan's UN membership	Afghan war	War on Terror	Fall of Kabul	Oct, 2025 conflict
1947	1979	2001	2021	2025

III- Factors behind Strained Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations

1- Cross-Border Terrorism: Key Irritant for Relations

Pakistan has attributed the revival of militancy particularly the rise of Afghan-supported Tahreek-e-Taliban Pakistan towards Afghanistan. On multiple occasions, the diplomatic engagement was performed to overcome the issue of 'soil of Afghanistan used against Pakistan'.

However, lack of significant action from Afghan authorities has further strained the ties among both countries, leading to October 2025 conflict.



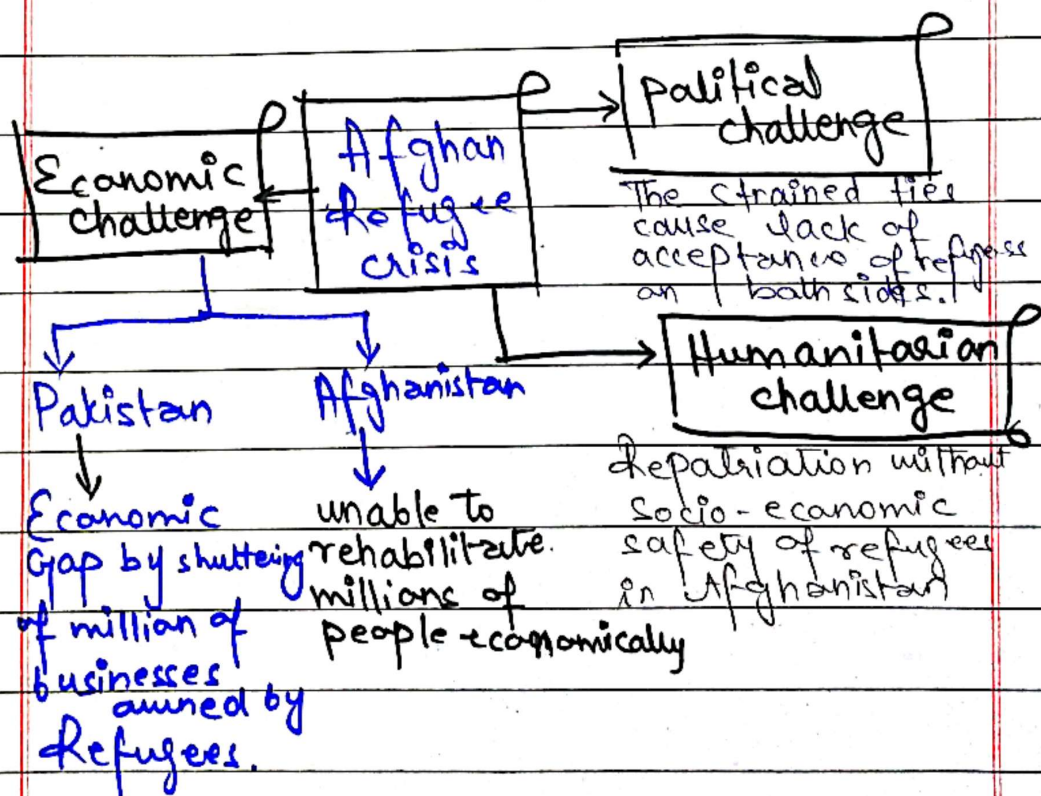
2- Border- Conflict: A colonial legacy causing the strain in relations

The Durand line agreement took place between British India and Afghanistan in 1880s. However, Afghanistan places its claim on ^{Gilgit} ~~Baluchistan~~ and ~~Khyber Pakhtunkhwa~~. This long-serving issue has tensed the ties as Pakistan demands the obedience of Durand line agreement. This clash once again emerged in 2025 conflict as follows:

“Qatar has removed the word ‘borders’, an Afghanistan’s request, from its official statement regarding 2025 conflict. It indicates the stance of Afghanistan regarding border line. — Dawn editorial

3- Afghan Refugee Crisis: A Multi-Dimensional challenge for Cardinal Relations

Pakistan has hosted more than 3 million Afghan refugees since 1979. However, the policy of repatriation of Afghan refugees has expedited in recent years by Pakistan to curb the issues of terrorism and economic burden. But, it had led to multidimensional crisis as follows:

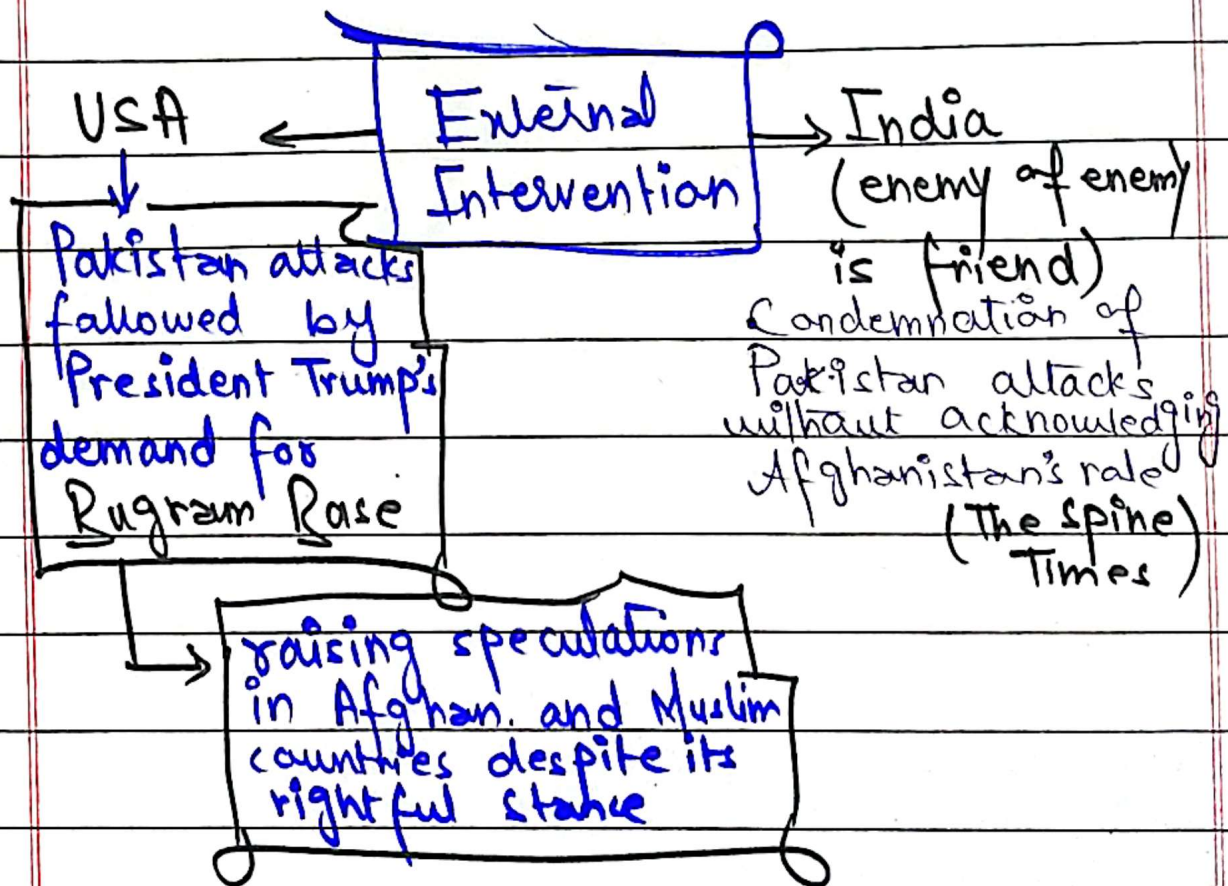


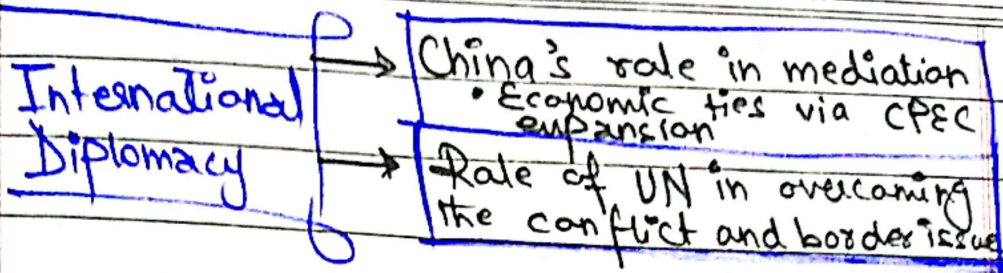
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4- External Intervention: A venom for Pak-Afghan Relations

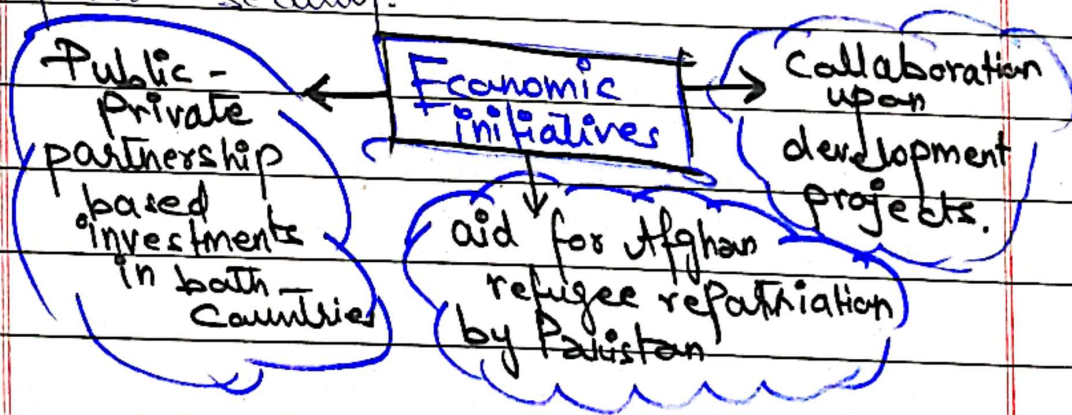
According to history, Pak-Afghan relations are always distorted by external sources. Being the part of great game, India and US are particular irritant in Pak-Afghan ties as follows.





7- Economic Links can Improve the Bi-lateral Relations

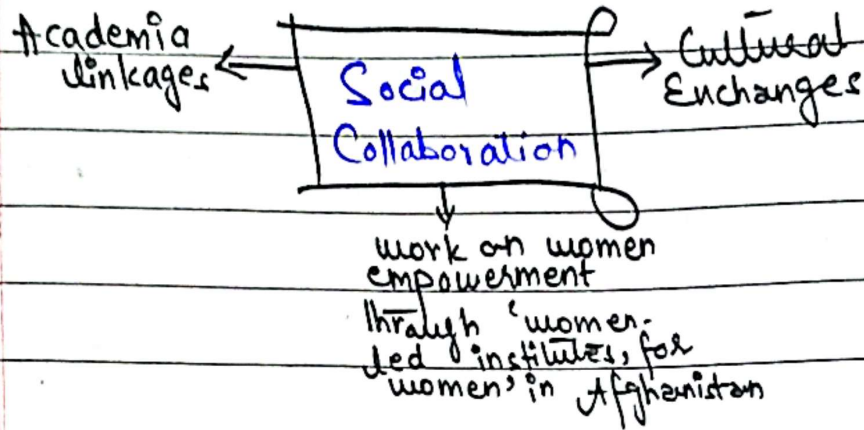
Economic engagement can link both countries and expedite the efforts for the removal of constraints. In this regard, public and private level investments can pave the way for future security.



8- Social Collaboration: A Way forward for cordial ties

Social ties at grass-root level can enhance the positive stimuli from both sides of border. In this regard, non-state actors can play

critical role in the development of social collaboration.



V Conclusion

Pakistan and Afghanistan are South-Asian neighbours with a long history of conflict. China has performed significant role in the mediation between two countries. However, the irritants like cross-border terrorism, refugee crisis, external influence and border dilemma continues to strain the ties.

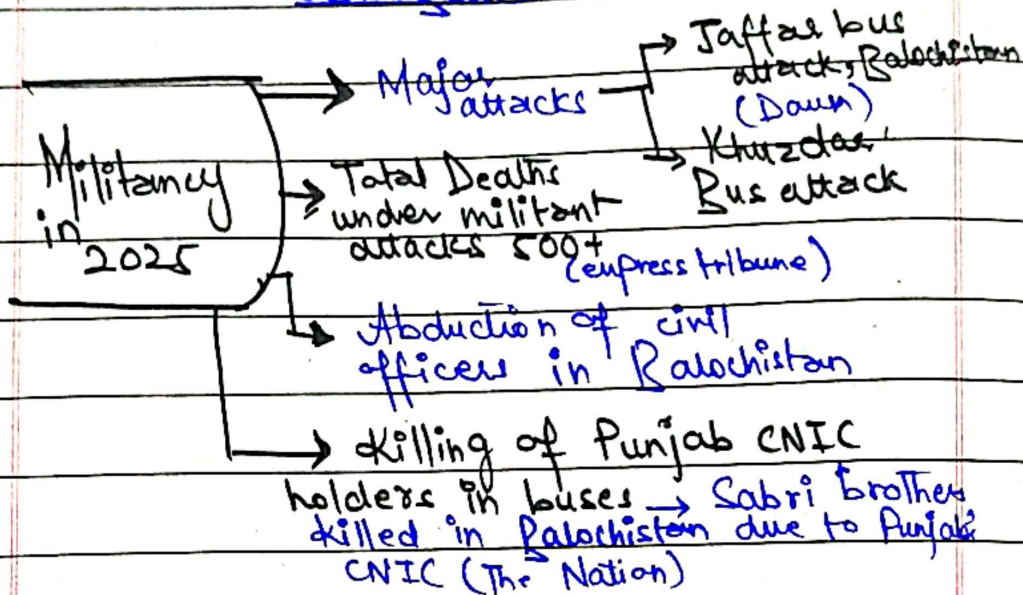
Therefore, significant measures are necessary for peaceful future. In this regard, initiatives to end terrorism, revival of multi-forum diplomacy and socio-economic collaboration can play crucial role in mending Pak-Afghan ties.

(Question No.4) Revival of Militancy

I- Introduction

Pakistan has served as a front-line state in bearing and eradicating terrorism particularly since War on Terror. However, 2025 is known as deadliest year over the decades in terms of militancy revival. The prominent reasons behind this revival includes the ^{support and} use of cross-border territories and socio-economic deprivation of KP and Balochistan. Moreover, lack of political dialogue with militants and civil-army rift in counter-terrorism operations are further allowing the space for militancy. However, ~~there~~ to nip the evil of militancy in the bud, initiatives like political engagement, social uplifting of affected areas and civil-military coordination is necessary. Alongside, curbing the external supporters of militants is essential step for its control.

II- Current Trends indicating The Revival of Militancy in KP and Balochistan



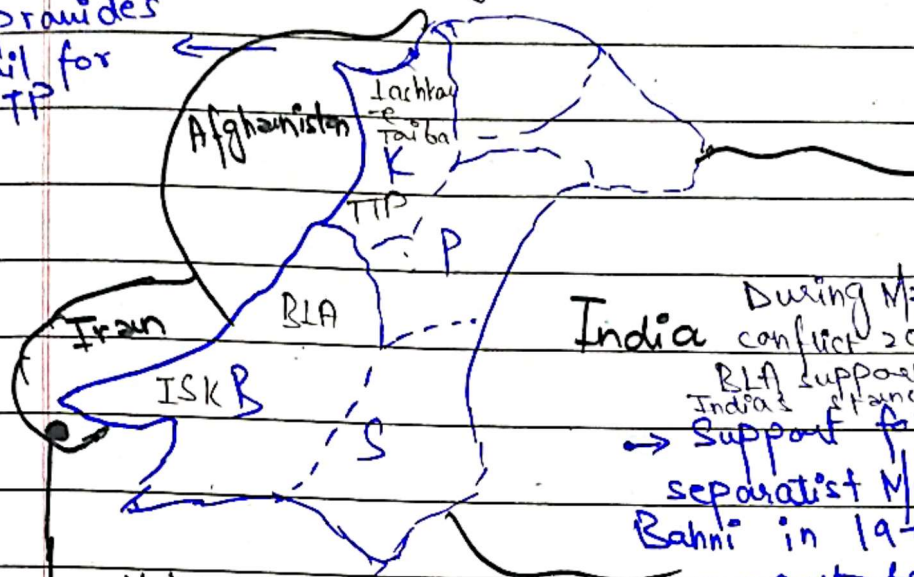
III Exploration of Reasons behind the revival of Militancy in KP and Baluchistan

1- Cross-Border Support for Militants and Separatist Groups: Potential Cause of Militancy's Revival

Pakistan lies in a region of hostile neighbours, which continue to support terrorism for their interests. Similar to the case of secession of East Pakistan, the cross border support for terrorism in Pakistan has led to the

revival of militancy in KP and Balochistan

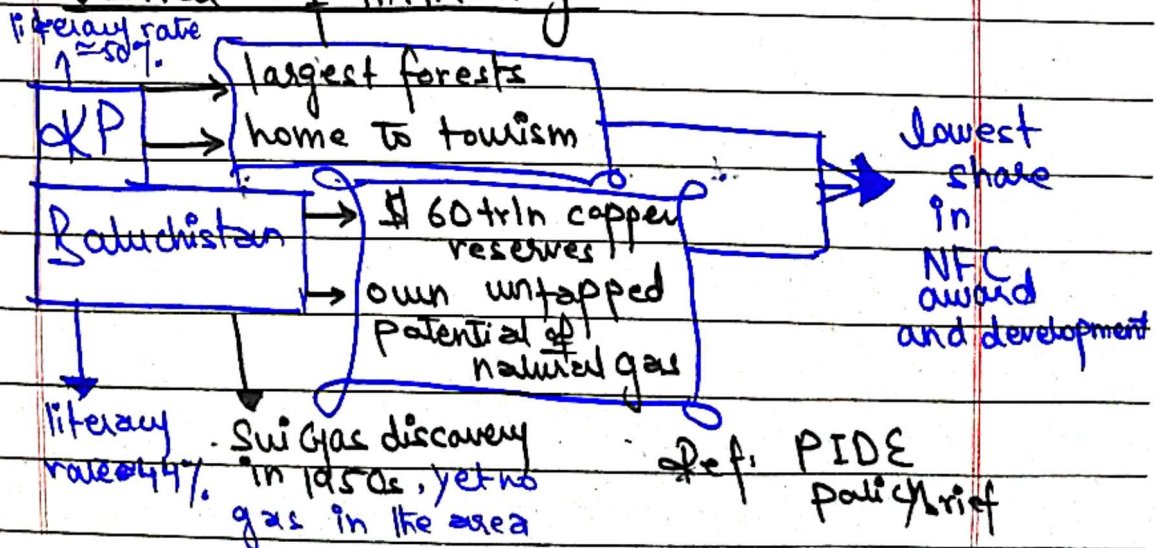
provides
soil for
TTP



During May conflict 2025,
BLA supported
India's stance (Dawn)
→ Support for
separatist Mukti
Bahini in 1971
→ support for
BLA in 2025

→ Kalbhushan Yadev
(Indian spy)
revealed the use
of Indian embassy
in Iran against Pakistan
by terrorism (ISSI policy
brief)

2- Socio-Economic Alienation of KP and Balochistan leads to the revival of militancy

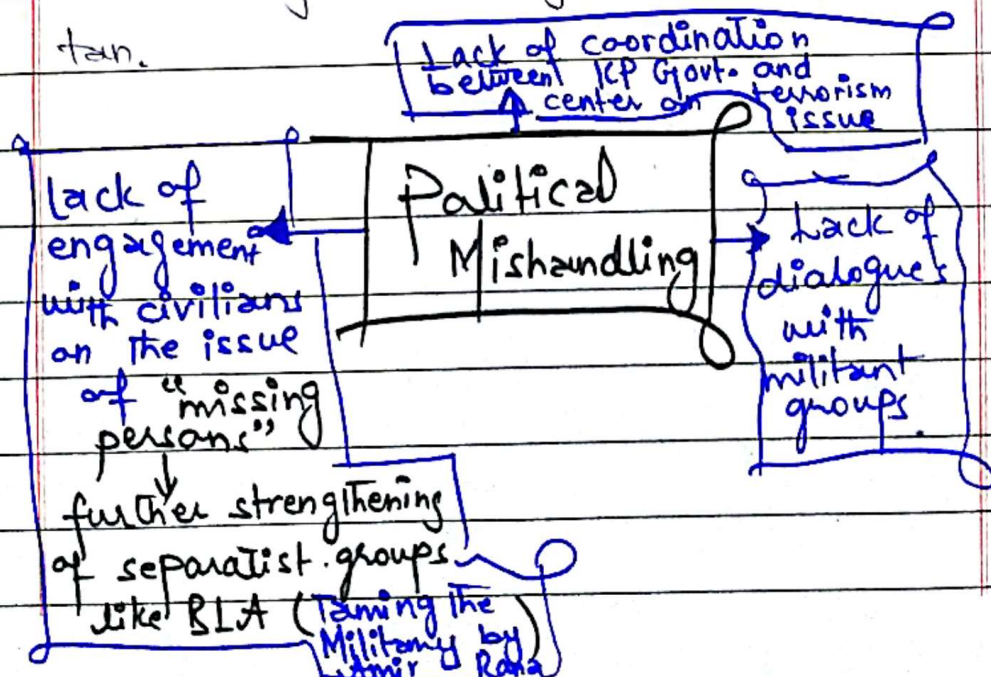


Socio-economic exploitation of these areas has led to the alienation of people. Resultantly, their inclination towards façade of revolution and separation groups enhances. It ultimately leads to the weakening of writ of state in these areas.

3- Lack of Political Engagement Strengthens the roots of Militancy

In 1971, a military option was sought for political problem.

Similar pattern is visible in 2025. Lack of political engagement and dialogue with militants, as well as civilians, is exacerbating militancy in KP and Baluchistan.



4- Civil-Army Misalignment presents the commodity for Militancy

The counter-terrorism operations of Pakistan army are commendable for their efficiency and effectiveness. However, civilians become the collateral damage of these operations in affected areas. It leads to the plight of civilians, leading to alienation from state.

Children death during fire blasts in Tirah valley



lead to protests, social unrest and jirga

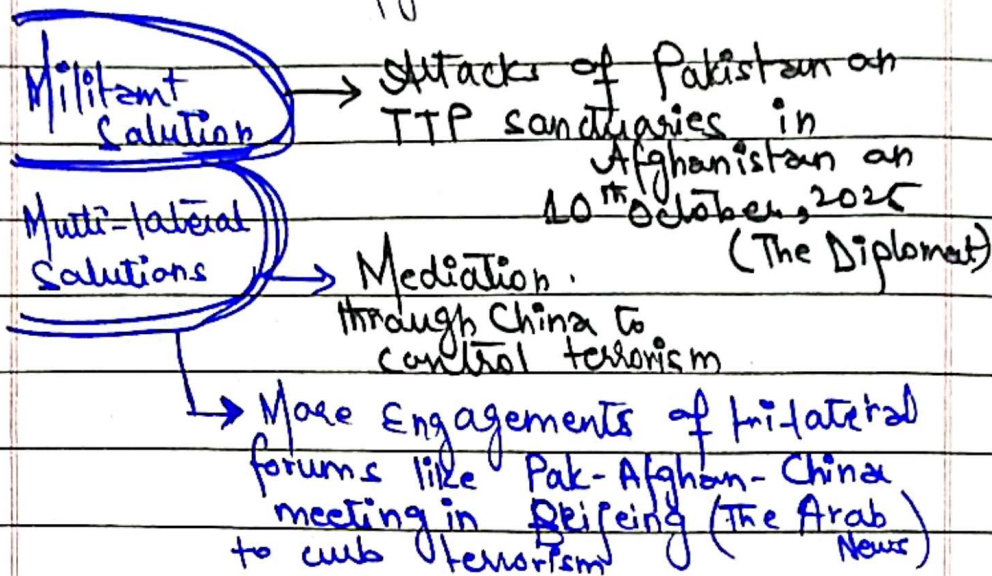
Ref: Tirah disturbances (Dawn Editorial)

IV Recommendations to Nip Militancy in the bud in KP and Baluchistan

5- Curbing the External Support of Militants is an essential measure for its eradication

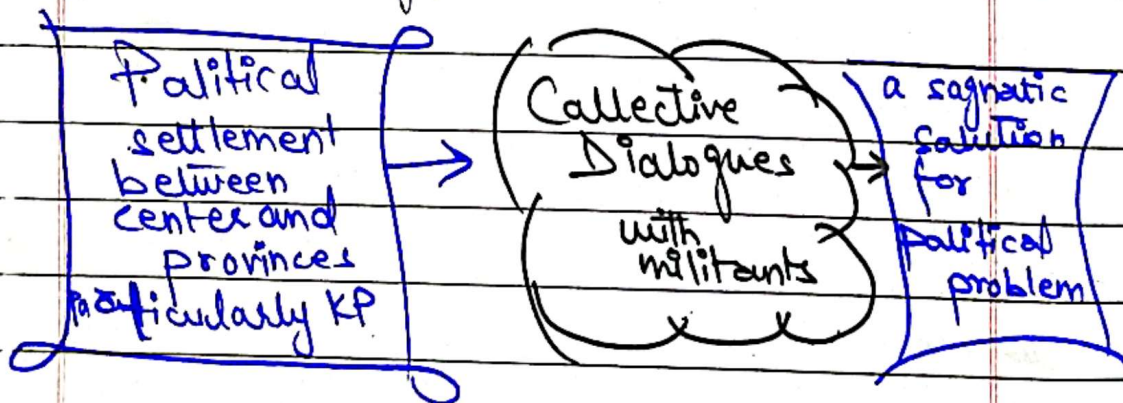
Regional and International diplomacy is necessary to cut the

roots for militant support centers in India and Afghanistan.



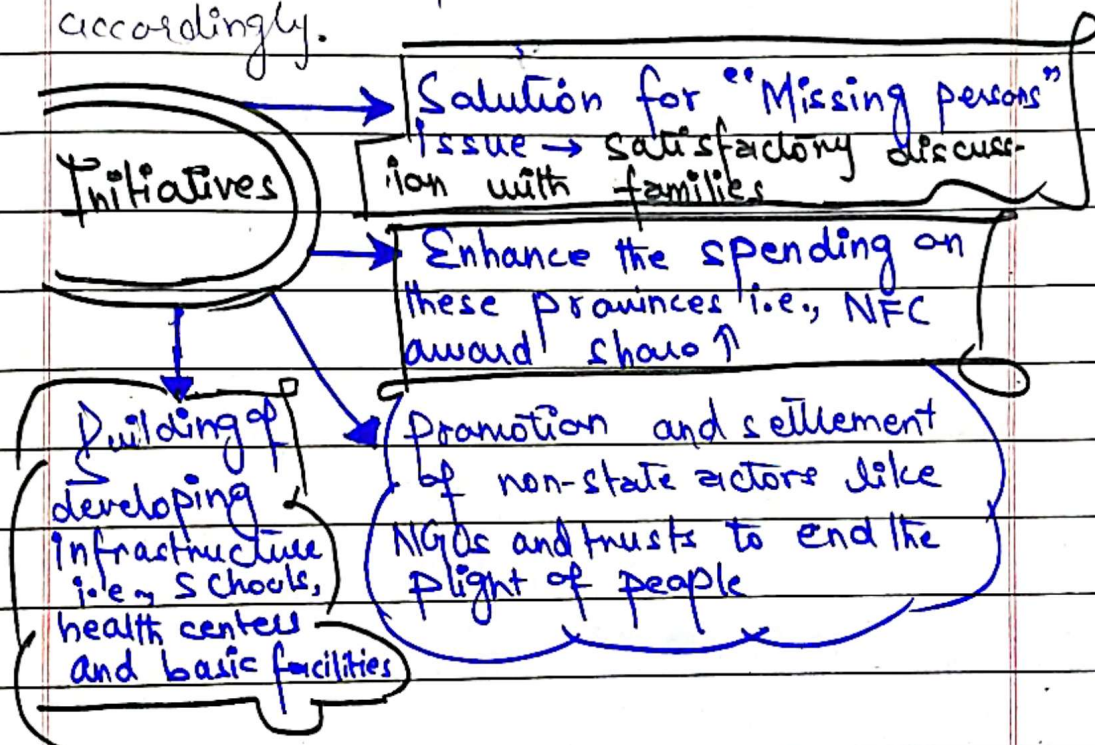
6- Political Dialogue: Crucial Initiative for Eradication of Militancy

The dialogues are need of how to solve the a issue of militancy particularly in KP and Pakistan. In this regard, province-center stakeholders need to be at a single page to engage in political dialogues.



7- Socio-Economic Uplifting of Deprived Regions to cut the local support system of Militants

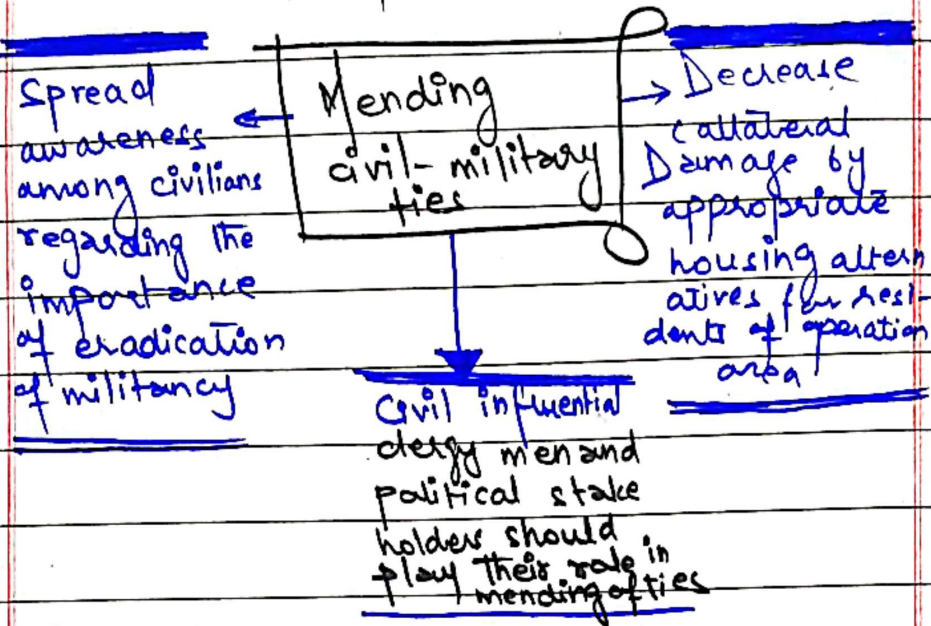
Adequate measures are required in these regions to reconcile them with mainstream provinces. Resultantly, the moral support of militants and social dilemma of natives will be solved accordingly.



8- Civil-Military Coordination: Tie the missing link for removal of space for militants

The gap between civil society and military ties offers the room

for growth of non-state violent actors. Therefore, the link must be tied strongly to leave no space for violence, terrorism and separatism.



V- Conclusion:

The revival of militancy in KP and Baluchistan is a serious concern for Pakistan which could become existential threat, if left unsolved. The major reasons behind this revival includes the support from hostile neighbourhood, socio-economic and political challenges and civil-military gap. Therefore, its eradication demands the eradication of external funding, political engagement, socio-economic development and civil-military calibration.