

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Part - II

Q.2.

(1) INTRODUCTION

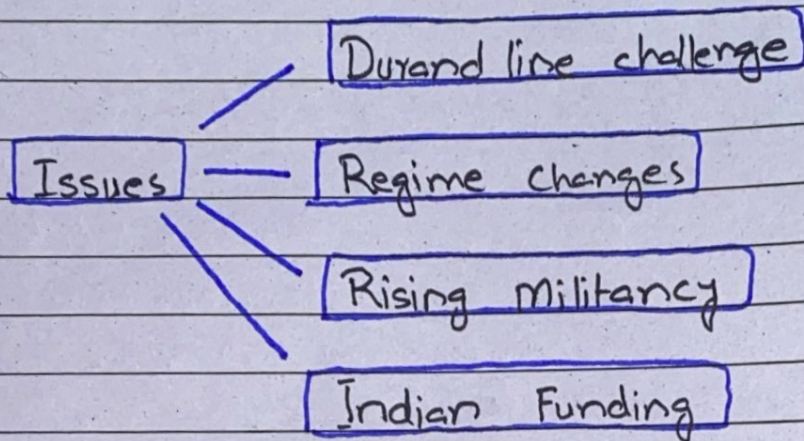
The tensions between Pakistan and its Islamic neighbor Afghanistan have remained tense for a long now. Their conflict dates back to the time even before partition, the boundary between British India and Afghanistan, Durand line, a 2611 km long boundary dates back to 1893. However, as Pakistan came into existence, the once mediation under Sir Mortimer Durand faced questions on its validity. Moreover, Afghanistan has had a turbulent history, with the invasion of USSR and even most recently by the US. This land had never had a peaceful time. Although Pakistan is an Islamic state, Afghanistan was the first to reject its entry into the United Nations showing the hatred even during early years of its inception. There involve multiple factors which lead to this envious and hatred relation and treatment by Afghanistan towards Pakistan.

Date: _____

Day: **M T W T F S**

(II) Causes and Major Factors of Tensed Pakistan-Afghan Relations and Ways to Improve Them

(a) Causes and factors of tensed relation



• Durand line challenge

The 2611 km boundary between Pakistan and Afghanistan after the independence has faced questions for its validity. Afghanistan claims that the area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and some of Balochistan as part of Afghanistan forcibly occupied by the British India and thus wants it back creating rifts among relation of neighbors.

• Regime changes

Afghanistan had a turbulent political history. The area once governed by Taliban came under USSR, which then faced resistance from United States and Pakistan and lead to the failure of them in Afghanistan with locals being armed with US weapons. There after,

the September 11, 2001 attack on US Twin Towers, the US directly engaged in battle with the same people once supported and armed by her. However, after a long, around 20 years, War on Terror in Afghanistan, the US and its allies failed to capture power and thus led to establishment of Taliban rule once again. This turbulent changes of regime has created a lot of local issues and them being directly alleged on Pakistan for their support of US. This also stands as a point for hate.

• Rising militancy

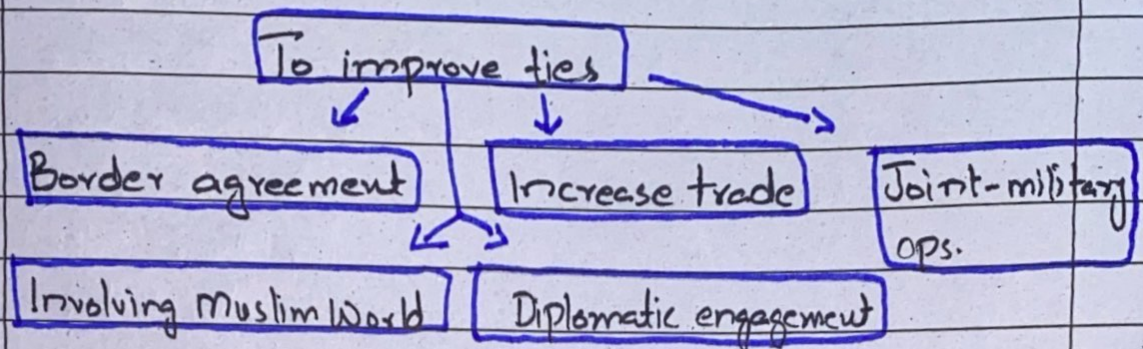
Pakistan after directly being involved in US's war on Afghanistan has been being terrorist attacks from an organization named Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) which she says operates from Afghan soil against her. TTP has conducted many serious attacks on Pakistan including Army Public School incident of 2014. Recent skirmishes between Pakistan and Afghanistan were also on the pretext of those TTP militants taking shelter in Afghanistan with Pakistan carrying strikes that Afghanistan alleged.

• Indian Funding

The Indian factor is also a major bone of contention between Pak-Afghan relationship. India has been supporting militants in Balochistan and Afghanistan to conduct

operations against Pakistan. Moreover, the rising ties between New Delhi and Kabul are also seen as a challenge to Pak-Afghan relations.

b- Ways to improve Pak-Afghan ties



• Border agreement

To establish peaceful ties, firstly both nations should have a border agreement that no country will allow militants or any criminal elements to pass through its borders by increasing the security. Moreover, the issue of Durand line should be discussed and made clear in light of agreements to end this misunderstanding.

• Increase trade

Pakistan and Afghanistan should engage in bilateral trade, promote harmony and build people to people marketing for improving their ties. By being dependent on one another, there will be less chances of conflicts.

• Joint military operations

As Pakistan holds Afghanistan responsible for harboring TTP, there should be a mutual consensus among both nations to conduct joint military operations against enemies of both so that there can be establishment of trust between both.

• Diplomatic engagement

Pakistan and Afghanistan should promote diplomatic engagement so that every issue is discussed and there are less chances of active fighting.

• Involving Muslim world

Muslim countries like Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and U-AE should be involved in building and reaching any agreement to ensure presence and commitment from Afghan side.

(III) Conclusion

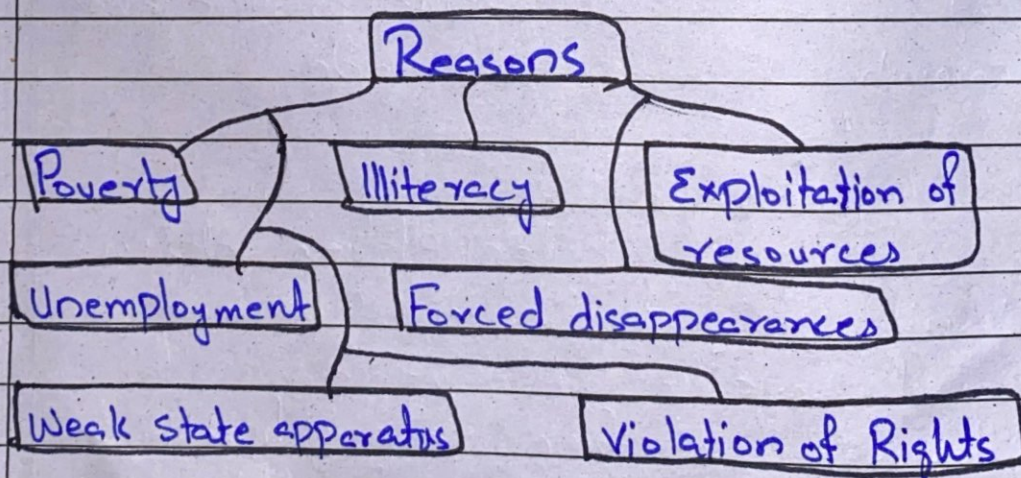
Pakistan-Afghan relations despite being Muslim countries are tense, there involve many reasons for deteriorated situation ranging from border issues, political instability and militancy. To improve ties of both nations, reforms must be made not only in diplomacy but militarily and both nations should change the approach towards one another.

Q. 4.

(i) Introduction

The areas of KP and Balochistan have been under unrest for quite some time. The issues in both provinces are mostly the same, both allege that there are no serious development steps taken and there is extra involvement of state machinery. However, these are not only factors leading to rising militancy. It is well established with evidences that India and Afghanistan are involved in deteriorating condition of both provinces.

(ii) Reasons for Revival of Militancy in KP and Balochistan



a- Poverty

Poverty stands as an important factor resulting in rise of militancy in both provinces. Despite having more than half of

countries areas, both provinces face poverty. According to the data by World Bank, 45% of Pakistanis live below poverty line. This serves as a cause for increase of militancy.

b. Illiteracy

Illiteracy stands also as important factor, in KPK and Balochistan, there are no schools to provide quality education. And if there are schools, they are totally dilapidated or lack staff or funding. This also increases sorrow of locals and leads to rise of militancy.

c. Exploitation of resources

It is alleged by both provinces that their resources are exploited. For instance, Balochistan is the largest producer of gas. However, even from the city of Sibi where gas was discovered, there is no gas. Same goes for KP, they also claim the same that whatever resources are extracted, they are not used in their province.

d. Unemployment

~~The~~ unemployment also serves as a hurdle. People who are jobless have no adequate source of living. This factor leads to their involvement in criminal activities. This is also a factor contributing to rise in militancy.

Date: _____

Day: **M T W T F S**

e- Forced disappearances

Forced disappearances is also a factor contributing to rising insurgency. As evident by a report by Supreme Judicial Council, more than 70% of forced disappearance cases remain unsolved in Pakistan. This leads to rising militancy in both of the provinces as most of the people that have been disappeared belong to these.

f- Weak state apparatus

The state machinery in both of the provinces is mostly ineffective. It is found that Police, Judiciary and other civilian institutions fail to redress problems faced by locals. This also aids to rising militancy in both provinces.

g- Violation of rights

"The fundamental rights guaranteed by constitution stands at a mercy of executive because of tamed judiciary as said by International Council of Jurists. Both provinces face this crisis, the rights of people are not provided and even if they go to court, their grievances are not heard. This leads to rise in militancy in both the provinces.

(iii) Recommendations to Solve Military Issue in KP & Balochistan

- Protection of fundamental rights
- Resolving missing persons issue
- Improving civil institutions
- Promoting participation
- Ensuring Rule of law
- Infrastructural development
- Resolving social grievances

a- Protecting fundamental rights

The state should ensure the protection of fundamental rights so that the people of provinces feel their stake and recognize that it is in their benefit to abide by constitution.

b- Resolving missing persons issue

The issue of missing persons must be resolved to ensure peace in both provinces as when a person is forcibly taken and killed. It creates enmity against state institutions therefore, it should be addressed.

c- Improving civil institutions

The major step that must be ensured is improving civil institutions to make them more public oriented and to improve public service delivery. This will

help restore people's trust in state.

d. Promoting Participation

Public participation should be increased to improve decision making and to make sure that all decisions are consensus oriented so that people feel stake in governance and recognize the need for eliminating military.

e. Ensuring rule of law

Rule of law should be ensured in both of the provinces. Police and other state machinery should be to serve common man. There should be no use of arbitrary power by state or any individual and everyone should be dealt in accordance with law ensuring due process.

f. Infrastructural development

Infrastructure in both provinces should be improved, schools, hospitals, roads and government buildings should be reconstructed and built in a beautiful manner so that people feel relaxed when visiting any.

g. Resolving social grievances

Social grievances should be resolved, more job opportunities, adequate environment, quality education should be provided to people of both provinces.

(iv) Critical Evaluation

The situation in KP and Balochistan has worsened over the period. There factors behind the rise in militancy are many, ranging from social, political and legal. The state should strive hard to maintain and improve condition as when people hate their own country, enemies get the space to use them against the state itself as seen in case of Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Tahreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

(v) Conclusion

The issues surrounding both provinces, KP and Balochistan are multidimensional. Despite covering large area, both provinces remain under-developed with almost all sorts of issues. People have started to develop anti state sentiments that must be addressed in proper manner, these include improving rule of law, public participation and resolving longstanding issue of forced disappearances.

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Q. 6.

(i) Introduction

The Russia-Ukraine conflict that began on Oct 7, 2023 has a long history. Ukraine, once part of Russia (USSR), after its separation from USSR has inclined towards Russia's bitter enemy, the NATO. Recent development on August 15, 2025, when US President welcomed Russian President in Alaska seemed to bear some fruits. However, no steps were taken to stop the ongoing conflict. The end to this conflict seems difficult in the current situation when almost every conflict has been solved but the attitude of NATO and Russia remains unchanged.

(ii) Conflicts in Demands of NATO and Russia

a- Russian demands

Russia wants Ukraine to stop its pursuit to join NATO forces as a NATO country so close to its territory poses a direct threat to its long standing strength. Moreover, Russia wants to have hold of warm water ports in Ukraine for making itself eligible for trade.

Date: _____

Day: **M T W T F S**

b. NATO demands

NATO's objective has always been to counter Soviet Union and halt Russia's expansion. NATO has been increasing its membership and Ukraine also wishes to join it, this results in divergence of objectives of both.

(iii) Chances of End of Conflict

In the current atmosphere the chances of establishing peace is difficult as both ~~nations~~ the NATO and Russia do not want to step back from their objectives.

(iv) Conclusion

The conflict of Russia-Ukraine dates back to disintegration of Soviet Union in 1991, to resolve this issue, both parties Ukraine and Russia should practice restraint and there should be mutual understanding regarding NATO's expansion and Ukraine's membership.

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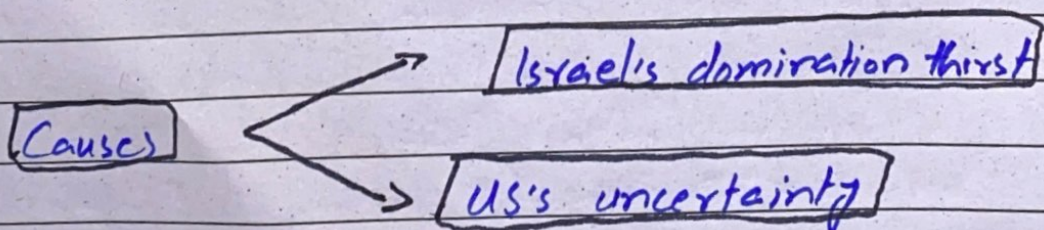
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Q.8.

(i) Introduction

It was in Al Yamamah Palace, Riyadh that a ground breaking mutual defense agreement between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan took place on September 17, 2025. The agreement came after Israel's attack on Qatar's capital Doha during Hamas talks. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have been close allies since the inception of Pakistan. However, the recent development, first of its kind which ensures mutual defense and states same as Article (V) of NATO of attack on one to be considered attack on the others, in this case Pakistan or Saudi. The agreement resulted from many causes, the most important being Israel's power thirst, US's uncertainty and does carries some implications for both countries in balancing their ties with others.

(ii) Causes of the Deal



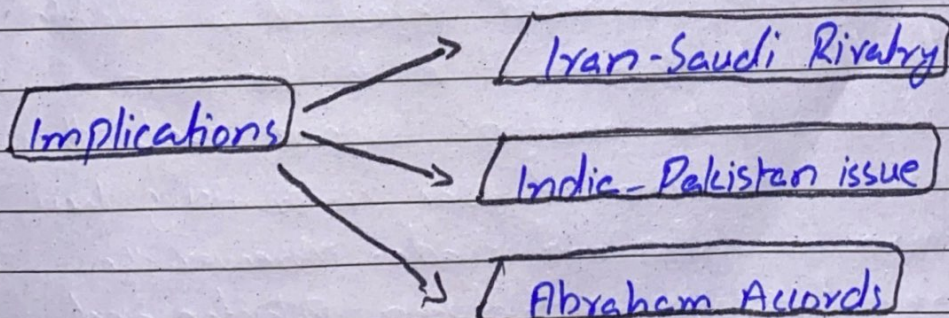
a- Israel's domination thirst

Israel aspires to dominate whole of the Middle East. It does not spare even those countries that have normal ties with it through Abraham Accords. Its attack on Qatar, the signatory of accord, proved that even if it is accepted as a state, not even the acceptor will be spared. This led to understand the need for improving security dilemma in hostile environment.

b- US's uncertainty

Despite having bases in Qatar and being a formal ally and its supporter, when Israel attacked Doha, US not even tried to neutralize the attack let alone condemn. This gave nations indication that despite US saying of providing protection, when it comes to Israel there will not be any US protection. This served as also a main reason for this deal.

(iii) Implications of the Deal



Date: _____

Day: **M T W T F S**

a. Iran-Saudi Rivalry

Iran and Saudi despite being Muslim countries are ideologically divided. Both have bitter relations with one another. The implication of recent pact is that if both the nations are involved in any conflict, Pakistan being the neighbor and having friendly ties will have to attack its neighbor.

b. India-Pakistan issue

Despite May 10, 2025 ceasefire, the issues between India and Pakistan have not resolved. The long standing Kashmir issue and the recent suspension of Indus Water Treaty on 23 April still remain unresolved. Saudi has good relations and trade with India, and this pact poses the question whether it will cutoff ties with India and wage war against it.

IV) Critical Evaluation

The recent pact between Riyadh and Islamabad serves as a notable development. However, it is to be seen whether both nations support each other in a situation of war compromising their own friendship and trade. Moreover, the recent skirmishes between Pakistan and Afghanistan made it questionable that there came no official condemnation of Afghan

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Day: MTWTFS

attacked, nor arab forces were seen fighting Afghans.

(v) Conclusion

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have had cordial relationship for along time. The emergence of pact following Israel's attack on Doha establishes notion that both nations trust each other and are ready to stand with one another despite international pressures. Saudi's signing has proved its lack of trust in American security guarantees. These being cases, the implications of the pact seem serious and might have lasting results on the region.

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