

Warda Rasool.

Mock Exams for CSS-2026.

Current Affairs.

Subjective part - Part II.

QNO 2.

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

Answer:-

Pakistan - Afghanistan relations have historically been complex due to historical, ethnic, political, and security factors. Despite several mediation efforts, including by china, tensions persist. This has implications for regional security, trade, and stability, especially given the strategic location of both countries and the ongoing challenges of terrorism and refugees.

Border Disputes (Durand line):-

The Durand line remains a contentious issue. Afghanistan does not officially recognize it as the international border,

leading to border skirmishes and security concerns.

Unregulated movement across this border fosters terrorist infiltration and smuggling.

Terrorism and cross-Border Militancy:-

- Groups such as Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) operate from Afghan soil.

Pakistan blames Afghanistan for harboring anti-Pakistan militants, while Afghanistan accuses Pakistan of interfering in its internal affairs.

Ethnic and political issues:-

Shared Pashtun population on both sides leads to cross-border allegiances.

Afghanistan's domestic instability and influence from foreign actors complicate bilateral ties.

Proxy war and external influence:-

Rivalries between regional powers (India, Iran, Saudi Arabia) often play out in Afghanistan, affecting Pakistan's security concerns.

China's mediation is seen as neutral but limited in addressing deep-rooted mistrust.

Refugee and Economic strains.

Pakistani hostilities toward Afghan refugees and border closures strain humanitarian and economic ties.

Trade

Challenges after the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan:-

1. - Diplomatic challenge.
2. - Refugees challenge
3. Security challenge.

Diplomatic challenge whether we should accept the Taliban regime or not this challenge depends on the refugees & security challenge.

Refugees challenge if Afghanistan takes its refugees back, Pakistan will cooperate as well.

Security challenge if Afghanistan conducts meaningful operation against TTP.

Pakistan will cooperate with Taliban otherwise Pak will not accept the

Taliban regime Chinese PM held a Trilateral meeting between Pakistan, Afghanistan, & China in this meeting Pakistan agreed to develop cordial relations with Afghanistan has sent its ambassador to Afghanistan Taliban government also promised to hold meaningful operation against TTP, has also passed a fatwa against TTP activists.

Taliban government got help from China & Pakistan to conduct effective operation in Afghanistan Pakistan is ready to provide technical & tactical support to China is providing defence equipment to Afghanistan for this operation.

4.4 million illegal Afghan refugees (1.7 million illegal) 3.6 million according to UN. Prephase meetings between Pakistan and Taliban on the issue of TTP insurgency & terrorism all these phases have remained highly unsuccessful due to the unacceptable demands of TTPs.

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ideological support of TTA to TTP.

After these meetings Pakistan cancelled the dialogue & started the operation.

Demand of TTP:-

Reversion of emerging of FATA with KPK.

Implementation of law & Shariah, generally in Pakistan and particularly in FATA.

Release of prisoners of TTP from Pakistan's jails.

Permission to open political office of TTP anywhere in the world.

Pakistan did not agree to these demands and demanded the complete dissolution of TTP.

These dialogues failed in 2023 and ever since then TTP was being supported by TTA but now after the trilateral meeting with China this is being discussed again.

Institutionalized Dialogue Mechanism-

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Established a permanent bilateral commission for political, security and economic issues.

Include China and other neutral parties for confidence-building measures.

Border Management and security cooperation

Joint patrolling along Durand line to reduce cross-border terrorism.

Exchange of intelligence on militant groups and smuggling networks.

Economic Integration and Trade facilitation.

Promote cross-border trade via formal corridors and joint investment projects.

Encourage Afghan participation in CPEC-related initiatives for shared benefits.

People to people contact.

Visa facilitation, cultural exchanges, and education initiatives to build trust at the grassroots level.

Programs to manage refugee flows fairly and humanely.

Regional Multilateral Engagements

Leverage platforms like China-Pakistan Afghanistan trilateral talks or SAARC Forums.

Include India, Iran, and Central Asian actors selectively to reduce proxy tensions.

Q No 5:-

Climate change is a global challenge that requires multilateral cooperation. The Paris Climate Agreement (2015) was designed to limit global warming to well below 2°C . The United States, as the largest historical emitter of greenhouse gases, plays a critical leadership role. Its withdrawal under President Trump signals potential setback for global climate governance.

Global leadership Vacuum:-

- US - withdrawal reduces pressure on other major emitters to commit to ambitious targets.

Without U.S support, financial and Technological assistance for developing countries

may decline, slowing adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Loss of diplomatic momentum may embolden laggard nations, undermining global cohesion.

Reliance on Multilateral and Regional efforts:-

The absence of U.S. leadership pushes the EU, China, and emerging economies to take the initiative.

Examples include the EU Green Deal, China's carbon neutrality pledge (2060) and regional coalitions like Africa Climate Initiative.

Success depends on coordination and enforcement mechanisms, which remain weak without global consensus.

States, cities and corporations in the US can offset federal withdrawal.

Initiatives like We Are Still In demonstrate potential for non-state actors to maintain emission reductions.

However, fragmented policies risk inconsistencies and reduced effectiveness.

Technological and Market-driven Solutions:-

Private sector innovation in renewables, carbon capture, and EVs can continue to reduce emissions.

U.S. withdrawal may slow investment incentives and global collaboration on clean technology transfer.

Climate change will continue irrespective of political shifts; scientific and economic pressures will compel eventual re-engagement.

Paris Agreement Framework is resilient; mechanisms like Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ensure accountability.

Trump's withdrawal represents a significant setback but not an insurmountable one.

Global efforts will increasingly rely on regional leaders, private sectors, and civil society.

Multilateralism remains key, and scientific, economic, and moral imperatives will continue to drive climate action.

In the long term, leadership may shift, but climate change mitigation cannot be ignored.

Q No 6-

How do you see the chances of the end of Ukrainian war when the demands of Russia and NATO are conflicting and poles apart? Elaborate.

The society is historically Russian in background.

Stems from USSR.

Demographically shift in Ukraine from pro Russia to pro Europe.

A) Western, Central, South Western Ukraine are all overwhelming majority is Pro Europe. Demographically: Poland, Latvia, Finland - members of EU - increased P2P contacts, increased trade relations, tourism).

B) Eastern & South Eastern Ukraine: Pro Russian - they want Good relations with Russia.

Politically: 2013 PM of Ukraine signed a trade deal with EU, president didn't

ratified, leading to protests across country. parliamentarians attacked the president house (Parliamentary coup) - president had to run away, since then there is a overwhelming tilt of parliamentarians toward EU & NATO against Russia.

The same Divide is seen in the parliamentarians ^{In Ukraine} elected parliamentarians elected by citizens)

Majority in favor of Europe Zlinsky (2/3 Majority in 2013) and his government strongly support Europe and US and not rightly support Russia.

Ukraine increasing relations with European Union -

Ukraine joined EU as a observer member

Govt - Want to increase trade with

Europe (Free trade deal - removal of tariffs).

Want to become a part of the EU also.

(Relaxing the visa system by E visa, instant visa, free visa) this resulted in to increasing demographic population interaction between Ukraine and Europe.

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And the most important Ukraine applied for the membership of EU (2022) European union 27 countries except UK).

Zelensky has formally applied - Also applied for the membership of EU.

Ukraine started purchasing weapons US - UK France and other NATO

members. And secondly Ukraine started participating in the joined NATO exercises especially Poland (2021), also applied for the membership of NATO.

Attack on Ukraine -

Vladimir Zelensky won election in Ukraine. He increased the west mobility by enhancing relationship with EU on one hand and NATO on the other.

Russia waged in all out war. More than 200,000 Russian troops participated in the war. Airforce, Navy, artillery armored core (tank) and ground forces participated. More than 50,000 Russians Mercenaries called Wagner's participated in the wars.

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in the war. Russia attacked the eastern and south eastern part of Ukraine. It also attacked from its allied country Belarus.

Resultantly multiple areas of Ukraine specially in the east and south east like Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, Odessa being captured by Russia and declared as breakaway regions. Russia also captured the coastal areas with black sea especially the sea port of Odessa.

NATO increasing support for Ukraine. 32 different NATO countries have started to import weapons to Ukraine for free. The largest provider of weapons is the USA. It has provided F-16 jet fighters, Stinger missiles, armored core etc. The second major provider of weapons is UK, third is Germany and then France, US and UK and European Union are the largest aid providers to Ukraine to fund its war against Russia.

Resultantly, the resistance capacity of Ukraine have tremendously increased. The ukrainian troops have been fighting hard against the russian troops on its own soil. And Russia is unable to make major advancements. (Hired by UK, US, And France 45,000 mercenary to fight against Russia in Ukraine. War in Ukraine and its implications. Russia attack on Ukraine.

The resistance of Ukraine against Russia

The territories captured by Russia -

The infrastructure loss to Ukraine More than 20% of the Ukrainian territories being captured by Russia.

Majority of the navy of Ukraine in the Black sea being destroyed. Series of civil nuclear reactors being captured by Russia. A number of airports or highways either being captured or bombarded.

Ukraine has been primarily agrarian economy. It has been the 4th largest producer and exporter of grains.

It is one of the largest producers and exporter of milk and wheat. but since 2022, there has been a dangerous cut in the agricultural economic loss faced by Ukraine is more than 600 billion \$.

Demographic implications.

More than 3 million people have been forced to become refugees mostly fled into Poland, Finland, Lithuania and other parts of Europe.

More than 4.6 million people are internally displaced. More than 100,000 have been injured and 10000 + lost their lives.

International price hike has been caused by the war in Ukraine.

When Russia attacked Ukraine European countries imposed sanctions on Russian hydrocarbons. Majority of the European countries have significantly cut down their oil import from Russia. They started increasing imports from middle East.

The demand of oil and gas was more and middle east could not meet it. Resultantly the prices of hydrocarbons shoot up.

The price of hydrocarbons is the major determinant of other commodities. When the price of oil and gas increase automatically the price of electricity, transportation costs industrial and agricultural goods increase. Further more Ukraine has been the 4th largest exporter of grains, milk and meat. But since war has begun there has been a dangerous decline in the export of these commodities which has caused the price hike of the food items in the international market.