

22/10/25

Pakistan Affairs

(Part II)

Q4:- Pak-Afghan Relations post 2021...?

start with the summary of the answer as introduction....

August 2021, marks the Taliban take over after the withdrawal of World Power USA. Afghan Taliban took a very little time to get their hold on Kabul after the historic withdrawal of US. Pakistan - with their consistent support in the past to Afghan Taliban from being on front line against Soviet forces to the back support post 9/11, ~~initially~~ - initially approached with optimism for a friendly relations based not only on this factor but also of their shared cultural and geographical values. However, things do not go as planned and relations have since deteriorated due to border tensions, militant activities, refugee management issues and then the shifting regional alignments.

Pakistan's long involvement in Afghanistan's affairs keeps for a friendly regime after the US withdrawal but post 2021 regime turned the other way; the nationalist tone of Kabul, lack of reciprocity and border friction realized ~~Pakistan~~ Islamabad, that their conventional approach of keeping the current Taliban regime under their influence is not going as planned, rather turned differently.

give the main heading first and relate your headings to the qs statement.

Border Security

With the resurgence of Afghan Taliban and setting up of their Regime in Kabul, they weren't alone to get active and the militants groups like TTP resurged immediately with regime take over.

TTP (Tehreek Taliban Pakistan) uses the Afghanistan soil to carry on the cross border attacks in Pakistan. Afghan Taliban, despite the continuous demand from Pakistan show no interests in acting against such groups. This is the key reason of mistrust between both countries. The past and the current Afghan Regime opposed the Durand line and accepted any such border claiming the cross border areas as their own due to the shared historic, ethnic and cultural belonging through out the length of entire border. On the other hand, Pakistan is trying to build and cover up the border with fence and almost 70% is done (KPP), but the long 2640 kms border don't required the fencing alone, rather the deployment of troops throughout or making the friendly relations with cross border country. Islamabad's diplomatic channel is seeing no success at Afghanistan Regime 2.0

Show reluctance to act against the militants, making them to shift from a friendly neighbour to an unfavourable one. Pakistan is the 2nd most affected country by terrorism according to GTI (Global Terrorism Index 2024) and as the 2025 going to end but it alone recorded the fatalities of almost 2400 people with most of them got hit by the TTP attacks. Almost 70% of the attacks are carried out by TTP alone with utilization of Afghan soil. Taliban 2.0 regime provide safe havens to the leadership of terrorists groups like TTP and BLA and multiple evidences of their presence are presented by Pakistan but Taliban's denial and non-serious attitude to act against them is the concern for Pakistan.

~~The~~ In response to Taliban's this attitude, the recent past cross border air strike (although not claimed by Islamabad) resulted in the neutralizing of TTP leader. → That attack let Afghan Taliban thought as an attack on their sovereignty which provoked further escalation. In response to it, they carried out the midnight attack against forces across the border resulted in mere nothing but their human losses and Pakistan's. From Chaman-Turkham-Kumam, Taliban - Pakistan clashed with no end result.

These clashes and border disputes is one of the main reason that deteriorated the relations between two neighbours.

Refugee Issues:

Pakistan has hosted over 3 million Afghan refugees (highest by any country) for almost four decades. After the resurgence of Afghan Taliban 2.0 in 2021, a new wave of refugees entered due to the instability, unemployment and most importantly repression in home country. Initially, Pakistan allowed them to settle temporarily but that good will turned later into security and economic burden -

In result of this economic and security problem, Pakistan announced a repatriation drive for all the illegal or undocumented Afghan refugees stating:

- ① → Involvement of Afghans in terrorism and smuggling.
- ② → Economic strain and urban pressure due to settlement.
- ③ → Lack of cooperation from Kabul the most important point.

Afghan Taliban reacted by criticizing this move calling it "inhumane and against Islamic and neighbourly values" and led to the diplomatic tensions and anti-Pakistan rhetoric from Afghan Taliban officials.

This refugee policy from Islamabad and the reaction of Kabul further deepened the mistrust as one see it as a security necessity measure and latter sees it as a pressure. In public's view the resentment increased on both ends - Afghan's accuse Pakistan of mistreatment and Pakistan accused them for being involved in crime and extremism. The expulsions of refugees have become a symbol of strained relations fading the earlier hope of friendly ties. This narrative from both ends further weakened, ~~then~~ limiting the cooperation on transit trade and counter terrorism too.

So, we can say the refugee issue and management is another flash point in Islamabad-Kabul relations and what began as a good will humanitarian link turned into political and security irritant.

Regional Realignment

Initially, Pakistan along with China coordinated policy to interact with Afghan Taliban but recently Kabul acted independently seeking direct Chinese aid limiting the Pakistan's leverage. China also became more active in the mineral investments, mediation offers and anti-terror cooperation.

Moreover,

~~After~~ the reshuffling of global and regional alignment after the US withdrawal regional powers found the gap and acted in no time to fill it, involving the new power centers and competing interests.

~~After the withdrawal~~

After Beijing, Kabul found its lost friend midway named New-Delhi - New Delhi acted in no time and extended their hand towards Kabul. India reopened its embassy and began humanitarian aid as well as infrastructural ~~is~~ worrying Pakistan of their reducing influence on the western neighbour.

Russia after the Soviet withdrawal and little to no linkage ~~is~~ reemerged right after the US exit and became the first ever country to formally recognizing the Afghan Taliban 2.0 regime.

Iran along with Russia maintain ties with the Taliban, forming a regional bloc and with the hand of New-Delhi trying to provide the trade gateway to the land locked-Afghanistan - through the Chabahar port, reducing the dependency of Kabul on Islamabad for trade routes. CARIS also trying to maintain the relation by connectivity (rail) through Afghan soil. → So, Pakistan that acted as a bridge between US and Taliban lost the role

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add more arguments in this part.....

Way Forward:

- Emphasize mutual security interest and regional stability.
- Management of border properly rather than using it to clash with each other use it for economical betterment.
- Build confidence through economic connectivity (PEE)
- Balanced the regional policy, trade routes and avoid overreliance on Kabul's good will.

x ——— x

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Way Forward:

- Emphasize mutual security interest and regional stability. discuss these in detail by giving subheadings.
- Management of border properly rather than using it to clash with each other use it for economical betterment.
- Build confidence through economic connectivity (CPEC)
- Balanced the regional policy, trade routes and avoid overreliance on Kabul's good will. add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments and be on 7-9 pages.

end the answer with conclusion.....

Q7: Climate change or Pak environmental hazard...?

Pakistan being consistently listed among the top 120 with its own flawed environmentally hazardous development model, rather than the global climate change weather patterns. Characterized by poor planning, weak regulation and little focus on sustainable growth, it is our

our own developmental model, ~~more~~ that magnified the vulnerability and pushing of our rank on top of vulnerable countries.

Pakistan development has historically prioritized the short term gain rather than its long term effects on environment, economic and sustainability. For instance, the recent floodings in the country caused more damage than the gain of our implemented policies related to economic or infrastructural. We are expanding our cities with no plans and keeping in mind the flood plains and drainages. Continuous deforestation for real estate, ~~housing~~ housing and timber gains when the world is making the efforts to expand their cities vertically, we are more focused on doing it horizontally. At the same time developed nations are making and conserving the natural forest with implying the limited policies while our policy makers are asleep. From construction on river beds and wetlands to industrialization without the waste treatment, these choices just don't act as pollutants rather make our country vulnerable to disasters like floods, smog and droughts.

~~environment~~

The recurring floods in the country within in such a short span is the testimony of our own flawed internal developmental policies. For instance, if we account the 2022 floods, the scale of damage came from our actions affecting the millions of people. And let's take the 2025 floods, the second in just two years, its damage is also due to our weak policies and planning - ~~ask~~ from the encroachment on river banks, the poor embankments to hold the water, and clogged polluted drainage channels of cities - aren't the climate changed indeed rather our own made.

According to the UN and World Bank report of post disaster ~~corrigence~~ (2022) that much of the loss was due to the planning failures not the rainfall alone, and these devastated effect would have been limited if we acted smartly and timely.

Taking the historical ~~perspective~~ perspective, ~~we~~ it seems like we are not interested in reshaping our developmental policy rather standing on a point of blaming the climate change pattern with keeping hand upon hand, letting the external factors to come in play. Other wise, the devastated flood of 2010 and ~~then~~ 2022 and the recent one in current year would have made us realize to make our own embankments rather than a ~~we~~ sided ship to get in water -

→ These developmental plan not just drowned us under the water but also raised other environmental challenges like smog; the choking air of Lahore recently touching the AQI of most polluted cities in the world due to emissions from industries, the half a brick kilns and then the crop burning.

→ Our forest cover is $< 5\%$ resulting in the erosion of land and soil, flash floods in hilly and mountainous areas, the loss of natural water barrier and sinks.

→ Moreover, the mismanagement of water is another import factor, we always thought of Pakistan as water scarce but I would say it's rather ~~was~~ water mismanagement.

Developed countries around the world use half of the water we use for the cultivation of same crops.

So, from floods extra water to water scarce, the whole problem is of our developmental policy absence and if present then weak implementation.

→ Strategies:

(A) Shift of policies to Climate Resilient Development.

→ We should integrate environmental risk into planning with EIAs (Enforced Environment Impact assessments) -

→ Stop Immediately the housing and industrial plans in the flood plans.

(B) Restore Natural Defense:

→ Large scale reforestation is required like the Billion Tree Tsunami

→ Restoration of mangroves

→ Ban of sand mining in beds of rivers.

(C) Urban and Industrial Regulation is required

→ moving to green buildings

→ Upgradation of brick kilns

→ Incentivize the renewable energy phase out coal.

(d) Strong and strengthen governance with implementation of existing and new policies.

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