

CURRENT Affairs AMMARA - BATCH 80

Part II

Q #2. Pak-Afghan Relations: Factors and Improvements

The bilateral relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has historically been characterized by phases of mutual cooperation interrupted with phases of tension and conflict. Despite efforts by at mediation, particularly by China, the relationship remains fraught with challenges. This is largely due to deeprooted historical, political, security, and socio-economic factors. Understanding these reasons is essential to propose realistic solutions.

Key Factors Contributing to Persistent tensions

1- Cross-Border Militancy and TTP Issues

A primary source of friction is Pakistan's accusation that Afghan Taliban provides sanctuary to Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The TTP has been responsible for major terrorist attacks in Pakistan, targeting civilians, security forces, and infrastructure. Pakistan's repeated requests for action against TTP hideouts in Afghanistan have often been (delayed) met with delays or denials by Taliban, leading to distrust.

Historical ties between the Afghan Taliban and TTP complicate enforcement, as the Taliban sees them as ideological allies.

2- Disputed Durand Line

The Durand Line, demarcated in 1893, forms the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has never officially recognized this boundary, creating

a persistent territorial dispute. This issue also affects the large Pashtun population on both sides, who often regard the border as artificial and divisive. Frequent border skirmishes, unauthorized crossings, and accusations of encroachment have intensified mistrust between the two states.

3. Historical Mistrust and Geopolitical Rivalries

Decades of conflict, including the Afghan wars in 1980s, Pakistan's involvement in Afghan politics, and mutual accusations of interference, have created a culture of mistrust. Afghanistan perceives Pakistan as seeking strategic depth in its politics, while Pakistan worries about Afghanistan's engagement with India.

This cycle of suspicion hampers any long-term cooperation.

4. Economic and Humanitarian Concerns

Trade disruptions, such as closure at key border points like Torkham and Chaman, have significant economic implications. These closures hinder trade and transit, affecting livelihoods in border regions and exacerbating humanitarian crisis.

Refugee management is another sensitive issue, with Pakistan hosting millions of Afghan refugees over decades, often under strained resources.

5-Regional Power Dynamics and external Influence

External involvements complicate bilateral ties. India's increasing engagement in Afghanistan, especially with the Taliban, is viewed by Pakistan as a strategic threat. Conversely, China's mediation, while welcomed, is sometimes perceived as favoring Pakistan. This involvement of multiple actors often reduces trust between

Islamabad and Kabul and slows conflict resolution.

Strategies for Improving Bilateral Relations

1- Joint Anti-Terrorism Mechanism

A coordinated Pakistan-Afghanistan task force should be established to share intelligence and conduct operations against militants. Clear protocols for cross border terrorism will build confidence.

2- Diplomatic Engagement and Confidence Building

Regular high-level dialogues, joint committees, and cultural exchanges can reduce suspicion between the two countries.

Initiatives such as cross-border education, media collaboration, and people-to-people programs strengthen mutual trust.

3- Resolution to the Durand Line Dispute

Structured negotiations should be entered with potential third-party mediation. Respect for Pashtun population on both sides should form the basis of an agreement.

4- Strengthening Economic and Trade Cooperation

Transit and trade agreements, such as the APITA, should be revived and expanded.

Joint infrastructure projects, such as energy pipelines, railways, and trade corridors, would create mutual incentives for peace.

5- Engagement with Regional and International Stakeholders

Regional organizations such as SCO and SAARC, as well as UN, can provide neutral mediation, monitoring, and technical support. External involvement should aim to facilitate dialogue

Too short

rather than favor one side.

Add facts
Go for charts and graphs

Q# 3

Formation of new Provinces is a recurring Discourse in Pakistan

The debate over the creation of new provinces in Pakistan has persisted since independence. It is driven by demands for better governance, administrative efficiency, and representation of diverse ethnic and linguistic identities.

Proposals such as Sindhistan in Southern Punjab, Hazara province in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and others highlight the ongoing tensions between centralization and regional autonomy. While the idea may promise development and political empowerment, it faces significant legal, political, and socio-economic hurdles.

Hurdles

I- Constitutional Constraints

Article-239 of the constitution requires a two-thirds majority in both national assembly and provincial assembly to amend provincial boundaries, a politically cumbersome process.

II-

II- Political Resistance

Existing provincial elites fear loss of power and resources; parties often oppose new provinces due to potential shifts in electoral dynamics.

III- Ethnic and Sectarian Tensions

New provinces may exacerbate ethnic polarization; inter-provincial disputes over land, water, and resources could intensify.

IV- Economic Viability

many proposed provinces lack

Sufficient revenue bases, infrastructure, and administrative capacity. This risks economic inefficiency.

V- Security Concerns

Fragile border regions and areas with insurgent activity may be difficult to govern, increasing security risks.

Critical Evaluation: While the formation of new provinces can enhance local governance, ensure political representation, and address regional grievances, it can also trigger inter-ethnic conflicts, economic disparities, and political instability. The recurring discourse reflects a structural tension in Pakistan: centralized authority versus regional authority. Without careful planning, such changes could worsen existing administrative and socio-political challenges.

Recommendations

I- Constitutional and legal clarity

- Establish clear procedures for provincial creation including criteria for population, area, economic viability, and local support.

II- Stakeholder Consultation

- Conduct extensive dialogues with local communities, political parties, and civil society to build consensus and reduce resistance.

III- Economic Planning

- Prepare detailed financial and administrative plans to ensure new provinces are sustainable and can manage resources independently.

Avoid bullets

IV- Gradual Implementation

- Consider initially granting enhance autonomy or

administrative zones before full provincial status, to test governance models.

V- Conflict Management Mechanisms

- Develop inter-provincial councils for resource sharing, dispute resolution, and coordination to prevent tensions.

Conclusion:

The creation of new provinces in Pakistan is important for better representation and governance, but it is also highly sensitive and complex. It must be guided by strong legal planning, economic preparedness, and national unity. If handled gradually, with broad consensus, the move can reduce long-standing regional grievances and strengthen the federation instead of dividing it.

Q# 5

Trump's withdrawal from Paris Climate Agreement

The United States is the world's second-largest current emitter and ^{the} single largest historical contributor to greenhouse gases.

Its role in global climate politics has always been pivotal. Therefore, Trump's renewed withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement signals not just a policy reversal but a serious disruption to collective global climate efforts. This development raises grave concerns about the credibility, pace, and equity of future international climate action.

Implications of US Withdrawal

**1- Global Diplomacy and
Leadership Vacuum**

The US has traditionally served as the diplomatic anchor in environmental negotiations. Its exit creates a leadership vacuum at the global stage, weakening political momentum and coordination.

Climate skeptic government such as Brazil and Australia may now be emboldened to dilute their commitments. While China and European Union may attempt to fill this gap, the Paris spirit of collective, unifying action risks shifting toward a fragmented, competitive climate bloc order.

2- Climate Finance and Support to Developing Countries

The U.S. was one of the largest contributors to the Green Climate Fund, which finances climate resilience and energy transition in vulnerable countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, and

African countries. Its withdrawal leaves billions of dollars in committed but unpaid funds. This severely threatens adaptation efforts in Global South, widening the climate injustice gap. For many poor nations, the absence of American financial support could delay or even halt crucial mitigation projects.

3. Technological and Innovation Slowdown

The U.S. has long been a technological powerhouse in renewable, electric vehicles, AI-driven climate modelling, and carbon capture. Its withdrawal weakens international collaboration in these domains. Without American leadership in research, patents, and innovation diffusion, the global transition to clean energy may slow significantly.

4. Global Emission Trajectory and Moral Consequences

The Paris Agreement rests on moral as well as legal cooperation. Without the U.S., many countries may adopt a "free-rider" attitude, questioning why they should bear economic sacrifices while a global superhouse openly burns fossil fuels. This could weaken ambition levels, delay emission peaks, and make the 1.5°C target practically unattainable. In short, the psychology of climate cooperation faces a serious blow.

Emerging Silver Lining— But Limited

Despite the federal withdrawal, resistance persists within the U.S. itself. The "We Are Still In" coalition, which includes states like California and major corporations like Apple and Tesla, continues to uphold Paris principles voluntarily.

Too short

Substantially low

Meanwhile, China and EU are emerging as alternative climate leaders, with ambitious carbon neutrality goals. Furthermore, private capital, ESG investments, and climate litigation are increasingly replacing state-centric leadership.

Conclusion:

Trump's exit weakens not just Paris Framework, but the psychology of global climate response and cooperation. Climate action may survive, even evolve, but without U.S. leadership it becomes slower, fragmented and more unequal.

The baton is now China, EU, private capital, and civil society but the absence of the world's most powerful state makes the road to 1.5°C far steeper and politically fragile.

Q No 8

Pak-Saudi Defense Pact

The recent defense pact signed on September 17, 2025, between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia marks a major development in Middle Eastern and South Asian politics. While both states have shared long-standing strategic relations, this new agreement formalizes and deepens military cooperation at a critical time of shifting regional global power dynamics. It reflects evolving security needs, economic interests, and geopolitical alignments in a rapidly changing global order.

Causes Behind the Defense Pact

1- Growing Middle East

Tensions

with rising tensions in the middle East, especially involving Iran, Israel, and proxy conflicts in Yemen, Saudi Arabia seeks reliable defense partners. Israel has recently attacked Qatar due to its vocal support for Hamas and its role as a mediator in the Gaza conflict. This raised fear in Gulf states including Saudi Arabia. Pakistan with one of the world's strongest armies and nuclear deterrence, emerges as a natural ally.

2- Economic and Mutual Dependency

Saudi Arabia is Pakistan's top energy supplier and major investor, while Pakistan relies heavily on Saudi financial support. This partnership locks their cooperation into a long term strategic framework.

Instructions to get good marks in current affairs paper

4- Counter-Terrorism and Internal stability

Important Note:

Marks would be given on the following parameters

a- Content 60% References 15% Subject specific language 15% Graphs and charts 10%

Add 12-13 headings in each question and write 8-9 sides to get above 15 in each question

Implications of the Deal

the questions carry 3_4 parts... each part has equal weightage so discuss all equally

Strengthened defense cooperation

Give examples from present events to justify answers
⇒ Joint training, intelligence sharing, defense production

Economic relief for Pakistan

Give attractive introduction and Conclusion as well

⇒ military jobs, investments, and oil security

always give headings from the question statement. Take words from the statement

Regional balance concerns

⇒ Iran and India may see this as a

link each of the argument to the asked part in the question. if you fail to do so, no matter how accurate content is, if your heading is not align with what is asked in the question, it won't be accurate

Risk of misalignment

⇒ Pakistan must avoid getting pulled into Saudi-Iran or Arab-Israel conflicts.

Good Luck