

Question #1:

What are the constitutional provisions of the foreign policy of Pakistan? Explain the salient features, gains and losses of the foreign policy of Pakistan in 21st century.

I. Introduction:

Foreign policy is the set of goals, strategies, and actions that a state or non-state actors use for interacting with other nations and international bodies, aiming to protect its national goals. Pakistan's foreign policy is not only guided by changing conditions but also by the principles laid down in the constitution of 1973. These constitutional provisions provide guidelines on sovereignty, peace and relations with other states while keeping Islamic solidarity. In the 21st century, Pakistan's foreign policy has been shaped by regional conflicts, security challenges, and shift in global world order; particularly after the U.S. war on terror. The question

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will examine the constitutional foundations of Pakistan's foreign policy ^{along} with analyzing its change in features in the contemporary era, gain and losses arising from its policy choices.

II. Constitutional Provisions of the Foreign Policy of Pakistan:

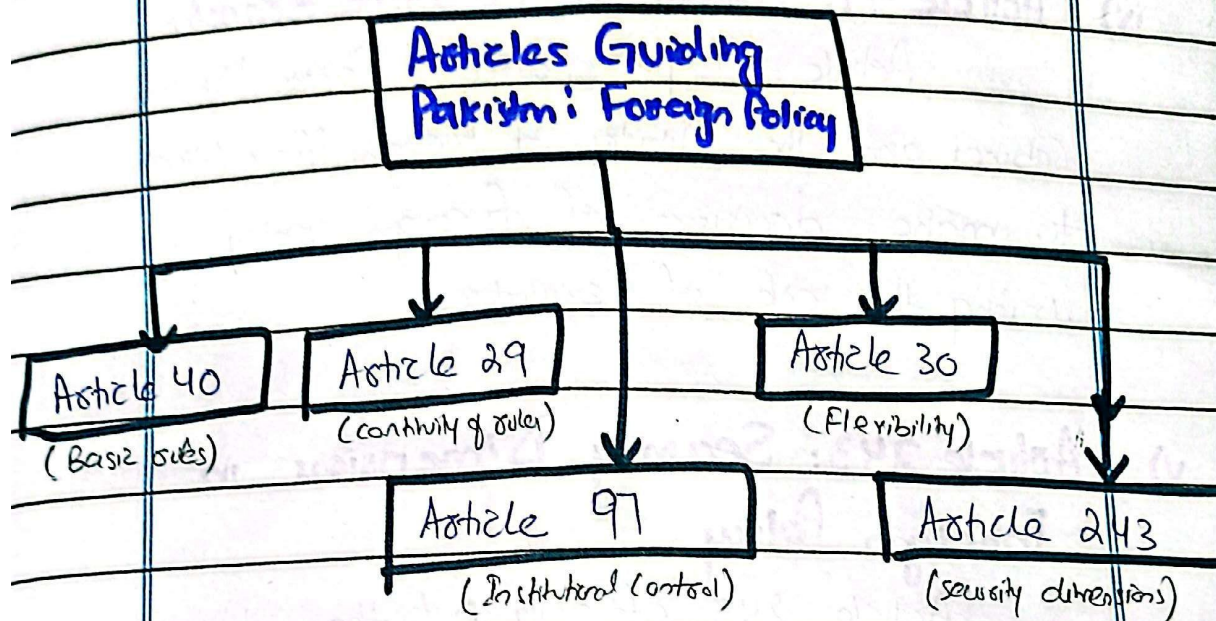
The principles of the foreign policy of Pakistan are taken from the Constitution of 1973. However, in other countries the foreign policy is mostly controlled the government in power. The following articles of the constitution provide guidelines for making decisions either diplomatic or aggressive.

i) Article 40 : The Guiding Principles

Article 40 defines the rules for how Pakistan should act in the world. The article makes duty for state to promote peace and security in the world, maintain friendly ties ^{with muslim countries} and respect the independence of other countries. That's why Pakistan speak up for the **Palestinians** and

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Kashmir at the platforms like UN (United Nations)
OIC (Organization of Islamic Countries).



ii) Article 29: Unchangeable Sacred Cores of Foreign Policy

Article 29 establishes the cores - Islamic solidarity, absolute sovereignty, and security-first posture to India - as permanent state duties that every govt must continue regardless of any political change.

iii) Article 30: Tacticle Flexibility in Foreign Policy

Article 30 allows tacticle changes such as letting government pivot alliances, adjust diplomatic methods, and respond to geopolitical shift to achieve

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the goals set in Article 29.

iv) Article 97: Powers of Executive Branch

Article 97 gives powers to Prime Minister, Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOF) to make decisions of foreign policy limiting the role of Legislature.

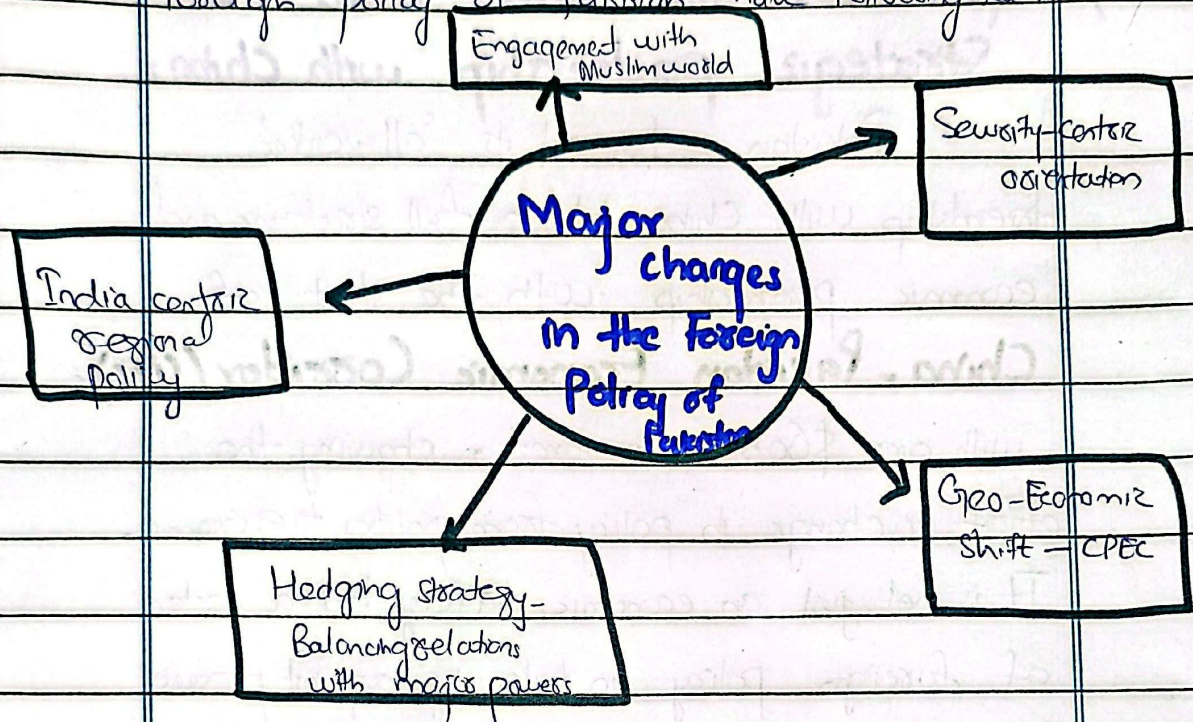
v) Article 243: Security Dimensions in Foreign Policy

Article 243 officially puts the military under the control of civilian government. However, due to 'security-first' challenge Pakistan's military still has a lot of say in the foreign policy of Pakistan. This influence is clear in relations with India, Afghanistan, and the US where the choices are made by the military's views. So, in the current situation both civilians and military work together in making foreign policy of Pakistan.

III. Salient Features of Pakistan's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century:

The foreign policy of Pakistan

faced a major change especially after the 9/11 attacks. The major changes in the foreign policy of Pakistan have following factors.



i) Security Centeric Orientation After 9/11 War on Terror:

Pakistan's choice to join the U.S led war on terror as a frontline state compelled Pakistan to total focus on the security of its country towards fighting terrorism. The decision's short term benefit included ^{cheap} foreign aid but in the long-run it caused internal violence, economic loss and international criticism. From then, Pakistan focused on its

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security - first foreign policy

ii) Geo-Economic Shift with the Strategic partnership with China:

Pakistan turned its 'all-weather' friendship with China into a full strategic and economic partnership with the start of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with over \$60 billion investment, showing the effect or change in policy from politics to economic. It is not just an economic safety but a center of foreign policy in balancing against pressure from other countries such as India and U.S.

iii) Hedging Strategy of Balancing Relations with Major World Powers:

Pakistan kept ^{China as} its main strategic partner while also dealing with U.S for financial help, military aid and diplomatic influence. At the same time, it broadened ties with Russia while keeping trade with European Union with GIPS+ status. This diplomatic foreign policy shows Pakistan's attempts to move in the

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World of multipolar-power-

iv) India Centric Regional Foreign Policy:

Pakistan's foreign policy in its region is mostly focus on India, with the Kashmir dispute as main issue. India's removal of Article 370 in August 2019 and recent Pothohar attack shows the limits of Pakistan's diplomatic and moral influence. SAARC (South-Asian Association of Regional Conference) has also stopped working because of regional rivalry, limiting Pakistan's economic and diplomatic choices in South Asia.

v) Engagement with Muslim World and Soft Power Usage:

Pakistan remained active in the muslim world through OIC - It puts itself forward as a defender of muslim issues like ⁱⁿ Islamophobia, Genocide in Gaza and Kashmir. The activity indicates its soft power usage to maintain diplomatic ties, alongside addressing the issue.

III. Gains of Pakistan's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century:

Due to certain changes in the foreign policy of Pakistan, it has earned following gains-

Gains of
Pakistan's
Foreign
Policy

Exit from FATF Grey List

Afghan Peace Process

Partnership with China and CPEC

Saudi-Pakistan Strategic
Mutual Defense Agreement

The May 2025 War with India

Pragmatic Reset with U.S

i) Exit from FATF's Grey List:

Pakistan's removal from Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list in 2022 was a result of diplomatic work and changes in local laws. It results in more international efforts and

financial stability in Pakistan-

ii) The Afghan Peace Process and Pakistan's role:

Pakistan's helpful role in the Afghan Peace Process, especially during the Doha talks between the U.S and Taliban showed their importance for regional security.

iii) Partnership with China through CPEC:

Pakistan's choice to maintain balance with US- and China shows its diplomatic efforts. Also, the partnership with China and CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) has given real economic benefits in infrastructure and energy, creating a future economic-focused strategy.

iv) The Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (2024)

Pakistan's recent SMDA 2025 agreement creates a deep, official military and security partnership improving Pakistan's

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defensive position and strategic security in the Middle East and South-Asia.

v) The May 2025 War with India and Pakistan's Deterrence policy,

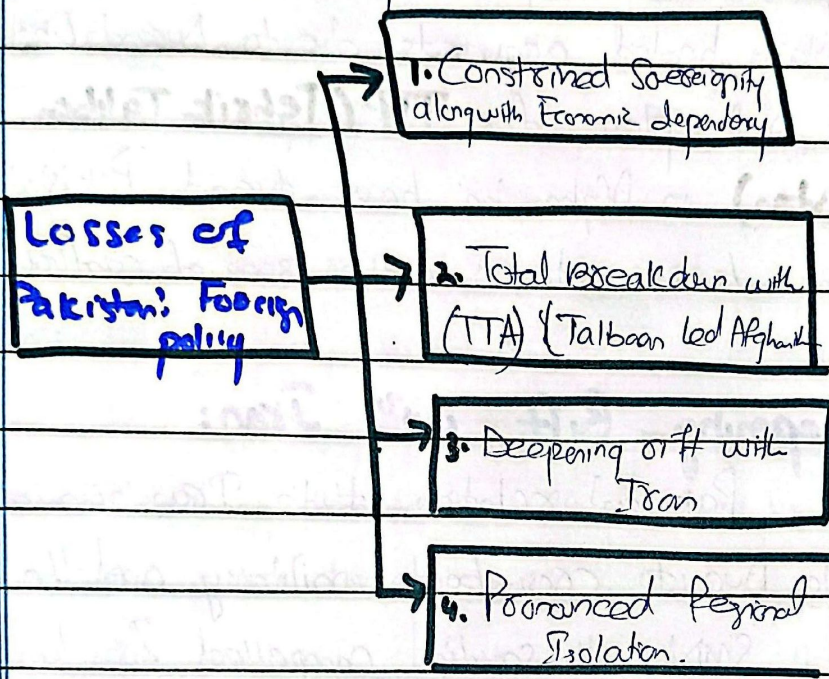
Pakistan's military performance in May 2025 war with India using conventional forces, protecting its land stronghold the credibility of Pakistan's armed forces as a deterrent against regional aggression.

vi) Pragmatic Reset with US Post-Tariff War:

US recently underwent a pragmatic reset in the tariff imposed on Pakistan - Trump gave some relief on the tariff on Pakistan i.e. a total of 29% tariff was imposed on Pakistan for crucial economic relief and restoring more diplomatic relations with US.

IV- Losses of Pakistan's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century:

The gains came with a big price, with major losses.



i) Constrained Sovereignty along with Economic Dependency:

Pakistan's cheaply participation in the war-on-terror and 2008 ^{global} Economic crisis has resulted in a dependent foreign policy often shaped by financial institutions like **IMF**. The constant diplomatic pressure by securing loans, hush the independent decision-making power of Pakistan.

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ii) Total Breakdown with TTA:

After the US- withdraw from the land of Afghanistan in 2020, the Taliban led Afghanistan have gotten much worse relations. Constant heated arguments due to Durand line and safe place for **TTP (Tehrik Taliban Pakistan)** in Afghanistan have turned Pakistan's western border into an active zone of conflict.

iii) Deepening Rift with Iran:

Pakistan's relations with Iran remains hostile. Due to cross-border militancy and the recent SMDA with Saudi Arabia compelled Iran to make ties with Afghanistan. It has resulted in mutual suspicion and at times led to military actions.

iv) Prolonged Regional Isolation:

Pakistan's bad relations with all the immediate neighbors — India, Afghanistan and Iran — have limited Pakistan's role as a potential peacemaker and put it in an isolation. This isolation limited its diplomatic power.

V. Conclusion:

Pakistan's foreign policy in the 21st century reflects a difficult balance between constitutional ideals and practical realities. Although the constitution promotes peace, sovereignty and Islamic solidarity, foreign policy has been shaped by security concerns - first because of war on Terror and then due to regional conflicts. This foreign policy did bring gains - Pakistan's exit from FATF grey list, progress under CAPEC, new defense agreement, and improved relations with US - along with losses - economic instability and regional isolation. Pakistan's key sustainable future requires ^{shift} from security-driven, reactive approach to a foreign policy anchored in strong institutions, economic diplomacy, and regional connectivity.

Question # 02:

What are the main non-traditional Security threats faced by Pakistan? How these threats are different in grounds and diverse in nature to address. Explain

Introduction:

The contemporary security paradigm has undergone a fundamental shift since the end of cold war. Earlier, Pakistan faced only traditional military threats from the state actor; However, in the contemporary era the more immediate and pervasive challenge stem from non-traditional Security (NTs) threats. These threats are distinct from the traditional warfare, emerge from economic, environmental, social, and ideological domains, directly threatening the human security. The question explains the nature of these threats and the diversity required to address them.

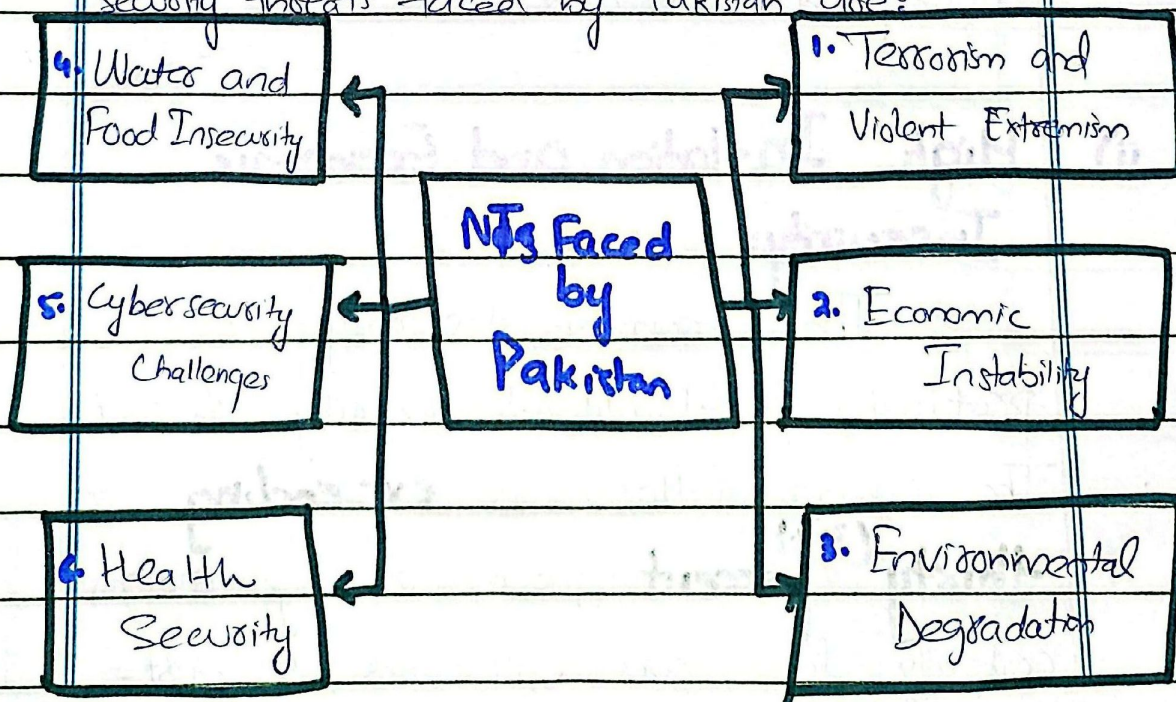
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II. Understanding how Non-Traditional Security^(NTS) Threats Originate:

Non-traditional Security threats do not originate from interstate military conflict but they threaten the stability, sovereignty and welfare of the state and people - ^{As per} **UNDP's 1994 Human Development Report**, the NTS shifts focus from state centric 'hard security' to protecting citizens from hunger, disease, and environmental degradation.

III. Primary Non-Traditional Security Threats Faced by Pakistan:

The main non-traditional security threats faced by Pakistan are:



i) Terrorism and Violent Extremism:

Recent surge of terrorism in Pakistan is not because of traditional security threat rather a national security threat due to its asymmetric, non-state and ideologically driven nature. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), and sectarian militants groups are result of internal governance gaps, socio-economic deprivation and create anxiety among masses. Such attack especially after Taliban Government in Afghanistan indicate that internal political and ideological grounds generate security crisis that cannot be resolved by military operations alone.

ii) High Inflation and Economic Insecurity:

The economic insecurity is a profound non-traditional security threat. The current inflation is exceeding **thirty (30%) percent** foreign exchange reserves critically low and unsustainable public debt.

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Economic instability ultimately cause social distress. Since, **forty percent (40%)** of Pakistan's population lives below the poverty line. The threat originates from ~~poor~~ the structural weaknesses - poor tax collection, untargeted subsidies, and agriculture stagnation.

iii) Environmental Degradation and Climate Vulnerability:

Pakistan ranks among the world's top ten climate-vulnerable countries. The **2022 Catastrophic floods** along with **Recent 2025 floods** which affected 33 million+ people served as a stark warning to the country. Moreover, intense heatwaves, glaciers melting, desertification and air pollution add salt to the injury. These threats are result of mismanagement of environmental system creating security challenges that is. Recent smog in Lahore, transcending national borders and defense perimeters.

iv) Water and Food Insecurity:

Pakistan is at the risk of absolute water scarcity which is threatening its agricultural base & food production.

The crisis stems from multiple reasons, climate change reducing river flows, increase in the demand of food and water due to overpopulation, inefficient practices of irrigation leading to wastage of water, and inter-provincial disputes e.g. between Punjab and Sindh. It results in food insecurity leading to social unrest, making a slow-burn security crisis of huge proportion.

v) Fragile Health System:

Pakistan's health infrastructure is already fragile and exposed with the **COVID-19** pandemic. Moreover, Pakistan being ~~one~~ ^{the} country where Polio is persistent. Moreover, water-borne diseases and maternal deaths, all indicate chronic institutional weaknesses. These challenges require international cooperation, and impact

economy of Pakistan - dimensions which are far removed from traditional security considerations.

vi) Cyber Security Challenges:

As Pakistan is trying efforts to become a digitalized country (starting from its Capital), the disinformation propaganda and state-sponsored cyber espionage destabilize social harmony creating a vacuum between the public and state institutions. The threat originates in the technological domain and includes hybrid warfare strategies that traditional border defense cannot intercept.

IV. How the Non-Traditional Security (NTS) threats are have Differential Grands:

The non-traditional security (NTS) threats' origin are different in grand i.e. they can not be addressed uniformly because of they are originated from varied reasons.

Threats and their primary Ground of origin

1. **Terrorism and Violent Extremism**
 - Ideological Radicalization
 - Political Grievances
 - Poor Governance
2. **High Inflation and Economic Insecurity**
 - Structural Economic Weakness
 - Fiscal Mismanagement
3. **Environmental Degradation and Climate Vulnerability**
 - Global Environmental System
 - Local Ecological Mismanagement
4. **Water and Food Insecurity**
 - Demographic Pressure
 - Resource Mismanagement
5. **Fragile Health System**
 - Biological Factors
 - Weak Institutional Health Capacity
6. **Cybersecurity Issues**
 - Technological Interdependence
 - Hybrid warfare tactics

Difference in the origin leads to ^{different} impact on different spheres of the state. As they originate from different means:

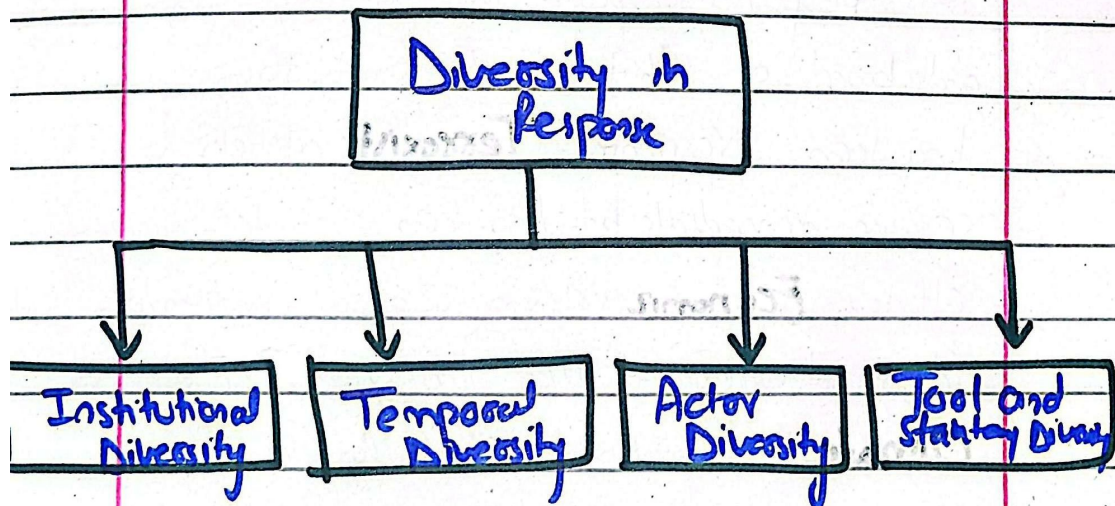
- * Economic threats erode state legitimacy gradually.
- * Environmental threats cause catastrophic but ^{sudden} disasters.
- * Cyber Threats operate in invisible space.

* Health threats spread biologically through population.

* Terrorist threats network's funding sources differ fundamentally from the prediction of mass media pattern.

V How the Non-Traditional Security Threats have diversity in Nature to Address:

Since the nature of NTs is diverse, so is the response strategy, fundamentally different from the traditional military approaches.



i) Institutional Diversity to address NTs:

Each threat, based on its origin,

requires different institutions to address. As, **terrorism** demands collective efforts from from intelligence agencies (ISI), law enforcement and deradicalization programs; **economic crisis** require technocratic management by Finance Ministry; **Climate change** require coordination of environmental agencies and diplomatic efforts and so is other department. The military role can be played as supportive in some cases, but it cannot be primary responder.

ii) Temporal Diversity based on different Timelines:

Responses operate in different region and based on that need short to long-term response. **Terrorist** attacks require immediate but long-term counter-radicalization efforts; **Economic** reform require medium-term adjustment programs like loan from IMF; **Climate** adaptation requires long-term strategies; **Water** need generation planning and **health** is a continuous process.

iii) Actor Diversity - Role of Stakeholders:

Addressing NTS requires the involvement of multiple stakeholders beyond the involvement of Federal Government. Provincial Governments lead on health, agriculture, and water management under the 18th amendment; civil society and private sectors investment also required; funding from International Partners (UN, World Bank and WHO) also required. This diversity requires ^{effort} far from traditional one.

iv) Diversity in Tools and Strategies:

The instruments of response also vary. Since, Economic threats require fiscal tools, monetary policy and trade strategies. Climate threats require engineering solutions, diplomatic efforts and behavioral changes. And so is the demand of other ^{non-traditional} security threats.

VI. Conclusion:

Pakistan faces a complex security landscape where non-traditional threats pose

challenge as significant as traditional military threats. Their diverse origins in ideological, structural, ecological, biological and environmental grounds require equally diverse responses. Pakistan must institutionalize a human security approach that complements military readiness with economic resilience, environmental sustainability, social cohesion, and technological sovereignty. This paradigm shift represents the central security imperative of the 21st century Pakistan.