

## QUESTION NO. 2

### Introduction:-

Pakistan and Afghanistan are neighbouring countries. These nations are facing terrorism and deterioration in relations after establishment of Taliban government since 2021. There are multiple aspects and dimensions contributing in the escalation of tensions between them.

Afghanistan's current government is supported by India and <sup>India</sup> facilitates cross-border terrorism increasing national security challenges for Pakistan. However, by track 1 and track 2 diplomacy, together with soft operations with Afghanistan and within Pakistan respectively, the issue can move towards resolution.

### Revival of Terrorism in Pakistan: Amid Taliban Government:-

After revival of Taliban government in Afghanistan, 12000 prisoners were released. Among those prisoners were

5000 Taliban who were Pakistani nationals.  
The negotiations between Pakistan and Afghanistan started related to the return of these Taliban.

### Negotiation Terms of Pakistan:-

Pakistan demanded two things during the negotiations related to Taliban return. The demands included return of Taliban without weapons or drop the weapons and return. The second demand included to not challenge the writ of state. However, there were few shortcomings in the negotiation terms of Pakistan.

### Negotiation Terms of Taliban:-

The Taliban returning to Pakistan demanded unnegotiable terms. They wanted Pakistan to reverse the FATA merger Bill, implement Malakand Shariat Bill and administrative areas like Malakand division, merged districts to revive. These terms were non-negotiable for government of Pakistan.

Due to the <sup>non-</sup>negotiated terms and already return of Taliban, terrorism through TTP and other groups was revived.

### Failure of Peace Process: Non-Negotiable Terms of Taliban:-

The negotiations between Pakistan and Taliban begin in 2021 till 2023. The terms were not accepted by Pakistan and Taliban return led to terrorism in Pakistan.

### Short-comings in Negotiation Terms:-

The negotiation terms put forward by Pakistan had shortcomings which <sup>partially</sup> led to the failure in peace process.

The terms added disarmament of Taliban before return to Pakistan. In fact, weapons were already present in Pakistan. This led to weaponization of Taliban and TTP.

Moreover, the influx of weapons continued from Afghanistan. The main reason for this was no formal borders of Afghanistan

and Pakistan. The peace which was meant to be made through negotiations failed.

Pakistan's government should have completed the negotiation terms with Taliban and upon implementation of the terms allowed the return of Taliban in Pakistan.

### Indian Nexus with Taliban :-

The return of Taliban in Pakistan created unrest and insurgency in various regions. During the process Indian intelligence company RAW has facilitated Taliban. This was facilitated through data sharing, intelligence and logic sharing. Taliban in Pakistan have grown as advanced and tech driven terrorist organization with the help of India. The capture of Indian RAW agent Kulbhushan Jadhav upon capture confessed the facilitations given by RAW to terrorist organizations in Pakistan. This reflects the connection between India and Taliban.

## Challenges in Refugee Repatriation:-

Pakistan has been a home to over 2 million <sup>Afghan</sup> refugees. During the negotiation between government of Pakistan and Afghan government, return of Afghan refugees was agreed. As Pakistan was already facing economic setbacks, security issues, return of Afghan refugees was implemented immediately. This resulted in other hurdles for Pakistan. Although, the return was of unregistered refugees residing in Pakistan. Afghan government could not welcome the people of Afghan due to economic constraints.

## Way Forward for Resolution :-

Pakistan and Afghanistan, however, can take steps together for resolution of these issues. Following are few possible policy frameworks for Pakistan :-

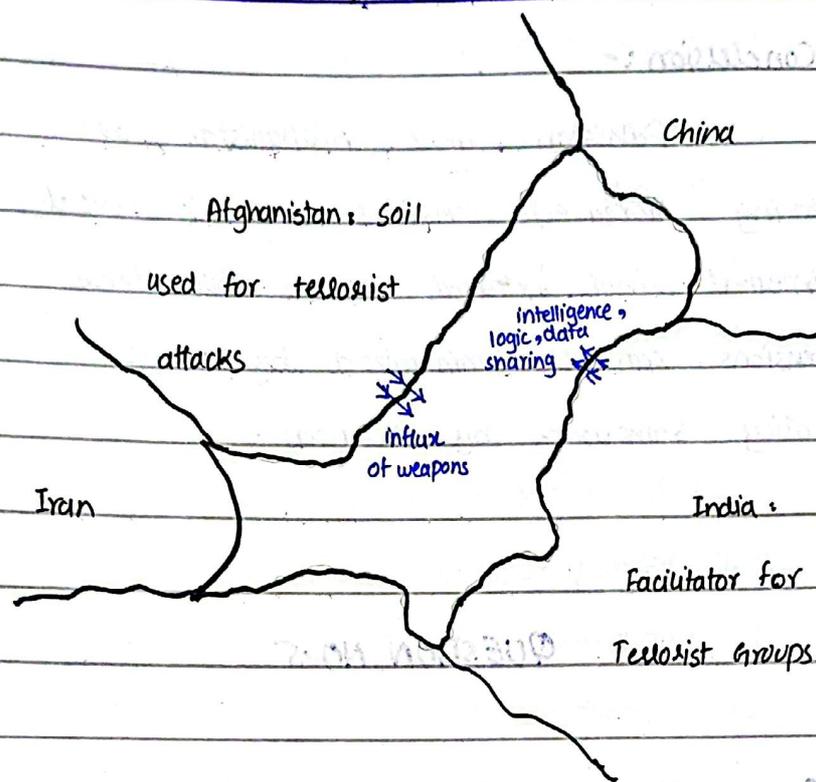
### 1) Trained Police Officials : Counter-Terrorism :-

Pakistan can focus and allocate

Increased resources for training of police department officials. In the areas where terrorism is more, there is policing vacuum. This vacuum led to unprecedented terrorism and weaponization in areas. Pakistan can allocate resources for improving the hurdles in providing infrastructure development, counter-terrorism departments, armed police officers can improve the law and order position of these areas.

## 2) Afghanistan and Pakistan Open Borders:-

Pakistan and Afghanistan borders are generally hilly areas. This is used by terrorist groups for continued influx of weapons and Afghan soil are launching pad for terrorist attacks. By making formal borders between these two countries, the terrorism can be controlled and deweaponization is possible in Pakistan.



### 3) Soft Operations : Change in Narrative:-

Pakistan can promote soft operations and engage in negotiations with groups who are not involved in serious crimes. They can promote education in these areas, provide financial help through jobs. The members of these organizations can be given rehabilitation treatments. Pakistan can derationalize the narrative of extremist and terrorist groups escalating tensions. Moreover, by development in these areas, peace can be achieved.

### Conclusion :-

Pakistan and Afghanistan are facing increased tensions due to several internal and external reasons. But, these tensions can be minimized by proper policy frameworks by Pakistan.

### QUESTION NO.5

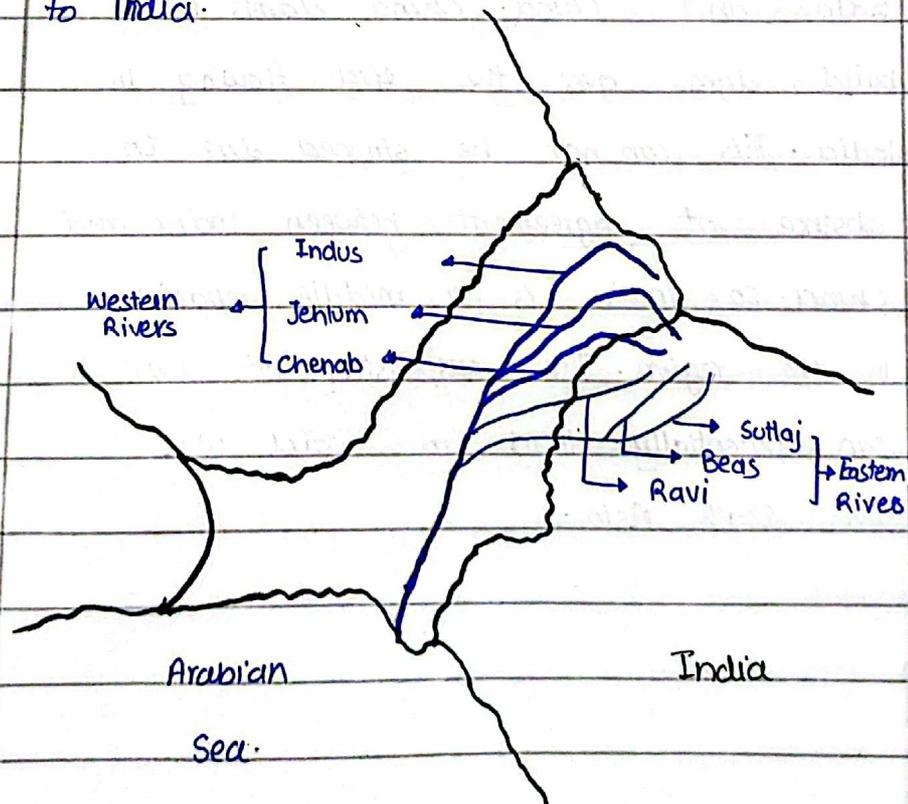
#### Introduction :-

Pakistan and India were tied in bilateral water treaty. However, upon unilateral suspension of Indus Water Treaty, the dynamics of hydro politics are changed. This has led to water insecurity in Pakistan and long-term food insecurity. Still, by taking multiple steps, Pakistan can mitigate the risk associated with the suspension of Indus Water Treaty.

This implementation of policies would lead to development and security in multiple areas.

## Indus Water Treaty : Unilateral Abrogation:-

Indus water treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in 1980's for fair distribution and flow of natural rivers. The agreement is bilateral and any changes in the terms requires formation of another agreement. However, in 2025 India unilaterally suspended and the abrogated the treaty, challenging the terms of treaty and international law. Western rivers, according to the treaty, belong to Pakistan and Eastern rivers belong to India.



The water flow during the treaty was manipulated by India depending on weathers, which led to water scarcity before the suspension of treaty in Pakistan.

### Implications of Treaty Suspension in Region:-

Due to the suspension of Indus water treaty, water war is possible in the region. As Pakistan is lower riparian with respect to India, but India is lower riparian with respect to China. This has led to tensions between India and China. China claims to build dam over the river flowing in India. This can not be stopped due to absence of agreement between India and China. So, India is a middle riparian in the region. The suspension of IWT can potentially lead to water war in South Asia.

## Challenges to Water Security in Pakistan:-

Pakistan being the lower riparian with respect to India is facing water scarcity. The water flow and IWT is used against Pakistan. Following are the implications:-

### ⇒ Manipulated Water Flow in Pakistan:-

India has strategically manipulated water flow in Pakistan. Pakistan is an agricultural country. The months of November - April are irrigation months for Pakistan. In these months the rainfall decreases, leading to water scarcity and crops declined condition. India, on the other hand, release the water when the rainfall is increased and extra water flow can lead to floods. In 2025, India opened the gates of spill ways to Pakistan, leading to <sup>floods and</sup> loss to agriculture, livestock, infrastructure. This has led to flooding and droughts in Pakistan causing water scarcity and loss of resources.

Due to this, Pakistan is facing water scarcity in different regions of all provinces. Ultimately, this has led to economic loss of Pakistan.

### Measures to Increase Water Security in Pakistan :-

Pakistan can take different steps to increase water security and protect national interest. Few are given below:-

#### 1) Construction of Water Storage:-

Pakistan can build dams for water storage. The projects under CPEC can store approximately 200 MAF of water in dams. Construction of canals like GTC, CRBC II, Thal canal, Rainy canal and Cholistan canal can together have 10 MAF storage. Maintenance of these dams to increase water storage will lead to water security in Pakistan.

## 2) Planned Urbanization :-

Planned urbanization can reduce the risk of urban floods. The drainage system of Pakistan can be improved and government can announce ban on urbanization on river beds. As the land does not belong to anyone but nature.

## 3) Change in Agriculture Methods:-

Pakistan can change the agriculture methods. They can use crops that need less water resources to increase efficiency. Moreover, drip irrigation system can be used in Cholistan as under bed water through Ravi and Chenab is enough for the process. Use of technology in agriculture can improve the water security and economic condition of Pakistan.

## Conclusion:-

Pakistan is agricultural country facing water scarcity due to abrogation

of Indus Water Treaty. It has diverse affects on Pakistan's national interest. However, the risk can be mitigated through different measures taken to protect the interest.

## QUESTION NO. 6

### Introduction:-

After cold war, world has moved towards proliferation and deterrence. Leading economies have introduced weapons to states. The trend increased due to trust deficit among the nations. The most efficient and influential method is surveillance through air by drones and strong air force systems. Big data has led to cyber crimes and simultaneously increased the need of cyber security around the world. South Asia is one of the most important location. Three nuclear states are neighbours and the tensions between India and Pakistan, amid May, 2019 conflict have increased.

## Cyber and Drones in Contemporary

### Battlefronts:-

The on-going tensions between Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine have proved the new sources of war surveillance and attacks.

#### 1) Russia- Ukraine :-

During the war between Russia and Ukraine, Russia has used drones and cyber to attack Ukraine. These are efficient as surveillance through air is easier. Moreover, technology has advanced and control of these drones was done using cyber.

#### 2) Israel - Palestine :-

In the genocide of Palestinians since Oct, 2023, Israel has used drones imported by America. The drones were of two kinds: One were used for surveillance of Palestinians. Others were used to attack the citizens of Palestine.

### 3) India - Pakistan :-

During the four day conflict in May, 2025 between India and Pakistan, India used drones for surveillance. In some areas drones were sent to attack. On other hand, Pakistan retaliated by using air force system together with cyber. Pakistan dominated the conflict by efficient use of drones, air force and cyber technology resulting in 6 : Nil.

### Deterrent Stability of South Asia :-

South Asia is geo-politically an important region. This is because of three nuclear states in this region: Pakistan, China and India. The region has invested in nuclearisation and defense system. China is strategic partner of Pakistan, supplying and manufacturing weapons in Pakistan.

### Pakistan - China Strategic Alliance :-

China has supplied various weapons to Pakistan. Due to the regional

hegemony in some dimensions of India and long-standing rivalry between Pakistan and India; China has strategically helped Pakistan.

China has exported warships, drones, JH Thunder, submarines and more weapons to Pakistan. 6% of exports is of defense

system from China and Pakistan imports

70% of the total exports of defense from

China. The technology of China was tested

on ground from May 2-5, 2025

during Pak-India Conflict. China is

not only exporting the warships to Pakistan,

but they are manufacturing warships in

Karachi. This shows deterrent stability in

the region.

**Pakistan - Bangladesh :-**

In 2026, Bangladesh has agreed on purchasing F-15 : air force planes,

from Pakistan. This shows that south

Asian region is building the defense

capacity amid the geo-political tensions

in Middle East and North America.

### Conclusion:-

Pakistan is a nuclear state in South Asia. The region consists three nuclear states with deterrent stability. The war tactics of modern day are shifted from land to air by introducing drones and cyber.

### QUESTION NO.7

### Introduction:-

Pakistan is currently facing multidimensional threats in context of political instability. Frequent government changes, institutional changes, economic fragility, and internal security challenges have created a state of multidimensional threats. This has weakened governance system, investor trust, national integration of various regions. However, this can be improved by improving civil-military relations, economic stability and policy continuation in Pakistan.

## Political Instability in Pakistan:-

Political instability in Pakistan is characterized by weak civil-military relations. The polarized political culture has created a political divide within Pakistan. Moreover, weak local governments have led to inefficiency in regions. The most instable is discontinued provinces.

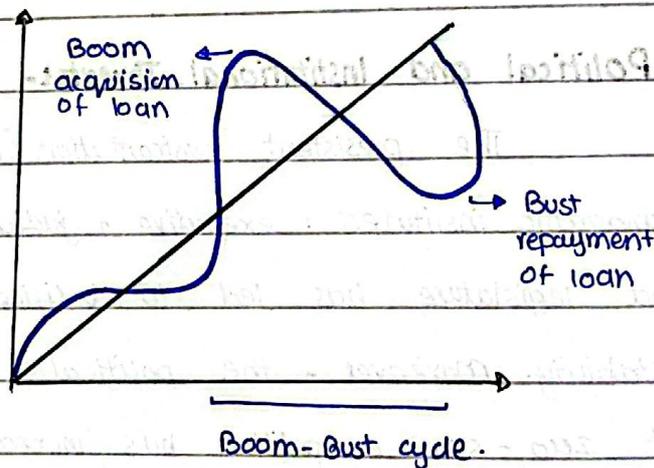
Political instability in Pakistan is increased due to multiple internal and external threats.

### 1) Political and Institutional Threats:-

The persistent confrontation of democratic institutes : executive, judiciary and legislature has led to political instability. Moreover, the political culture of zero-sum competition has increased the instability. Local governments are not strengthened which ultimately leads to political instability in Pakistan. It has slowed the governance system and affected the democratic norms.

## 2) Economic Threats :-

Pakistan heavily depends on IMF loans and debts. This leads to boom-bust cycle in Pakistan. Simultaneously, this leads to unemployment and inflation in Pakistan. Moreover, the taxation system of Pakistan is weak. The taxes are regressive in nature, enforcing indirect tax on poor and middle class and instead of direct taxes on elites.



This leads to increased public dissatisfaction and political instability. This also leads to decreased investors trust in the economy.

### 3) Internal Security Threats:-

Pakistan is facing internal security threats in form of terrorist and separatist groups. TTP have escalated tensions and attacked in various areas including the capital of Pakistan. The insurgency created by separatist groups like BLA, BRA and Majeed Brigade have led to increased political instability in Pakistan. They have challenged the writ of state.

### 4) Ideological Threats:-

The difference on basis of political parties, ethnicity has increased. Moreover, misinformation through social media and social media radicalization has increased instability. The public's trust in institutions have declined. This has increased the risk of divide within Pakistan and increasing the political instability.

## Reforms Towards Stability in Pakistan:-

Pakistan can adopt following reforms towards stability:-

### 1) Counter-Terrorism:-

Government can introduce and promote counter-terrorism in state.

They can do this through negotiations, financial help, and soft operations.

Moreover, policing vacuum can be decreased to ensure counter-terrorism in Pakistan.

### 2) Economic Stability:-

Pakistan can move towards economic stability through fiscal and monetary policy. They can impose progressive taxes (direct taxes) instead of regressive taxes (indirect taxes) and enhance tax bracket. Pakistan can attract Foreign Direct Investment by various countries.

### 3) Federalism :-

Pakistan can work on improved federation to reduce disparity. They can adjust the NEC award and fairly distribute the award among provinces.

Moreover, Pakistan can strengthen local governments to strengthen federation.

### Conclusion :-

Pakistan faces multidimensional threats in political stability. Yet, steps can be taken to improve the situation of stability in Pakistan.