

Q.2 Examine the concept of asymmetric warfare and its application in contemporary conflicts. ---?

1- Introduction:

Asymmetric warfare implies the inequality between the conflicting entities in terms of their military capabilities. It is directly the opposite of symmetric warfare, which involves consistent military capabilities. In the era of contemporary conflicts, states use non-state actors against their rivals as the various ideological groups deployed this asymmetric strategies against more conventional army. In South Asia, both nuclear powers, India and Pakistan, are prone to the asymmetric warfare, and India has

always alleged Pakistan for its backing of non-state actors. on the ^{other} hand, Pakistan has presented credible evidence about India's sponsoring of terrorism against Pakistan. This has further deteriorated their relations.

2- Concept of Asymmetric Warfare:

Asymmetric warfare is defined as:

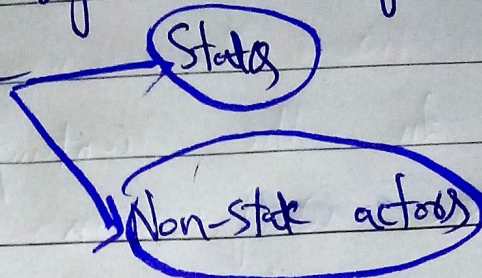
The Warfare between two entities that are different in term of their military capabilities.

It involves the incongruity in their military strength and strategies.

It is the opposite of symmetric warfare which involves equality in term of military capabilities.

2.1 Main actors involved:

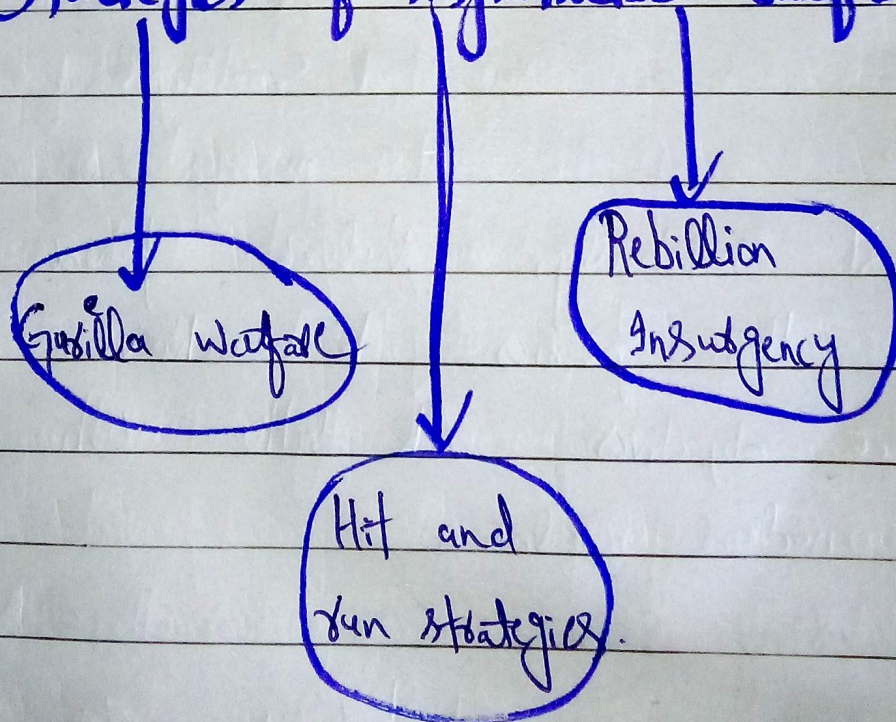
In asymmetric warfare, generally actors are



These non-state actors use unconventional means against conventional army to achieve their objectives.

Sometimes, States with unequal power are also resort to asymmetric warfare.

2.2 Strategies of Asymmetric Warfare:



3- Applications of Asymmetric Warfare in contemporary Conflicts

In the contemporary conflicts Asymmetric Warfare is considered more convenient mean to achieve the objective.

3.1 Asymmetric warfare used by Sovereign states:

Sovereign states resort to asymmetric warfare through these proxies to achieve national interest. Iran-Israel conflict in middle East, South Asian

conflicts are glowing examples. Most notably, Nuclear power use these proxies to achieve their objectives with little risk of nuclear escalation.

3.2 Supporting insurgencies across world:

In contemporary era insurgencies across the world keep

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socled. These rely primarily on asymmetric tactics to achieve their objectives.

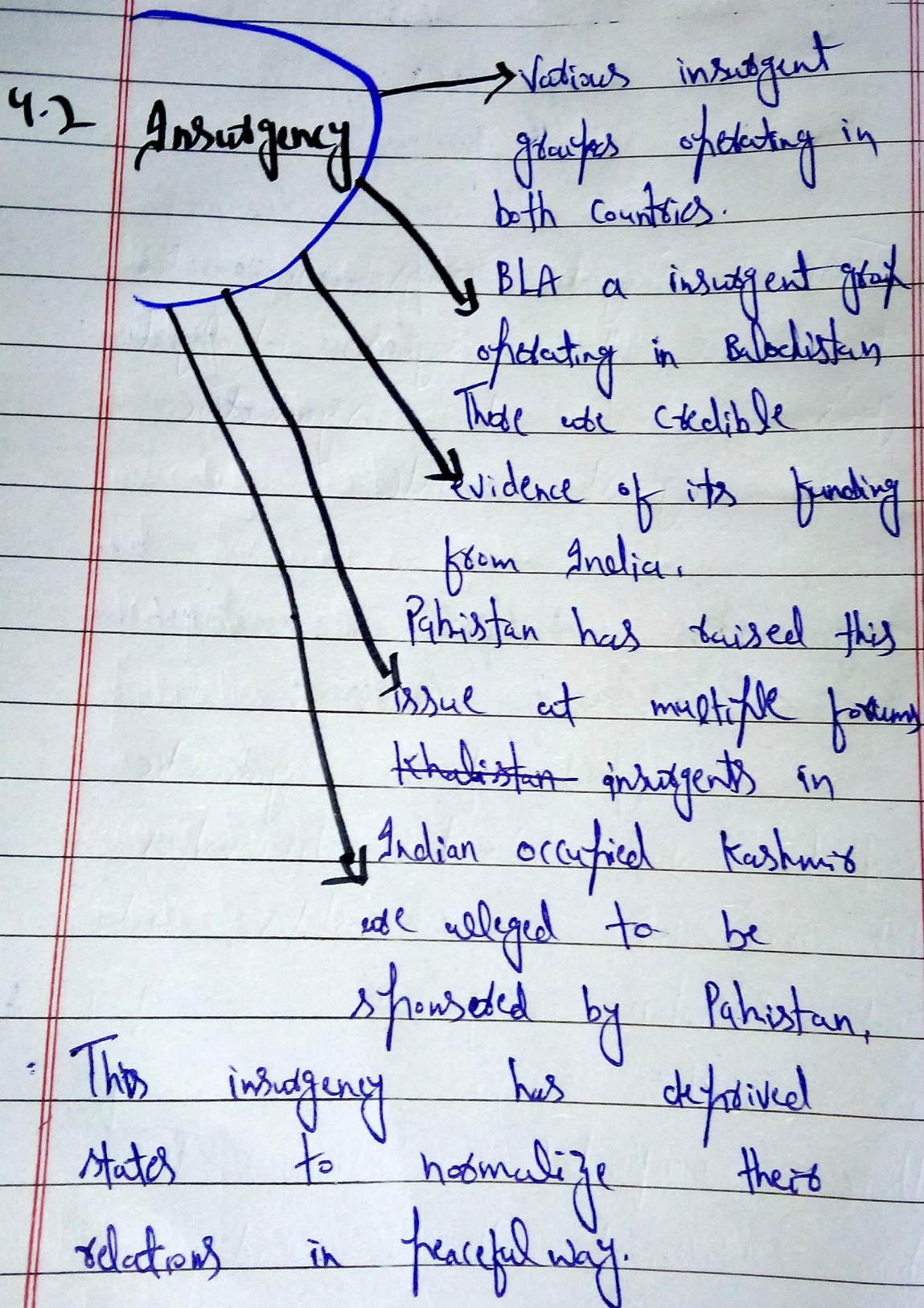
Maoists in India, BLA in Pakistan, rebellion groups in Syria, Iran are the prime examples.

These insurgent groups in order to achieve their religious, ideological goals resort to asymmetric means against state.

4- Asymmetric Warfare and India Pakistan relations:

Apart from symmetric conflicts and direct skirmishes between two nuclear states, India and Pakistan, Asymmetric warfare is another major dimension of their conflictual relations. This has worsened their already fragile relations.

4.1 In context of India and Pakistan Asymmetric warfare has two dimensions.



4-3

Terrorism

Terrorism a major issue in the way of normalization between states.

Indian alleged Pakistan's involvement in recent attack on Indian tourists in 2025 which led to military escalation.

ITP involved in frequent attacks inside Pakistan receives funding from India as stated by JS PR.

5- Affect of Asymmetric warfare on strategic calculations and military strategies in South Asia

In South Asia, the Asymmetric warfare strategies has

become the major source to achieve objectives and weaken the rival at state level. It created a sense of insecurity

India is the largest impact of warfare in South Asia.

In response to India's high military build up other nations in South Asia are facing insecurity with rise in terrorism and pursuing effective military strategies. With uneven military capabilities, states across South Asia have signed various defence agreement and increase their conventional arm race.

Conclusion:

Asymmetric warfare has become the new strategy in the contemporary world to achieve the

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objects and used not only by states but also non-state actors.

It led to high ratio of terrorism, insurgency and proxy wars across the globe. States

must reduce the frequency of warfare in order to pursue more peaceful relations.

Q: 3

Examine the determinants of Foreign Policy decision-making. How do domestic economic factors and international factors.?

1-

Introduction:

Foreign Policy is the fundamental dimension of international relations. States pursue foreign policy to achieve their national interests. In addition to other, key objectives, states foreign policy

is primarily determined by economic, domestic and international factors. America pursues independent and global foreign policy based on her strong economy and military capabilities across the world. It has strong impact on the achievement of key objectives of state.

2- Foreign Policy:

It is defined as Policy that state pursue in its dealing with other states.

Other I.R. Scholars defined Foreign Policy the development of effective policy by states in order to achieve their objectives and national interests.

The main purpose of foreign policy is achieving national interest.

3- Determinants of Foreign Policy:

The key determinants of states foreign policy are

Economy
States with strong economy pursue independent foreign policy
→ China

Military
States with strong military power pursue more effective foreign policy → USA

Technology
It has strong influence on the standing and national interest of state.
→ Japan

Geography
States that are landlocked are more secure but dependent on states that adjoin oceans.

4. Influence of Domestic factors on Foreign Policy

4.1 Economy:

It has powerful influence on the foreign policy of state. Strong economies pursue their national interest and influence weaker nation.

USA has 1/5th contribution to the global economy. It pursue its interests freely and influence the decision making and political affairs of weaker and dependent states.

4.2 Military:

Military, according to Realism is the key determinant of foreign policy. Realist gives much important to military. States all other determinants are

dependent on military capabilities.
USA has world largest
military based on which it
pursue global interests.

4.3 Geography:

Generally countries that have
coastal access are benefitted more
than landlocked countries. The latter
are more secure from attacks.
Countries with powerful neighbours
are prone to attacks.

4.4 Natural resources:

These also influence foreign
policy decision making of states.

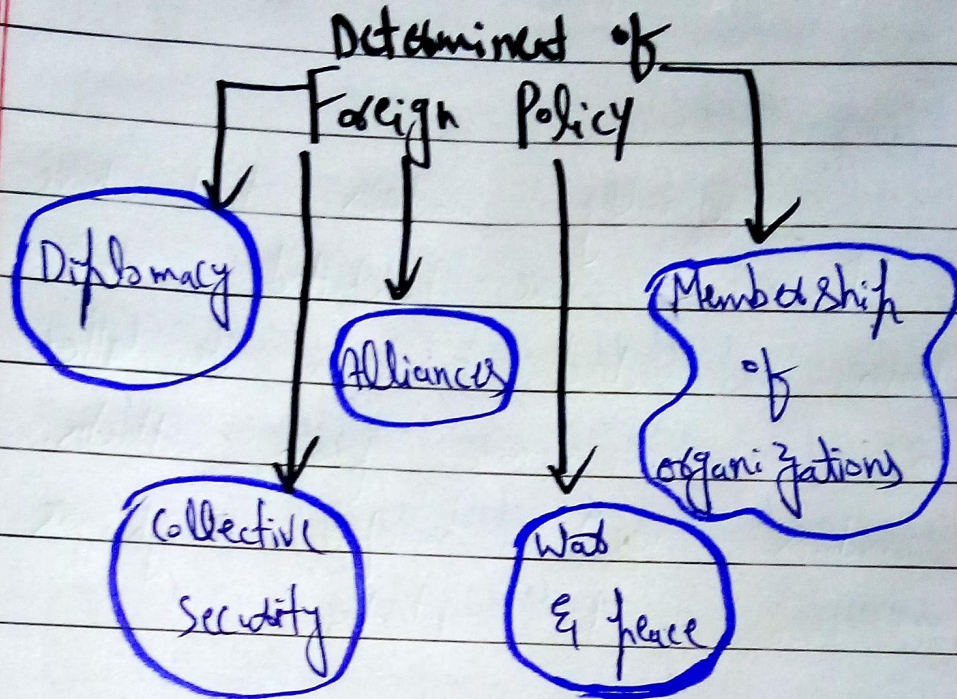
Middle Eastern have
strong international role
due to their giant
oil reserves.

Small countries with more natural
resources are the centre of world politics

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International Factors

Various international factors influence states foreign policy. Some of these are



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Economic factors:

States that are economically weak have to depend on powerful states, which in turn influence their political matters, domestic and international decision making. Powerful states pursue strong military capabilities and have global interest based

on their economy. As economic power is used to enhance military power and naval power of state.

5- Foreign policy determinants and US evolving Foreign policy-

US is the world super power. It has largest economy and military capabilities in the world and pursue global dominating interest. After the **WWII** USA developed **Liberal Foreign Policy** with more active involvement in the global affairs based on its nuclear power status and strong economy. **US WOT**. After cold war, in response to 9/11 attacks, she pursued global WOT policy, and use all its military power to combat Afghan Taliban. **Containment of china**; The current

foreign policy purpose of US is the containment of china which is the threat to the US hegemonic and interventionist foreign policy. It has firm alliance system across the world for the achievement of foreign policy.

6- Conclusion:

Foreign Policy of state has strong influence on the domestic affairs and international standing of state. States with strong economy, military and effective diplomacy pursue more active foreign policy. A case in point is US. She is powerful in all dimensions of foreign policy and has set national interest across the globe and domination of world.

Q.4

Examine the issue of water security, in South Asia, particularly in the context of recent hydro-aggression----

+ Introduction:

Water security is considered the backbone of the economy and survival of state as whole. It has been given primary position in national interests of states. Unfortunately, currently Pakistan is facing the major issue of water security which has put the agriculture, livestock and population on the verge of scarcity. The current water issues started after the unilateral suspension of Indus Water Treaty by India. This act of India has intensified the hostilities between both nuclear

powers. Both states are in dire need to conduct peaceful relations and cooperation as if the present situation continues it would fetch terrible consequences.

2- The key issue of Water Security in South Asia:

Water security of a state is defined as the protection and preservation of the water resources of state to protect and support life and sustain its economy.

Water security is essential for state in order to achieve the prosperity and sustainability.

Currently South Asia is facing the issue of water security through various dimensions. It particularly

takes the shape of India-Bangladesh crisis over the Indian construction of dams on rivers flow to Bangladesh. Apart from this, the other major issue which has created hostile environment in South Asian region is the water issue between India and ~~Bangladesh~~ Pakistan. As result of this major issues, both states have suspended their bilateral relations in 2025.

3 The case of Hydro-aggression and unilateral abrogation of the Indus Water Treaty

Background of recent Hydro-aggression

The Pulwama attack on 21 April 2025 killed 29 Indian tourists. India immediately blamed Pakistan for backing the terrorist attack in Pulwama without any credible evidence and suspended all

bilateral relation including the historic Indus Water Treaty.

Indus-Water Treaty:

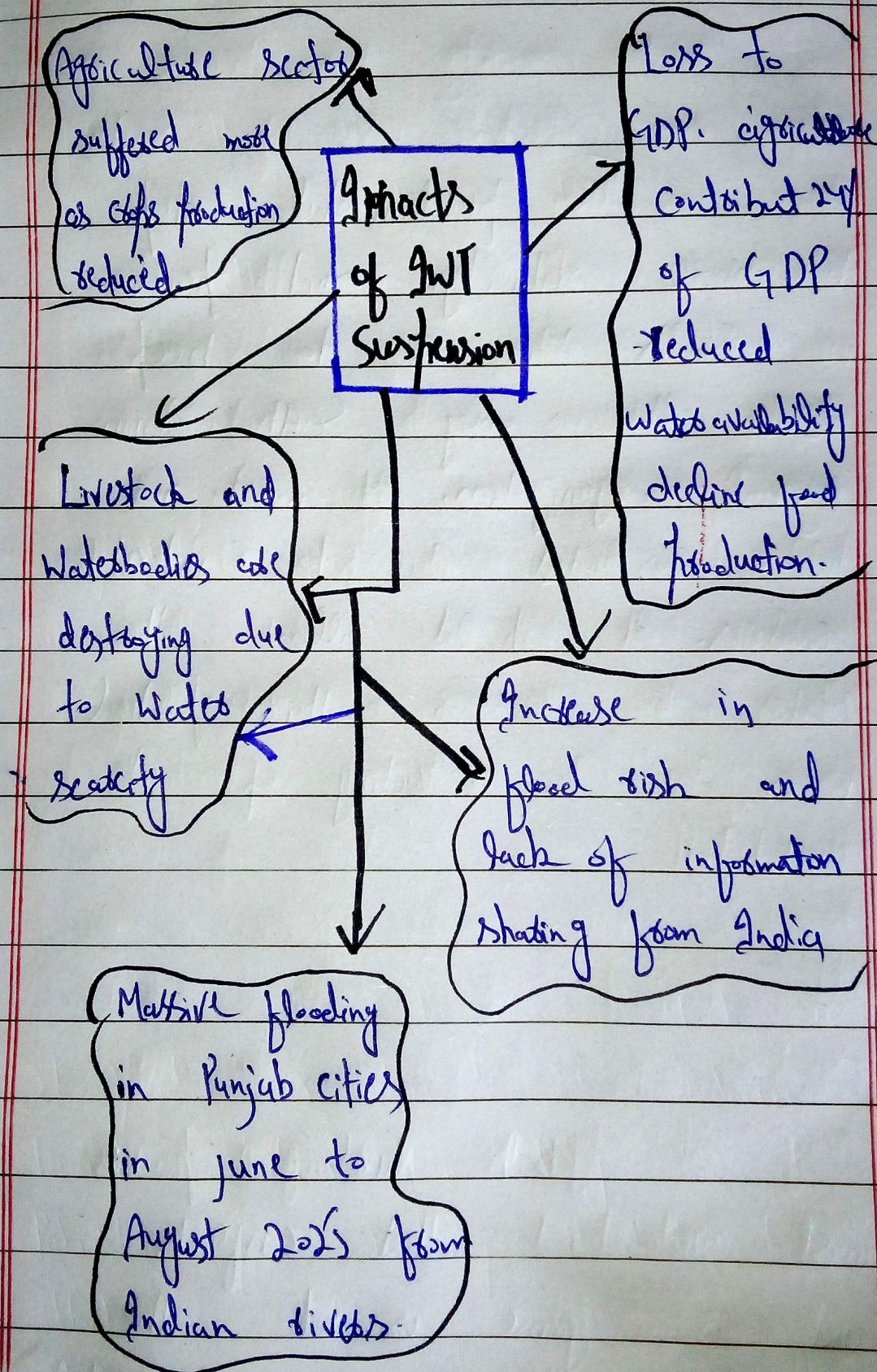
Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan was signed in 1960. Pakistan is lower riparian state. According to treaty, Pakistan gained control of River Chenab, Ravi and Jhelum. India was required to share water information with Pakistan and prohibited any unilateral suspension.

Unilateral Abrogation of IWT

Indus Water Treaty has survived past wars and skirmishes but India's recent move suspended this historic treaty and threatened the water security of Pakistan.

All the major powers of Asia and the guarantors of Treaty World Bank has strongly condemned this action.

Impacts on Water Security of Pakistan



Steps to ensure stability in South Asia

Keeping SAARC alive:

The fundamental step to ensure stability and peace in South Asia is to keep alive the only South Asian regional organization. It must not be suspended due to interstate rivalries. It should allow the states to discuss their political issues due to restructuring of its constitution.

Strengthening Bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan:

Both Nuclear powers must understand that conflicts and blame game is not the solution, it will bring only destruction.

leadership from both sides should come forward to initiate bilateral dialogue as it is the only solution to ensure stability in South Asia.

Developing back channel communication

It is essential for both India and Pakistan to develop and ensure the smooth conduct of back channel communication during conflict and interstate situations as it will provide chance to negotiate even in the events of uncertainty.

Enhancing multilateral trade and travel

Economic interdependence and multilateral trade among South Asian states would have the potential to promote cooperation, trade opportunity and economic growth of the

states, thereby reducing rivalries.

Conclusion:

Water security has become the major ~~is~~ conflictual issue of South Asia, specifically after the India-Pakistan crisis 2021 and the the unilateral abrogation of Indus Water Treaty between both countries. This hydro-aggressive move by India has intensified the issue of water security in Pakistan and placed its water resources on brink of scarcity. States needs to understand that the only solution of cross border rivalries and aggression is the conduct of normalized diplomatic relations in peaceful manner to bring stability in the region.

Q.5

Critically discuss the concept of balance of power in light of political, geo-economic and geo-strategic emergence....?

Introduction:

Balance of power is the fundamental concept of Realism School of Thought in international relations. It implies the ^{near} equal distribution of power among states in order to prevent the rise of single hegemonic power. Currently, the Asia-Pacific region has become the economic and strategic hot spot with the interests of USA, China, Russia and Europe in the region. It led to alliances and the rise of security issues in the region. Diplomacy is the fundamental

tool to achieve peace in the region through negotiation, dialogues. to ensure economic interdependence in the region.

The concept of Balance of Power:

The concept of balance of power implies that

States pursue and enter into alliances with each others in order to prevent a single hegemonic power to rise and dominate.

Essential feature of Realism:

Balance of power is the essential feature of Realism.

States exist in the international anarchical system. Their fundamental goal is the survival which is achieved through enhancing security and balancing the power.

States form alliances in order to prevent the concentration of power of single state. **Congress of Vienna** is the prime example where European statesmen assembled to balance the powers. It gives 90 years of peace to Europe until WWI. This shows the potential of balancing power to prevent the rise of aggression.

Balance of power and Geo-political emergence of Asia-Pacific hotspots.

The current manifestation of balance of power can be seen more widely in the Asia-Pacific also known as the Indo-Pacific region. It is home to giant oil powers, leading economic and military powers and nuclear powers in the name of Russia, China and in South

Asian region India and Pakistan. The geopolitical emergence of the Asia-Pacific regions is manifested through alliances particularly between Russia and China on one hand and US led alliances on other hand.

Besides, regional organization including SCO, BRICS of the region are competitors to E.U.

BRICS has world rising economic and military powers including China, Russia and India which are threatening the US unipolarity and E.U. western led domination. The powers from Asia-Pacific are promoting the reform of internationalism U.N. World Bank and IMF.

Balance of Power and Geo-strategic Reemergence of Asia-Pacific:

Another dimension of the
reemergence of Asia-Pacific hotspot

is the balance of power in geo-strategic manner. It has intensified after US increasing interest in the Asia-Pacific region for the containment of china.

US has formed military alliances with India, Japan, Australia through QUAD Alliance to balance the rise of China.

US has also signed defense agreements with ASEAN and India to promote its strategic interests and prevent the military rise of china. Other powers including Middle Eastern countries, Pakistan, Russia are also entering into defense pacts to promote their strategic interests and security.

It is evident from these alliances and pacts that Asia-Pacific has become

the current hotspot in
balance of power.

The strategic interests has increased
the status of region at global level.

Balance of power and geo-economic
reemergence of Asia-Pacific:

Another major dimension of
the reemergence of Asia-Pacific is
geo-economic significance of the region
for the major powers. It has
world largest Indian Ocean with
adjacent Pacific Ocean.

The region has major chokepoints
Strait of Hormuz, Malacca, 80%
of world oil trade pass through
these chokepoints along with Suez Canal
that provide route 60% of world trade.

This highlights the economic potential
of Asia-Pacific region. China the
world largest economy and major
trading partners including India.

oil economics of Middle East and
 escalating Russia enhance its geo-economic
 significance of the region for the
 Western economies. Substantially, US
 has escalated its economic ties
 in the region to contain the
 economic rise of China and to
 secure its Sea Lines of Communication.

BRI VS IMEC

The Balance of power in the
 economic sphere is seen through China
 led BRI countered by US
 led IMEC to enhance economic influence.

**Diplomacy: a effective tool to promote
 objective and regional stability:**

In the face of
 balance of power in geo-economic,
 geo-strategic and geo-political spheres
 of Asia-Pacific, diplomacy can be
 utilized to promote states objectives
 and regional security. The major

powers of the region must pursue their collective objectives and security of the region through multilateral dialogues, economic interdependence and forming dynamic and active economic and strategic organizations like E.U. and Nato. The diplomatic engagement of the region should be enhanced through developing conflict resolution mechanism and attaining BRI which connect key parts of Asia-Pacific.

Conclusion.

Asia-Pacific region is the current hotspot in the 21st century. The theory of balance of power can be implied in the geo-strategic, geo-economic and geo-political sphere of the region. The furthering interests of US has intensified the balance of power in the region with the containment of China.