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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - PAPER - III

"PAKISTAN AFFAIRS"

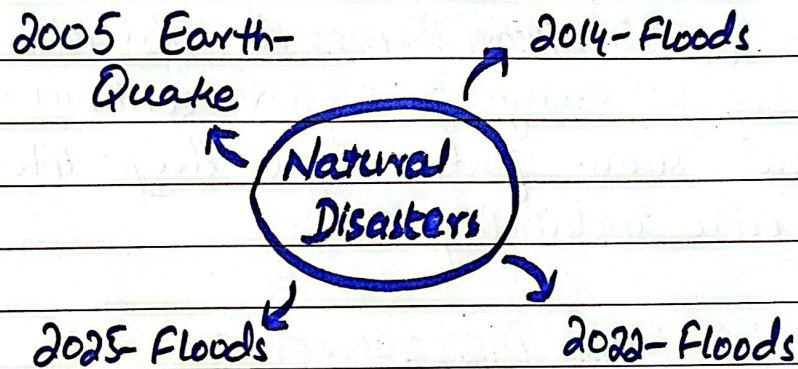
QUESTION NO: 03

A. INTRODUCTION

Antonio Guterres once said, "climate change is a biggest threat multiplier of natural disasters". Climate change has emerged as a major non-traditional security threat to Pakistan. The threats that have emerged from non-military forces also include terrorism, energy insecurity, human insecurity and environmental insecurity. Climate change has many social, economic and political implications on Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan's institutional response to climate induced challenges is of major concern. Hence, climate change is a significant threat to the sovereignty of Pakistan along with multi-dimensional implications.

B. CLIMATE CHANGE AS A NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY THREAT

In the recent two decades, climate change has emerged as a non-traditional security threat to Pakistan. The ultimate changes in natural ecosystem resulting in devastating floods, droughts and earthquakes.



All these natural disasters had devastating impacts on Pakistan, not only socially and economically but also politically. Multiple reasons for climate change includes increased deforestation and decarbonization, melting of glaciers due to increase in global surface temperature and regional grievances also play a major role in disrupting the sovereignty of other nations.

C. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

1. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

1.1. HUGE ECONOMIC LOSS

Climate change causing natural disasters disrupts the economy of Pakistan at large. According to World Bank Report, the 2022 floods caused the economic loss of **30 billion Rupees** to Pakistan. A country already facing a continuous fiscal strain further goes deep into economic instability.

1.2. MASS DISPLACEMENT

Massive floods due to climate change cause mass displacement, leaving the population exposed to vulnerabilities of survival. According to UNHD Report, **millions of people** got displaced and **70,000 women gave births to child in uncertain environments**.

1.3. INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT

Earthquakes and floods take away huge infrastructure, causing the job insecurity and unemployment due to

washed out offices and buildings.

1.4. DECLINE IN FDI (Foreign Direct Investment)

Climate change makes Pakistan a vulnerable country. According to World Climate Index, Pakistan is among the **top 10 vulnerable countries** to climate change. Such uncertainties result in the decline to investor confidence and ultimately the decline in economic sustainability.

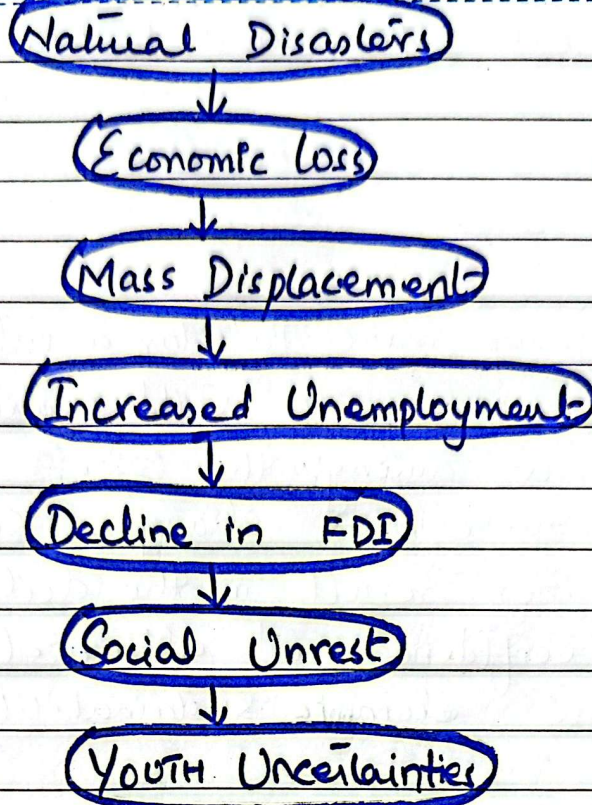
1.5. SOCIETAL UNREST AND YOUTH BULGE

Moreover, natural disasters create social unrest among masses resulting in political and economic instability. The increase in youth, around **60%** of the total population, facing employment crisis, resulting in societal disturbances and they play in the hands of enemies via extremism or terrorism.

Socio-Economic Implications

↓
Climate Change





2. POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

2.1. DEMOCRATIC UNREST

Climate change and Government's inability to cater the devastating impacts, opens the mouth of opposition against the active government resulting in democratic unrest in a state.

2.2. INCREASED INCURGENCY

In underdeveloped areas like Balochistan, floods and other disasters due to climate change affect disastrously. It increases the insurgency and

extremism among the masses, resulting in political instability. For instance, **Baluch Nationalist Movements**, the Sugee and attract the youth towards them against public and government

2.3. RISE IN TERRORISM

It also gives a chance to terror groups because of diverted attention of government officials. As in 2023, 73% rise in terrorism occurred due to political instability.

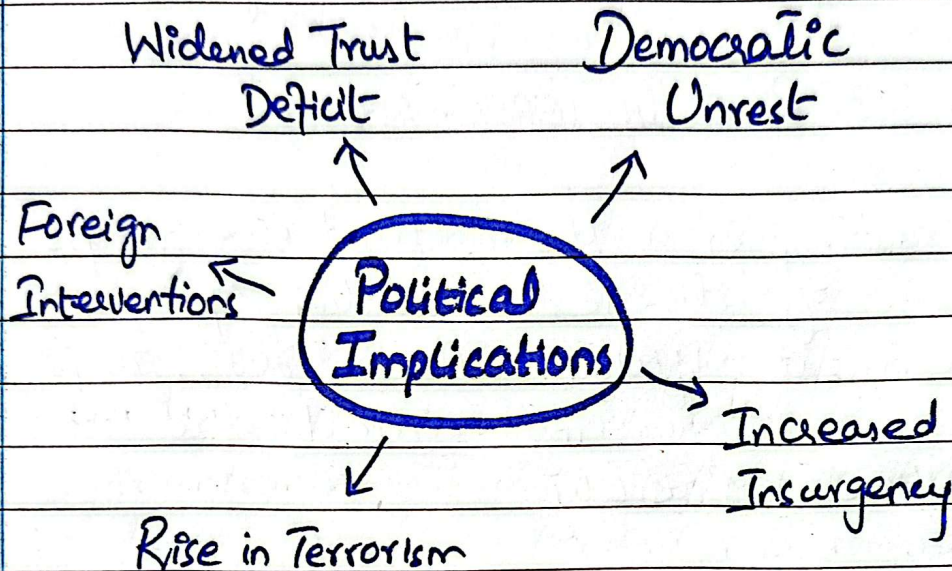
2.4. FOREIGN INFLUENCE

Moreover, climate change and its disastrous impacts gives the chances of foreign influence disrupting the economic and political sovereignty of a country. This is because, along with financial aid, they impose harsh conditions that disrupts the national decision making autonomously. **IMF imposed 11 new conditions by Nov, 2025.**

2.5. WIDENED TRUST DEFICIT

The Government's inability to fulfill the

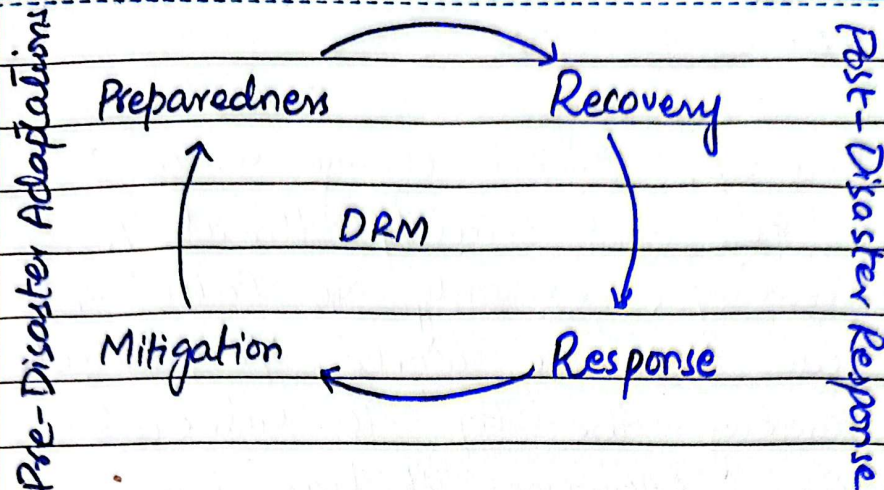
needs of public widens the trust-deficit between government and public further resulting in political polarisation.



D. PAKISTAN'S INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO CLIMATE-INDUCED CHALLENGES

1. DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Disaster Risk Management institutions in Pakistan are weak due to lack of advanced technology and funds. Resultantly, they lack in showing their progress to cater the effects of natural disasters. NDMA, PDMA lacks efficient and trained staff and policy implications.



2. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Pakistan's active participation in climate change agreements via international organizations, which increases the chances of fund allocation for climate vulnerable countries. For example, **Loss and Damage Fund** approved in COP 21 and active participation in COP 31 and Paris Climate Agreement.

3. REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

China is a country that invests largely in the world in clean energy and Pakistan's increased diplomatic and strategic engagement with China help the institutions to respond properly to climate induced disasters.

E. CONCLUSION

To Sum up, Climate Change is a non-traditional security threat of 21st century, not only to Pakistan but all over the world. Yet, Pakistan is among the Top 10 vulnerable countries. Moreover, it has many socio-economic and political implications affecting the economic as well as political sovereignty of a country. Although, it can be encountered through effective institutional response and international engagements.

QUESTION NO: 04

"POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN PAKISTAN"

A. INTRODUCTION

Internal political instability has strained Pakistan's economic and diplomatic performance. The rising insurgency, terrorism, neighborhood hostility, unequal allocation of resources and economic deprivation cause the political instability in Pakistan. Moreover, these structural causes of

of political instability decline Pakistan's national image in international standing along with other impacts on national security and foreign policy.

B. STRUCTURAL CAUSES OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN PAKISTAN

1. HISTORICAL LEGACY AND CONSTITUTIONAL IMBALANCE

Since the independence of Pakistan, it has been facing structural imbalances in democratic stability and constitutional empowerment. For instance, civil-military imbalance and frequent amendments in constitutions creates political instability at large.

2. NATIONAL DISINTEGRATION

National disintegration is a major force causing political instability in Pakistan. Historically, the separation of East Pakistan in 1971, resulted in national disintegration and currently the nationalist and sub-nationalist movements affecting the sovereignty and political stability of Pakistan.

3. POLITICAL POLARIZATION

Pakistan is a democratic state, where factional politics and political polarisation plays a significant role in causing political instability. The narratives and degradation of active and existing government by polarised groups disrupts the political stability.

4. ECONOMIC INSTABILITY AND IMF DEPENDENCE

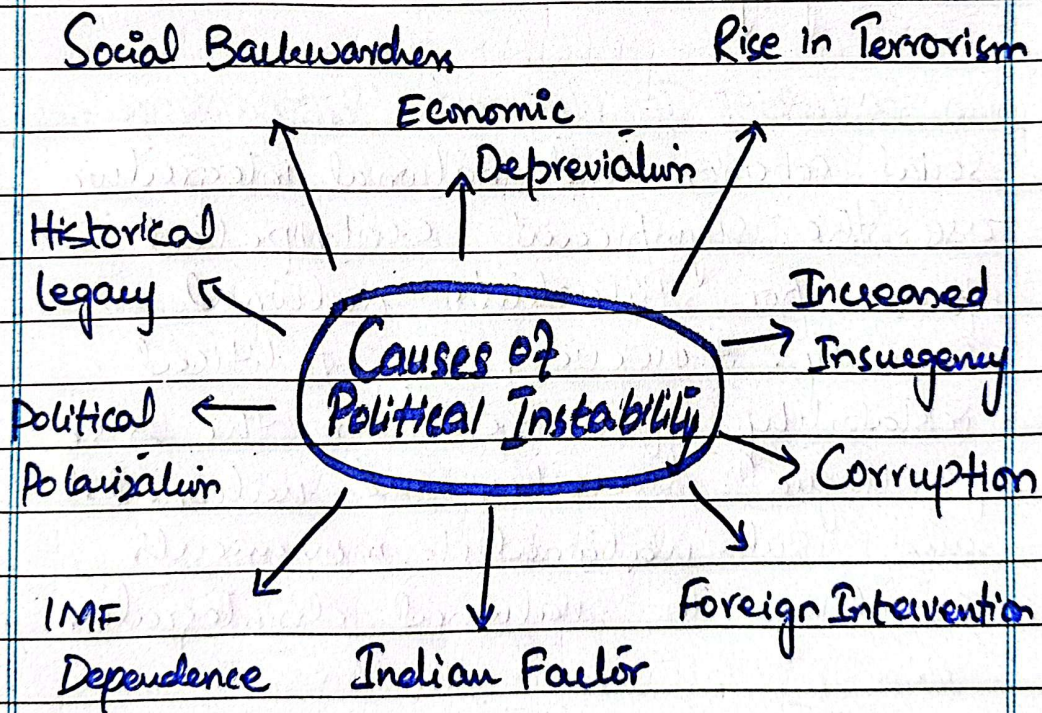
Pakistan has always been under economic distress due to fiscal strain. The increased dependency on **IMF** and **WB**, declines Pakistan's autonomous national decision making resulting in political and economic instability.

5. RISING TERRORISM

Increased terrorism after the Taliban's takeover in Afghanistan, post US-2021 withdrawal. Taliban's government continue on feeding the terror groups to attack inside Pakistan such as **TTP** - Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

6. SOCIAL BACKWARDNESS AND ECONOMIC DEPREVIATION

The underdeveloped areas of Pakistan such as Balochistan facing social backwardness and marginalization. Such grievances result in increase in insurgency and demand independence. The unequal allocation of resources also play a major role in political instability.



C. IMPACTS ON PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY

1. DECLINE IN INVESTOR CONFIDENCE

Political instability in Pakistan would

result in decline in Foreign Direct Investment due to loss of investor confidence which can be achieved only through political and economic stability.

2. RISING TERRITORIAL INSECURITIES

The increase in terrorism and hostility among neighborhood increase territorial insecurities in Pakistan disrupting the territorial and national sovereignty.

3. THREAT TO NATIONAL INTEGRATION

Social cohesion and national integration are the significant centripetal forces for Pakistan's national security. However, the political instability often result in the rise of lingual diversities and nationalistic and sub-nationalist movements resulting in national disintegration.

4. EROSION OF INTERNATIONAL CREDIBILITY

Political volatility and corruption scandals undermine the confidence of foreign investors and global partners. As international partners find the domestic

political environment unpredictable.

5. STRAINED REGIONAL RELATIONS

India → Military tensions and territorial disputes regarding Kashmir issue.

Afghanistan → claims that Pakistan carried out surgical airstrikes and violated territorial sovereignty.

China → The killing of two engineers in terror attack on CPEC-II project.

6. SECURITY-CENTRIC OUTLOOK

Internal stresses affect Pakistan's foreign policy, majority focused on security-centric whereas world is governing the nations towards development centric outlook. However, Pakistan is still preoccupied in its historical grievances and security problems.

7. OVER-RELIANCE ON MAJOR POWERS

Pakistan's foreign policy will be observed to be overly reliant on

on major powers for help and intervention conditions that hinders the national security.

Impact on National Security and Foreign Policy

- Decline in Investor Confidence
- Rising Territorial Insurgencies
- Threat to National Integration
- Erosion of International Credibility
- Strained Regional Relations
- Over reliance on major Powers

D. CONCLUSION

On the way of conclusion, the internal political instability is due to multiple factors of past and present which affects both the national security and foreign policy of Pakistan. However, Pakistan is continuously

pulling on efforts to counter these instabilities and will be able to do it soon. Yet, pushing the nation on the road of stability and sustainability.

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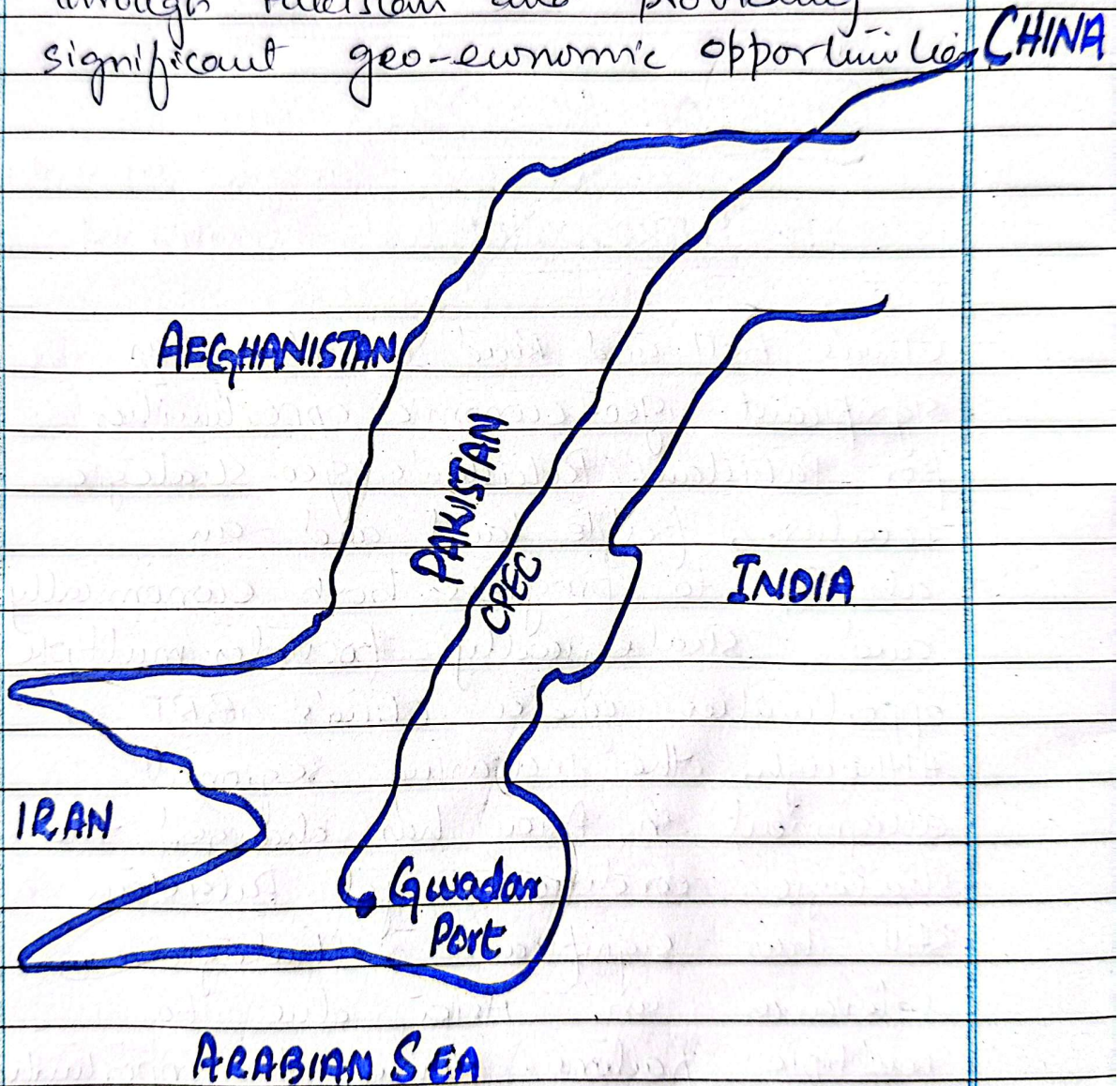
A. INTRODUCTION

China's Belt and Road Initiative has significant geo-economic opportunities for Pakistan. Pakistan's geo-strategic location, fertile land and an ability to progress both economically and strategically provides multiple opportunities under China's BRI.

Although, the increasing regional alignment in Asia has changed the strategic conditions, yet Pakistan still has significant strategic relevance in Asia due to multiple factors. Hence, the opportunities for Pakistan under BRI and its strategic relevance in Asia plays a major role towards Pakistan's development.

B. CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE FRAMEWORK

BRI consists of six corridors, one of them is CPEC that goes through Pakistan and providing significant geo-economic opportunities. **CHINA**



This trade route carries out major geo-economic as well as geo-strategic opportunities, making Pakistan a trade hub of South Asia, Middle

and also for Europe.

C. GEO-ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PAKISTAN'S CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVES UNDER THE BRI FRAMEWORK

1. INCREASE IN TRADE

Under China's BRI, Pakistan's geo-economic location has enhanced, representing it as a trade hub for all Asian regions. It increases in trade and opportunities for Pakistan to allow trade from China to Central Asian Republics, Middle East and Gulf States.

2. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

The formation of Special Economic Zones under CPEC-II are of great importance for Pakistan. These SEZs enhance Pakistan's reliance on regional countries and its geo-economic location.

3. RELIEF IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

China's BRI also provides Pakistan an

opportunity to stabilize relations with neighboring country like Afghanistan. In June 2025, Trilateral Meeting between China - Pakistan - Afghanistan concerning CPEC extension, counter terrorism, economic stability.

4. INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

CPEC provides developmental opportunities to Pakistan as it invests in infrastructural development and helps Pakistan to generate employment opportunities reducing unemployment at large.

5. REDUCTION IN SOCIAL BACKWARDNESS

As the Gwadar Port is the trade hub for all regional countries, increasing its geo-economic importance, benefiting the locals by providing opportunities for involvement in developmental projects. Balochistan is the most least developed province in Pakistan creating hurdles for Pakistan's development. CPEC would reduce these hurdles and helps in the progress of nation.

D. EVOLVING REGIONAL ALIGNMENT IN ASIA AND PAKISTAN'S STRATEGIC RELEVANCE

Despite evolving regional alignments, Pakistan's strategic relevance is still of great importance in Asia.

1. GEO-STRATEGIC LOCATION

Pakistan's geo-strategic location increases its relevance in the region, as it provides access to Eastern nations to West and vice versa. Moreover, it is of great importance to China to create influence in Indian Ocean Region.

2. INDIAN FACTOR AND ACCESS TO CARs:

Moreover, Pakistan provides India's trade an access to Central Asian Republics countries. There may be the chances of decline in Indian hostility if Pakistan blocks the trade route for India.

3. PAK-KSA DEFENCE PACT

The Pak-Saudi defence pact also increased the strategic relevance

of Pakistan, as it has increased the capability of nuclear deterrence in South Asia, Middle East and Gulf region.

4. PAK-AFGHAN TRADE

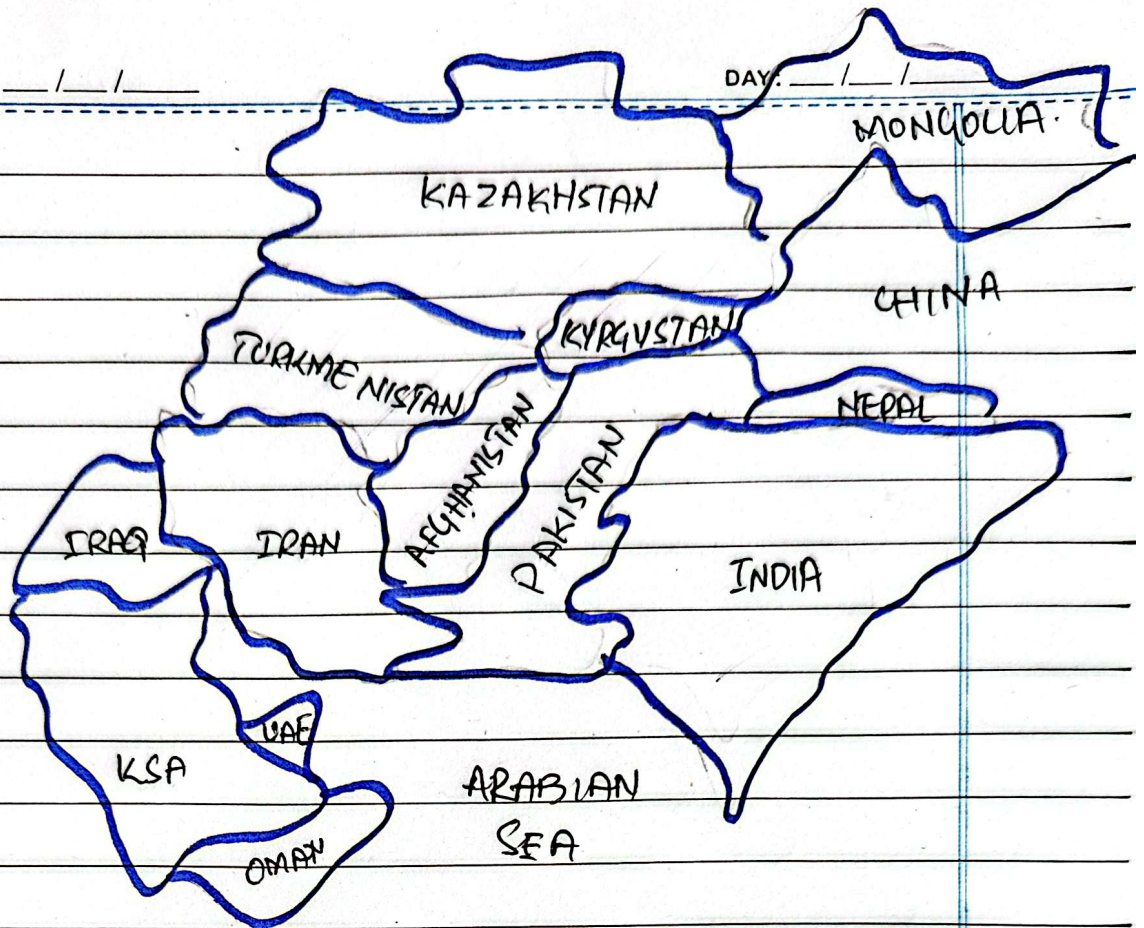
Moreover, despite Afghanistan's alignment with India, its trade passes through Pakistan and upon border closing, Afghanistan would face and usually faces huge economic loss, hence, increases Pakistan's strategic relevance in the region.

5. INFLUENCE IN THE WEST DUE TO NATURAL RESOURCES

Pakistan is a resource rich country which enhances its credibility in the West and increases the influence. **US-PAK Strategic Minerals Agreement, Sep 2025.** Despite regional alliances, Pakistan's strategic reliance still dominates in the world and the region. US, China, Gulf States and European nations reward Pakistan's strategic abilities.

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E. CONCLUSION

China's Belt and Road Initiative is of great importance for Pakistan not only economically but also politically, socially and diplomatically. It offers significant developmental opportunities and diplomatic engagements across the region and the world. Makes Pakistan a strategic trade hub for the region and across the region.

