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Q2- "Pakistan's Non-Traditional Security Threats"

1- Introduction :

Non-traditional security threats refer to the broader human security threats posed by non-state actors i.e. climate change, environmental degradation, cybersecurity threats, food and water scarcity, population explosion and rapid urbanization. The rapidly changing global conditions have exposed Pakistan to such wide-ranging threats. These cannot be dealt with military might, rather require a broad, global cooperation. Most of them are due to increased globalization introduced connectivity and interdependence.

2- Non-Traditional Security Threats:

Non-Traditional security threats are defined as the broader, multilateral threats affecting human security, rather

than only a state's security as by traditional security threats. These include terrorism, militancy, climate change and environmental security, water scarcity, health crises and pandemics, food insecurity, drugs and human trafficking etc.

- **Difference and diverse nature of non-traditional threats:**

Non-traditional security threats are different in grounds and diverse in nature due to their following aspects:

- These are broader in context and complicated in nature, threatening global human security.
- These cannot be countered by mere hard power- military strength and diplomacy, but require multidimensional and global cooperation.
- Actors involved are non-state actors.

3- Major non-traditional security threats faced by Pakistan:

Following are the major such threats affecting the security dimension of

Pakistan, propagated by

- Geopolitical rivalries
- Regional security
- Internal political and economic instability.
- Historical disputes.
- Global environmental aspects.

i) Terrorism and Militancy:

Pakistan faces cross border terrorism, militancy and insurgency fostered by historical disputes with Afghanistan and India. Afghanistan provides safe haven to militant organizations i.e. "Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan" which, through Indian influence and RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) accelerates insurgencies and separatist movements in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Moreover, groups like "ISIS-K and Al-Qaeda" have also been operational in Pakistan in past years. These are particularly strengthened by globalization-introduced increased connectivity. Pakistan has been ranked no. 02 on Global Terrorism Index Report 2025.

ii) Climate change and environmental degradation :

Climate change has been accelerated by global activities, especially the increase in use of fossil fuels and industrialization. It has led to increase in the Earth's temperature from 1°C to 4°C . It has resulted in environmental degradation, floods, droughts, heatwaves etc. which are affecting Pakistan's security. Floods of 2022 and 2025 have resulted in loss of \$30 billion, alongwith loss of infrastructure, agricultural lands, human lives etc.

iii) Water scarcity :

Accelerated by climate change, water scarcity is also affecting Pakistan. The melting of glaciers, erratic rainfalls and monsoon pattern changes have disturbed the situation. The water table of Pakistan has noticeably fallen.

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Year	Water level
1947	5600 cubic meters
2023	1000 cubic meters
2025	below 1000 cubic meters

iv) Food insecurity :

Pakistan is ranked 84/113 on World Food Programme's Food Security Index, highlighting that 38% people in Pakistan are facing slight to severe food shortage. It is also due to lack of irrigation facilities, floods destroying crops, inflation etc.

v) Health crises and pandemics :

Global health pandemics like COVID-19 have exposed severe vulnerabilities of health sector of Pakistan. The country spends less than 3.8% of GDP on health sector. As a result, there were 1.5 billion confirm cases of COVID-19 and 38000 deaths.

vi) Population explosion :

Pakistan's population is increasing

with the annual addition of 4 million people, making it the 5th most populous country. With an annual growth rate of 2%, the country is facing resource constraints. About 64% of people are below age 30, hence, leading to an increased demand of education, health, employment and development expenditure.

viii) Rapid urbanization :

According to Pakistan's research department, 50% of the people are living in urban areas. As a result, resource struggle, unemployment, lack of proper healthcare and infrastructure has resulted in worsening social conditions as well as increase in crime rates.

viii) Drugs and transnational organized crime :

Pakistan is said to be exploited for 40% Afghan heroin export and 7 million drug abusers which

create a huge negative impact (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

Moreover, the porous nature of border with Afghanistan facilitates organized crime including smuggling and human trafficking.

ix) Cyber security threats :

Pakistan stands on number 79/113 on Global Cybersecurity Index. It suffers from increased cybercrimes, mostly organizations like ISIS-K use cyberspace for recruitment, propaganda and threat.

4. Conclusion :

Pakistan faces non-traditional security threats ranging from health crises to resource constraint and from militancy to cybersecurity threats.

These collectively impact the Pakistan's socio-economic conditions, resulting in resource conflicts and human insecurity. Hence, global cooperation is needed to eliminate them.

Q1. "Foreign Policy of Pakistan in 21st Century"

1- Introduction :

The article 40 of Pakistan's constitution and Quaid-e-Azam's words serve as the guiding principles of foreign policy of Pakistan. It is based on characteristic features of national security and sovereignty preservation, counter terrorism, promotion of peace and stability in the region, especially in Afghanistan. Countering Indian hegemony is central to its policy. It has resulted in much gains for the country i.e. security, energy diplomacy, alignment with China, while some losses have also impacted country.

2- Constitutional provisions of the foreign policy of Pakistan :

a) Article 40 of the constitution of Pakistan :

The article 40 of the constitution of Pakistan provides comprehens.

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ive view regarding how the country's foreign policy should be:

"The state shall endeavour to preserve and ensure fraternal relations with all the countries of the world, especially the Muslim world based on Islamic unity. The state shall work to ensure friendly relations with Africa, Middle East and Asia. It should work with all countries for global peace and stability."

- Article 40, 1973

Constitution of Pakistan.

b) **Founder of Pakistan's vision :**

Quaid-e-Azam also explained the foreign policy objective for Pakistan which serves as a guiding principle:

"Our foreign policy is one of friendliness and goodwill towards all the nations of the world. We do not cherish aggressive designs against any country of the world. We believe in harmony and peaceful coexistence."

- M. Ali Jinnah (11, Aug, 1947)

3- Salient features of foreign policy of Pakistan:

Following are the salient features of foreign policy of Pakistan:

- i) Preservation of national sovereignty and territorial integrity is the main feature of it. It is basically India-centric. Hence, prevention of Indian hegemony to ensure peace in Pakistan is its core. Moreover, it also believes in countering Indian influence in Afghanistan aiming for strategic encirclement of Pakistan threatening its sovereignty and security.
- ii) Counter-terrorism is another salient feature of it, especially after the incident of 9/11. Pakistan aims to counter all sort of terrorism, insurgency, militancy and sectarian violence especially in areas like FATA and Balochistan.
- iii) Economic diplomacy is its another feature meant to attract foreign aid,

loans, investment etc. For this purpose, it strengthens ties with regional as well as international states and institutions i.e. IMF and World Bank.

- iv) Promotion of peace and stability in Afghanistan is another important feature. As peace in Afghanistan is directly linked with the internal and border as well as economic security of Pakistan.
- v) Strategic partnership with China is also the foremost important feature of Pakistan's foreign policy, ensuring economic, military and diplomatic ties.
- vi) Strengthened ties with the Muslim world under the flagship of OIC, especially with Gulf countries is also significant. It aims to increase the remittance attraction from these states i.e. Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait etc, alongwith strengthening Islamic unity.

viii) Trade relationship enhancement is also of primary importance, meant to strengthen economic security. Attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), export diversification, free trade agreements and access to global markets are major goals.

ix) Energy security is also essential feature of Pakistan's foreign policy as it imports 80% of its energy.

3- Gains of foreign policy of Pakistan in 21st century:

Following are its major gains:

i) Counter-terrorism efforts:

Pakistan is putting much efforts in combating terrorism. In 2001, after the event of 9/11 it became front-line ally of the USA in countering terrorism. It has also initiated operations like Zarb-e-Azab (2014) and Raed-ul-Fasad (2017) to deter terrorist outfits. Recent

deterrence against BLA's Majeed Brigade, involved in Baloch separatist movement is also praiseworthy.

ii) Energy security:

Pakistan is turning to renewable energy resources to meet its growing energy needs. As the circular debt in energy sector has reached 2.3 trillion rupees, adopting renewable and green technology is essential. It is largely achieved by cooperation with China.

iii) Strategic Alignment with China:

Pakistan has tilted towards China to achieve economic, military and diplomatic support.

- In 2021, 74% of total military imports were from China.
- China has provided Pakistan with HQ-9 missile system and JF-17 Thunder jets.
- BRI's flagship project CPEC worth \$62 billion aims to strengthen economic

ties.

- China has provided diplomatic support to Pakistan on international platforms on Kashmir issue.

iv) Strengthened ties with the Middle East :

- Pakistan enjoys historic ties with Saudi Arabia, providing Pakistan with economic and military aid, an \$3 billion aid package in 2022. It is also a huge source of remittances for Pakistan, about \$.31 billion in 2021 with a Pakistani labour force of 2 million working there.
- Pakistan signed SDMA (Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement) with Saudi Arabia in 2025, strengthening military ties and cooperation.
- Pakistan enjoys fraternal relations with Iran, ensuring economic cooperation and signed a \$10 billion trade agreement in 2024.
- By maintaining a neutral stance on the Middle Eastern issue Pakistan

strengthened friendly relations with Syria, Yemen, Libya etc.

- By lending diplomatic support on Palestine issue, it coordinated in ensuring Gaza Peace Plan (2025).

v) Countering Indian influence:

Pakistan has successfully countered Indian influence by ensuring deterrence against its ^{false} flagship operations after Pulwama Attack (2019) and Pahalgam Attack (2025). It has also warned India against its activities in Afghanistan by attacking terrorist hideouts in Afghanistan.

vi) Diplomatic engagement and regional coordination:

Pakistan struggled to achieve diplomatic engagement with the world after its isolation due to 9/11.

Pakistan has pursued wide global markets and enhanced relations with countries like Russia, Central Asia, Azerbaijan, Qatar, Turkey etc.

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By joining organizations like SAARC and SCO, Pakistan has attracted military support and coordination and economic cooperation.

viii) Pak-US realignment:

Pakistan has secured realignment with the USA, after strained ties on war on terror terms. Pakistan has ensured trade alliance with the US, 19% tariffs - lowest in the region as compared to India's 25-50% tariffs.

4. Lossess of foreign policy of Pakistan in 21st century:

i) War on terror and internal instability:

As the US key ally in the war on terror, Pakistan has attracted an aid of \$30 billion between 2001-2018 while, loosing \$130 billion in combating terrorism i.e. TTP, BLA, BLF, ISIS-K etc. It has

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resulted in decreased foreign investment and displacement of people.

ii) Strained relations with Afghanistan :

Due to frequent border skirmishes and recent ^{cross-}border fight of 2025, the relations between two countries have been strained. Both countries have cut off trade ties, closing border for travellers and dealers. It is due to increased Indian influence there as well.

iii) Lack of economic reformation:

Pakistan has failed to reform its economic system due to frequent power outages, civil-military ties, inconsistent policies and insecurity in the country. It only holds 0.12% of global export share which is least according to potential. Moreover, debt-to-GDP ratio stands at about 75% with foreign

debt mounting to \$131.9 billion.

iv) Loss of soft image:

Due to frequent wars with India and Afghanistan and increased insurgency in the country, along with allegations of holding ties with Taliban by the USA, as Osama bin Laden sought refuge in the country, Pakistan lost its soft image. It needs to be resought by diplomacy.

5- Conclusion:

Foreign policy of Pakistan is build on friendly relations and good will for all the nations of the world. It has brought economic and diplomatic engagement with various countries. However, the long-standing conflict with India and Afghanistan has functioned as a loss. In addition, failure to ensure energy and economic cooperation also weakens policy.

Q2. "Kashmir Issue and the Stakeholders"

1. Introduction :

The Kashmir issue serves as a long standing territorial conflict between India and Pakistan. Both countries have fought four major wars (1948, 1965, 1999 and 2025) on this issue. Multiple diplomatic efforts in the form of UN resolutions and policies of these two countries have failed. As a result, the issue is caught on the horns of dilemma. It is widely held that the stakeholders may not agree on a single solution accepted by the people of Kashmir. It is primarily due to the interests of stakeholders and strategic and geopolitical position of Kashmir. Both countries hold security, resource, contextual concerns in the country, which makes it caught on the horns of a dilemma.

2- Pakistan's Interest in Kashmir:

Following are the major concerns of Pakistan in Kashmir:

i) Historical context :

Pakistan believes that Kashmir historically belongs to it due to its 70% Muslim population as compared to 25% Hindu population. On the time of independence, the states were to be ceded on the basis of majority of population, hence, Kashmir belongs to Pakistan.

ii) Strategic importance :

Kashmir holds following strategic importance for Pakistan:

- It is rich in resources i.e. coal, uranium, chromium, zinc, gold etc.
- Indus river, the lifeline of Pakistan has its origin in Kashmir.
- It has vast energy potential of 16000 megawatts generation.

iii) National security dimension:

If Kashmir is given to India, it will deploy its troops close to Pakistan's borders. It will threaten Pakistan in times of major conflict with India easily targetting Pakistan's major cities.

iv) Connects with China:

Kashmir serves as a bridge between Pakistan and China.

China is also given Shaks^{it in}gam valley by Pakistan to involve Kashmir issue. It also enables both countries to ensure economic cooperation through trade routes and CPEC.

v) National sentiment:

Public of Pakistan holds deep sympathy and emotional ties with people of Kashmir.

3. India's Interests in Kashmir:

i) Historical context:

India cites Maharaja Hari

Singh's instrument of accession as reference for Kashmir to be with India.

ii) Strategic importance:

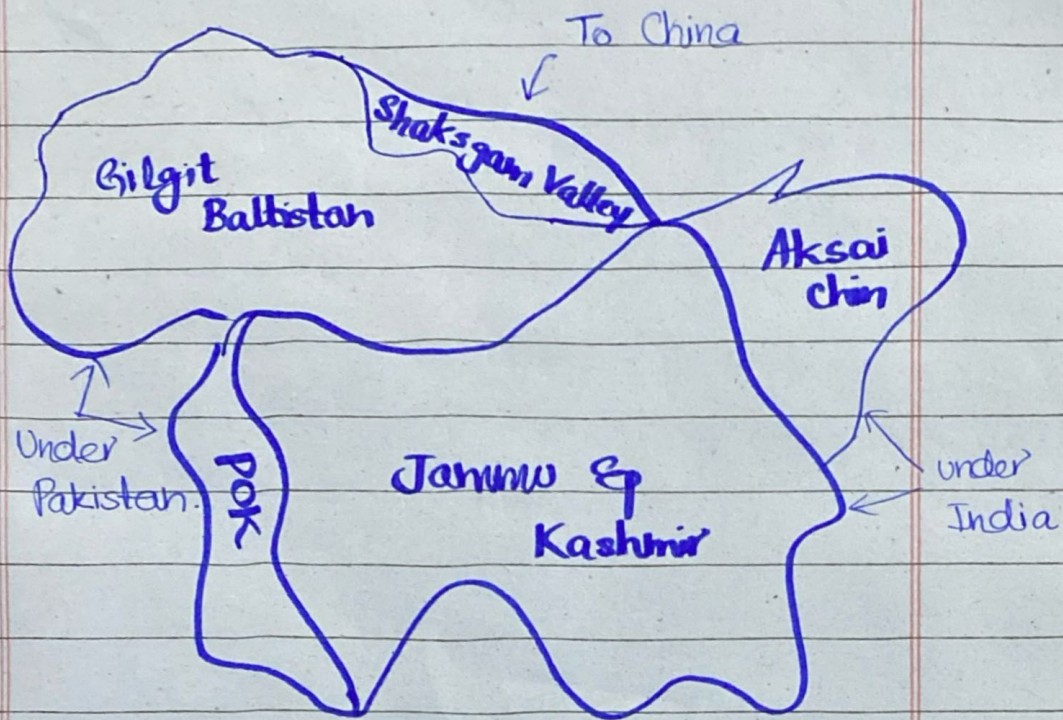
As Pakistan has gifted Shaksgam valley to China, both the countries hold interests in Kashmir, provoking issues for India. Hence, India believes in occupying Kashmir to secure its national interests.

iii) Connection with Central Asia:

India's only connectivity route with Central Asia for economic and energy cooperation, and to Europe, for trade markets is Kashmir. Hence, it can allow it to be ceded to Pakistan.

iv) National sentiment:

With the three terms of Bharti Jantya's Party, a wave of nationalistic sentiment has risen in people of India for Kashmir.



▲ Map of Kashmir

3. Conclusion :

The divergent interests of various powers i.e. India and Pakistan for national security, national sentiments, strategic and historical context and alliance-building make Kashmir caught on a horn of dilemma. It prevents from reaching any solution regarding the outstanding issue, even if a single solution accepted by the people.