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Talat Fatima
Current Affairs
Full length Mock

Q: 2 → Analyze escalating tension in Pak-Afg
relation ...?

INTRODUCTION

The complex relation
between Pakistan
and Afghanistan
will continue to
face challenges

- Dr. Maleeha Lodhi

Since the US withdrawal from Afghan-
-istan in August, 2021. Pakistan-Afghan-
-istan relations have deteriorated despite
ideological affinity Afghan Taliban
and Pakistan's religious segments.

✓ The resurgence of terrorism, refugee
challenge and alleged Indian
engagement with Kabul, collapse
peace process have transformed

Afghanistan from strategic depth to a strategic dilemma for Pakistan.

PAKISTAN - AFGHANISTAN RELATION AFTER US WITH DRAW

1. Revival of Terrorism

Afghanistan's internal legitimacy crisis has externalized insecurity making Pakistan an unintended casualty of Kabul's governance vacuum. The revival of terrorism has witnessed from multiple aspects

- Tehrik-e-Taliban has grouped and intensified attacks from Afghan soil.
- Afghan Taliban's inability to act against TTP - Violates Doha Accord.



- Pakistan facing hybrid insurgency combining religious extremism and external facilitation.

- Border fencing disputes further exacerbate tension.

2. Refugee Settlement Challenge

Afghanistan lack absorption capacity while Pakistan lacks global burden for refugee settlement. Pakistan host nearly 3.5 - 4 million Afghan refugees and more that are undocumented.

This leads to

- Intensifying economic strain, security concerns and urban congestion.
- This forced settlement risk humanitarian backlash and diplomatic fallout.

3. Alleged Indian Nexus with Taliban

Taliban's pragmatism prioritize international legitimacy over ideological alignment. As India has reopened diplomatic channels with Kabul. This intelligence cooperation allegedly target Pakistan Western flank which undermines Pakistan's strategic calculus and revives TWO-Front threat for the state of Pakistan on its East and West.

4. Failure of Peace Process

The reason mainly for the failure of peace process is the failure for ensuring inclusive governance at Doha agreement, further alliviated with the Absence of Women's rights, economic collapse and factionalism and the lack of consensus for regional stake holders.



POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR PAKISTAN

1- Security Dimension

The following reforms in security dimension of policy framework

- zero-tolerance against cross border terrorism
- Intelligence based operation and diplomatic pressure on Kabul.

2- Diplomatic Engagement

Enhance diplomatic engagements to improve peace relation with minimal life loss on both sides

- Conditional Engagement with Taliban should made
- Mobilize OIC, SCO and UN platforms to establish peace

3. Refugee Management

As Pakistan economic situation don't favours for any refugee settlement on large scale, so the policy reforms should be made for this

- Phased, dignified refugee accommodation with resource management first.
- International funding mechanisms

4. Economic Leverages

Establishing Economic ties with territorial boundary can highly elevate economic aspect of the state

- Link trade and transit concession to security cooperation that will enhance of warm water trade.



CONCLUSION

Pakistan's policy for Afghanistan on the basis of its strategies of past few years must transit from Ideological Optimism to realist pragmatism balancing security imperative with regional diplomacy to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a permanent source of instability and security threat.

08

Q: 3: Pakistan - Afghanistan relation and the changing globe -- ?

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan - USA relations are witnessing re-arrangement after years of estrangement, following Afghanistan's fallout. This recalibration reflects shifting

global power alignments, strategic multipolarity and Pakistan's geopolitical and economic priorities binding its ties in Western as well as eastern bloc and balancing in between both to attain economic stability.

PAK-USA RELATIONS AND CHANGING GLOBE ORDER

1- Drivers of Renewed Engagement

The main drivers of renewed engagement between Pakistan and USA, leading to change in global order are

- Counterterrorism Cooperation
Climate resilience and economic stabilization
- IMF facilitation and Trade diplomacy



This shows that US no longer views Pakistan through Afghanistan centric lens alone.

2. Pakistan's Geopolitical

Interest

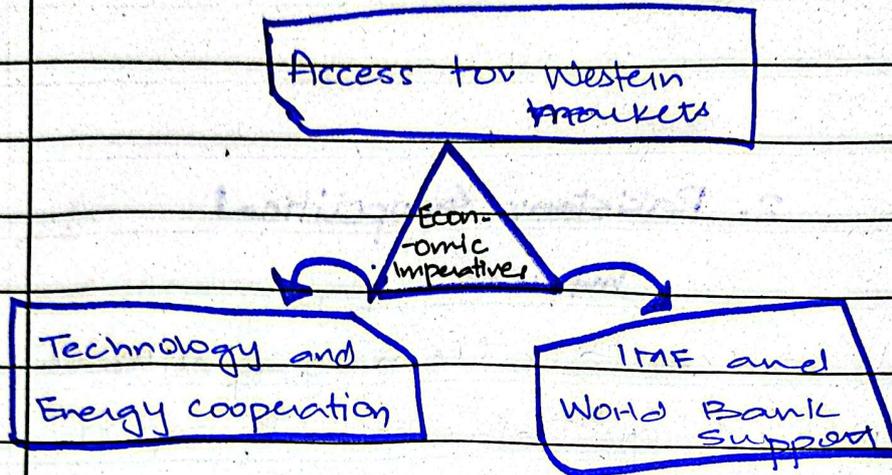
In order to attain geopolitical interest of Pakistan, it implies initiatives

- Avoiding Isolation amid US-China rivalry.
- Preserving strategic partnership with China in CPEC
- Maintaining the autonomy of foreign policy.

3. Economic Imperatives

This multipolarity approach of Pakistan will lead to open-the ways in economic imperatives through an improvement and

advancement in all these domains



4. Reflection of Changing Global Order

The reflection of changing global order is in transition from unipolarity to multipolarity competition. which enables middle power like Pakistan for gaining the bargaining space which results in replacing those rigid alliances into issue-based alignments to address and resolve contemporary issues.



STRATEGIES FOR BALANCED APPROACH

1. Strategic Hedging

The key to keep the balance in both, Pakistan should avoid zero-sum alignment between US and China.

2. Economic Diplomacy

To gain the leverage of economic, Trade diversification must be made among the priorities beyond security dependency.

3. Regional Stability

Like wise Doha accord, other such agreements and talks to promote regional stability through the playing the role as a Mediator for Afghanistan and Middle East.

4. Institutional Engagement

To rectify internal shortcomings Pakistan must go for the betterment in institutional engagement through strengthening parliamentary and military to military dialogue.

CONCLUSION

Pakistan's renewed engagement with US must be interest driven, not dependence driven to attain the long term development sustainability in economic, structural and security aspects. Pakistan must focus to leverage multipolarity while safeguarding strategic autonomy in an evolving global order.

07



Q:6 Global Arms, race and Cyber warfare -- ?

INTRODUCTION

The contemporary global arm race has entered into a new phase characterized by technological sophistication cyber militarization and un-armed warfare, resulting in reshaping traditional defence models particularly in volatile regions like South Asia into technology based non-traditional security setups.

GROWING GLOBAL ARMS RACE

1. Primary Initiatives

Rising defence budget of USA China, and Russia unintentionally



influencing each other to be the part of this arms race. Militarizing AI, space and hypersonic warheads and weapons resulting in decline of arms control regimes.

2. Cyber Warfare

Cyber attacks affecting infrastructure elections and financial systems, the recent example of it was in 04 days war between India-Pakistan in which PAF launched cyber attack resulting in massive power outage in India. The Pakistani government claimed this as success of cyber attack under operation Bhanjor-Hausos. It signifies the impact due to low cost, high impact and plausible deniability. empowering equally to state and non-state actors.

3. Drone Warfare

Although the fact signifying the worth of traditional security aspect can't be denied. The exemplary models following this is Ukraine, Gaza, Azerbaijan and Armenia, for which precision strike reduce troop deployment resulting in ethical and legal ambiguities.

4. Implication for Global Security

The implication for global security is between the blurred line of peace and war, escalating risk due to mis-calculation which enhances the asymmetric warfare dominance between any of the involved territories.

5. South Asian Deterrent

Stability

Nuclear deterrence remains intact but fragile. As India's cold war doctrine and Pakistan's tactical nukes for it as an exemplary response of May, 2025 war. These cyber and drone provocations increase or escalate risks.

CONCLUSION

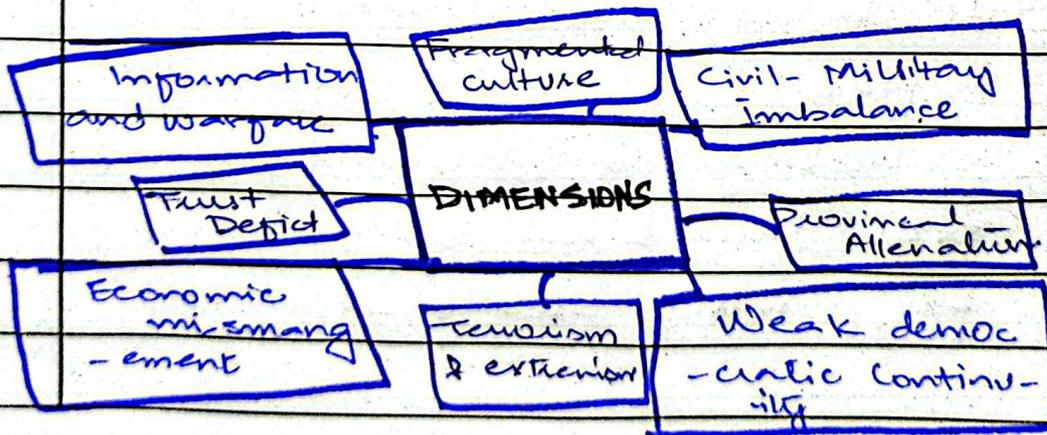
While Nuclear deterrence prevents full scale war in South Asia, emerging technologies have lowered the threshold of conflict due to its long lasting high impact necessitating confidence building measures and regional arms control dialogue to avoid being part of race to have peace.

06

Q7: Political instability in Pakistan and ... ?

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan's persistent political instability is rooted in multidimensional threats including institutional imbalance, economic fragility, social polarization and external pressures undermine national cohesion and governance capacity. These multidimensional internal threats arise as a severe challenge for the maintenance of national integration, resulted due to multiple dimensions.



POLITICAL INSTABILITY

1- Civil-military Imbalance

Division of powers and authorities should be binded and the institutes give to go for the accountability of any sector due to lack of Transparency here is critical imbalance between civil-military relation.

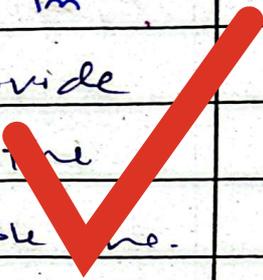
2. Weak Democratic Continuity

Pakistan's people face many problems due to unstable democratic system lacking the ability to complete its terms to being and witness the impact of their decisions. Resulting in blaming nature over the sense of responsibility for owning ones doing.



3. Judicial Politization

Judicial institute alone is capable of bringing the betterment in state comparative to other. but its politization make it to be biased in his decision which provide a hidden space for the relief of the responsible no.



4. Economic Mismanagement

Investing in already developed areas other than rural areas of state will lead to develop the sense of aggression and betray among the people for own state. The areas below poverty line like rural areas of Sindh and Balochistan and South Asia should be addressed equally.



MULTIDIMENSIONAL THREATS

1. Terrorism and Extremism

Due to insurgency from Afghanistan Pakistan Tehreek-e-Taliban and Baluchistan Liberation Agency has led to the facilitation of many terrorist attacks, feeding the new minds through regional and religious marginalization.

2. Provincial Alienation

Due to unequal NFC award division, claim of Balochistan Sindh and South Punjab has claimed for being a separate province. As per report out of 19, 17 alone underdeveloped areas of Pakistan are in Balochistan.



NEED OF COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL DIALOGUE

Pakistan should adopt a multi-dimensional policy framework to overcome this national integration problem.

- Absences of consensus on rule of game.
- Trust deficit among institutions
- Fragmented political culture

Just like 18th Amendment, the successful transition, marker of Democracy emerged from the dialogue.

CONCLUSION

Pakistan's stability hinges not on a personalities but on institutional consensus

A sincere dialogue is no longer an option - It is a prerequisite for survival in an increasingly threats and complex environment from inside of Pakistan along with Two-State threat on some time from externally. So to take serious action for such comprehensive and influential talks is the necessity of time.

09

try to give equal weightage to each question

also improve the writing