

Question No #01

What are the Constitutional Provisions of the foreign Policy of Pakistan? Explain the salient features, gains and losses of the foreign policy of Pakistan in 21st Century.

Answer:

I- Introduction:

The foreign policy of any state define how a state protects its interests and interacts with other states. In Pakistan, the major pillar and guideline of foreign policy is Constitution 1973 along with the global changing conditions. These provisions provide directions regarding sovereignty, peace, Islamic solidarity, and relations with other states. In the 21st Century, Pakistan's foreign Policy has taken the

the shift due to war and terror, regional conflicts and global power shift. This question will explore the constitutional foundations of Pakistan's foreign policy, analyzes its salient features and evaluates the major gains and losses arising from its foreign policy choices.

II. Constitutional Provisions of Pakistan's Foreign Policy

The basic norms and structure of foreign policy of Pakistan is Constitution of 1973. The provision in constitution of 1973 comprehensively determine the goals and tools of Pakistan's foreign policy. In many countries the foreign policy is controlled by the government.

in power, but in Pakistan, the constitution is the main guide which gives authority to foreign office and reduce the role of Parliament. The following provisions in constitution define the foreign policy of Pakistan.

Constitutional Provisions of PAK f.p	Article 40	→ The foundational principle
	Article 29	→ The foundation of continuity
	Article 30	→ The Mechanism of flexibility
	Article 97	→ Power to executive branch
	Article 243	→ Security Dimension

i- Article 40: The Foundational Principle

Article 40 sets out the main rules, the foundational principle

for how Pakistan should act in the world. It makes it a duty for the state to work for world peace and security, build friendly diplomatic ties with Muslim countries, respect the independence of other countries & solve problems. That's why Pakistan speaks up for Kashmir and Palestine at the place like United Nation and the Organizations of Islamic Co-operation (OIC).

ii- Article 29: The Foundation of Continuity

Article 29 ensure that its state permanent duty to protect the continuity of its goals like Islamic Solidarity, absolute sovereignty and security, first posture to India despite regardless of any political changes.

III- Article 30: The mechanism of Flexibility

It ensures the adaptability and flexibility in the principles of foreign policy by adjusting diplomatic methods, responding to geo-political shifts and letting governments pivot alliance. The flexibility creates a foreign policy that can appear volatile on the surface while its ultimate objectives remain constant.

IV- Article 97: Power of executive Branch

This article gives the power to executive branches. This means that the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs make the main decisions, which often reduce the role of Parliament.

V- Article 243: Security Dimensions of Pakistan's foreign policy

This article officially puts the

military under control of the civilian government. But as our core goal is security due to India, so, Ministry of foreign affairs has to take the final say of military officials. This is very clear in relations with India, Afghanistan, and the United States, where the military view has strongly shaped the choices.

II- Salient Features of Pakistan's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century

The start of the 21st century, especially after the September 11 attacks on Pakistan, caused a major change in Pakistan's foreign policy. It has the following main features:

India -
Center
Regional
Policy

1. Security
Center
Orientation

Salient features
of Pakistan's
F.P in 21st Century

2. Geo-Eco
Shift

3. Balancing
Major Powers

Engagement
with
Muslim
world &
Soft Power

1- Security. Center Orientation and the War on Terror

The most important feature of
Pakistan's foreign policy is security.
Pakistan has joined US-led
war on terror that turned its
entire foreign policy towards fighting
terrorism. It gave temporary aid

but pushed Pakistan towards internal violence, economic problems, and international criticism. The policy caused the huge ~~loss~~ and strengthening the view that Pakistan's f.p mostly just reacts to security threats.

2- Geo-Economic Shift and Strategic Partnership with China

Pakistan's "all weather friendship" with China grew up in 21st century. The initiative of CPEC in 2015 which mainly focuses on infrastructure energy and connection is not just an economic project but a central part of our foreign policy.

3- Balancing major powers and Hedging Strategy

Pakistan's foreign policy is a true example of implementation of Hedging Strategy. It has kept

China its main strategic partner while dealing with United States for money, military help and diplomatic influence. Along with broadening the relationship with Russian and European Union through GSP+ status. It shows that Pakistan has diverse approaches in foreign policy and avoiding too much reliance on any one power.

4. India - Centric Regional Policy

The Pakistan's foreign policy is mainly focused on India because of Kashmir dispute and the recent Peshawar attack. India's removal of article 370-A in August 2019 shows the limits of Pakistan's diplomatic and moral influence. South Asian Association of Regional Conference (SAARC), activities are still stuck, because of regional rivalry,

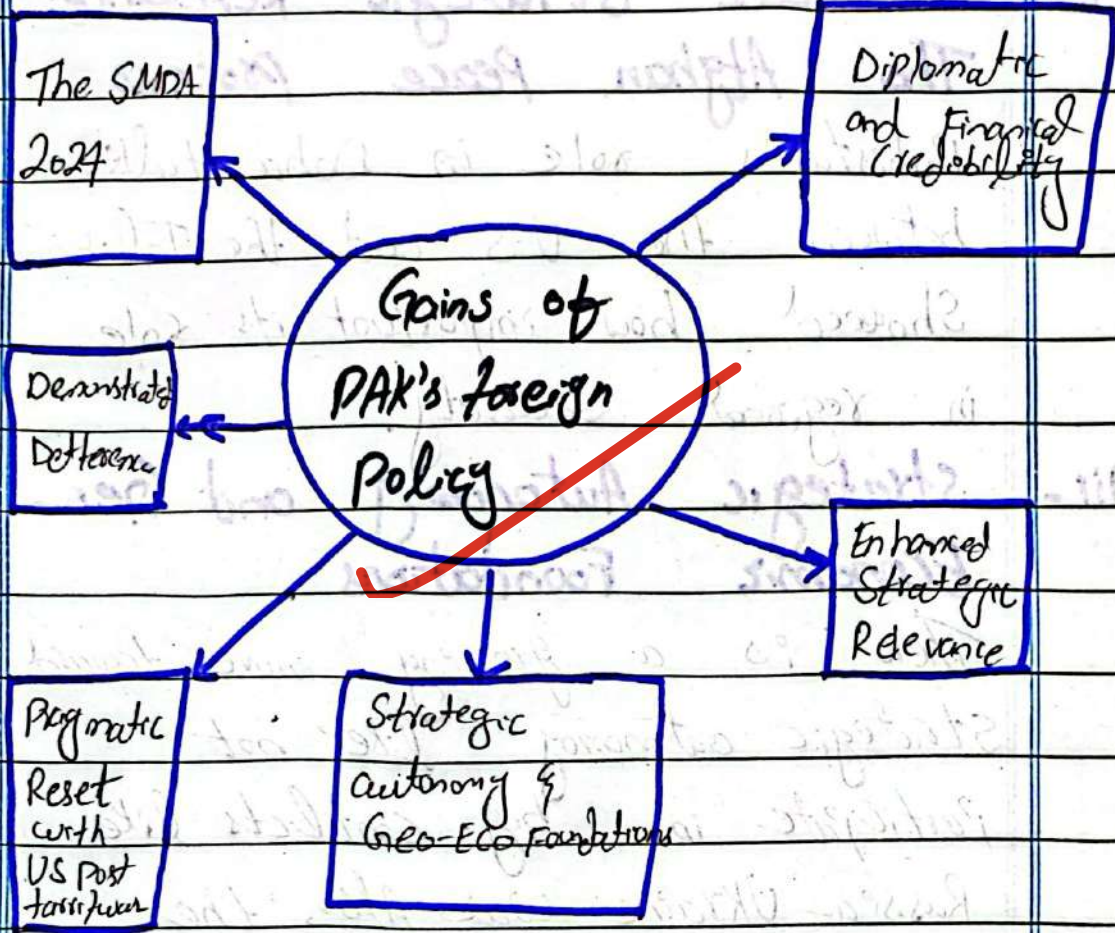
Limiting PAK eco & Diplomatic
choices in South Asia.

5- Use of Soft Power while Engagement with Muslim world:

Pakistan remained active in the
Muslim world, through OIC. It
put itself forward as a
defender of Muslim issues like
Islamophobia, genocide in Gaza &
Kashmir issue. The activity indicates
Pakistan use of Soft Power to
maintain diplomatic ties alongside
addressing the issues.

III- Gains of Pakistan's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century

Pakistan's foreign policy in recent
times has produced several important
gains.



i- Diplomatic and Financial Credibility Exit from FATF

A major diplomatic success was removal from the FATF (Financial Action Task Force) grey list in 2022. This happened after years of diplomatic work and showed that Pakistan could meet global rules.

ii - Enhanced Strategic Relevance:

The Afghan Peace Process

Pakistan's role in Doha talks between the U.S. and the Taliban showed how important its role in regional security.

iii - Strategic Autonomy and Geo-Economic Foundations

There is a growing move toward strategic autonomy like not participate in big conflicts like Russia-Ukraine War. Also, the partnership with China and CPEC has given real economic benefits in infrastructure and energy creating a base for a future economic focused strategy.

iv - The Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (2024)

The major gain of Pakistan's foreign policy after 2020 is the Strategic Mutual Defense

Mutual Defense Agreement (SMOA) with Saudi Arabia finalized in 2024. It improves Pakistan's defensive position and strategic security in the Middle East & South Asia.

i. Demonstrated Deterrence: The May 2025 War with India

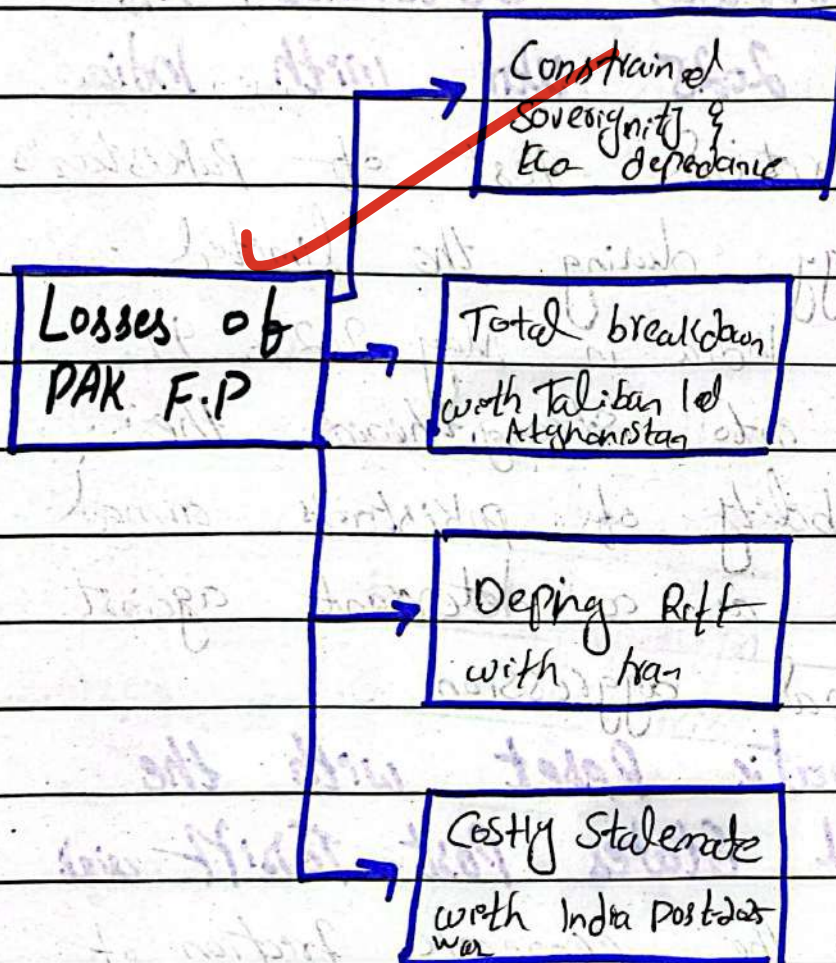
A critical test of Pakistan's strategy during the limited war with India in May 2025. It results into strengthened the credibility of Pakistan's armed forces as a deterrent against regional aggression.

ii. Pragmatic Reset with the United States Post-Tariff war

After the economic friction of the 2023-2024 war tariff war, relations with the United States underwent a pragmatic reset. This gave Pakistan crucial economic relief and restored more predictable diplomatic relations.

IV. Losses of Pakistan's foreign Policy in the 21st century

Pakistan's foreign policy has suffered with following losses in 21st century



i. Constrained Sovereignty and Economic dependence

The long term economic weakness

and reliance on outside financial group like IMF is the major hinder in making independent foreign policy. This shows the basic problem of foreign policy focused on security without a strong economy to support it.

ii. Total Breakdown with Taliban led Afghanistan

After 2020, Pakistan's relations with Taliban are spoiled. The continuous clashes across the Durand line and safe havens for Pakistan Taliban (TTP) in Afghanistan is a hinder to stop terrorism. It turned western border to active zone of conflicts rather than the security zone.

iii. Deepning Rift with Iran

The relationship with Iran

remains strained due to their growing relations with India and the defense pact SMDA. It leaves fears in Tehran. The bad relationship has closed chances for energy trade and regional cooperation with a key neighbor.

IV. Costly Stalemate with India. Post-2025 war

After the operation Bazyan-ul-Mursoon, the relationship with India became a costly deadlock, shutting down any talks for near future and making the Kashmir issue more rigid than ever before.

V. Conclusion:

Pakistan's foreign policy in 21st century shows that it is difficult for

Pakistan to follow the principles of constitution. The ground approach of Pakistan's Foreign Policy is somehow opposite like their coordination with US on war and terror. and our regional conflicts. It is against the constitutional principles Peace, Sovereignty and Islamic Solidarity. The Pakistan's foreign policy bring gains - Pakistan's exit from FATF grey list, progress under CPEC, new defense agreement, and improved relation with US - along with losses, economic instability, and regional isolation. Pakistan's sustainable ~~for the~~ future regional shift from security driven, reactive approach to a foreign policy anchored in strong institution, economic diplomacy and regional connectivity.

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good attempt. but the answer is lengthy and might affect your time management,

Question No #02

What are main non-traditional security threats faced by Pakistan? How these threats are different in grounds and diverse in nature to address. Explain

I- Introduction:

After the cold war, the contemporary security paradigm has undergone a fundamental transformation. The traditional military threats remains present for Pakistan till today but along with this the more immediate threats are non-traditional security threats. These threats are distinct from conventional warfare, emerge from economic, environmental, social, and technological domains. They directly threat human

security. This question will explore the nature of these threats and the diverse tools to address them. It demands the analytical approach that encompasses comprehensive governance and policy responses.

II- What Constitutes Non-Traditional Security?

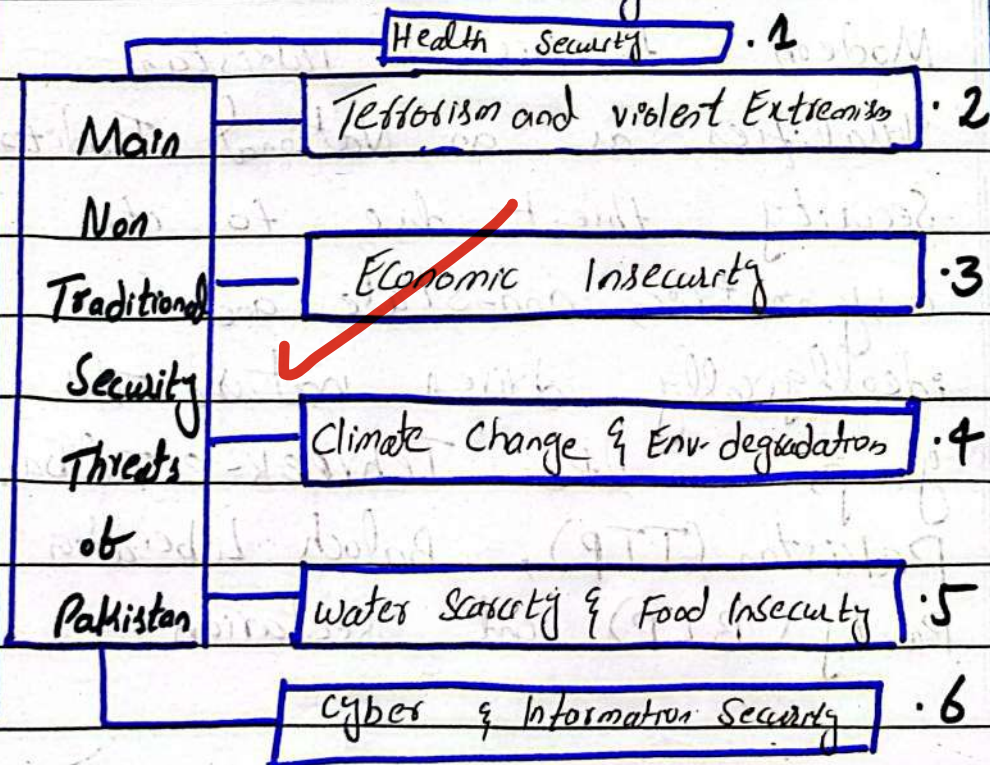
Non-traditional security do not originate from military conflicts directly. However, they have the capability to threaten sovereignty, stability and welfare of a state and its people.

According to the United Nations Developmental Program 1994 Human Development Report that the concept of Non-traditional Security had shifted the focus

from state centric "hard security" to the protection of individuals within the state from chronic threats like hunger, disease, environmental degradation. For Pakistan, this is crucial as it explains that why military strength alone cannot ensure national stability.

III- Main Non-Traditional Security Threats of Pakistan

These are the following main non-traditional security threats



1- Health security and Pakistan's fragile public health Infrastructure

Health care security threats emerges from biological factors interacting with inadequate health care system, poor sanitation, and vaccine hesitancy. The Covid-19 Pandemic exposed Pakistan's fragile public health Infrastructure while the persistence of Polio shows the Institutional weakness. These challenges impact the human capital development.

2- Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Modern terrorism in Pakistan qualifies as a National Traditional Security threat due to its asymmetric, non-state and ideologically driven nature. The groups like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Baloch Liberation Party (BLP) and sectarian

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militants exploits internal governance gaps, socio-economic deprivation and create anxiety among masses. The major come back of this terrorism happens after Taliban's return in 2021. It demonstrates how internal political and ideological grounds generates security crises.

iii- Economic Insecurity and Inflation

Pakistan's economic crises is a profound ~~Not~~ Non-traditional security threat. The inflation is exceeding 30%, thirty percent foreign exchange reserves critically low, and public debt unsustainable. Economic instability undermines state legitimacy and social cohesion. Over forty percent of Pakistan's population lives below the poverty line. The economic insecurity generates

from ~~tax~~ weak tax collection system, corruption, institutional weakness and agricultural stagnation.

IV. Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

Pakistan is the climate-vulnerable country and ranks on 152th among 192 countries affected from climate change. 2010, 2020, 2022 and 2025 floods are great examples of it. They affected million of masses and a plenty of loss to natural resources and infrastructure. Recurring heat waves, glacial melting, deforestation, and air pollution compound the crisis. Currently, Lahore ranks on 1st position in most polluted cities. These threats stem from global environmental systems interacting with local mismanagement like unplanned urbanization and creates security challenges.

V- Water Scarcity and Food Insecurity

Pakistan is rapidly approaching the absolute water scarcity, threatening its agriculture base and food production. This crisis includes India rapid build of dams, suspension of Indus water treaty after Pehlgaon attack, climate change, population growth and inefficient irrigation process. ultimately, it results in food insecurity, rising prices and malnutrition creates social unrest and fueling slow-burn security crisis.

VI- Cyber and Information security

As Pakistan is on the way to become to digitize, the disinformation propaganda.

State-sponsored cyber espionage, destabilizing social harmony and creating a vacuum between the public and State institutions. This Non-traditional Security threat originates in the technological domain and includes hybrid warfare strategies that traditional border defense cannot intercept.

IV- How these Traditional Non-Traditional Security Threats are Different in Grounds

Every non-traditional security threat has different nature than the other. That is why the grounds or origins of these threats cannot be addressed uniformly and have specific solution according to their nature.

i.

Terrorism and Violent Extremism

- ↓
- This national security threat springs from ideological radicalization and political grievances.

ii.

Economic Insecurity and Inflation

- ↓
- It emerges from structural fiscal and monetary weaknesses, mismanagement, corruption and global economic shifts.

iii.

Climate Change and environmental degradation

- ↓
- It originates in global environmental system and are exacerbated by local ecological mismanagement.

iv

Water Scarcity & Food Insecurity

- It results from rivalry with India, lack of dams, demographic pressure and resource governance failure.

v-

Health Insecurity and fragile Infrastructure

- It began with biological factors, reduced budget for health, fragile health policies and institutional incapacity.

vi-

Cyber and Information security

- Cyber threats began with hybrid war tactics, technological interdependence, and lack of adaptability of technology.

The diversity of origins indicates that each non-traditional security

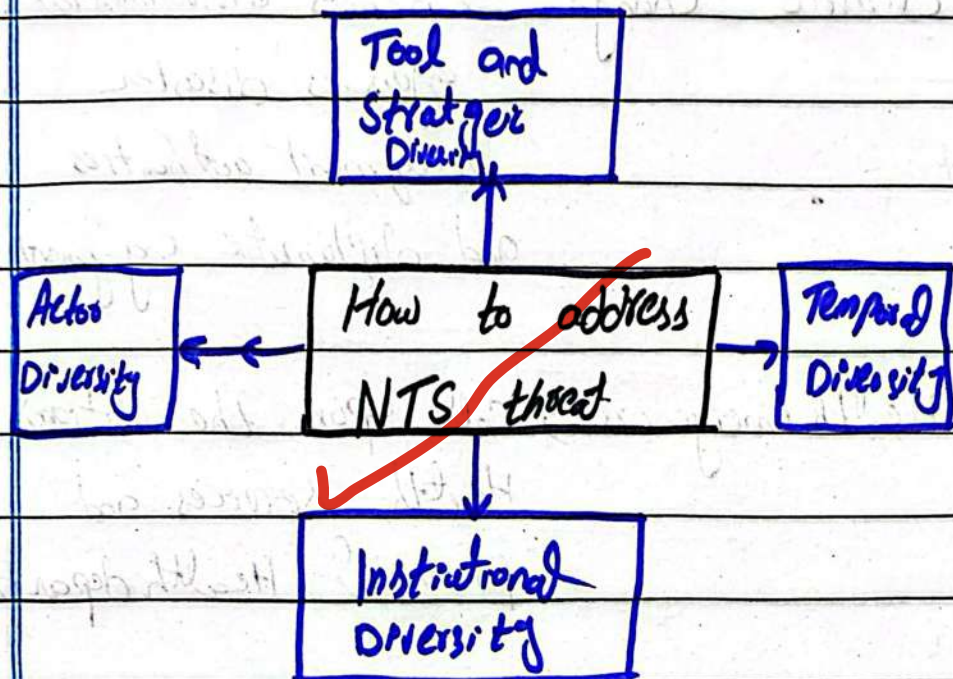
Security threat came into existence through different mechanism and effect different spheres of State.

Economic threat erode State legitimacy while environmental threat cause catastrophic and cyber threat operates continuously and health threat spread biologically.

II-

How to address Non-Traditional Security Threats diverse in Nature

The diverse nature of Non-traditional security does not follow a uniform solution to all. It needs to address separately with comprehensive framework and policies. These are the following ways to address non-traditional security threats.



I- Institutional Diversity to address Non-Traditional Security Threat

Each threat requires specialised Institution.

Terrorism demands → coordinated action from ISI, law enforcement

Economic Crises → require technocratic by foreign ministry, state bank and diplomatic engagement

Climate Change → needs environmental agencies, disaster management authorities and diplomatic engagement

Health emergencies → call upon the National Health services and provincial Health departments

Cyber threats → dedicated cyber commands and regulatory bodies

ii- Temporal Diversity to mitigate Non-traditional Security Threat

Terrorist attack

→ require immediate tactical response

Economic Reforms

→ unfold over medium term adjustment Programs

Climate adaptation

requires decade along
infrastructure projects

water management

needs generational planning
for large dams

Health system strengthening

continuous process
between pandemics

iii. Actors Diversity:

Provincial governments

lead on health, agriculture
and water management under the
18th amendment

Civil Society organizations

deliver services and
advocates for vulnerable groups

Private Sector

invests in climate
resilience and renewable energy

International Partners

(UN agencies, world Bank)
provide technical expertise

Academia and Research Institutions

generates crucial data
and solutions

IV Tool and Strategy Diversity

- Economic threats require fiscal tools, monetary policy and trade strategies.
- Climate threats needs engineering solutions and diplomatic efforts
- Health threats utilizes medical

Surveillance systems, and public
Communication

- Cyber threats demand technical
firewalls and legal frameworks.

VI- Conclusion:

Pakistan faces a complex security
landscape where non-traditional
threat pose challenge as significant
as traditional military threats.
These diverse origins in ideological,
structural, ~~en~~ Ecological, Biological
and environmental grounds
necessitates equally diverse
responses. Pakistan must institutionalize
a human security approach
that complements military
readiness with eco-resilience,
environmental sustainability,
social cohesion and technological
sovereignty. This Paradigm Shift

represents the central security
imperatives of the 21st
century Pakistan.

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Conclusion:

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