

Geopolitical Importance of Pakistan

Pakistan in the region

Geopolitical Importance

(Location, Neighbouring states, Military Factors, Population).

Pakistan in the region:

- ⇒ Cross road: Middle East, Far East, Central Asia, South Asia
- ⇒ It is a part of South Asia.
- ⇒ Central Asia on one side, while part of South Asia
- ⇒ Neighbouring states:

North → China

China:

- Member of Security Council

- Nuclear power
- World's largest population
- Emerging economic power.
- Approach: Include diff. plans/schemes
- Wants to sustain hold on Indian Ocean.
(Indian Ocean is imp for energy resources).
- CPEC: Relations improved with Pakistan (2014 onward)
- CPEC is a minor part of OBOR (One Belt One Road) and BRI (Belt & Road Initiative)

East → India

India:

- Rivalry between the two states.

- Aims to become regional power
- Economic and strategic ties with USA
- Some projects with China
- 2nd largest population
- Attraction for the world becu of population

- A state on Indian Ocean
- Nuclear State (Test in 74 and 98)

South → Arabian Sea + Iran

Iran • First relations were established with Iran

- Friendly Relation
- Treaty of 12mir later it was changed to ~~later~~ ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) in 1985
- Members of ECO: Pak, Iran, Turkey, CARs
- Allied state in CEATO and SENTO.
- Relations worsened in last decade, to a little extent
- One of the 36 thresholding states in nuclear field.

Arabian Sea • Pakistan is blessed not to be landlocked.

- This sea is functional around the year
- Makran coast and gawadar.
- SOVIETS attacked Afghanistan to get access to Arabian sea.

West → Afghanistan

Afghanistan • The only state that opposed Pak in UN

- There border is called Durand line (1893)
- Afghanistan wants to revisit contract of durand line

IS PAKISTAN'S LOCATION A BLESSING OR CURSE:

Pakistan is important internationally because of its location. After CPEC, Peace restored in Afghanistan, the imp of this region will increase.

- In cold war Pak became power of capitalist block.
- Pak was separated by a 14km path ^(Wahlgan strip) with Tajikistan (Previously part of SOVIET Union) and this should its importance
- Pak was a frontline state in Afghan war.
- After 9/11 Pakistan's role on War on Terror is known world wide
- (Pak + Iran + Turkey + Soviet Union + China) to become a block.
- Pak, Turkey and Malaysia to become good group in future.
- Pak is 7th largest conventional military
- 6th largest population (More than 200 million people)
- The only nuclear state in Islamic world.

Internal Strength: (Based on Economy)

- Pakistan is rich in minerals.
- Problem of Governance affect economy.

Minerals, livestock, Youth, Mountains, Rivers, Irrigation system.

- At time of partition, best irrigation system
- 8 out of top 14 Mountains in Pakistan
(Attraction for tourism industry).

- Pakistan is on crossroad. Connected with many states worldwide
- Blessed with glaciers.
- Youth: A very large no. of people in the age grp 15-24
- A nuclear state
- Pakistan is blessed with all 5 seasons.
- Pakistan is part of Great Power Proxy Competition.

Pakistan's location is a blessing overall.

Geopolitical Importance of Pakistan. (Geostrategic)

• Powers always need Pakistan because of its location
Pre Cold War area: Geopolitics

Post Cold War area: Geoeconomics

- Russia is an emerging power once again.
- Pakistan has improved regional, political and strategic relations with Russia.

SIGNIFICANCE:

1. • Proximity of great powers. (Rise in hub of India, China & Russia)
 - Pakistan's neighbouring states are important nuclear, superpowers
 - Indian Ocean has a great importance in New Great Game
 - Pakistan's location is important in New Great Game.
2. Gateway to Central Asia Oil and Energy game.
 - 60-80% supply through Indian Ocean routes.
 - Malakalan state, State of Hummus are imp in this regard
 - Chabahar was done to reduce importance of SCPEC.
3. Significance as a Transit Economy.
 - Economic path to Central Asia, Far East, Middle East, China, Russia and even India, Pakistan.
4. Significance as an important link in the chain of Muslim world.
 - Pakistan is the hub of Islamic word.
 - It is pivotal, central location
 - Only nuclear state in Islamic world
5. Global Pivot of 21st Century
 - In the region known as global pivot in the 21st century

- Reemerging Russia. After Putin's rule started this is reemerging

6. India

- It is a regional power
- America has good relations with India.

7. Part of SCO (Shanghai Cooperate Organization)

8. Part of ECO (Economic Cooperate organization)

9. Part of SAARC (Though SAARC is inactive)

10. Part of OIC (Organization of Islamic Countries)

CONCLUSION:

⇒ Pakistan is a potential power

- Youth and population are strengths along with resources.

⇒ Pak has geostrategic importance.

⇒ Pak has international connectivity

⇒ Pak has cordial relations with powers

⇒ Pak is a hub/pivotal point in the world

⇒ CPEC has strengthened relations with China.

⇒ New Great Game: Pak role is important

⇒ Indian Ocean political: Imp in energy

China and America wants to control Indian Ocean political

⇒ New Emerging Blocks

Pakistan's importance in the emerging blocks

Pakistan from Crisis State to New Potential emerging state.

- Previously it was a crisis state during war on terror.
- Now it is gaining strength

→ Two crisis of Pakistan

- Governance
- Economy

→ Parallel Relations with super powers

- It has relations with both US and China.

CPEC

- Chinese are overcoming through soft power (economically) using it.
 - US and Chinese will have war over trade (A probability)
 - China is trying to reach European, Central Asian, African and middle Eastern states.
 - This is a way to connect South China with the rest of the world.
 - CPEC gives access to China to Indian Ocean which makes trade less expensive and time saving.
- ⇒ CPEC is either game changer or game over for Pakistan.
(Future will decide it):
- Some people say that CPEC is being ignored as the present govt. is not currently talking abt it so it will be transferred to the background soon.
 - It is a \$46 billion investment.
 - It is supposed to complete by 2030.
 - There are 6 corridors under OBOR (One Bank one road)
- ⇒ It is called gamechanger as it will produce 7 lakh employments.

PROS / ADVANTAGES

1. knowledge based economy growth
2. Inter provincial relations will improve
3. Economic activities will increase
4. Coal energy project in Pakistan.

CONS / CHALLENGES

1. This is a loan/grant/aid, therefore it is uncertain
2. Other states are not happy with it
3. Indian Stance: China is occupying Gawadar, like East India company.
4. Security Issue (Internally).
 - There are security risks to Gawadar, CPEC and Pakistan.
5. Provincial consensus: Some reservations of some provinces of Pakistan.
 - Council of common interest (CCI) should work on these concerns together with the parliament.

Gawadar vs ChaBahar (Strategic Encirclement) (Containment Strategies)

- Gawadar is deep sea port while ChaBahar is not.
 - ChaBahar is an idea of 1970s
 - ChaBahar connect Iran with gulf.
 - Gawadar connect CARs through Afghanistan
- ⇒ ChaBahar involves Iran, Afghanistan, India
- North South transport corridor in ChaBahar.
 - ⇒ India connecting through Kail project

⇒ Pakistan doesn't have the option of neutrality. It has to take any one side.

⇒ In IPEC, Neighbouring states are also important.

- Afghanistan is imp becu3 of the reason that it was center of cold war. Also war on terror was fought in these lands

- There is a rebuilding factor after America withdraw its forces.

- Peace won't be stored until there is peace in Afghanistan

• Regional stability is attained when there is peace in the neighbour states along with the nation itself

Stake of Pak, China, Tajikistan, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan involved in Afghanistan.

⇒ Post US-withdrawn from Afghanistan is imp for regional stability

- There are many countries involved in the peace-restoration in Afghanistan.

⇒ Regional security, Regional development, Regional investment depends upon the situation of Afghanistan therefore Afghanistan's peace is important.

INDIAN OCEAN:

- Strategies of America is launched here
- China's strategy 'String of Pearls' is also launched here
- Before Modi took east policy by India, now 'Act East Policy'.
- ⇒ Many states are trying to control one another
- There are many states trying to encircle the others. These powers are trying to have control over the Indian ocean

GREAT GAME: (A very old term) (Now analysts use New great game)

- ⇒ Game of minerals and Resources
- ⇒ Role of Central Asian Republics (CARs) is important.
- ⇒ Afghanistan's resources and minerals are imp.
 - New great game is being fought on the minerals and resources of Afghanistan and CARs.

ALLIANCE POLITICS

- ⇒ Now global alliances became less important these days.
- ⇒ But alliances still do exist under diff projects
- Analysts consider Iran, Russia, China, Turkey, Pakistan as one block that is emerging.
 - ⇒ There will always be an importance for regional blocks.

RUSSIAN FACTOR

- ⇒ It was a very super power in cold war.
- ⇒ It had a tussle with USA.
- ⇒ In post cold war era Russia came forward as a successor state of Soviet Union.

- ⇒ Pakistan will have a pivotal state role
- Pak should overcome internal problems (economic, developmental)
 - Pak shld decide the block to be included in
- ⇒ If CPEC and Chabahar are linked, it will be a win win situation.
- ⇒ Importance of Internal, External factors in Pakistan.
- ⇒ Neutrality is no option for Pakistan in this hybrid war
- ⇒ Russia is a reemerging power.
- Russia developed alot in Putin's presidency.
 - ⇒ Pak and Russia tried to strengthen relations after 9/11
 - ⇒ Relations between Russia and India worsened to some extent.

MIDDLE EASTERN STATES

- Consists of Gulf and Arab states.
- ⇒ Cordial relations of Pak and Saudia.
- Economic effect on Pak upon the circumstances and situation of Syria etc.
- Pakistan should revisit its relations with some African and middle Eastern states like Nigeria
- Relations should be established with states that aren't immediate neighbours.

POST COVID / GLOBALIZATION (A total diff world)

- COVID is a global issue but global organizations aren't playing an imp role.
 - Therefore globe is going back to regionalism. (∴ States are handling this pandemic individually).
 - Upcoming fight of pharmaceuticals can be predicted.
- Many things like health systems of World Powers are exposed.