

International Relations Class 01

4th January, 2024 at 1:00 PM

OVERVIEW OF THE SYLLABUS (01:08 PM)

- India and its Neighbourhood
- Bilateral, regional, and global groupings and agreements involving India or affecting India's interests.
- Effects of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests.
- Indian Diaspora
- Important international institutions, agencies, and fora- their structure and mandate.

SOURCES TO REFER TO (02:03 PM)

INDO-PAK RELATIONS (02:20 PM)

GEOPOLITICAL AND STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PAKISTAN:

- Pakistan has emerged to be the biggest foreign policy challenge for India and has emerged as a crucial ^{actor} in the SA region.
- 1. Location:
 - Border sharing: Pakistan shares a border with 3 Indian states i.e. Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Punjab, and 2 UTs of J&K and Ladakh.
 - Security concerns: Due to border sharing, there are security threats from Pakistan. These threats are both internal as well as external.
 - These external threats include: → War or Direct confrontation
 - War or external aggression: 4 times (1948, 1965, 1971, and 1999)
 - Internal threats: Cross-border terrorism, drug trafficking, proxy warfare, human trafficking, Insurgency and Militancy, Islamic radicalization, fake currency, etc. Illegal weapon smuggling, Illegal migration.
 - Gateway to Central Asia:
 - Pakistan lies in the region where the SA converges with CA and WA.
 - This is the reason that Pakistan is also considered a zipper state.
 - It is situated at the doorway to energy-surplus WA and resource-rich CA.
 - Pakistan has proximity with India, China, and Iran and therefore, it is strategically important for India. → 2. Interest of Great Powers in Pakistan -
 - The interest of China in Pakistan:
 - It is argued that Pakistan has turned itself into a rentier state.
 - China has taken this opportunity to collude with Pakistan with the aim of mutual undercutting of India.
 - In this regard, Pakistan and China are often considered iron brothers.
 - The Xinjiang province of China includes Uighur Muslims striving for autonomy in China.
 - Keeping in mind, the close proximity of this province with Pakistan, Pakistan appears to be highly important for China. The reason is China wants to control the spread of radical islamic tendencies in its own Xinjiang province from Pakistan.

Militancy means Arms culture and
Insurgency means intention of
separate out from the country.

- **US Interest in Pakistan:**

- The US is concerned about Pakistan because Pakistan could emerge as a very good consumer market for the US along with an area with an abundance of both natural and human resources.
- Also, Pakistan comes within the category of a zipper state and is close to Afghanistan which was earlier under the influence of the USSR.
- Earlier, the US had a **hyphenated approach** vis-a-vis the relationship with India and Pakistan.
- Pakistan emerged as one of the attractive points for the US to place itself in S. Asia. (Afghanistan was already under the sphere of influence of USSR.)
- However, with the emergence of India as a leading economic and regional power capable of countering China, the US changed its approach towards Pakistan thereby adopting an unhyphenated approach.

- **Iran's Interest in Pakistan:**

- Iran wants to avoid **antithetical** Sunni blocks near its neighborhood.

TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS: CONTINUATION OF INDO-PAK RELATIONS.

Owing to its natural resources, huge consumer base and strategic location

Iran require greater presence in Pakistan keeping in mind its close border sharing and also to avoid antithetical Sunni blocks near its neighborhood.

-> Importance of Pakistan for India -

Pakistan lies in the crucial Sea Lanes of Communication (SLoC) in the Indian ocean region and is therefore important for many countries neighboring it. This is the another reason why Pakistan is important even for India.

(SLoC are also called as trade routes, also called as supply chain routes)