

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 one in the SA region.
- **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 external aggression: 4 times (1948, 1965, 1971, and 1999)
 - Internal threats: Cross-border terrorism, drug trafficking, proxy warfare, human trafficking, Militancy, Islamic radicalization, fake currency, etc.
- **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.
- **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.

- **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.
- 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.