

Discuss the Geo-strategic importance of Pakistan.

Do you agree that it has greatly affected the development of social and political institutions in Pakistan?

### 1. Introduction

Situated at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East, Pakistan occupies a pivotal geographical position. It has a significant importance in regional and global geopolitics.

It borders key nations, has a vast coastline, it is close to global trade routes, takes a important position in regional security dynamics and is an addition to nuclear power to the

region. Furthermore, the location of Pakistan

has affected its development of social and political institutions. Socially, it has received

refugees, is facing terrorism and extremism, and, on a positive note, seen a cultural growth.

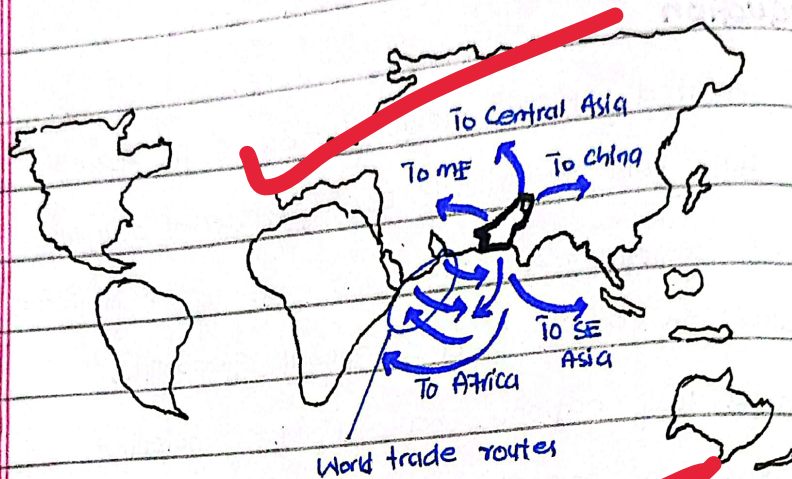
Politically, Pakistan has faced foreign policy pressures, conflicts over border issues and

resorted to a security-driven governance. Thus,

its has been both of significance for Pakistan.

## II. The Geostategic Location of Pakistan

Pakistan's standing in the globe is of very importance. It connects many significant regions.



Pakistan is connected with the rest of the world both by water and land. With a coastline of about 990 km, Pakistan is easily connected with the nearby countries.

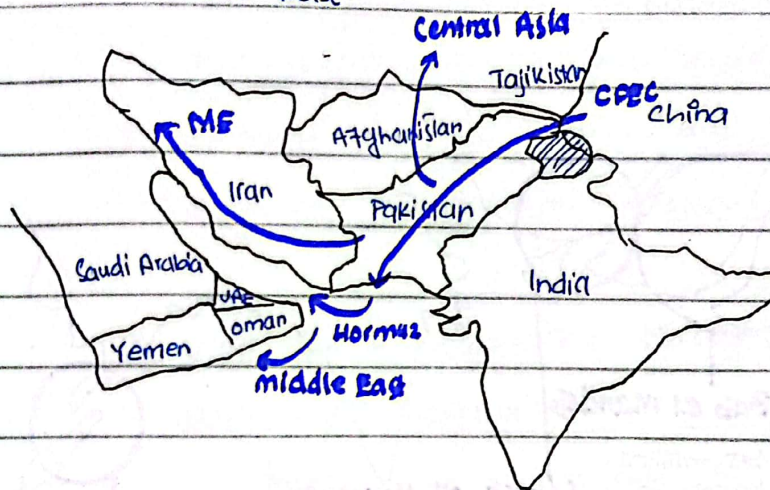
## III. The Geostategic Importance of Pakistan

Pakistan is geostategically important. It shares borders with key nations, has a vast coastline, it is close to global trade routes, is a part of global security nexus, and adds to the regional nuclear status.



## A. Pakistan's Proximity to Global Powers

Pakistan shares border with India, a nuclear state and the largest country by population. It shares border with China, the second largest country by population and economy. Afghanistan connects Pakistan with Central Asia, while Iran with the middle East.



## B. Vast Coastline for Maritime Stronghold

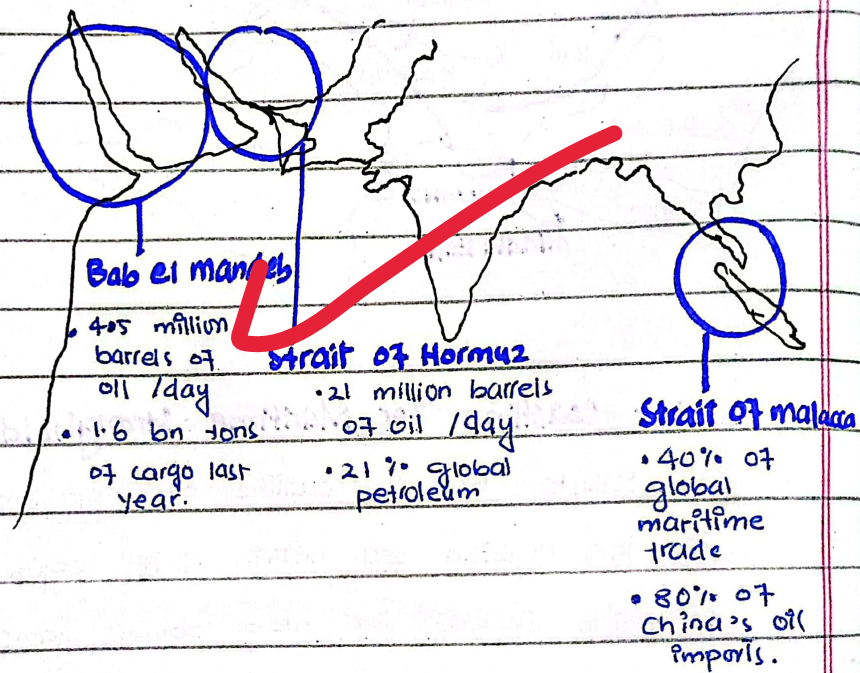
Pakistan has a coastline of 990 km with the Arabian Sea within this region of Indian Ocean. The new power game is in this region. With its long coastline, Pakistan has a strong maritime presence.

The Guwadar Port has become of utmost significance, becoming the reason why China became so interested and began the flagship project of BRI through CPEC in Pakistan.



### C. Access To Global Trade Routes

The strait of Hormuz, bab el mandeb and strait of malacca are major choke points of the world. majority of the world's trade pass through these straits and all three fall in Indian oceans, close to Pakistan.



### D. A Part of Regional Security Nexus

For about a century, the global security compass has been towards the Middle East and for about half a century it has been in Afghanistan.

In 1979 when USSR invaded Afghanistan



the United States need the help of Pakistan to counter Soviet Union. Then following the 9/11 and War on Terror, it wouldn't have been possible for the US to consolidate its stronghold in Afghanistan with cooperation of Pakistan. Thus, for about half a century, Pakistan remained a significant part of the security dynamics in the region due to Pakistan's geostrategic location.

### E. Pakistan Amplifies the Nuclear Status of Region

There is no doubt that the global powers are determined by their nuclear capability. The P5 of UNSC are all nuclear states. Pakistan is the third nuclear state of the region, making Asia the continent with greatest number of nuclear states. Thus, the addition of Pakistan increases both the security risks as well as strength of the region.



#### IV. Implications of The Geostrategical Location of Pakistan in Social Institutions

The social framework of Pakistan has been vastly influenced by its geostrategical location.

##### A. Refugee Influx and Strained Social Services

Since Russian invasion, Pakistan has been receiving refugees from Afghanistan. The number has been in millions they increased for US War on Terror, increasing the strain on social services and economy.

##### B. A surge in Terrorism and Extremism

Terrorism in Pakistan is on the rise. Extremist groups such as TTP and ISK have infiltrated into Pakistan. The APS attack in 2014, and Martini attack of 2023 were by TTP and ISK respectively.

##### C. Cultural Exchange and Growth

On a positive note, there has been a cultural exchange and growth in

The country. The Hazara community from Afghanistan, The Farsi from Iran, the Gilgiti in Northern area are examples of cordial cultural exchange.

## v. Implications of Pakistan's Location on its Political Institutions

The location of Pakistan has also influenced the development of the political institutions of the country.

### A. Foreign Policy Pressures

Pakistan had to go through decisions like the "with us or against us" for instance during the Bush regime on War on terror. moreover, its non-alignment was not possible during the Cold War, solely because of its strategic location.

### B. Conflict over Border Issues

"You can change friends, not neighbours."

- Atal Bihari Vajpayee former Indian PM

Thus, the conflict over border remained in most parts in the matter of



Kashmir with India and Durand line with Afghanistan.

### C. Security-Dominated Governance

Because Pakistan has a hostile neighbors, it has become imperative that the governance is security-driven with military having a significant say in the country. Military's involvement in matters of Afghanistan, India, Iran and even China require a strong military presence thus there.

### VI. Conclusion

also mention the positive implications

Pakistan's geostrategic position has been both a boon and a bane. While it does offer opportunities for economic growth and regional connectivity, it has also exposed the country to conflicts and socio-political challenges. Nonetheless, the geostrategic position of the country has made it a state of significance and, thus, an important actor on the global front.



Give a resume of the mineral resources of Pakistan and comment as to why have we not been able to capitalize upon this resource base.

## 1. Introduction

Pakistan is endowed with a variety of mineral resources, ranging from metallic and non-metallic minerals to fuel minerals. These resources are distributed across different regions of the country. However, the overall GDP contribution of these minerals is only 2.5% according to the Geological Survey of Pakistan, despite a variety of 50 major minerals. Various underlying issues exist that make the state unable to capitalize upon the resource base. These include lack of exploration and investment, governance issues, infrastructure deficiency, security concerns, environment concerns and legal challenges. However, these challenges can be met with comprehensive geological surveys, better governance, improved security and a long-term mineral policy.



## II. The Unmapped Minerals of Pakistan

According to GSP, there are 50 minerals in Pakistan. These can be broadly grouped as metallic minerals, non-metallic minerals, fuel minerals and precious stones.

### Metallic Minerals

- Gold } Reko Diq
- Copper } and
- Silver } Scindak
- Iron - Dilband, Kalabagh, Chiniot
- Chromite - muslim Bagh

### Non-metallic Minerals

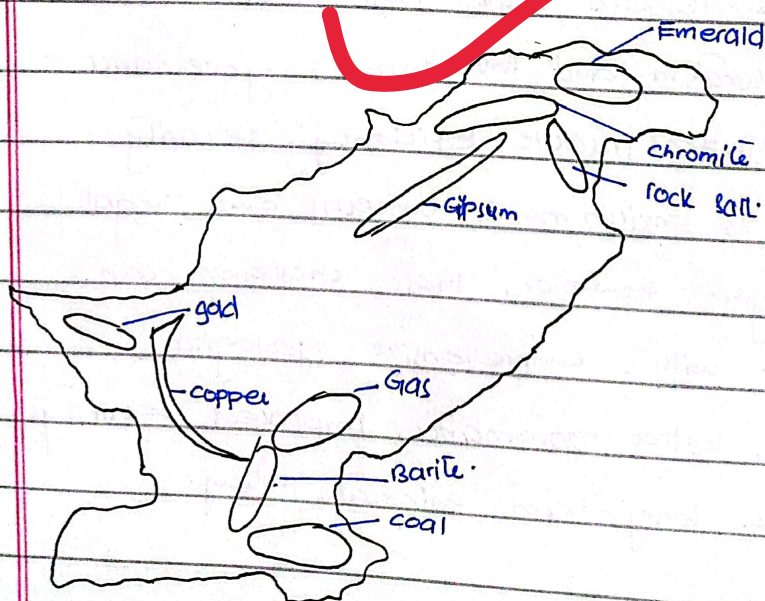
- Gypsum - Punjab and Sindh <sup>KPK</sup>
- Rock salt - Salt Range
- Lime stone - abundance in Punjab

### Fuel Minerals

- Coal - Sindh
- Natural Gas - Balochistan and Sindh
- Oil - Southern Bal and Sindh

### Precious Stones

- Emerald } KPK
  - Ruby } and
  - Topaz } Northern
- areal.





### III. Challenges in Capitalizing Mineral Resources in Pakistan

Following are the reasons why Pakistan has been unable to fully capitalize on the potential of mineral resources:

#### A. Lack of Exploration and Investment

The exploration of minerals is limited due to economic and technical restraints. The techniques are outdated, and funds insufficient.

#### B. Issues in The Governance

The mining sector is inefficient due to corrupt practices and weak regulatory framework.

#### C. Infrastructure Deficiency

The transportation, energy supply, and processing facilities are inadequate with no extraction machines.

#### D. Security Concerns

In mineral rich regions like Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, insurgency and terrorism limit mining operations and deter investment by private sector.

Minimum description under a heading should be 5 lines.

Add and highlight references against these arguments



### E. Environmental Concerns

Local community of raise issues regarding exploitation and alteration of landscape due to mining operations.

### F. Policy and Legal Constraints

Overlapping jurisdictions between the federal and provincial governments are a hurdle for mining. Moreover, there are no long-term policies to solve such issues.

Add more arguments

### IV. Conclusion

In conclusion, Pakistan's mineral resources hold immense potential to drive economic growth and reduce dependence on imports.

If the above-mentioned hurdles are removed with relevant solutions, Pakistan can unlock the economic potential of its mineral wealth.

A 20 marks answer should have around 15 subheadings and be on 7-9 pages