

Geo-Strategic Location of Pakistan.

Outline

1. Introduction

a. A brief account into geography of Pakistan

b. Opportunities and challenges presented by geostrategic location of Pakistan

c. Thesis statement

2. Opportunities presented by Geo-Strategic Location of Pakistan

a. Pakistan can become a transition hub

i- China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can be extended to neighbouring countries

b. Solution to energy crisis of Pakistan

i- Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline

ii- Central Asia South Asia (CASA) Power project

c. Opportunity to play an important role in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

i- Role in maintaining regional stability and security

d. Relevancy to The United States of America (USA)

i- Cooperation in maintaining security situation in Afghanistan post US withdrawal

3. Challenges for Pakistan due to Its Geo-Strategic Location

- a. US-China global rivalry
 - i. Deterioration in Pak-US relations due to US apprehensions regarding CPEC
- b. US-India strategic partnership
 - i. Increased security risk for Pakistan
- c. Rise of militancy in Pakistan after US withdrawal from Afghanistan
 - i. 68% rise in militant attacks in year 2023 compared to year 2022
- d. Separatist movements in Balochistan
 - i. Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) finding refuge in Sistan province of Iran

4. Wayforward to Deal With Challenges Arising from Geo-Strategic Location of Pakistan

- a. Resolving internal issues
 - i. Illiteracy
 - ii. Unemployment
 - iii. Justified resource-sharing with areas of periphery
- b. Robust Diplomacy to maintain balance between global powers and avoid mis-communication with neighbouring countries

5. Conclusion

Essay

The geography of Pakistan is of prime importance. Pakistan is situated at crossroads of Middle East (ME) and South Asia. It also has access to warm waters throughout the year. Due to these geographical advantages, Pakistan is able to maintain a prominent position in global affairs. Pakistan is home to flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China. CPEC, in addition to projects like IP gas pipeline and CASA-1000, has played an important role in resolving energy crisis of Pakistan. The combination of strong military and its geography makes Pakistan an important member of SCO which works on regional security. Its geographical importance also makes Pakistan relevant to global powers like USA. However, geo-strategic location of Pakistan also present a number of issues. Global - Power - Rivalry between USA and China has negative implications on Pakistan-US relations. In order to contain China in the region, the cooperation between India and US has also increased which is also harming Pak-US relations. After US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan is also facing increased militant attacks.

The separatists elements are also active in Pakistan due to availability of sanctuaries in Iran. In order to deal with these challenges, it is important for Pakistan to first address its internal issues like illiteracy, bad governance and unemployment. By adopting a balanced foreign policy and communicating efficiently with neighbouring countries, these issues can be mitigated. In short, geo-strategic location of Pakistan brings a number of opportunities. By adopting certain measures, full potential of these opportunities can be achieved and challenges arising from geo-strategic location of Pakistan can be curbed.

First of all, geo-strategic location of Pakistan provides it with an opportunity to become a transit hub. Pakistan is situated a cross-roads of Central Asia, Middle East and South Asia. The infrastructure of connectivity has improved a lot under CPEC in Pakistan. Pakistan can provide a route to warm water to land-locked countries of Central Asia. With Saudi Arabia and Iran already onboard with China's BRI, CPEC can be extended to Middle East as well. Therefore, it can be rightly said that geo-strategic location of

Pakistan provides it with an opportunity to become a transition hub.

Moreover, geostrategic location of Pakistan has enabled it to overcome its energy crisis. Under CPEC, various energy power plants have been installed in Pakistan. Quaid-e-Azam solar park, Sukki-Kinari hydal power project and Thar coal power project in Sahiwal are few of the examples. These power plants have helped Pakistan in reducing its energy shortfall from 10000 MW in summer of 2022 to 7000 MW in summer of 2023 according National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA). This has been possible due to geo-strategic location of Pakistan which allows China to access alternate route to trade via CPEC. Thus geo-strategic location of Pakistan has been helpful in overcoming its energy crisis.

Furthermore, geo-strategic location of Pakistan has enabled it to play an active role in important global organizations i.e SCO, ECO etc. Its border areas with Afghanistan and Iran are the hot belts of global terrorist organizations i.e Tehreek Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) etc. Pakistan has the

training and military capacity to deal with such terrorist organisations due to its role in war against terror in first two decades of 21st century. This enables Pakistan to play an important role in SCO which focuses on regional security and stability.

Similarly, Pakistan's geostrategic location has kept it relevant to global super power i.e. America. After US withdrawal from Pakistan, the US has no foothold in Afghanistan to keep a check on terrorist activities. In Maleeha Lodhi's book 'Search For Stability' it is argued that the importance of Pakistan for US has increased for US in this context. Therefore it can be rightly said that geostrategic location of Pakistan has ~~increased~~ enabled it to be of importance for US, and it can leverage this position to attain benefit like economic aid from US.

In the above paragraphs, the opportunities presented to Pakistan by its geostrategic location were discussed. However, geostrategic location of Pakistan also presents certain challenges which are discussed

in detail in following paragraphs.

Firstly, due to its geo-strategic location, Pakistan and US relations have deteriorated in the context of US-China global rivalry. US is trying to contain global rise of China by containing it regionally first. As according to Graham Allison in order to become a global hedgemon, first a state has to become regional hedgemon. China's CPEC is the flagship project of its larger BRI which is China's primary initiative to increase its regional influence. BRI's success is dependant on CPEC which is situated in Pakistan. Thus, US is putting Pakistan under pressure through various steps like putting Pakistan under grey list in FATF and imposing strict conditions for acquiring loans through IMF. Thus due to its geostrategic location, Pakistan's relations with US have deteriorated.

Secondly, increased US-India strategic relationships have also created challenges for Pakistan due to its geostrategic location. In the context of global US-China rivalry, US has been supporting India militarily through platforms like QUAD and I2U2. India is Pakistan's neighbour

and both these countries have a history of military confrontations and border disputes. This military partnership has emboldened India. A recent manifestation of it was seen when India tried to pull out of Indus Water Treaty and also annexed Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) into its territory. Thus, geostrategic location of Pakistan has also presented certain challenges.

Thirdly, after US withdrawal from Afghanistan, there has been a steep rise in militancy in Pakistan. Afghanistan's Paktika and Nuristan provinces border with Pakistan and according to United Nations (UN) reports are the training grounds for TTP. TTP is responsible of a large number of attacks on security forces in Pakistan in 2023. These attacks include attacks on P.A.F base in Mianwali, CTD in Banna and CTD in D.I Khan etc. Pakistan witnessed a 68% rise in militancy ^{in 2023} as compared to in 2022 according to Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) report. Thus, geostrategic location of Pakistan has contributed to rise in militancy in Pakistan.

Lastly, separatist movements

in Pakistan are also on rise due to its geostrategic location. Baloch separatist movements of under Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) have found a sanctuary in Sistan-Baluchistan province of Iran. A proof of which was seen when BLF members were killed in Pakistan's missile strikes in Iran in retaliation to Iran's strikes in Panjgur district in Pakistan. The organisation create unrest in Pakistan in order to achieve their agenda. Thus, it can be said that geo-strategic location of Pakistan has contributed to rise in separatist movements in Pakistan.

However, situation is not all lost yet. Pakistan can curb the challenges presented by its geostrategic location by addressing its inner problems and using robust diplomacy to avoid any miscommunication with global powers. In her book, 'Making Sense of Pakistan' Farzana Sheikh talks about addressing the issues of poverty, illiteracy and equitable resource distribution to areas of periphery in KPK and Baluchistan. By doing so, local population of these areas will not fall in trap of non state actors. Similarly, by

using robust diplomacy and international forums like SCO and UN, Pakistan can address the insecurities of countries like US and ~~China~~ Iran. By effective communication, situations like recent cross boundary confrontations with Iran can be avoided.

In conclusion, it can be said that geo-strategic location of Pakistan has its advantages and disadvantages. On one hand it enables Pakistan to be part of leading economic projects in world like CPEC, raise its international stature and overcome its energy crisis. On other hand, it also results in deterioration of relations with US, increased militancy, rise of separatist movements and testy relations with neighbours. By addressing the internal issues of illiteracy, poverty and ^{unequal} ~~equitable~~ resource distribution, and clear communication with neighbours and global powers through robust diplomacy, such ~~issues~~ Pakistan can curb the challenges and fully utilize the potentials presented by its geostrategic location.

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PMS Essay (1000-1500 words)

Artificial Intelligence: Benefits and Threats.

Outline

1. Introduction

- a. Rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- b. Pros of AI
- c. Cons of AI
- d. Thesis statement

2. Benefits of AI

- a. Automation in manufacturing sector
 - i. Increase in productivity
 - ii. Elimination of human error
- b. Modernization of agriculture sector
 - i. Increase in crops' yield
 - ii. Optimization of resources like fertilizers and water
- c. Improvement in health sector
 - i. Prediction of diseases
 - ii. Development of better drugs
- d. Curbing the climate change
 - i. Prediction of extreme weather events
 - ii. Optimization of energy consumption

3. Threats of AI

- a. Use of autonomous weapons
 - i. Mass killings in Gaza by AI powered drones
- b. Unethical use for academic purposes
 - i. Cheating in assignments using ChatGPT

- c. Undermining democratic norms
 - i. Use of deepfake audio and videos to defame opponent politicians
 - d. Loss of jobs due to automation
 - i. Workers being replaced with robots in automation industries
4. Way forward in Dealing with AI
- a. Designing universal ethical guidelines for safe use of AI
 - b. Mandatory human oversight in areas where use of AI can be lethal
5. Conclusion
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Essay

Humanity is dealing with a number of existential issues. These issues range from increasing food insecurity to rising global temperature. World needs innovative solutions to deal with these issues. Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers a ~~too~~ set of tool to deal with them. AI has been proving beneficial in agriculture sector by increasing the yield of crops and optimizing the use of resources like fertilizers and water. It is also helpful in increasing the production in manufacturing industry.

AI based softwares have also proved helpful in predicting various diseases. By predicting extreme weather events like floods, AI-based softwares have proved useful in mitigating impacts of global warming. However, the rise of AI has also given birth to a number of challenges. Use of AI-based drones has increased the risk of loss of ^{innocent} human lives. Students are using AI-based chatbots to do their assignments. Deepfakes created using AI have been used to defame the political opponents. Loss of jobs due to AI-based automation is another cause of worry. However, situation is not all lost yet. By coming up with universal guidelines for ethical use of AI and introducing human over-sight in AI applications which can prove lethal, threats of AI can be curbed. In short, rise of AI has brought with itself both the blessings and curses. However, by taking certain ~~for~~ measures, potential of AI for positive use can be maximized.

First of all, AI has revolutionized the manufacturing industry. AI powered systems are able to do the repetitive tasks with perfection. It has not only resulted in increased production but also removed the human

error. According to World Trade Organisation, AI in manufacturing can increase the production by 30-35%. Thus, AI has proved useful in improving the manufacturing industry.

Secondly, AI powered machines have revolutionized the agriculture sector. AI powered machines can analyse the soil and give a more accurate estimate about the water and fertilizer requirement of the crops. By using optimized amount of water and fertilizers, yield of crops has been increased. Farmers of Kerala in India, have increased the yield of crops by 35% by using AI powered machines and optimizing water and fertilizer use. Thus by using AI in agriculture, agriculture sector can be improved.

In addition to agriculture sector, healthcare sector is also taking benefit of from recent rise of AI technology. AI based devices keep track of heart rate of heart patients. They are able to predict any abnormality in heart rate and allow for early interventions. According to American Medical Association's journal, AI based devices are able to predict heart-attacks with upto 84% precision. In this way, AI technology is helping in saving

lives of people, and improving the healthcare industry.

Last but not least, AI based softwares are extremely helpful in curbing the effects of climate change too. Due to climate change extreme weather events are becoming a recurring phenomenon. Floods of 2022 are an example of this. AI based softwares can analyse the weather patterns and predict the extreme weather events.

This allows the governments for early interventions and save precious lives and livelihoods of people living in the areas under threat.

In this way, AI is helping in mitigating impact of climate change too.

On the contrary, AI is responsible for putting humanity under the threat of extinction too. AI based softwares allow the militaries around the world to increase the scale of their destruction caused by their weapons. AI based drones can target the enemy posts anywhere and at any time of the day. The human limitations to the scale of destruction has been removed by AI. A recent example of this has been seen in Gaza, where Israeli

forces have used drones to target 'Hamas Militants'. More than 30000 people have been killed in last 4 months. Thus, AI is enabling mass killings through AI powered weapons.

Similarly, use of AI has also resulted in ethical dilemmas in academic field too. AI based softwares and chatbots like ChatGPT allow the users to access information in an efficient manner. But students are using the facility to copy their assignments straight away from the chatbots. This results in failure of learning outcomes as students fail to develop critical thinking ability. In this way, AI is proving harmful in education sector.

Furthermore, AI-powered softwares are also ^{being} used to undermine the democratic norms. The right to ~~see~~ access correct and unbiased information allows the citizen to make informed and sound political decisions. However, AI based softwares like 'Deepfake' allow the users to generate doctored audios and images. These fake pictures and audio clips can be used to mislead the people. In India, fake audio of politician Manoj Tiwari was used to promote his opponent. Such negative uses of AI, make it a threat for democratic norms.

Lastly, AI based systems in automation and manufacturing industry are replacing the manual labour. AI based softwares are able to recognise patterns and repeat them upto perfection. This ability of AI makes it extremely useful in industries where repetitive tasks are required to be performed. That is why AI-based softwares and robot ks are replacing people in industries of automation and manufacturing. According to World Bank, around 85 million people have lost their jobs due to automation in manufacturing industries. This has resulted in mass unemployment as such repetitive tasks does not require skilled labour, and it is difficult for unskilled labour to find jobs in other sectors with no prior experience. Thus, AI has resulted in job losses and increase in unemployment. However, situation is not all lost yet. By taking certain measures, situation can be improved a lot.

Firstly, it is the need of the hour to come up with a comprehensive mechanism to deal with ethical issues arising from the rise of AI. By coming up with comprehensive guidelines regarding ethical

use of AI, the ethical concerns arising from its use can be curtailed. European Union's (EU) AI Act passed in 2023 is a good example in this regard. It focuses on explainability of AI which is essential for making the use of AI safe. Such legislative efforts should be replicated in other parts of the world too.

Similarly, use of AI can be made safe by introducing human oversight. Use of AI in areas where human lives are at stake is extremely dangerous and has the potential to get out of control. In this case the "existence of human race can come under threat. Therefore, it is essential to make the human sight compulsory over the use of AI in areas where as it can prove to be lethal. In case of any misjudgement on the behalf of AI can be overruled by human input in such cases and potential catastrophes can be avoided.

In conclusion, Rise of AI has its advantages and disadvantages. On one hand, it has proved helpful in increasing productivity in industrial and agriculture sector, improving health sector, and curbing the impacts of climate change.

On the other hand, it has enabled armies around the world to increase the devastation caused by lethal weapons. It has also created ethical issues in academic and political spheres, and it is responsible for increased unemployment. However, situation is not all lost yet. By introducing comprehensive ethical guidelines regarding use of AI and human oversight in areas where use of AI can prove lethal, dangers of AI can be reduced and its potential can be maximized.