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Pakistan Affairs - 3rd Quarter

Question # 1:

Examine the major challenges facing Pakistan, including poverty, unemployment and inequality. Discuss the key economic policies implemented to address these challenges and their effectiveness.

Answer:-

(1) Introduction

Pakistan is facing many economic, political and social problems. These problems are causing many psychological and physical damages. All these problems are not God-gifted but man-made. Hence, they could be easily tackled by putting some efforts to save the lives of many

people.

(2) Historical sketch

Just after the independence, such crises broke out.

The leaders who came after Jinnah were not very much capable with the abilities to resolve the governance issues, which later on turned into many other problems which are even faced by the people today. Every leader came up with his own idea to rule but later they just put more burden on the shoulder of nation. For example, Bhutto's Nationalism, Zia's Islamization etc.

(3) Major economic challenges facing Pakistan.

(3.1) Poverty:

Poverty is the

state or condition of the people, where they do not have much resources to live a balance life. In Pakistan, this issue is alarming and increasing with the every tick of the clock. According to World Bank report 2020-21, poverty rate in Pakistan is about 36.3%. Which means that around every hundred people, thirty three are not capable to drink clean water, eat healthy diet and to get quality education.

(3.2) Unemployment:

Unemployment is another issue in Pakistan. Due to negligence and inefficiency of the government and their policies towards the other sectors which employ, are raising this

issue. According to the Global Labour Organization, around 24% people in Pakistan are unemployed. However according to the recent censuses of Government of Pakistan, the unemployment is shown just about 6.3%.

Unemployment is also facing so many young and talented people to leave Pakistan, which is also worsening this condition. Moreover, there are no new plants and organizations settled which could help people to earn their livelihood.

(5.3) Inequality:

In Pakistan, equality is only found in books. There is a big difference between the Elites and the middle class or a poor person. The elite is treated well

everywhere in Pakistan and the laws even do not apply on them, however it is totally opposite for normal people. They had to face struggle and work hard to live life. This reflects that there is a clear disparity between the socially created classes, which shows that "No one is above the law" is just a phrase but not a reality.

(5.4) Education:

The system of education in Pakistan is on the verge of chaos. Literacy rate, according to the Pakistan Statistics Bureau is 41.5%. However, according to the UNDP, Pakistan ranks on the 2nd last number just above the Nigeria, which shows that the education

system needs to be covered.
Most importantly, Pakistan allocates
only around 1% - 2% ^{of its GDP} to its
education system which is
even less than Tanzania.

(4) Policies that need to be
implemented and their effectiveness.

(4.1) Policies for the eradication of poverty:

Governance should be improved
so that the people should
equally take their rights. Secondly,
Corruption should be curbed at
any cost. Deserving people should
be allotted with monthly funding
so that they can live a
better life.

(4.2) Policies for unemployment:

Government should make
departmental committees that overview
the need of people for
their department. More importantly,
new projects should be

launched to give employment to the ^{local} people. Finally, skilled education is the need of the hour. People should become skillful so that they do not depend on government but they also earn through their services and skills.

(4.3) Policies to overcome inequality:

There should be a strict rule of law for everyone. No one should be considered superior or inferior. Everyone should be treated equally irrespective of their rank, post, status, cast and race.

(4.4) Policies to uprise the education system:

Education system should be modernized. Subject and knowledge should not only be based on implied or theories but to perform actual

experiments. Finally, digital education including computer sciences, softwares, Artificial Intelligence and other IT related skills should be taught to the students. This will help them to learn smartly and it will also raise the quality of education in Pakistan.

(5) Conclusion

Pakistan is passing various challenges and problems but they easily be overcome. However, for this purpose, the support of government and the local population is the need of the hour. Resolving these issues will not only help the economy of Pakistan but will also help Pakistan to raise in the international community.

Question #2:

Discuss the historical context and geopolitical significance of the Kashmir issue. Analyze the various perspectives on the dispute and evaluate the potential for a negotiated settlement.

Answer:

(1) Introduction

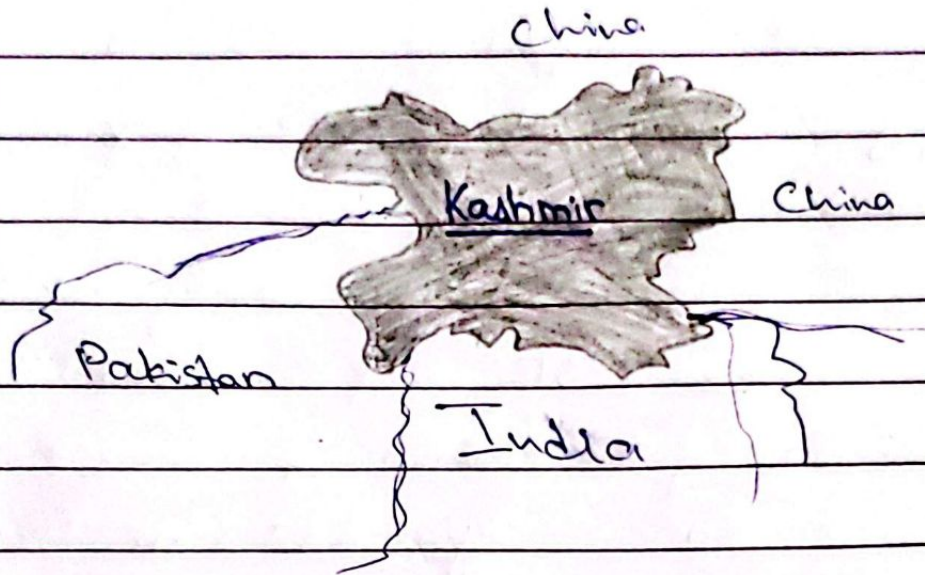
Kashmir has been a complex problem between Pakistan and India since 1947. It lies in the north, sharing borders with Pakistan, India and China. After independence Pakistan has fought several wars with India mainly due to the conflict over Kashmir.

(2) Historical Context

In 1947, muslim majority states joined Pakistan and hindu majority provinces or states side with India.

However, there were some princely states who would free to join anyone between India and Pakistan. In this way many states joined Pakistan and India, but Kashmir at that time was ruled by a Sikh raja, Raja Hari Singh, who was against Muslims. The majority of the population of Kashmir was Muslim and wanted to join Pakistan but Raja Hari Singh signed an unofficial document with India, which became a bone of contention between India and Pakistan. Till now, UN has passed several resolutions, but not a single one is adopted. Similarly, India always refuses table talks to resolve the issue. Most importantly, India has also amended the article 370 and 35A of its constitution since August 5, 2019.

(3) Geographical Significance



The most important significance of geography of Kashmir is that it shares border with China, India and Pakistan. Although it is a landlocked country with it holds the water resources which are used by both India and Pakistan for the purpose of agriculture especially. Secondly it an almost 8600 square mile area which is highly militarized by the forces specially from India. India with the help of

US, wants to counter the influence of China in the region. So, India is trying to change the geographic presentation of Kashmir. For this purpose, India has already asked the article 370 of its constitution, which gives Kashmir a separate status and affirms that no constitutional and demographic changes could be done. However, India has also started allocation of land in Kashmir to Hindus from India and are militarizing the Kashmir, so that they could have access to Siachen and can easily alter the water routes from Kashmir towards India.

(4) Perspectives on Kashmir Dispute

(4.1) India's perspective:

According to India's perspective, Raja Hari Singh had signed the official document to join India.

So according to the document India has a right to rule and govern Kashmir as its own state. Similarly, India had never accepted any bilateral agreement and even any UN resolution. This all shows the realist approach of India in the region to dominate.

(4.2) Pakistan's Perspective:

Pakistan on the other hand holds sympathy and wants a fair plebiscite in Kashmir as suggested by UN. Several times, Pakistan has invited India to resolve this conflict and to ease the life of Kashmiri people. Pakistani leaders including Musharraf and Nawaz Sharif have also give 4-point formula to calm down the situation but due to the Hindu ideology and Hindutwa, this

had never done.

(5) Potential for a negotiated settlement

There are a number of possible pathways that can be followed to resolve this issue. But for this purpose, India first has to leave its rigid behaviour in international community. India is already dehumanizing in Kashmir and this is a clear violation of the human rights. To stop this the following steps should help both countries to overcome this conflict.

1) Direct Bilateral Talks: Both countries should talk directly, focusing on confidence building measures, could lay the groundwork for a negotiated settlement.

(2) Involvement of Third-Party: International neutral players could also

play a crucial role in resolving Kashmir issue between the two nuclear rivalries.

(3) Civil Society: Civil society on both sides, such as writers, think tanks, lawyers and media can also play an important role to eradicate this issue through their interactions and social works.

(4) A Free and Fair Plebiscite:

Although India strongly opposes this because the majority of the population in Kashmir is muslim, but still it is also suggested by the UN. But due to the article 6 of the resolution UN can not pass strict order but its orders are bound on the country to accept or not. Hence India never accepts that. But it is the need of the hour as the situation in Kashmir is getting worse and

worse with the every single passing day. India should accept that and must go for a plebiscite to save the life and rights of the Kashmiri people.

(6) Conclusion

Kashmir has always been a contentious issue between two neighbouring and nuclear countries. To avoid direct confrontation, steps should be taken by both of the countries and the international community. This will not only help to resolve the dispute between India and Pakistan but will also help Kashmiri people to live a life free of stress.
