

Topic: Are External Threats more dangerous for Pakistan or Internal?

Overall a good attempt

Try to complete it in assigned time

Outline

(I) Introduction

Thesis statement: Pakistan is alarmingly facing internal as well as external challenges nowadays. Although external challenges pose a serious security concern, internal challenges serve as an existential threat to the very Pakistan. Hence, it is imperative to prioritize coping with the internal challenges while paying due attention to the external ones also.

(II) Synergizing effect of Internal and External Threats

(III) Internal Threats Pose an Existential Crisis (Thesis)

- (a) Population explosion: A time ticking bomb
- (b) Human Capital Crisis: A silent killer
- (c) Worst Governance due to Institutional crisis
- (d) Inability to sustain the population due to economic crisis
On the verge of default
- (e) Political Instability hindering Country's Growth
- (f) Stunted development of state due to energy crisis

(g) Inability to exploit renewable energy sources leads to climate crisis

(IV) External Challenges: More Dangerous for Pakistan's Security (Anti-Thesis)

(a) Hybrid Warfare: India's Policy to isolate Pakistan

(b) Terrorist attacks in Pakistan by banned organisations taking shelter in Afghan Soil

(c) Hostile neighbors fanning separatist sentiments in Balochistan

(d) Water crisis caused by India's violation of Indus water treaty

(e) Facing climate crisis despite being a small contributor to emissions.

(V) Internal Threats Overtake External Threats (Synthesis)

(a) Lack of Resilience Mechanism make Pakistan more prone to external warfare

(b) Terrorism persists due to poor law enforcement and lack of comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy

(c) Poor governance and inequitable distribution of resources fuel separatist sentiments

(d) Water mismanagement is the prime cause of water crisis.

(e) Unsustainable resource exploitation ^{exacerbates} leading to climate crisis.

(VI) Conclusion

Essay

The fall of great Mughal Empire by a small East India Company, comprising of only hundreds of people, is only justified by the internal weakness, power race among nobels, luxurious lifestyle of emperors, and lack of naval forces. Today, the competitive nature of the world makes it imperative for the states to strengthen themselves internally. If a state is resilient, innovative and united, no power in the world can destroy it. Hence, the states facing threats from internal and external domains must prioritize their capacity-building, resilience and unity. Pakistan is also facing internal and external threats at an alarming scale. Although external challenges pose a serious security concern, internal challenges serve as an existential threat to Pakistan. Hence,

it is imperative to prioritize coping with the internal challenges while paying due attention to external ones also. There is a long list of internal challenges including population explosion, human capital crisis, political instability, economic crisis, energy crisis, and climate disasters. However, threats from external factors such as hostile neighbors, outlawed terrorist organizations, and international actors create various challenges for Pakistan. Such challenges include innovative warfare, terrorism, water crisis, and climate hazards. However, it goes without saying that internal threats are far more dangerous for Pakistan than external threats.

Pakistan is a country which is under the threat of both domestic and foreign challenges. It is important to note that both have synergistic effects. An external threat gives birth to chance of being threatened by external factors. Let us take an example of security problem. The poor law enforcement creates chances for externally sponsored terrorism. This terrorism then harms the international standing

of Pakistan resulting in lower Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Lower FDI, in turn, worsened the already fragile economy. Hence, it is the need of the hour to bring reforms at home making the state more resilient to foreign challenges.

Population explosion is a time-ticking bomb posing a serious threat to Pakistan. A country's prosperity depends upon its ability to sustain its population. Currently, Pakistan is a home of 247 million people. It is the 5th most populous country in the world along with stretched resources such as food, water, shelter, and employment. Pakistan has failed to reduce the fertility rate while its neighbor countries like Iran and Bangladesh have successfully controlled the population growth rate. According to Population Council and UNFPA's report "Pakistan@2050", the population of Pakistan is expected to reach 385 million by 2050 (UNFPA, Pakistan@2050, 2024). It is unlikely for Pakistan to sustain an additional 140 million people with its already stretched resources. In sum, uncontrolled population growth is a serious threat to

Pakistan's prosperity.

Higher population growth is further worsened by human capital crisis. The large population can be an asset or a liability depending upon the human capital investment. Pakistan is lagging behind in domain of human capital development.

A large chunk of population is unable to access basic needs such as education, nutritious food, proper medications, and security.

Resultantly, the social indicators and rankings show Pakistan at the bottom of the ladder. Its rank is going down every year. According to Human Development Index (HDI), Pakistan ranks 164th in the human development in 2024, which is a 2 points decrease than the previous year. Hence, Pakistan's human capital crisis is an alarming threat to its growth and development.

Along with poor development at individual level, Pakistan is suffering from an entrenched crisis at institutional level. Institutions of Pakistan are unable to deliver at their best

due to various reasons. The issues of inadequate institutional capacity, corruption, and delayed reforms contribute to the poor governance. A state is run by its institutions, and inefficient institutions lead the state towards chaos and in severe scenario towards collapse. Dr. Ishrat Hussain in his book *Governing the Ungovernable* argues that governance is the only panacea to all problems of Pakistan which can be improved by substantial institutional reforms. In summation, poor institutional performance is a major reason of worst governance in Pakistan.

Apart from institutional inefficiency, economic crisis is another existential threat to Pakistan's sovereignty. An economically prosperous and independent state can achieve a respectable international standing. Pakistan's economy is troubled with fiscal deficit, trade deficit, internal and external borrowings. This is the result of poor tax regime, higher debt repayments, shrinking export base, and lack of productivity and innovation. Due to all these issues, Pakistan's economic condition is a major security issue. Pakistan

has been escaping the default since many years through chasing foreign debt and loans which is not sustainable ^{itself}. Only recently, Pakistan has secured \$7 billion bailout package from International Monetary Fund (IMF), without which Pakistan could be defaulted. It shows that Pakistan's sovereignty is threatened by its economic crisis.

Economic crisis is further exalated by political instability in Pakistan resulting in stunted growth and development. In a country, the economic policies and development programs can only be successfully conducted when there is a stable political regime. Unfortunately, Pakistan's political landscape is a victim of fragility and instability. Historically, many a time its democratic government has overthrown by military coups. Only a single government regime between 2008 to 2013 succeeded in completing its tenure. In such an unstable political environment, no government can fully implement its policies and complete its development projects. Successive governments have stopped projects of previous

government and initiate its own projects. Resultantly, the investment on uncompleted project goes wasted. In brief, political instability results in poor growth and development.

Country's growth and development is affected by another major factor known as energy crisis. A major difference between developed and developing states is the sufficiency of energy and fossil fuels. Pakistan's growth is halted and curtailed by energy crisis. Pakistan's industry, transport, and commercial domain are run by electricity. When there is no sufficient electricity, machinery of the economic landscape is stopped. Resultantly, Pakistan's GDP is far less than the country's growth potential. The chief reason behind this overdependency on imported fuel and lack of reliance on renewable energy resources. Pakistan has a diverse range of renewable resources including solar, wind, biomass, hydel, and nuclear energy. It is a failure of the state to leverage these resources. In sum, energy crisis proves a serious threat to Pakistan.

Inability to utilize renewable resources not only cause ~~energy crisis~~ ^{but} it also results in climate crisis. Burning of fossil fuels emitt harmful gaseous emissions leading to global warming and climate change. Pakistan's energy mix has a major chunk of energy capacity based on imported fossil fuels. Consequently, climate change is leading towards climate related disasters. Floods 2022 in Pakistan were a horrific episode in history of Pakistan which affected 33 million people, destroying millions of houses and killing a number of livestock. Pakistan is the 5th most vulnerable state to climate change. In simple words, one of the chief existential threat to Pakistan is climate crisis.

All the given internal threats pose a serious threat to Pakistan's existence, but it is also argued that external security issues are far more dangerous than internal ones. There are many existential threats to Pakistan, and chief among them is Indian's policy to isolate Pakistan from regional and international landscape.

India is Pakistan's historical rival and trying to isolate it since the Uri incident. It is using innovative war mechanisms termed as hybrid warfare against Pakistan. Recently, an European website has revealed that India is using online propaganda to damage the image of Pakistan. In simple words, Pakistan's existence is under threat as India is following the Hindutva ideology. According to this ideology, sooner or later India would annex Pakistan to it. In brief, India is a hostile neighbor threatening Pakistan's existence.

Another security issue is terrorism in the premises of Pakistan conducted by outlawed organization, especially TTP. Tahir-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is still not defeated because it has secured refuge and shelter in Afghanistan. Pakistan has repeatedly asked the Taliban government in Afghanistan to take action against TTP. Hence, the terror of TTP is only possible as to through the backing of Kabul's government. This external threat is a prime security concern. Recently, the terrorist attacks

have upsurged spreading fear all across the Pakistan. Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are at the center of militancy storm. The incident of Parachinar in Kurram agency killing 43 people is the recent episode in the history of Pakistan. In sum, terrorists managed refuge in Afghanistan are a serious security problem of Pakistan.

Another threat to national security and integration is the fuelling of separatist sentiments in Balochistan by hostile neighbour, India. Historically, India has been fanning the flames of separatism in the largest by area province of Pakistan. Few years ago, the agent of RAW, Indian spy agency, Kalboshan Jadev was caught in Balochistan. He was accused of funding the Baloch separatist organisations. Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) are two major organizations, which are used by Indian agencies to conduct terror attacks and demanding freedom from Pakistan. Hence, separatism is a major security threat to Pakistan's integrity.