

"Pakistan And National Integration: Balancing Provincial Autonomy And National Unity"

Outline:

1- Introduction

Thesis Statement: Pakistan faces plethora of challenges in aligning provincial autonomy with national unity for national integration such as regional politics, poor governance and corruption; however, Pakistan can bring unity in diversity by taking concrete steps, involving empowering local governments, conflict resolution mechanisms, efficient governance, inter-provincial harmony and inclusive policies.

2- Steps Taken By Government To Ensure Provincial Autonomy

- 18th Amendment and 7th NFC Award

3- Challenges In The Way Of Equalising Provincial Autonomy And National Unity

3a- Conflictual relation between centre

and provinces rather than consensual

- Balochistan crises

3b- Preference of regional politics over national politics :

- Partisan gerrymandering in all provinces

3c- Inter-provincial disputes over distribution of natural resources

- water crisis

3d- Poor governance with lax implementation of reforms and policies

- Case study of FAIA

3e- Rampant corruption at all levels

- Transparency International Report

3f- Centralization of power and no devolution to local levels

- East Pakistan debate

4- How Can Pakistan Align Provincial Autonomy And National Unity To Foster National Integration? .

4a- Enforcing true federalism by devolution of power to local governments

- Article 140(A) of 18th Amendment

4b- Ensuring good governance and

efficient administration

- The Nordic Model of Social Democracy
By NIK Brandal

4c- Promoting national politics rather than regional politics

- Qaid's vision of national integration

4d- Bringing conflict resolution mechanisms to address issues of all provinces

- Council of Common Interest in Article 153

4e- Forging inter-provincial harmony

4f- Crafting inclusive and people-friendly policies

- Why Nations Fail by Daron Acemoglu

4g- Diluting separatist tendencies with national loyalty

- Development in marginalized provinces

4h- Strengthen consensus among political parties to mitigate political instability

- Case Study of Germany's model of cooperative federalism

5- Conclusion

"Pakistan And National Integration: Balancing Provincial Autonomy And National Unity:"

National integration is like a vibrant tapestry woven from threads of various colours and textures. Just as the combined effect of these colours makes tapestry beautiful, similarly, diverse cultures, languages and ethnicities in Pakistan are its cohesive force for national integration. Pakistan has made significant strides to bring harmony in its pluralistic society by bolstering provincial autonomy. However, the centrifugal forces in Pakistan have created myriad hindrances in bringing national unity with complete provincial autonomy. Moreover, Pakistan is encapsulated by multifaceted issues, which impede national integration. It needs to be discussed thoroughly how provincial autonomy and national unity can be balanced to harness the true potential of federalism in

Pakistan. Indeed, Pakistan faces plethora of challenges in aligning provincial autonomy with national unity for national integration such as regional politics, poor governance and corruption; however, Pakistan can bring unity in diversity by taking concrete steps, involving empowering local governments, conflict resolution mechanisms, efficient governance, inter-provincial harmony and inclusive policies.

As Jawaharlal Nehru, former Prime Minister of India, aptly said:

“National integration cannot be built by brick and mortar; it cannot be built by chisel and hammer. It has to grow silently in the minds and hearts of men”

"Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Strategy: Successes, Failures And Future Directions"

Outline

1- Introduction

Thesis Statement: Although Pakistan has made significant strides in stemming terrorism such as launching operations and reforming tribal areas, the resurgence of terrorism reflects failure of Pakistan's counter terrorism strategy in implementing policies and convicting terrorist cases.

A coherent policy and regional collaboration are imperative to rein in terrorism.

2- Achievements Of Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Strategy

2a- Substantial decline in militancy after Operation Zarb-e-Azb

- ISPR Report 2019

2b- Removal of Pakistan from FATF grey list

- Pakistan's compliance with FATF rules

2c-1 FATA merger with KP to de-radicalize extremist elements

- 25th Amendment

2d- Reforms in madressa system to curb religious extremism

- SNC

2e- Community policing in urban centres

3- Failures In Curtailing Terrorism In Pakistan

3a- Inconsistent implementation of counter-terrorism policy

- NAP 2014

3b- Failure to craft long-term policy after US withdrawal from Afghanistan

- PICSS Report 2023

3c- Failure of conciliatory policy with proscribed militant groups

- Return of militant groups in KP

3d- Failure to sustain FATA reforms

- UNDP Report 2020

3e- Weak terrorist prosecution system

- resurgence of terrorism

4- Future Directions To Hamper Rising Terrorism In Pakistan

- 4a- Revitalize National Action Plan and implement it in letter and spirit
- 4b- Negotiate with Afghanistan to choke safe havens of militant outfits
- 4c- Bring equitable development in vulnerable areas
- 4d- Establish separate trial courts for speedy conviction of terrorist cases
- 4e- Harness multipronged regional cooperation to counter terrorism

5- Conclusion

"Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Strategy: Successes, Failures And Future Directions"

Pakistan has been grappling with the menace of terrorism since the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan. However, after the war on terror, Pakistan has encountered with exponential rise in terror attacks. Resultantly, the country has crafted counter-terrorism policies, with National Action Plan stands out as a comprehensive policy. Many safe hideouts of militant outfits have been crushed in Pakistan. Nevertheless, the persistent political and economic instability in Pakistan has created vacuum for hostile insurgent groups to exploit the vulnerable segments of society. Moreover, the resurgence of terrorism raises questions on the counter-terrorism strategy of Pakistan. However, before reforms to address this pressing issue are proposed, the successes and failures of Pakistan's counter-terrorism strategy

need to be analyzed thoroughly. Although Pakistan has made significant strides in stemming terrorism such as launching operations and reforming tribal areas, the resurgence of terrorism reflects failure of Pakistan's counter terrorism strategy in implementing policies and convicting terrorist cases.

Addressing this issue requires a coherent policy and regional cooperation.

As Ban Ki-moon, former UN Secretary General, rightly said:

"Terrorism is a threat to all people, to all countries, to all faiths. We must respond in unity and with determination"

"Water Security: Reimagining Pakistan's Future"

Outline

1- Introduction

Thesis statement: While multifaceted challenges have made Pakistan a water-scarce country, encompassing global warming, dwindling water reservoirs, inefficient consumption patterns and lack of political consensus, it can become a water secure country by adopting comprehensive water policy, new technology, good governance and water storage systems.

2- Challenges that Hamper Water Security In Pakistan

2a- Receding glaciers and reducing flow of Indus water

- World Bank Report

2b- Inefficient water management and distribution

- IMF Report

2c- Lack of water reservoirs to store excess water

- No construction of dams after Tarbela

2d- Over-extraction of groundwater

- Pakistan is at 4th number

2e- Inter-provincial discords over the distribution of water resources

- Water Accord 1991

2f- Over-consumption of water in irrigation system

- water-intensive crops in Pakistan

2g- Negligible recycling of waste water

- PCRWR Report

2h- water issues with neighbouring countries

- India, Afghanistan

3- Concrete Steps That Can Enlighten Pakistan's Future With Water Conservation

3a- Build water storage capacity to curb the impacts of climate change

- Case study of India's water storage capacity

3b- Revise water policy and enhance capacity of institutions

- National Water Policy 2018

- 3c- Forge consensus between provinces to build new dams
- Consensus on Kalabagh dam
- 3d- Use advance technology to restrict wasteful consumption of water
- water metering
- 3e- Need accountability of corrupt practices of tanker mafia and ensure equitable distribution of water
- 3f- Bring innovation in agricultural practices
- Drip irrigation system
- 3g- Recycling of wastewater can increase water availability
- Case study of Singapore
- 3h- Negotiate treaties with neighbouring countries to resolve issues
- Indus Water Treaty 1960

4- Conclusion

"Water Security: Reimagining Pakistan's Future"

Water is the lifeblood of Pakistan's future, securing it is like fortifying the heart of a nation. Currently, per capita water availability in Pakistan is 1200 meter cube, which is perilously close to water scarcity threshold of 1000 cubic meter according to the World Bank report. It highlights the bleak picture of acute water crisis in Pakistan. There are plethora of challenges that present formidable hurdles in securing water in Pakistan. However, by adopting pragmatic measures, the country can come out of water crisis. The future of Pakistan can be made water secure by taking robust long-term measures. It needs to be expounded thoroughly how long-term policies and their implementation can make Pakistan a water-secure country. While

multifaceted challenges have made Pakistan a water-scarce country, encompassing global warming, dwindling water reservoirs, inefficient consumption patterns and lack of political consensus, it can become a water-secure country by adopting comprehensive water policy, new technology, good governance and water storage systems. The importance of water is rightly emphasized by Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General, as:

“Water is a fundamental element for this planet. No society can prosper long without sustainable access to clean and sufficient freshwater”

"The Fragility Of Pakistan's Economic Foundation: Need For Structural Reforms"

Outline

1- Introduction

Thesis statement: Pakistan is encapsulated by multifarious economic challenges ranging from skyrocketing inflation and soaring debt to trade deficit and unemployment, which can be navigated through structural reforms such as broadening tax net, diversifying exports, implementing long-term policies and foreign direct investment.

2- Current Economic Quagmire Of Pakistan

2a- Economic meltdown due to soaring inflation

- IMF Report

2b- Vicious cycle of public debt

- State Bank of Pakistan Report 2024

2c- Widening trade deficit due to decreasing exports

- Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-24

2d- Increasing fiscal deficit due to low tax revenues

- IMF Report

2e- Surging unemployment

- PIDE Report

3- How Can Pakistan Strengthen Its Economy Through Structural Reforms?

3a- Broaden tax net through filing direct taxes

- How Tax Havens Can Destroy Economy by Richard Murphy

3b- Diversify export commodities and export markets

- Case study of South Korea's export oriented model

3c- Increase competitiveness in industries

- Case study of China's industrial cluster model

3d- Use advance technology to bring reforms in agriculture

- AI-based precision agriculture techniques

3e- Export skilled workers to increase remittances

- Case study of India's rise in IT sector

- 3f- Boost up cooperation between industries and educational institutions to bring innovation
- Germany's dual education model
- 3g- Attract foreign direct investment through creating ease of doing business
- SEZs under CPEC
- 3h- Implement long-term policies
- Case study of Southeast Asian states
- 3i- Amplify trade with regional countries
- SCO is an opportunity
- 3j- Strengthen national accountability bureau to curb corruption
- 3k- Need stringent implementation of social safety net programs to create employment opportunities
- Kamyab Jawan Program

4- Conclusion

"The Fragility Of Pakistan's Economic Foundation: Need For Structural Reforms"

The ship of state has been sailing in troubled waters for several years, which needs to be steered towards calmer shores. According to the report of Human Rights Watch, Pakistan faced one of the worst economic crises in its history in 2023 with poverty, inflation and unemployment soaring, jeopardising millions of people's rights. It underscores the frail economic condition of Pakistan. However, by adopting long-term structural reforms, Pakistan can transform the trajectory of its fragile economy. Many countries have seen economic crisis more formidable than Pakistan. Nonetheless, they used their crisis as an opportunity to embark on the journey towards sustainable economic growth. It needs to be explored thoroughly how Pakistan can emulate

these countries to bring ushering structural reforms to pave the way for sustainable economic development.

Indeed, Pakistan is encapsulated by multifarious economic challenges ranging from skyrocketing inflation and soaring debt to trade deficit and unemployment, which can be navigated through structural reforms such as broadening tax net, diversifying exports, implementing long-term policies and foreign direct investment. As Lee Kuan Yew former Prime Minister of Singapore, aptly said:

“A strong economy is the foundation of a strong country”