

Q - Write a note on the post 9/11 foreign policy of Pakistan. What role do you foresee for Pakistan in regional and global politics in near future?

Introduction:

The post-9/11 era marked a significant turning point in global geopolitics, with profound implications in Pakistan. Following the **September 11** attacks in **2001**, United States launched a global campaign against terrorism, leading to an increased focus on South Asia, particularly Pakistan due to its strategic location and the historical ties with Taliban in Afghanistan. Pakistan found itself navigating complex dynamics, balancing its relationship with U.S., its role in Afghan conflict and the domestic challenges. Government's policies during this period aimed to address security concerns, manage international processes and cope with the socio-political repercussions of aligning with U.S. counterterrorism efforts. This period also saw shifts in Pakistan's

internal policies, military strategies and foreign relations, fundamentally reshaping the country's trajectory in the 21st century.

Quaid's Vision about foreign policy:-

In his message to the nation on the occasion of Inauguration of Pakistan Broadcasting Service on August 15, 1947, he said-

"Our object should be within and peace without. We want to live peacefully and maintain cordial and friendly relations with our immediate neighbors and with the world at large. We have no aggressive designs against any one. We will stand by United Nations Charter and will gladly make our full contribution to the peace and prosperity of the world."

Quaid's foreign policy vision thus stipulated Pakistan's steadfast adherence to the purposes and principles of UN charter, particularly the principles of sovereign

equality, territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's affairs, and peaceful settlement of bilateral disputes.

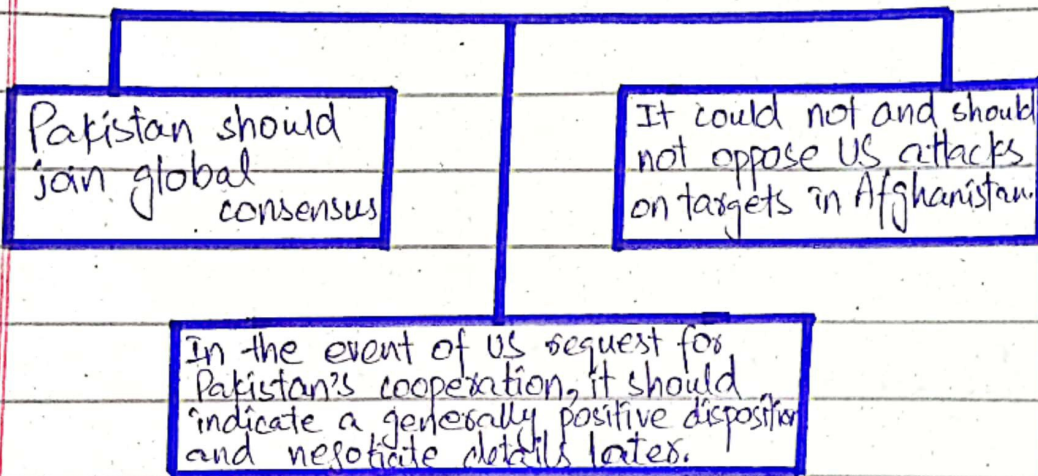
Post 9/11 policy:-

The terrorist attacks on World Trade Center and Pentagon on 11 September 2001 triggered a transformation of world politics as a profound and far-reaching as the television images of hijacked airlines crashing into symbols of American military and economic power were surreal. More than **3000** people were killed and material losses amounted to a hundred billion dollars or more. The US media instantly pointed a finger of accusation at **Osama Bin Laden**, naming him as mastermind behind terrorist attacks, implicated the Taliban and speculated about likely US action against them, a sense of crisis and foreboding dominated the air in Islamabad. Because of its geographical location and being sole supporter of Taliban, Pakistan was bound to face painful

choices in the days ahead.

This crisis called for a policy that balanced global and the regional constraints, immediate imperatives and long-term effects, national priorities and the norms of an international order based on the principles of international law.

Caution cooperation in UN-approved action against Taliban emerged as only feasible alternative. Its components include:-



The events of 9/11 represented a critical threshold in Pakistan's foreign policy. General Musharraf was among first foreign leaders to have received a clarion call from Washington. **'You're either with us or against us'** was the

message. US secretary of State Colin Powell telephoned him late in the evening on September 12, asking for Pakistan's full support and cooperation in fighting terrorism.

In General Musharraf's own words, the 9/11 came as a **"thunderbolt"** presenting acute challenges as well as opportunities.

NATO as a joint defense:-

NATO invoked the treaty provision for joint defense. Canada, UK, Germany, France and Denmark offered military contingents for a coalition force to attack Taliban. China, Japan and Russia expressed solidarity with the coalition.

In **June 2004**, President Bush designated Pakistan as a major non-NATO ally of the United States, a move that in all respects were more symbolic than practical. Since then, Pakistan is once again a front-line state, and a key partner of United States in its war on terror.

US Demands:-

In a restricted National Security Council meeting chaired by President Bush on 11 September, Secretary of State Powell said:-

"The United States had to make it clear to Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Arab States that the time to act was now."

The situation was black or white. Pakistan had a choice to make. Either it was with the US or it was not. There were no half measures. The future starts today.

The seven steps were:-

- i) to stop al-Qaeda operations at its borders and end all logistical support for Bin Laden.
- ii) to give United States blanket overflight and landing rights for all necessary military and intelligence operations.
- iii) to provide United States with intelligence information
- iv) to provide territorial access to

US and allied military intelligence and other personnel to conduct operations against al-Qaeda.

→ v) to continue publicly condemn terrorist acts.

→ vi) to cut off all shipments of fuel to the Taliban and stop recruits from going to Afghanistan.

→ vii) if the evidence implicated bin Laden and al-Qaeda, and the Taliban continued to harbor them to break relations with the Taliban government.

Benefits of the cooperation =

Military aid

Economic aid

Debt rescheduling

Assistance programs

Aid for health & education

Democracy promotion

European Union =

EU reflected its appreciation of Pakistan's policy in its decisions regarding economic assistance and market access. It joined the US-led efforts to prevent a Pakistan-

- India was in 2002. Also its stance on Kashmir reflected recognition of the root cause of protracted agitation and violence in disputed state.

USA:-

Brownback-II amendment authorized US President sanctions to waive democracy sanctions. The Ackerman amendment in 2004 waived the nuclear sanctions for five years. US agreed to write off a part of Pakistan's debt and immediately provided **\$ 600 million** as economic aid and **\$ 177 million** as military and security assistance for 2002.

In March **2005**, the US further decided to sell F-16 aircrafts to Pakistan.

China:-

Equally mature was China's response to Pakistan's decision to join US-led war on terrorism after 9/11, despite the arrival of US-led forces in Afghanistan close to China's borders.

New Afghanistan:-

The US-led coalition military's intervention in Afghanistan resulted in much suffering. Pakistan cooperated with world community for an end to civil war, promotion of peace and reconciliation among different ethnic communities and political stability in Afghanistan.

Political stability, establishment of law and order, and continued economic growth in Afghanistan will be crucial to hopes of resolving the problems of narcotics production and trafficking, and smuggling across the Pakistan border that have magnified since the fall of Taliban.

Conclusion:-

The sum-total of Pakistan's post-9/11 foreign policy is its new identity on global stage seen as the **'hot bed'** of religious, extremism and terrorism, and its front-line role in war on terror, which forced it to make difficult choices for survival as independent state.

Q:- What major economic challenges are being faced by Pakistan? What recommendations do you suggest to recommend it?

→ Introduction:-

Pakistan faces a myriad of economic challenges that hinder its growth and development. These issues include high inflation, a significant trade deficit, debt, crisis of energy, inadequate infrastructure and an informal economy. The country's reliance on foreign aid and remittances adds to its vulnerabilities, while political instability often complicates effective policy implementation. Addressing these challenges is crucial for Pakistan's economy and long-term prosperity. Exploring targeted recommendations will be essential for fostering growth and improving overall economic landscape.

Historical overview of economy of Pakistan:-

When Pakistan received its freedom, many (boasted and) proud and energetic

patriots boasted that they had created a nation that has more land than France and more population than Germany. Granting these comparisons, Pakistan still lacks most of the attributes of a modern nation. It is fighting a close battle with economic bankruptcy. **Mahbub-ul-Haq**, the architect of Human Development Index, who played an important role in economy policy-making during the Ayub and Zia governments.

The major turnaround took place after **1958** under Ayub Khan when Pakistan achieved political stability. **Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto**, a highly talented leader, rather than consolidating the gains of 1960s and ameliorating the weaknesses of development model, completely abandoned the model itself and made a complete about-turn. The economic policies in **Zia** administration lacked innovative and revolutionary vision and basically moved within safe grooves. **Nawaz Sharif**, after assuming power in 1990, took some very bold steps to

liberalize, deregulate and privatize the economy. His reforms did not make much traction because his government was dismissed after only two years in office.

Benazir did not draw up an alternative economic vision for Pakistan either. The military government that came to power in October 1999 had set economic recovery as one of the professed objectives. Having established a sort of macro-economic stability, she had embarked on a radical economic realignment: championing a state-led capitalism of sorts at the expense of the private sector.

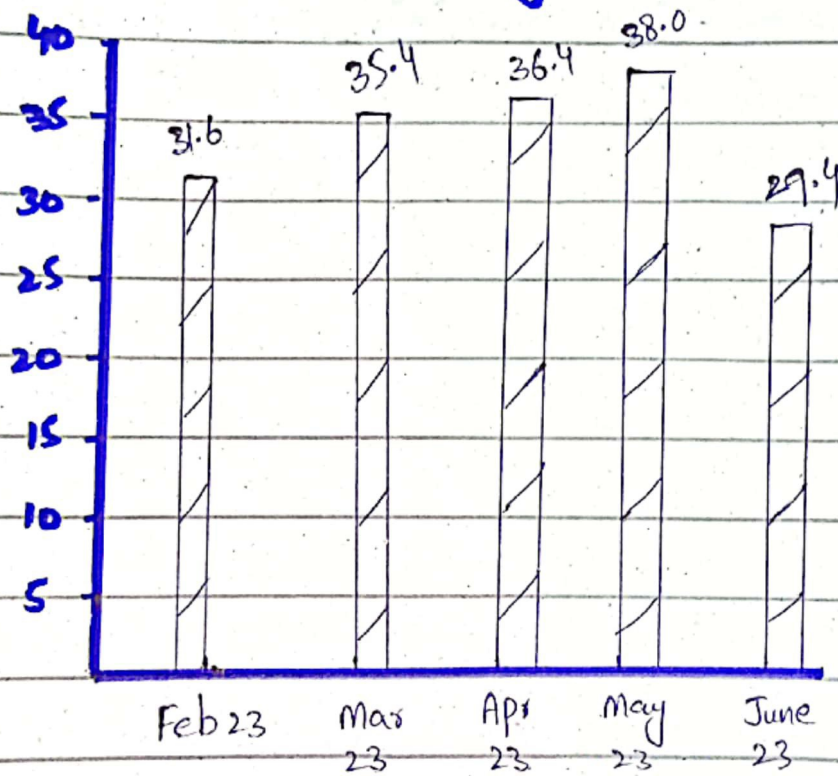
Major challenges to economy of Pakistan:-

i) High inflation:-

Inflation is the rate of increase in the prices of goods and items over a given period of time. In an inflationary environment, unevenly rising prices inevitably reduce the purchasing power of some consumers, and this erosion

of real income is the single biggest cost of inflation. In **2008, Zimbabwe** experienced one of the worst cases of hyperinflation ever, with estimated annual inflation at one point of 500 billion percent.

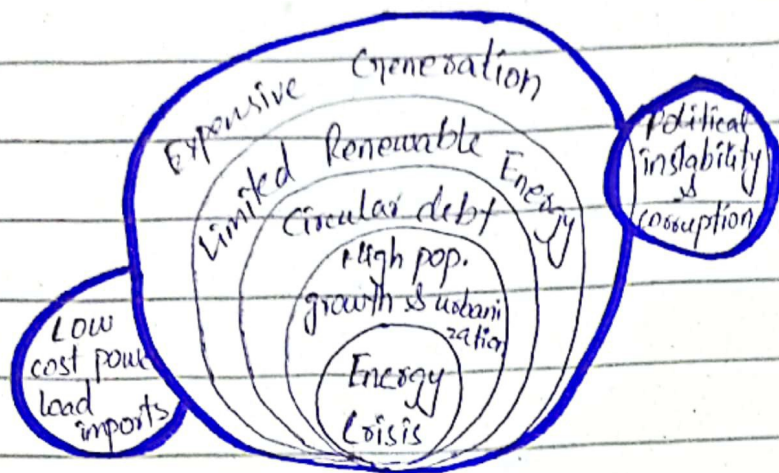
According to State Bank of Pakistan, highest inflation rate was in month of **May 2023**.



ii) Energy Crisis:-

Energy is vital for running all the resources and energy crisis directly influence all the sectors of economy such as agriculture sector, industrial sector, unemployment, poverty, lower

GDP and higher inflation.



iii) Defective policies of public spending:-

The effectiveness of public spending is a central issue. At present, there are several problems with structures of the spending. Some of these, such as generous subsidies provided to nonpoors and large losses made by major public enterprises, are being addressed under IMF programme.

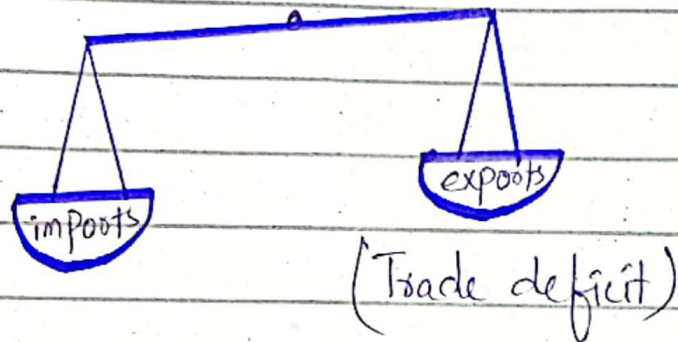
Delays in the completion of priority projects and, in many cases, increases in their cost have obviously limited their potential economic return.

iv) Trade deficit:-

A sustained trade deficit could adversely affect a country and its

markets. If a country has been importing more goods than exporting for a prolonged period, it could be going into debt.

Pakistan's trade deficit shrank marginally to \$ 3.6 billion during first two months of fiscal year 2024-25 due to an increase in exports.



v) Debt Burden:-

Over the years, Pakistan had failed to collect enough revenues for financing its budget. Consequently, the problem of twin deficits emerged and to finance the developmental activities government has to rely on public external and domestic debt.

According to DAWN, the central government debt surged by **8.07 billion** or 13% during previous fiscal year, bringing the total to **Rs 68.9 trillion**

by the end of June 2024.

Way forward to deal with such economic issues:-

a) Strong governance:-

Effective governance fosters political stability, which attracts investment and encourages economic growth. Strong governance upholds rule of law, ensuring that contracts are enforced, property rights are protected and the corruption is minimized. It also promotes social equity and inclusion and enables quick and decisive action during economic crisis.

b) Reforms in agricultural sector:-

Modernizing agricultural practices, such as introducing advanced technologies and sustainable farming techniques can enhance crop yields and efficiency, leading to greater food security and reduced prices. Reforms that provide farmers with better access to credit and financial services can empower them to invest

in their farms, adopt new technologies and manage risks.

c) Young Labour Force:-

Young workers often bring energy, adaptability, and willingness to learn, which can enhance productivity in various sectors. Investing in education and vocational training for young workers can create a more skilled labour force.

d) Strengthening external relations:-

Enhancing trade relations can open up new markets for exports, increasing demand for domestic products and driving economic growth. It can also facilitate access to essential resources, such as raw materials and energy.

Conclusion:-

To sum up, Pakistan is facing serious economic challenges but the need of the hour is to address those hurdles which are the leading causes of those challenges so that they can be corrected timely.