

PART-II

QUESTION-7

KASHMIR ISSUE

Discuss the Kashmir issue in totality. Elaborate the prospects of various solutions of the issue?

1) INTRODUCTION.

"Kashmir is an unfinished agenda of the Partition."

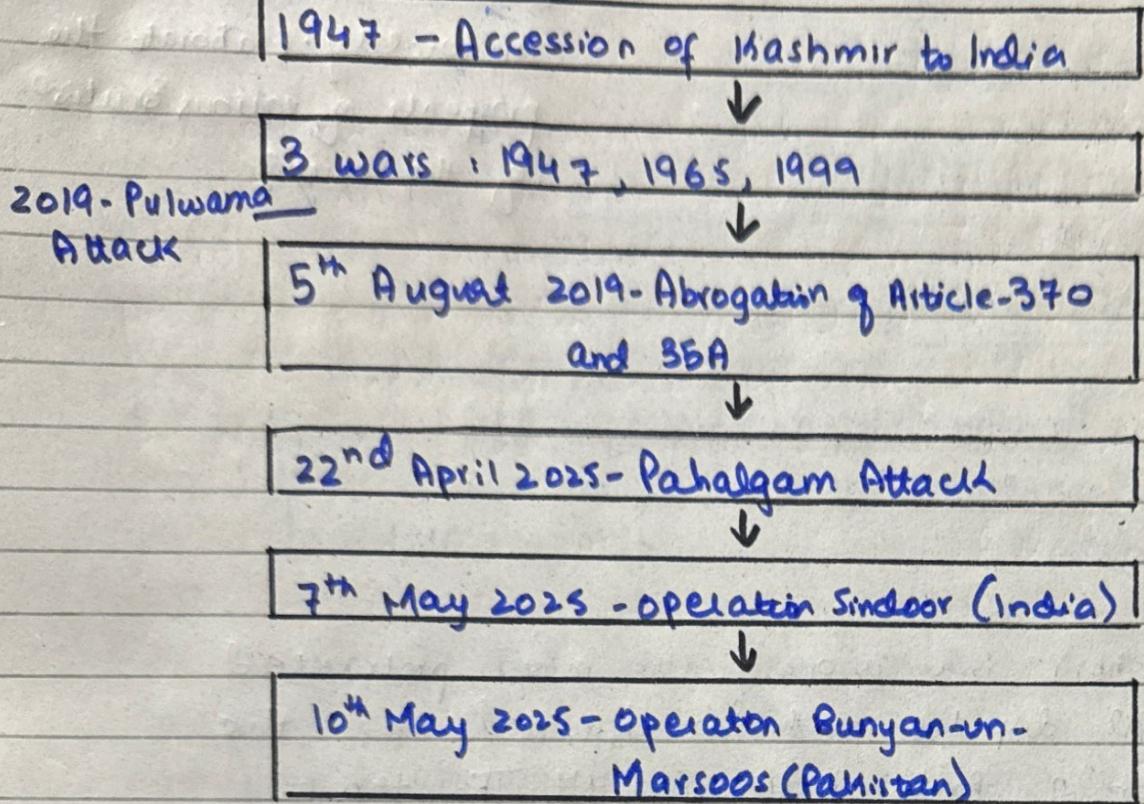
[Liaquat Ali Khan]

Good attempt

Clarity in your ideas
Augmentation is fine

The Kashmir issue is one of the most protracted territorial disputes in the world, rooted in the partition of British India in 1947. The three wars had been fought between Pakistan and India (1948, 1965 and 1999) and the recent May 2025 tensions between both countries after the Pahalgam attack. India accused Pakistan of having involvement in the attack without any evidence. The intensity of tensions, makes Kashmir not only a bilateral dispute between India and Pakistan but also a complex issue involving self-determination, human rights and regional stability in South Asia. There are several pragmatic solutions that could be adopted to solve the issue such as International mediation, restoration of Kashmir's autonomous status by India and creation of soft borders. But all these solutions depend on the cooperation between the both countries.

2) BRIEF HISTORY OF KASHMIR ISSUE.



2.1) 1947 - Accession of Kashmir to India.

At the time of Independence Maharaja Hari Singh was ruling Kashmir who was a tyrannical ruler. Kashmir was a Muslim majority province and according to rule has to be accede to Pakistan but the Hindu ruler were against it. After the treaty with Pakistan in which he agreed to keep the state situation normal, he started a large scale Muslim massacre to turn Muslim majority into minority. When he couldn't control the public uprising, he made an appeal to Indian government to intervene and announce accession of Jammu and Kashmir with India.

2.3) Wars (1947, 1965, 1999)

The first war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir was fought in 1947-48 and Pakistan got hold of important ports and places. It ended with UN mediated ceasefire. UN proposed a plebiscite in Kashmir after withdrawal of Pakistani troops but the plebiscite never happened.

The second war between India and Pakistan was fought in 1965. It also ended with UN-mandated ceasefire and both countries agreed to withdraw to pre-war positions.

The third war between India and Pakistan was in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir and along the Line of Control in 1999.

Parliament crises

Mumbai crises

It was a suicide bomb

attack which resulted in the death of 40 CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) in Pulwama district.

Indian airforce attacked Balakot, Pakistan, which was the first airstrike across the India-Pakistan border.

2.4) 5th August 2019 - Abrogation of Article 370 and 55A

In August 2019, Indian government revoked special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and removed Article 55A. The state was split into two union territories sparking tension with Pakistan and unrest in the region.

2.5) 22nd April 2025 - Pahalgam Attack

Pahalgam attack

was a false flag operation which India blamed on Pakistan based terror groups.

2.6) 7th May 2025 - Operation Sindoor (India)

After Pathalgam terror attack, India blamed Pakistan involvement without any evidence and inquiry. Pakistan denied the accusations and demanded third party inquiry into the matter which India denied. India launched operation Sindoor on 7th May 2025 and targeted several civilians.

2.7) 10th May 2025 - Operation Bonyan-un-Marsoos (Pak)

Pakistan and Pakistan Army demonstrated restraint in the beginning but when the military installations and innocent civilians were targeted by Indian army, Pakistan decided to retaliate in defense. Pakistan started operation "Bonyan-un-Marsoos", meaning "unbreakable wall" symbolizing resilience and strength. Pakistan airforce successfully gunned down 3 Indian Rafels. Foreseeing its defeat Modi government rushed to the UNSC and appealed for ceasefire. On 10th May 2025, ceasefire agreement brokered by International actors, including United States.

3) PRINCIPLE ACTORS AND STAKES.

Following are the principle actors and stakes involved in Kashmir issue.

3.1) India:

India treats Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of its sovereign territory and opposes third-party involvement.

3.2) Pakistan:

Pakistan claims Kashmir over on the basis of Muslim-majority population. It supports political and diplomatic means to solve the issue.

3.3) Kashmiri Actors

Diverse actors in Kashmir have varied demands, some demand independence while others want accession to Pakistan.

3.4) China:

China controls Aksai Chin and is a stakeholder through border agreement with Pakistan and India.

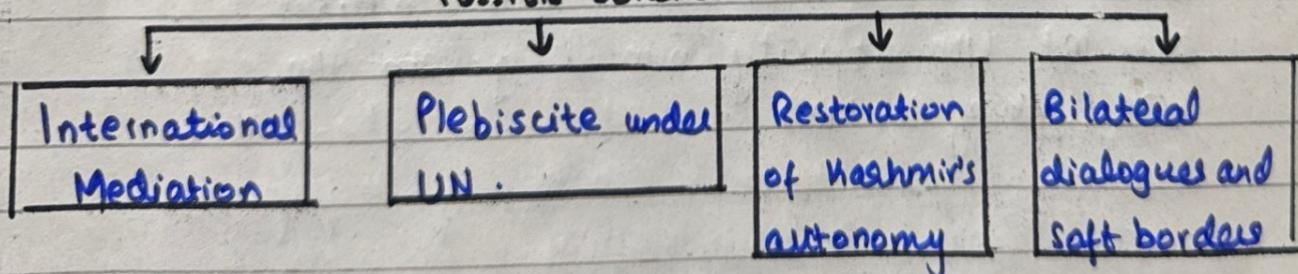
3.5) International Actors.

Historically involved via UN, today engagements are mostly diplomatic and humanitarian, with occasional third-party mediation by other states or NGOs, though India resists external arbitration.

4) PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS FOR KASHMIR ISSUE

Following are the pragmatic solutions that could solve the Kashmir issue.

Possible Solutions.



4.1) International Mediation

Organizations such as United Nations, BRICS and SAARC can play a crucial role in resolving the Kashmir territorial

dispute. However, India refuses involving a third party and regard Kashmir issue as a bilateral issue.

4.2) Plebiscite under UN-supervision.

Another solution is a free and impartial plebiscite under UN Security Council resolution to choose between accession options or independence. But this solution is practically nearly impossible now because of mutual distrust and India's firm rejection of third-party arbitration since 1947.

4.3) Restoration of Kashmir's autonomy and demilitarization of the Region.

India must restore Article 370 which India abrogated in 2019. This will provide Kashmiri population with some freedom. However, it will become problematic for India as other states could demand similar status. Additionally, withdrawal of militant forces from civilian areas will help in minimizing loss of life and reduce skirmishes. Both nations can let UN Security Council govern the LOC (Line of Control).

"Kashmir issue is not a question of territory, but of identity and rights!"

Alastair Lamb
~ Kashmir: A
disputed legacy

4.4) Bilateral Dialogues and soft Borders.

India and Pakistan can resume negotiations under the Simla Agreement framework. But due to the revocation of Article 370, Pakistan has distrusted India. Additionally, movements across line of control would facilitate economic integration and reduce sense of alienation among Kashmiris.

5) Critical Analysis

All the possible (options) solutions of Kashmir issue solely depend upon the mutual cooperation between India and Pakistan. Autonomy within India could address Kashmiri grievances but has lost ground after 2019 revocation of Article 370. Bilateral dialogues between both nations is nearly impossible after the recent escalation in tension in 2025. Though, United Nation was seen actively involved in the mediation in history but now India's resistance to third-party arbitration has reduced the possibility of third party solution. Unless the grievances of Kashmiri people are solved and the improvement of bilateral relations are between India and Pakistan, any solution would not be effective in solving the problem.

6) Conclusion.

In short, the Kashmir issue remains a deeply entrenched conflict shaped by history, identity and geopolitics, with

each proposed solution facing significant political, legal and social hurdles. Confidence building measures, respect for human rights, cross-border cooperation and meaningful inclusion of Kashmiri voices can create the environment necessary for a sustainable settlement. Ultimately, durable political courage from India and Pakistan to move beyond zero-sum narratives and prioritize human security and regional stability over territorial rigidity.

QUESTION-4

Population explosion, food insecurity and climate ~~dis~~ changes are new national security challenges for Pakistan. Discuss?

NEW NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

FOR PAKISTAN.

i) INTRODUCTION

National security in the modern era is no longer confined to military strength alone, it encompasses human security, economic resilience and environmental sustainability. For Pakistan, challenges such as rapid population growth, food insecurity and climate-induced disasters have emerged as existential threats, undermining stability, governance and development of the country. Pakistan needs to address these challenges to gain progress.

2) NEW NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES TO PAKISTAN

Pakistan faces numerous national security challenges that undermines its development and progress.

2.1) POPULATION EXPLOSION.

Pakistan's population is enormous and is rising at high rate.

"Pakistan is the fifth most-populated country of the world!"

[UN Population Division estimate]
- 2025

Overpopulation exerts pressure on housing, healthcare, jobs and infrastructure.

2.1.i) Youth Bulge

Youth bulge while potentially a demographic dividend but without education and employment it risks fueling extremism, crime and political unrest. According to ILO-International Labor Organization, roughly 15 million young people in Pakistan are not in employment, education or training.

2.1.ii) Security Implications.

High youth unemployment or underemployment heightens the risk of social unrest and recruitment into informal or violent networks.

Rapid population growth increases demand for jobs,

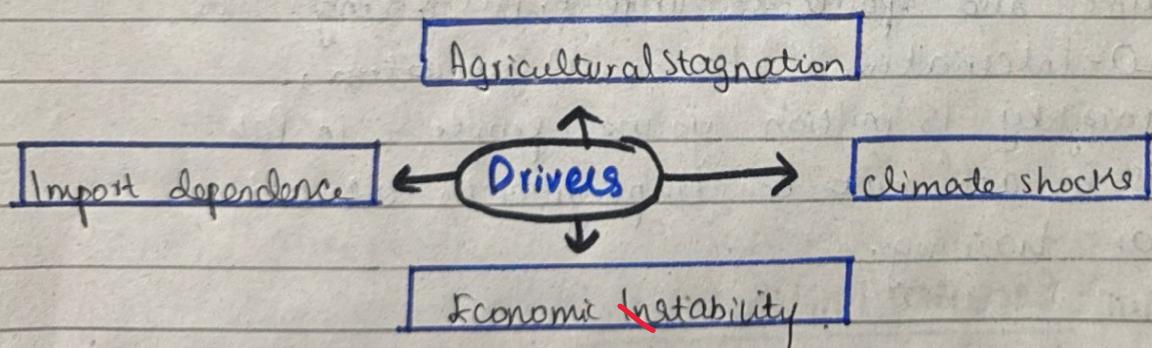
services, housing and food which strain fiscal space and public service delivery. If the economy cannot create productive employment, a large frustrated youth becomes a political and security liability leading to increased crime rates, urban unrest and susceptibility to radicalization.

2.2) Food Insecurity As A Security Challenge.

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain access to enough sufficient, safe and nutritious food for an active and healthy life, often due to a lack of money or other resources, leading to hunger and poor nutrition.

2.2.i) Drivers of food insecurity in Pakistan.

There are several drivers that lead to food insecurity in Pakistan such as.



Despite being an agrarian economy, Pakistan faces declining crop yields due to outdated farming practices, water scarcity, and lack of technology. Additionally, Pakistan heavily rely on imports such as wheat,

edible oil, and pulses increasing its vulnerability to global shocks. Moreover, a persistent economic crisis has drastically reduced the purchasing power of households, making even basic food items unaffordable. Furthermore, extreme weather events, including the severe monsoon floods of 2022 and 2025, have destroyed crops, damaging infrastructure and led to significant losses in agricultural inputs and livestock.

2.2.ii) Implications

Food insecurity has several national security implications such as.

2.2.ii.a) Malnutrition.

"Around 20-21% of Pakistan's population is undernourished and 40% of children under 5 years age ~~are~~ have stunted growth!"

[UNICEF]

Food insecurity leads to malnutrition which weakens human capital, lower long-term productivity.

2.2.ii.b) Instability.

Food shortages spark riots, erode public trust in government and create opportunities for militant exploitation.

2.3) CLIMATE ATROCITIES AS SECURITY CHALLENGE

Pakistan is highly vulnerable and is experiencing extreme weather conditions leading to economic losses, human life casualties etc.

"If it eventually collapses, it will be not Islamic extremism but climate change - an especially grim threat in the whole South Asia - that finishes it off."

Anatol Lieven
~ Pakistan a
Hard Country

Pakistan continues to suffer severe monsoon impacts in 2025 with fresh deadly floods and displacement reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and northern areas.

"Pakistan is first most affected country by climate change"

Climate Risk Index
2025

2.3.i) Security Implications

Climate disasters produce large-scale displacement, destroy livelihoods (especially agriculture), strain relief and reconstruction budget and can trigger local resource conflicts (water etc.).

3) POLICY RESPONSES NEEDED

3.1) FOOD-SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

Pakistan should invest in irrigation modernization, climate-smart agriculture, seed and fertilizer access, market infrastructure etc.

3.2) DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Pakistan should

scale-up early-warning systems, community-based preparation, resilient infrastructure and glacier/river basin management.

3.3) JOB CREATION

Pakistan should launch active labor programs, vocational training aligned to growth sectors and incentives for SMEs to absorb youth.

3.4) INTEGRATE SECURITY PLANNING IN NATIONAL DOCTRINE.

Pakistan should recast its national security doctrine to integrate human and climate security. Ministries of defense, interior, finance and planning must coordinate on anticipatory financing and resilience.

4) CONCLUSION.

Pakistan's national security is no longer threatened by external aggression but increasingly by internal socio-economic and environmental crises.

Population explosion, food insecurity and climate atrocities pose long-term existential dangers, weakening social stability and economic resilience. Only through comprehensive reforms, integrated governance and prioritizing human security can Pakistan safeguard its sovereignty and ensure sustainable peace and prosperity.

QUESTION - 6

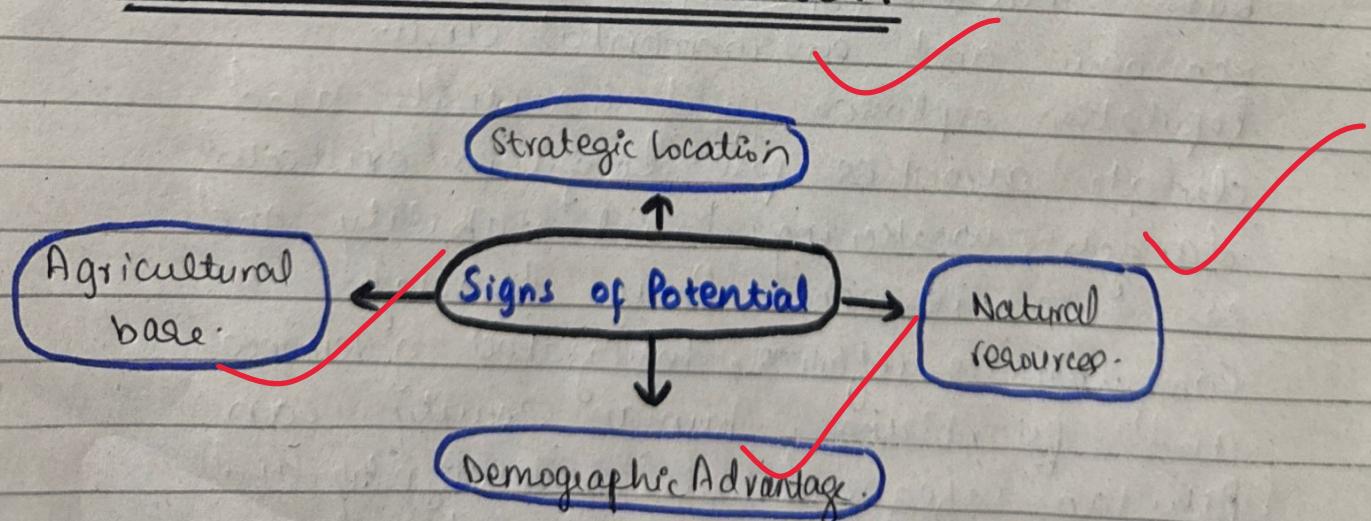
Is PAKISTAN READY FOR ECONOMIC TAKE OFF?

1) INTRODUCTION.

In Rostow's model of development, economic take-off refers to a stage in which economies transition from stagnation to sustainable growth driven by industrialization, capital formation and institutional reforms. For Pakistan, despite immense potential in human capital, geography and resources, the economy has remained trapped in cycles of crisis. This raises a critical question:

Is Pakistan ready for economic take-off? The evidence suggests that while the potential exists, structural bottlenecks continue to hinder the transformation.

2) SIGNS OF POTENTIAL TAKEOFF.



Pakistan has significant potential for economic take-off including:

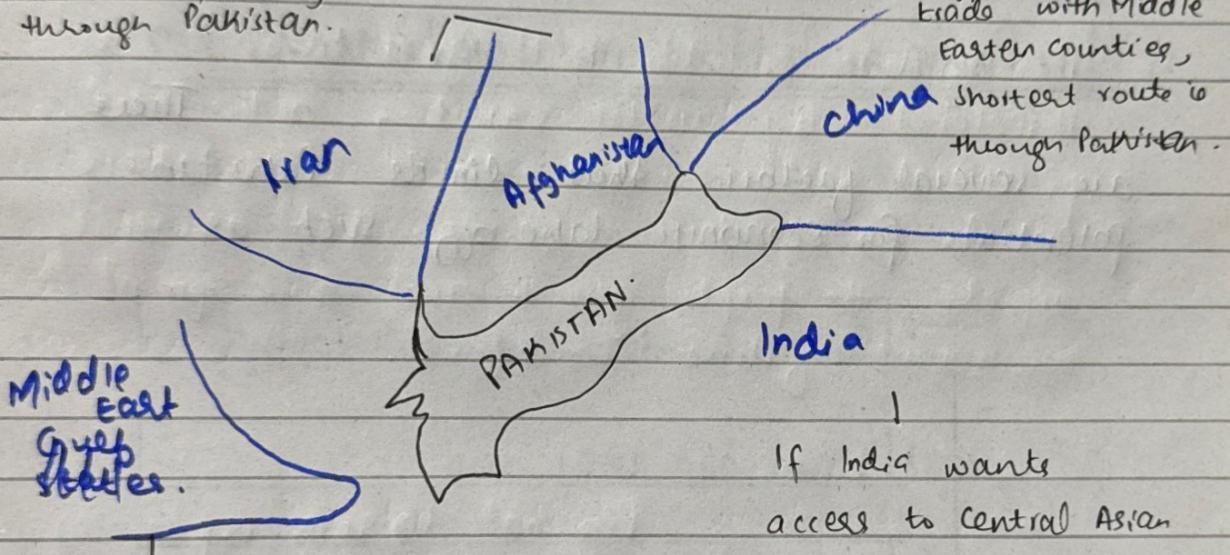
Is Pakistan ready for economic take-off? If not, what hinders this? Elaborate.

2.1) STRATEGIC LOCATION.

Pakistan is located at the gateway to Central Asia, Middle East and China offering trade and connectivity opportunities.

"while history has been unkind to Pakistan, its geography has been its greatest benefit!"

If Iran and Afghanistan want access to India, the only land route is through Pakistan. [Stephen P. Cohen]



If Middle East want access to China shortest route is Pakistan

If India wants access to Central Asian Countries, shortest route through Pakistan

Pakistan also offers Central Asian states, ASEAN and China the shortest path to Arabian sea. It means Pakistan has excellent opportunity to enhance its economic prosperity.

2.2) NATURAL RESOURCES.

Pakistan has abundance of natural resources such as coal, copper, iron ore, Natural gas, oil etc. that could help in

Economic development.

2.2) DEMOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGES

A young population (65% under 30 years age) make Pakistan capable of becoming a demographic dividend if equipped with skills.

2.4) AGRICULTURAL BASE

Rich arable land increases Pakistan's potential for Agri-exports.

3) WHY PAKISTAN IS NOT READY FOR TAKE-OFF YET.

There are several factors that limits Pakistan's potential for economic take-off such as,

- Political and Institutional Instability
- Fiscal and Debt crisis
- Structural Economic weaknesses
- Energy crisis
- Demographic challenges
- Food Insecurity and climate change
- Security Concerns.

3.1) POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL INSTABILITY

Frequent regime change, weak governance, and lack of

policy continuity undermines investor confidence. Furthermore, corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency reduces state capacity.

3.2) FISCAL AND DEBT CRISIS.

"It is the "Irony of Fact" that a country capable of catering for its own self-sufficiency consistently finds itself dependable on foreign donors and international aid!"

[Anatol Lieven
~ Pakistan: A Hard country]

Pakistan depends heavily on external aid for example it heavy rely on IMF bailouts.

Pakistan total public debt is around 80%

of GDP. In 2025 March. Rising circular debt in energy sector hampers financial stability.

3.3) STRUCTURAL ECONOMIC WEAKNESSES.

Low Industrial base of Pakistan (12-13% of GDP - contributed by manufacturing) make it dependable on imports of fuels, machinery and food.

3.4) ENERGY CRISIS

High tariffs, and reliance on imported fossil fuels increases the production cost of products. In Pakistan, there is insufficient investment in renewable energy.

3.5) DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES

Though Pakistan has large youth bulge but is at risks of demographic disaster because of high unemployment, low female labor participation and weak skill development. Over 20% of population in Pakistan lives below poverty line, stunting human capital.

3.6) FOOD INSECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Pakistan is an agrarian country but agriculture is threatened by water scarcity, outdated practices and climate-induced disasters such as 2022 and 2025 floods. Food insecurity affects the people growth and development weakening future workforce.

3.7) SECURITY CONCERNs

Regional tensions, especially with India and Afghanistan causes most of the budget allocation in military buildup which diverts the focus from other sectors. Due to security concerns the investors confidence shatters which reduces the FDI inflow in the country. For Example, CPEC projects slowed due to financial issues, security threats and bureaucratic hurdles.

4) COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Counties like South Korea and Malaysia achieved take-off

by investing in human capital, diversifying exports and ensuring policy stability. Pakistan, despite starting with similar conditions in 1960s ("Decade of Development"), fell behind due to political disruptions and inconsistent economic reforms.

5) CONCLUSION.

Today, Pakistan is not ready for economic take-off, as its structural weaknesses, governance failure and recurring economic crises prevent sustained growth. However, its potential is undeniable — a large population, resource base, and geostategic position can be harnessed if political stability, economic reforms and institutional strengthening are prioritized.