

Q:7

Ans:

### 1. Introduction:

Sometimes population is known as asset for a nation. When there are enough resources available in the country to meet the needs of people and skilled workforce exists, population becomes valuable. However, with meagre natural resources and lack of skilled manpower, overpopulation becomes a curse. Similarly, increasing population is a curse rather than blessing. It acts as a burden on the country's food security, water availability as well as economic growth.

### 2. A brief view of increasing population in Pakistan:

Pakistan's population

has grown rapidly with one of the highest growth rates in Asia - 2.5%, making it 5th most populous country.

Year	Population	Growth rate
1998	137 million	2.6%
2017	207 million	2.4%
2023	241 million	2.55%

" Pakistan's population in consecutive census of 1998, 2017, 2023"

### 3. Explaining Statement

" There can't be more people in Pakistan than we can feed and the population growth putting pressure on everything"

Undoubtedly, food insecurity along with other consequences are direct outcome of increasing population

These can be further described as follows:

### a) Increasing Food Insecurity:

With rapidly growing population of Pakistan, per capita demand on food is increasing.

It makes the country hard to supply food to cater to the needs of its people.

According to Global Hunger Index 2023, Pakistan stands at 99th position among 121 countries.

### b) Depleting Water Resources:

With such highest growth rate in the South Asia,

the country's water resources face overwhelming pressure too.

Already, glacier melting has reduced water storage into rivers. Further increasing population will ring alarm bells.

According to the International

Monetary Fund (IMF), the country per capita water availability has reduced to 1017 cubic meter per capita, closing to water scarcity level (i.e. 1000 m<sup>3</sup>/capita).

### c) Youth bulge and pressure of employment:

In his book, "The future of Pakistan," Stephen Cohen writes, "Pakistan's highest youth bulge has provided opportunities as well as challenges to the country." However, with more than 65% of population under 30 years and the increasing unemployment, the youth bulge has become a liability for Pakistan. According to Pakistan's Economic Survey Report 2022-23, unemployment rate within the

country is 6.3 percent.

#### d) Pressure on <sup>access to</sup> education:

Not only food insecurity is a severe consequence of overpopulation but also educational access. Amid poor economic outlook, it has been an uphill task to educate coming generation in an efficient way. This can further be estimated from existing state of education in the country.

Maleeha Lodhi, in her book "Pakistan beyond the crisis state," writes that increasing population will put further pressure on the access to quality to education as already country lacks capacity-building to reduce higher dropout rates of school-going children.

#### e) Increasing poverty and crime rate:

One cannot deny the

link between poverty and crime rates. With inability to meet basic needs, the poor can resort to violent criminal activities to meet their needs. With growing population and under resourced state, the country cannot control crime rates.

### f) Rising political unrest due to socio-economic disparity triggered by overpopulation:

Moreover, political unrest may take place if the government cannot address socio-economic disparity. When Pakistan has already faced a conflict between have and have-nots over resources. If population is not controlled, it may boost the unrest to a new level.

Antatol Lieven in his book

"Pakistan: a hard country"  
writes, "There has been a  
constant conflict between haves  
and have-nots in Pakistan, with  
maintenance of status-quo by  
the former and the exploitation  
caused to the latter."

#### 4. Conclusion:

To conclude, Pakistan's  
increasing population has put pressure  
on the country's ability to feed  
millions of people. Not only food  
insecurity has added to the  
 woes of over population but also  
depleting water resources, increasing  
unemployment and political unrest  
has also created new challenges  
for the country.

Q:2

ANSWER:

1. Introduction:

"CPEC is a game changer box Pakistan. It promises to meet massive energy shortfall, accelerate economic development and address socio-economic issues of the country," Senator Mushahid Hussain, a former chairman of Senate's standing committee on foreign relations. Undoubtedly, CPEC has promised all such outcomes. It has now completed a decade since it started in 2015. From investment in energy to Gwadar port development, CPEC<sup>has</sup> completed its first phase and has now entered into second phase. However, some issues have also been highlighted by some quarters on CPEC.

2. China Pakistan Economic



## Corridor: A Project of a decade

During visit to Pakistan in 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping signed an agreement on CPEC with the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Its investment in the first phase worth \$46bn was heavily rely on energy, infrastructure and development of Gwadar port. It has now entered into the second phase, focusing on socio-economic development, setting up of Special Economic Zones and overhauling ML-1 (Railway project from Karachi to Peshawar), to name a few.

During visit of Chinese delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister of China - He Libeng, on 31st July 2023, a decade of CPEC was celebrated by Pakistan and China.

### 3. Evaluating Ambitions of CPEC:

No doubt, CPEC is an ambitious project of China's "Belt and Road Initiative". Its various are assessed as follows:

#### a) Energy security in Pakistan:

In its first phase, CPEC investments were mainly focused on energy projects in Pakistan, ranging from developing solar energy projects, hydel projects, coal plants, to wind power projects. In this way, it has provided a brief sigh of relief to Pakistan's energy shortfalls.

Dr. Ishaq Hussain writes that CPEC has added 10400 MW to the country's national

grid.

## b) Infrastructural development:

CPEC has also committed to develop Pakistan's infrastructure. From building a network of roads, energy pipelines to Gwadar port, CPEC has added value in the country's dilapidated infrastructures.

## c) Accelerating industrializations through creating SEZs (Special Economic Zones):

The CPEC Phase 2 aims at creating different special economic zones in the country to accelerate investment and industrialization. AS special economic zones could create economic opportunities for people, its role cannot be underestimated.

## Major SEZs under CPEC

Rashakai SEZ Noshahra

Dhabeji Economic Zone

Allama Iqbal Industrial Park, Faisalabad

Industrial Park in Balochistan

## d) Expanding socio-economic development in Gwadar region:

CPEC has also envisioned to deepen socio-economic development in Gwadar.

The second phase of CPEC aims at establishing schools,

Hospitals and sports ground in Gwadar to facilitate common masses.

e) Increasing prospects to ensure connectivity from Afghanistan, central Asia to Pakistan:

Moreover, CPEC has also provided an opportunity to use Afghanistan as transit route to connect central Asia with South Asia. This can boost regional trade and connectivity.

In 5th trilateral meeting of Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, China and Afghanistan in May 2023, Afghanistan, China and Pakistan agreed to connect Afghanistan into the link of CPEC.

4. Assessment of Realities around CPEC:

In reality, there

have been different concerns on CPEC. These may include:

### a) ISSUE OVER TRANSPARENCY IN CPEC PROJECTS:

CPEC projects can fall prey to corruption and mismanagement. It has been echoed by many people. As it is believed that politicians are central figures to signing all projects, excluding experts and other officials.

Al Jazeera reported that the issues around transparency and accountability encompassed the CPEC projects.

### b) Reservations around debt trap:

There have also reservations from some quarters around China's role in increasing dependency on

nations and entangling them into debt trap. Preoccupied with leasing of Hambantota port by Sri Lankan government to China due to inability to pay the loan to the latter country, the USA and western media called CPEC a debt trap.

### c) Socio-economic Grievances of People of Gwadar:

People in Gwadar have expressed concerns regarding illegal fishing in Gwadar and unavailability of basic commodities, water and other facilities. This has raised questions on CPEC as a game changer.

For instance, "Haq do Tahreek" was initiated in Gwadar in recent times, where thousands of people recorded their protest.

d) Political instability and slowing down progress on CPEC projects:

Moreover, political instability also casts a shadow over CPEC projects.

Chinese investors have also reportedly complained the government regarding bureaucratic hurdles in the projects as well as dissatisfaction regarding slow pace of CPEC projects. Due to political uncertainty, other foreign investors might get discouraged to invest in SEZs (Special Economic Zones).

## 5. Conclusion:

To conclude, CPEC is a game-changing project that has entered into a decade since it was first originated. Its first phase has



completed projects, ranging from  
energy to infrastructures. Now,  
the second phase is ongoing, where  
industrialization and socio-economic  
developments are key aspects.  
However, it also faces some  
reservations, including mismanagement  
and socio-economic grievances.

Q:8

Ans:

## 1. Introduction

Pakistan is grappling with formidable challenges when it comes to non-traditional security threats and conflicts. From terrorism, extremism to social unrest, it has faced severe challenges. All these events are almost internationally internalized. On climate change, Pakistan's emission has been less yet it is at mercy of other countries is one of the <sup>examples</sup>

## 2. HOW non-traditional threats and conflicts in Pakistan are increasingly internationalized?

Following are some aspects where non-traditional security threats and conflicts are internationalized:

## a) Increasing terrorism and concerns of regional countries:

Terrorism has cast a long shadow over the country's security. From attacks on mosques to civilian population to security officials, terrorism is looming large. The TTP (Afghan Faction) and IS-Khorasan are foreign outfits attacking Pakistan. Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir says, "Afghanistan should refrain from allowing TTP to plan attacks."

## b) Growing Extremism projecting negative international image:

Extremism has also poured cold water on Pakistan's efforts to protect minority rights. Due to religious extremism, the USA has put Pakistan in the list of the countries violating religious and freedom in the state.

Department's document on  
religious freedom violations.

### c) Extreme weather events triggered by climate change and reservations about climate change in the United Nations:

Pakistan has witnessed extreme weather conditions such as intense rainfalls and floods despite the facts that it emits less than 1 percent of Greenhouse gases. Antonio Guterres expressed reservations that due to global emissions, developing countries <sup>are</sup> affected the most.

### d) Sectarian violence in the country and regional concerns:

Sectarian violence has also roots in the regional countries. For example, Pakistan has accused India for supporting sectarian organizations.

like Balochistan Liberation Army

to perpetuate sectarian terrorism in <sup>Pakistan</sup>

e) Political unrest in the country and declining FDI:

Besides, political

unrest in the country has also added to foreign concerns.

For example, FDI has declined owing to political uncertainty and a wave of terrorism in the country.

f) Poor status of gender equality and violence against women, raising human rights issues globally:

On the domain gender equality, Pakistan projects a negative image. It has also raised concerns on human right issues.

According to Amnesty International, violences against women

In Pakistan, especially gender domestic violence and sexual violence have kept increasing in 2021 and 2022.

### 3. Conclusion:

To sum up, almost all the non-traditional security threats and conflicts in Pakistan are increasingly internationalized, while some raised concerns about Pakistan's precarious condition on international stage. They may include terrorism, extremism and climate change.

Q: 4

Ans:

## 1. Introduction

According to International Crisis Group, an agency advocating global peace, "Pakistan has currently confronted with three major challenges; including economic instability, political unrest and resurgence of terrorism." Undoubtedly, political instability, economic issues along with foreign policy challenges have been hanging sword over Pakistan.

## 2. Political Unrest in Pakistan

Following are some political issues causing unrest:

### a) Polarized Politics:

Polarized politics have severely hit the country hard. There has been legislative deadlock and tough relations between the government and the opposition.

Issues of national importance has been widely ignored due to politics of confrontation. — Zahid Hussain

## b) Weakening Governance:

Besides, weak governance has increased manifold engulfed the country due to political instability. As a result, unemployment and poverty have also risen. According to EIU's Democracy Index 2022, Pakistan stands 107 among 169 countries.

## c) Political Victimization:

Political victimization has been another factor to portray negative image of the country in politics. Its history is a guide, there are many instances where each successive government blamed other for misdeeds.

## d) Deteriorating State Institutions functioning:

State institutions functioning has been deteriorating owing to



political instability. As a result, there has been clash between executive and ~~rule~~ judiciary over many matters in recent times.

### 3. SEVERE CHALLENGES UNLEASHED BY ECONOMIC INSTABILITY:

Economic instability has been another uphill task for the country:

#### a) SKYROCKETING INFLATION:

There has been skyrocketing inflation in the country. From depreciating currency to misgovernance on fiscal matters, the country has seen a double digit inflation. According to the Economic Survey Report 2022-23, Inflation rate is  $\approx 29.3\%$

#### b) LOW GDP GROWTH RATE:

Moreover, there has also been declined GDP growth rate owing to political and economic turmoil.

Pakistan recorded 0.29 Percent GDP growth rate in FY2022-23