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1) Introduction:

Since its inception, Pakistan has grappled with a multitude of security issues. These issues range from internal issues such as extremism, weaponisation, feudalism to external threats such as India and cross-border terrorism from Afghanistan.

2.2) What are Non-Traditional Security Issues:

Non-traditional national security concerns refers to the emerging challenges that have gained prominence in the modern globalised world. These challenges transcend the conventional spectrum of military threats and encompass a broader range of challenges such as cyberwarfare, climate change, economic vulnerability and energy security. The erstwhile president of U.S.A, Barack Obama, accentuates the significance of non-traditional security issues in the following words:

"In the 21st century, our security is no longer defined solely by the strength of our military. It is also linked to our ability to prevent pandemics, combat climate change and promote global economic stability"

2.3) Non-Traditional security concerns of Pakistan:

2.3.1) Economic Plight of the country:

Pakistan is plunged into economic crisis. A country of over 220 million population, 6th largest in the world, suffers from the dearth of financial resources. This is evident from the fact that Pakistan remains on the top of the chart for countries repeatedly seeking financial support from IMF. With the country exposed to severe economic crisis, the security risks are inflated.

Example:

On 12 July 2023, IMF approved a stand-by arrangement of US \$3 billion to Pakistan which would be disbursed over a period of nine months. The aim of the aid was to stabilise the ~~ex~~ economy of the country, which was otherwise on the verge of default.

2.3.2) Climate Change and Environmental Degradation:

The impact of climate change, including
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extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and droughts, can pose a serious threat to a country's national security. Unfortunately, despite having a relatively modicum of contribution to climate degradation, Pakistan has been exposed to some of the worst climate impacts.

Example:

In 2022, Pakistan witnessed the worst flooding of its history, affecting more than half of the country's areas. This not only affected private properties but left a huge dent in economic, agricultural, and medical sectors. The Center for Disaster Philanthropy estimates at least 33 million people affected, more than 700,000 houses destroyed, almost 2 million Acres of crops affected, and more than 0.7 million livestock lost.

2.3.3) Water Scarcity:

In the last few decades, Pakistan went from a water abundant country to a water stressed

country. One of the primary cause of this is the massive increase the country's population. The water demand has surged with the increase in population, however the water resources remain static. The country is at a juncture where the demand exceeds the supply. This translates to Pakino being categorised as a water scarce country. The UN reports that the demand of water will rise to 2.74 million acre feet (MAF) by 2050, while the supply will remain at 191 MAF.

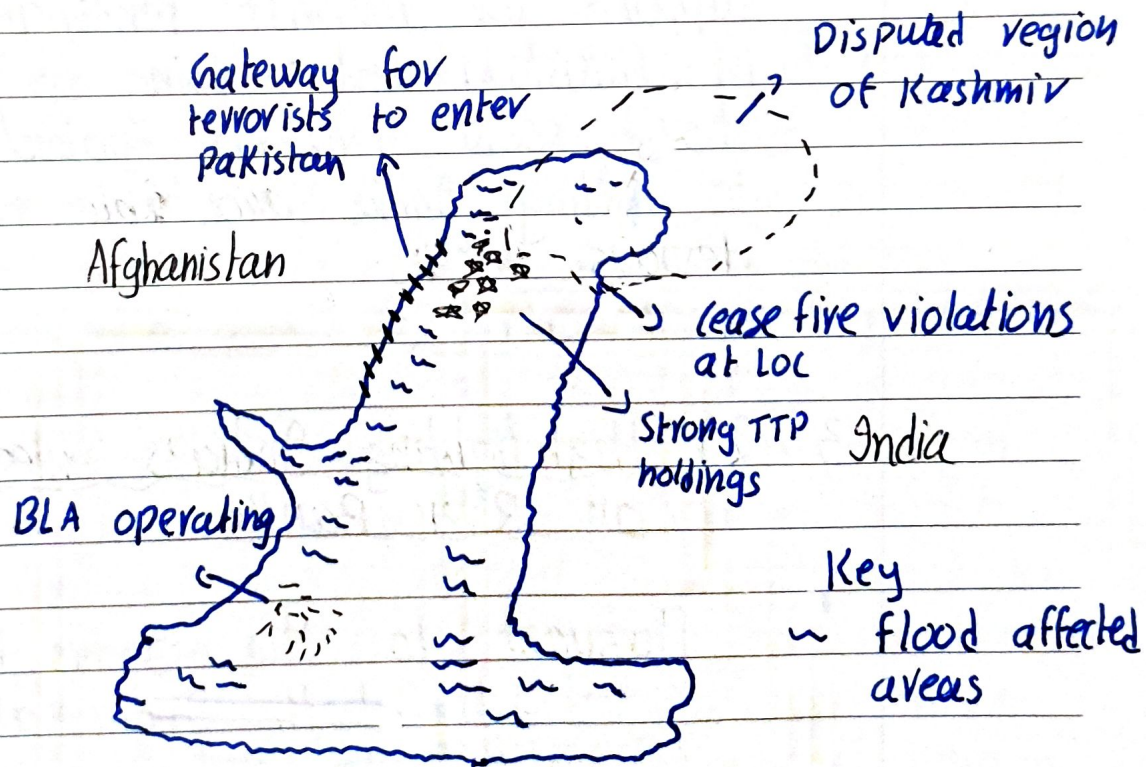


Fig 1: Overview of security concerns Pakistan faces

2.3.4) The Indian Threat:

Pakistan's ties with India can be characterised by perpetual threat of war, hostilities and policies to undermine the other. Since their inception, both countries have engaged in several strifes, including three full fledged wars, and prospects of peace, atleast in the near future, remain elusive. With the Kashmir issue still unresolved and purported Indian support to cross border terrorism, including unwavering support to BLA and such tendencies, to destabilise the country, the Indian threat stays at large and can yield dire repercussions for Pakistan.

Example:

The grave nature of Indian threat can be discerned by a network of terrorists, unveiled by Pakistan, that is being supported by 'RAW', Indian Intelligence agency. The Pakistani leadership created a dossier comprised of irrefutable evidence of Indian support to terrorist tendencies in Pakistan. The dossier was dispatched to UN. in hope to receive a response.

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23.5) Militancy and Extremism:

Military and extremism are one of, if not the foremost, significant threat the country faces. With the prevailing political and economic crisis, the militants, who otherwise remain dormant, follow a more active approach. Leveraging the predicament of the country, these militants increase their operations and try to penetrate into the much sensitive areas of the country. The recent wave of terrorism speaks for volumes of this grave threat. With many terrorist operations carried out throughout the country, targeting civilian and military installations, there remains no

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ambiguity that militant tendencies are proliferating in the country

Example:

The Peshawar mosque attack, which is considered to be the most deadliest attack after APS, is a manifestation of these militant activities. This attack was executed in a mosque when a suicide bomber ~~bet~~ blew himself up, claiming lives of as many as 84 people while more than 200 were injured.

2.3.6) Sectarian Conflicts:

Decades of turmoil in the middle east has dire ramifications in Pakistan. The constant rift between Iran and Saudi Arab, in particular, has bred and fomented sectarian conflicts in the country. This deep rooted issue is a rather grave one, for it can cause a massive stir up, across country, in moments, leading to country wide conflicts and protests. The former prime minister of Malaysia has rightly referred to this as:
"The curse of the Ummah"

3) Revisiting Foreign Policy to Ameliorate the Issues:

3.1) Exposing India:

3.1.1) Accentuating India's Covert yet Unwavering Support to Terrorist Tendencies in Pakistan:

Pakistan should employ all global platforms to expose India in front of the world by revealing gratuitous support for terrorist tendencies operating in Pakistan. And in doing so Pakistan should seek help of global powers in holding India accountable for such devious tactics.

3.1.2) Highlighting India's illegal construction on River Banks

Pursuant to the Indus Water Treaty, signed by both India and Pakistan is entitled to exclusive rights for using water from Indus, Jhelum and Chenab rivers. The treaty also prohibits

India from constructing any & storage dams on these rivers. India, however, in brazen violation to ~~to~~ Indus water treaty is building storage facilities on these dams, and thereby, restricting water flow to Pakistan. Pakistan should raise this issue on every major global platforms, drawing attention to ongoing Indian violations and the dire repercussions it could have on Pakistan.

3.2) Cautioning the Afghan Government:

There is no ambivalence that Afghan Taliban had enjoyed the full support of Pakistan for decades. Pakistan was a key player and a major stakeholder for the 'doha agreement', wherein the Afghan Taliban vowed to eliminate all terrorist sanctuaries within the country, ensuring that Afghan soil is never used conducting terrorist activities in foreign land. However, much to the dismay of Pakistan, the Afghan government is doing little, if not nothing, to make good on their promises. Afghan soil remains the paramount ~~in~~ mean for TTP to carry out terrorist ~~at~~ activities in Pakistan.

Pakistan should address this matter exercising professional diplomacy, cautioning Afghan government to expunge such tendencies, otherwise Pakistan would have no alternative but to conduct cross-border operations to ensure these terrorist activities are nipped in the bud.

3.3) Engaging in Trade Deals.

While security remains the top priority, however, given the current economic conditions of the country, there is a dire need to engage ~~in~~ foreign economic hubs in trade deals. Pakistan should approach ~~the~~ global economic hubs with the resolve to make trade deals which could provide, a much needed, breathing space to the country. Moreover, the government should introduce special incentives to foreign investors to attract foreign investment.

Example:

In a bid to attract foreign investment to combat the crippling economy of the country, President Erdogan announced

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a citizenship by investment scheme in which people were granted citizenship of the country for an investment as low as USD, 400,000 in the real estate sector

3.4) Not Partaking in any Global Conflict:

Since its inception, Pakistan has suffered tremendously by being a part in global rivalries. Whether its the cold war era or Post 9/11 period, Pakistan has invariably been, whether willingly or unwillingly, included in international conflicts. The country should heed to its past experiences and develop a policy of staying neutral. Whether its close allies such as China or arch rivals like India, Pakistan should establish a policy of not actively partaking in any foreign disputes, that doesn't concern it directly and express firm resolve not to vesile from this stance.

4) Conclusion:

There remains no doubt that Pakistan

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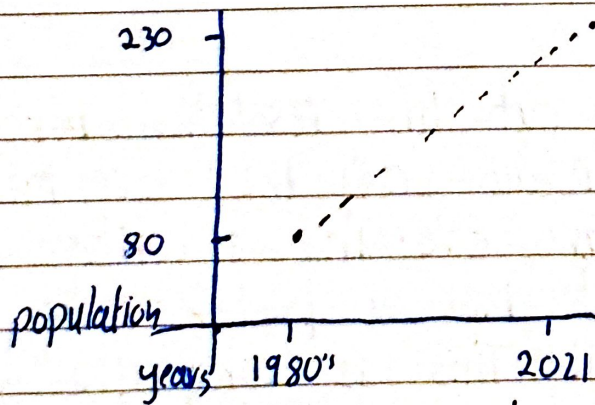
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suffered a lot from security challenges. The contemporary plight of the country is a result of years of bad policies and overlooking the national interest. The shipwrecked country can still be steered to safer shores by emplacing robust measures. The solutions mentioned above could have a vital impact in mitigating the challenges this country faces.

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1) Introduction: The statement is a well established fact supported by evidence from various parts of the world. There is a strong correlation between population growth and faster depletion of resources, and same is the case in Pakistan's context:

2) Pakistan's population growth: Pakistan is witnessing a tremendous surge in its population. The world bank states that the population of Pakistan has risen from 80 million in 1980's to an enormous 230 million in 2021. This massive surge in the past four decades, indicates that soon the natural-resources of the country might not be able to cater to the needs of the increasingly population.



The figure shows the increase in population of Pakistan

3) Depletion of natural resources: The demand of natural resources goes up as the population

of a country rises. The situation is no different in Pakistan. This population proliferation has put an immense pressure on the country's dwindling resources. Following are some of the areas which have been hugely impacted by the population growth.

3.1) Water Crisis: In the last few decades, Pakistan went from a water abundant country to a water stressed country. One of the primary cause of this, is the massive increase in population. The water demand has surged with the increase in population, however the water resources remained static. The growth in population has now come to the point where the demand exceeds the supply, consequently implying that Pakistan is a water-scarce country, as also indicated by the U.N, which reports that demand of water by 2050, will rise upto 274 million acre feet (MAF), while the the supply would remain at 191 MAF.

3.2) Sui-gas reserves: The gas reserves are also failing to keep pace with the growing population. Pakistan has long been dependent on the sui-gas reserves situated in Balochistan to meet the gas demand of the country. However, the increasing population and thereby the increase in demand has put a strain on these reserves. The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines limited (SNGPL), have also raised concerns on the depleting gas reserves and indicated that the country has consumed 66.6% of total gas reserves.

3.3) More demand of electricity: The demand of electricity has also elevated with the increase in population. The problem arises when electricity is produced by burning fossil fuels, which ultimately puts a strain on these natural resources, leading to their scarcity.

3.4) Increased deforestation: The food demand has also risen. The growing population means the demand of food has also increased. However, to meet this demand more area for agriculture is needed, which in turn leads to deforestation and overgrazing, causing soil erosion and further exacerbating the situation. Moreover, since the country already faces scarcity of fossil fuels in some parts, the locals rely heavily on burning wood for energy, ultimately causing deforestation.

4) Solutions: The deteriorating crisis and potential risk of suffering from the scarcity of natural resources, albeit a predicament that the country faces, can be alleviated by implementing stern measures.

4.1) Encouraging family planning: There is little to no knowledge or awareness, among the people of Pakistan, particularly the ones residing in rural areas, about family planning. Family planning is long considered as an issue of Taboo in Pakistan, and this is why it is not commonly discussed. However, given the current surge in

Population growth, there is more need now than ever for the government to launch awareness campaigns aimed at disseminating family planning awareness and its significance, in an attempt to curb the growth rate.

4.2) Shift to renewable energy: Pakistan has long relied heavily on fossil fuels to generate energy i.e. electricity. However, the growing energy requirement of the country is depleting the reserves within. The government needs to focus on transitioning the energy production onto renewable methods, such as, solar, hydel etc. These renewable methods can take an immense load of the natural resources.

4.3) Initiate schemes that encourage BOT model of investment in the power sector: In order to curb the shortage of energy due to the growing demand, the government should launch schemes where local and foreign investors are invited to invest in the power sector of the country on the Build operate Transfer] BOT model. The government can give incentives such as free land, less taxes etc to attract & more investors. This would help the country in enhancing its power sector and limit the dependency on natural resources such as oil and coal etc.

BOT Model

↓

From the day of investment till the production starts, only interest is paid.

↓

From the day Production begins
Profit ratio: investor \rightarrow 85%
country \rightarrow 15%

↓

When 50% of the time Passes - Profit ratio
investor \rightarrow 50%
country \rightarrow 50%

↓

When the tenure is completed - Profit ratio:
investor \rightarrow 0%
country \rightarrow 100%

Figure: shows how the BOT model is operated.

4.4) Awareness and strict Policies pertaining to environmental degradation:

Practices such as deforestation and over-

grazing that harm the environment, are a by product of shortage of resources and unawareness. The government should initiate awareness campaigns that can educate the locals about the consequences of environmental degradation. In addition, the government should also impose stricter policies prohibiting practices such as deforestation.

4.5) Allieviating water crisis: Water crisis, is one of very serious issues that Pakistan faces. The current demand of water, exceeds that of water reserves. This is a serious issue and requires a urgent attention of the government.

4.5.1) Take serious Action against India's illegal construction of rivers:

The Indus water Treaty was signed back in 1960, mediated by the World Bank itself. The treaty allocated exclusive rights to Pakistan using waters from western rivers of Indus system, namely Indus, Jhelum and Chenab, while India was given rights to use eastern rivers, Sutlej, Beas and Ravi. The treaty also prohibits India from constructing any storage dams on the rivers allocated to Pakistan. India, however is violating this treaty by constructing storage facilities

On these rivers, and thereby restricting their water flow in Pakistan. Pakistan should raise this issue on all international forums, ~~Particul~~ Particularly UN, and direct their attention to the repercussions that Pakistan is facing because of India's violation, primarily in the form of water scarcity.

4.5.2) Revamping the country's water system:

The government of Pakistan should take immediate measures to address the issue of water scarcity. Pakistan needs to work on constructing both large and small scale dams, in order to elevate the storage capacity. Additionally, the government ought to revisit the distribution system through canals and improve it in a way that the water wastage is at minimal. Moreover, there is also a great need of state-of-the-art water treatment plants, that can remove impurities from water, rendering it safe for use. The government should also take initiatives to educate the local farmers and teach them modern farming techniques that prevent excessive wastage of water. Such steps will pave way for a water abundant Pakistan.

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completing Diamer-Bhasha Dam

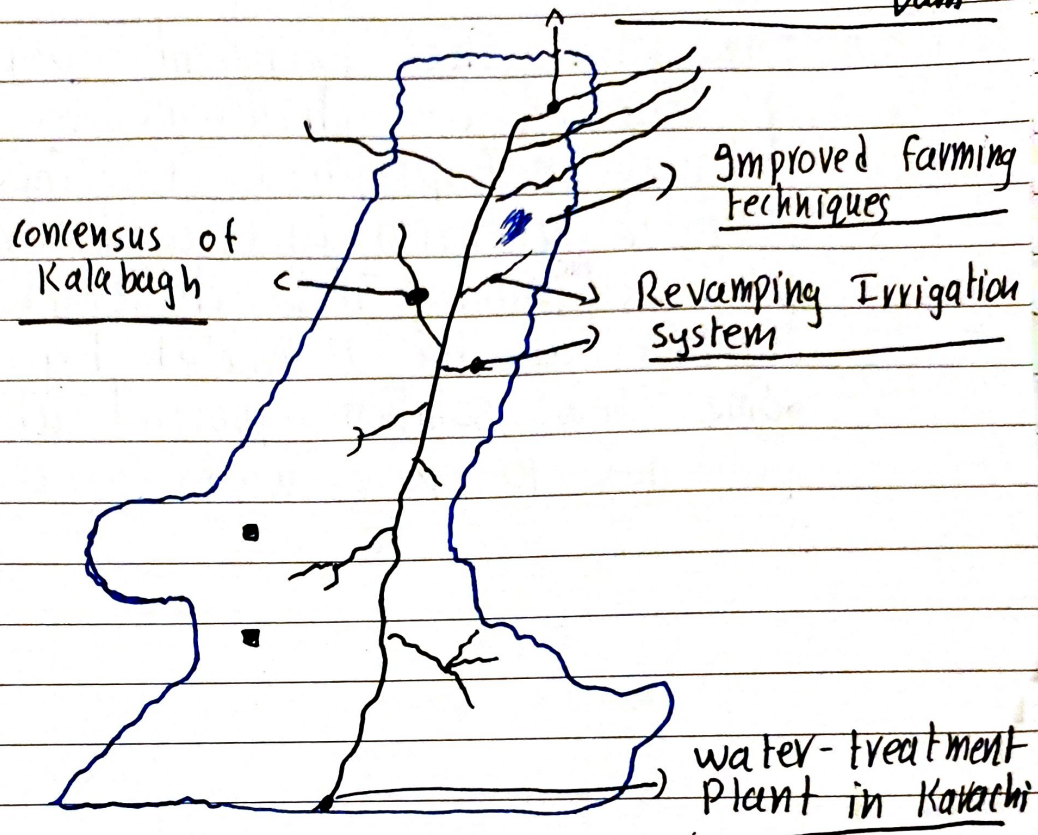


Figure: Comprehensive Road Map to overcome water crisis.

4.6) Supervised Urbanisation: Due to increasing population, the cities are expanding. There are constructions going on the periphery of cities. The rural areas are rapidly integrating in cities. What this does is that it diminishes land for agriculture, which in turn lowers the agricultural yield of the country, ultimately, exacerbating the food crisis. The government should impose strict policies to curb urbanisation. In addition, proper laws should be placed that prohibit construction on agrarian lands.

5) Conclusion: The exuberant population has generated a barrage of challenges to the country, that it was not prepared for. These issues need a urgent attention and could only be left at peril of ^{the} country. These challenges, albeit very daunting, can be allieviated by taking strict actions. The few solutions provided above, have the potential to pave way for a prosperous Pakistan.

Q4

1) Introduction:

It is an established axiom that economy is the backbone of any thriving nation, functioning as a sturdy defense to multitude of challenges faced by a country. Pakistan, however, since its inception, is grappled with severe economic challenges that continue to plague the country hitherto. Some of the factors that have had a dire impact on the economy of Pakistan are as follows:

2) Economic, Political and Foreign Policy Crisis:

2.1) Energy Crisis:

The energy sector of Pakistan has long suffered from inefficiencies, high transmission losses, and inadequate investment in the energy infrastructure. This energy crisis leads to frequent power outages and price volatility, hindering industrial productivity which in turn

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exacerbates the economic crisis.

2.2) Tax Collection and Narrow Tax Base:

Pakistan faces challenges in tax collection, with a large informal sector and low tax compliance. The narrow tax base limits the government's revenue generation capacity, making it challenging to fund essential public services and development projects.

2.3) Low Human Capital:

Despite having a sizable population, Pakistan's human capital is hindered by inadequate investments in education and healthcare. The lack of skilled workers and a healthy labor force limits economic productivity and innovation.

2.4) Agriculture Dependency:

Pakistan's economy heavily relies on the agriculture sector, which is ~~is~~ vulnerable to climate change, water scarcity, and market fluctuations. Over dependence on agriculture makes the economy susceptible to shocks in this sector.

2.5) Security Concerns:

Security concerns are one of the, if not the foremost, important hurdles to a thriving and prosperous Pakistan. The ongoing security challenges, including terrorism and regional instability, pose risks to business operations and deter foreign investment.

Example of the severe nature of Security concerns

The Peshawar mosque attack, which is considered to be the most deadliest attack after APS, is a manifestation of these militant activities. This attack was executed in a mosque when a suicide bomber blew himself up, claiming lives of as many as 84 people, while more than 200 were left injured.

2.6) Policy Reversals:

The business policies, established by the government, are marred with inconsistencies, abrupt changes, and even reversal of the policy altogether. In such a precarious

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ambience, businessmen are deterred from investing.

2.7) Economy susceptible to broad-range of External factors:

The economy of Pakistan is vulnerable to external shocks, such as fluctuations in global commodity prices, international trade dynamic, and geopolitical tensions. These external factors can erode investor confidence

2.8) Political Instability:

Frequent changes in government, weak governance and political uncertainty have induced an unstable business environment, leading to reduced investor confidence and reluctance to invest in long-term projects. This, in turn, recedes the already dwindling economy of the country.

Example:

A quintessential example of political instability
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is the current political crisis that ushered when a coalition of 11 political parties ousted prime minister Imran Khan, plunging the country in a deep rooted political and economic predicament that is perpetuating hitherto.

2.9.) Fiscal Challenge :

Pakistan faces significant fiscal deficits, increasing public debt, and challenges in managing public finances effectively. This weak fiscal position limits the government's ability to invest in infrastructure and social development projects.

2.10.) Inapt Monetary Policy :

The state Bank of Pakistan faces challenges in implementing effective monetary policies to control inflation and stabilize the currency, which impacts overall economic stability. Hence there is a dire need to introduce and implement policies that ensure and support economic growth.

2.11) China And US Rivalry :

There is no ambivalence that, in recent times, China has emerged as a global power and a genuine contender for global hegemony.

This has resulted into a serious rift between China and US. Pakistan has enjoyed good ties with both these global giants, however, the country finds itself on the horns of a dilemma since China-US conflict means that Pakistan would have to make a tough choice, eventually, in choosing a side. This can only amplify the plight of the country. Pakistan is a major stake holder for both US and China. On one side Pakistan is a non-Nato major ally in America's war against terror, and on the side China has invested substantial financial resource in Pakistan for CPEC. However, due to its failure in Afghanistan, that its blames on Pakistan, and growing Pak-China ties US has lately held itself aloof to Pakistan and is investing in ties with India, in a bid to isolate Pakistan. The gravity of this can be discerned by a statement observed by Pakistan's defence minister who urged US not to push Pakistan into making a 'hard choice'-(Dawn, 2023) Maxim.....

2.12) Brazen Violations of Constitution:

In retrospect, the constitution of Pakistan has recurrently been, with impunity, violated by civil and military leadership alike. This gross practice, however, has proliferated in recent times. Such violations tarnish the sanctity ~~and~~ of constitution and sets abysmal precedents for generations to follow.

Example:

A recent and a quintessential example pertaining to such a violation is the dispute encompassing punjab elections. Despite the stipulated time of 90 days enshrined in the constitution and the supreme court's judgement on the matter, the polls could not be held since it contradicted with the government's interest.

3) Recommendations:

3.1) Encourage Foreign Investment.

The embarrased financial sector is in Maxim.....

diverse need of foreign support. The government needs to revamp its policy and aim to embellish the country for foreign investment by endowing special incentives to international businessmen.

Example:

In the face of turbulent economic challenges, President Erdogan initiated a citizenship by investment scheme, pursuant to which foreigners could be granted citizenship status for investment as low as \$400,000 in the country's real-estate sector.

3.2) Investment in Human Capital:

The country needs to give precedence to human capital. This translates to improving health, education sectors. This would not only empower individuals to harness their true potential and work towards the betterment of the country, but would also foster foreign investment.

3.3) Political Dialogue:

In our blinkered milieu, sensitised informed discourse can set the tone for congruence. Engaging in such discussions can lead to consensus building, ~~and~~ better governance, and lower political temperature.

3.4) Revamping Foreign Policy:

Engaging in constructive diplomacy and maintaining positive relations with neighboring countries and the international community can enhance economic cooperation, trade, and investment, which can contribute to economic stability.

3.5) Good Governance:

Strengthening institutions and promoting transparency, accountability and rule of law are indispensable to address political and constitutional challenges. Strengthening anti-corruption measures, ensuring independent judiciary can help to restore public trust in governance.

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4) Conclusion :

The causes, of the severe ongoing challenges, embodied in this answer is only the tip of iceberg. There are countless other factors that contributed to the contemporary crisis. There is no single panacea that can navigate the, nearly default, country to thriving hub of ~~the~~ excellence. However, with meticulous planning and implementing robust measures, the shipwrecked country can still be steered to safer shores.

Q2

1) Introduction:

"CPEC is a testament to the strong bond between Pakistan and China, a friendship that knows no bounds" - (Xi Jinping). This dictum set forth by the president, himself, of China accentuates the significance of this project that extends beyond the mere realm of economic prosperity. It has been more than a decade since the initiative of CPEC ushered, and during these long 10 years, this project has been subjected to ~~the~~ myriad controversies and criticism.

2) Ambitions and Realities of CPEC:

2.1) Trade and Market Access:

The variety of projects in the areas of trade and market access under CPEC will originate a plethora of opportunities in different spheres of life. In this connection, collaborative bond with China will be a rich source of promoting trade, facilitating market access, elevating the standard of

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living and achieving sustainable inclusive growth in Pakistan. In addition, through CPEC, Pakistan will be able to open doors to the world. China is the world's leading exporter worth \$ 2.2 trillion and its imports are equal to \$ 1.8 trillion. Pakistan currently exports services to China that amount to \$ 1.5 billion, however this could be increased manifold through enhanced cooperation.

2.2) Industrial Development:

Under the fold of industrial development and global value chains, experts have proposed industrial cooperation and import substitution with China in various sections including food packaging and processing, agriculture, technology, iron and steel, textile and petrochemicals and light engineering sector supported by industrial relocation and investment of the Chinese industries and other investors (locals and diaspora). The process is expected to increase export and create import substitutions.

2.3) Socio-Economic Development and Poverty alleviation:

The socio-economic development and poverty alleviation are on the top of CPEC projects in the ~~the~~ second phase, that has just commenced, of development. A joint Working Group has been established under CPEC for socio-economic development and poverty alleviation, addressing issues such as housing, relocation of labor-intensive industries, skill training, job creation, healthcare forestry, technology transfer.

2.4) Agriculture Modernisation & Marketing:

Agriculture is one of the key labor-intensive sectors of the economy. More than half of the population, particularly those living in rural areas, depends on this industry. The sector contributes 19% to the GDP and is likely to be doubled by 2030. Owing to Chinese cooperation, there has been a noticeable growth of 3.81 over the last several years. It currently shares 20% of the country's exports, and is likely going to increase a further 2.5% over the next 5 years.

2.5) Gawadar Oil City :

Under CPEC's portfolio, Gawadar is of paramount significance. The strategic focus on simultaneous development of Gawadar port and city - in the form of a new smart port city master plan, is primarily due to the natural and symbolic relationship that exists between the city and port that surrounds it. Gawadar, with all the ongoing development, will have the capacity to attract foreign investment and develop in an integrated regional manufacturing and energy hub, yielding ~~lucrative~~ high profits for Pakistan.

2.6) Regional connectivity and Third Party Participation :

During the second phase, CPEC will primarily focus on connectivity improvements, analysis and alternative optimal routes for the entire region through Gawadar port and exploring feasible connections among Central Asia, Middle East, Africa and Europe.

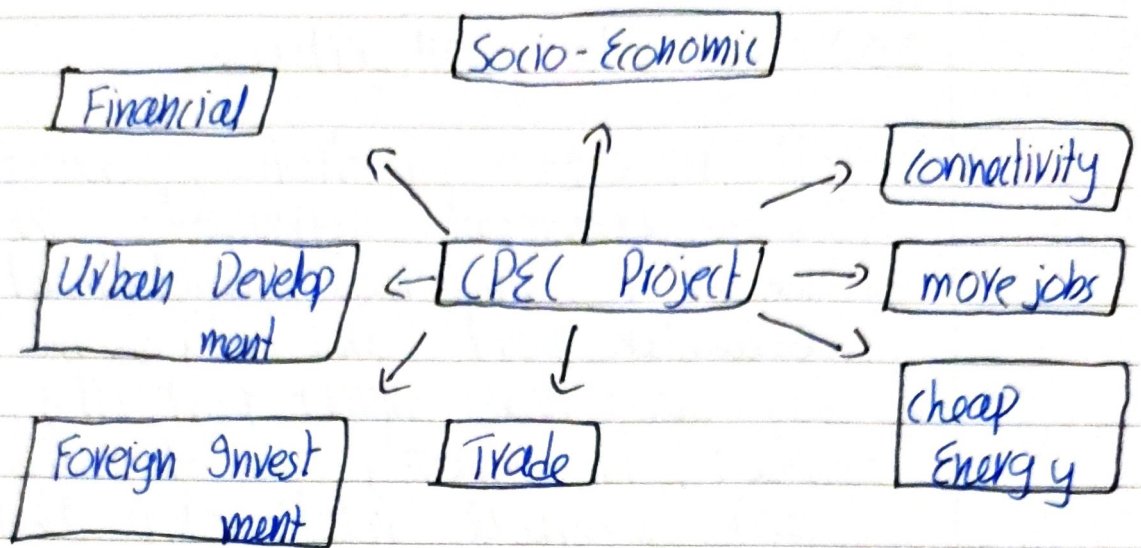


Fig 1: Enhancement induced in Pakistan by CPEC

3) Drawbacks of CPEC:

3.1) Balanced Economic Interdependence:

China had initially announced the portfolio of CPEC to be \$48 billion, however figures have reportedly crossed \$60 billion mark. Three years down the road China had already invested \$19 billion over various sectors in Pakistan and completed 9 of the 22 projects. One does not need to

delve any move to ascertain Chinese determination & and the significance it holds for Chinese interests - However, for Pakistan, CPEC presents economic and political dilemmas -

3.2) Massive loan-based investments:

Massive loan-based investments have come with undisable costs and perhaps to steep prices. Chinese loans have started pouring into the country at a time when the economy is already burdened by under-performance and thus requires rigorous reforms. How Pakistan is going to pay back these loans to China without taking a huge toll on its economy seems unlikely.

3.3) Security concerns:

~~with~~ with this revolutionary project underway, there are many countries, particularly India and USA, whose interests collide with this project. Therefore Pakistan has witnessed a proliferation

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in militant activities aimed at Chinese engineers. This can not only sabotage the project but has the capacity to vitiate the historic cordial ties between Pakistan and China.

4) Conclusion:

There remains no ambivalence that CPEC has had a myriad of benefits for Pakistan and some challenges. In view of the progress so far, including the drawbacks, it is safe to assume that the benefits of this project take precedence. By rigorous reforms and meticulously designed security plan, the ~~down~~ negatives can be ameliorated.

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