

Q.7

Ans:

1. Introduction

Pakistan currently engulfs with complex issues in economic, political and legal arenas. With depreciating currency and skyrocketing inflation, several economic problems have complicated the country's path to sustainable progress. Not only economy but also political instability has added to the woes. Moreover, there has been a constitutional crisis in ^{the} country as well. However, there is still a room to turn the tide against all odds.

2. Evaluating unprecedented economic crisis in Pakistan:

Economy has been in the doldrums in the country. The country at current times grapples with multiple economic

challenges. The major ones are:

a) Unprecedented currency depreciation and dwindling foreign exchange reserves:

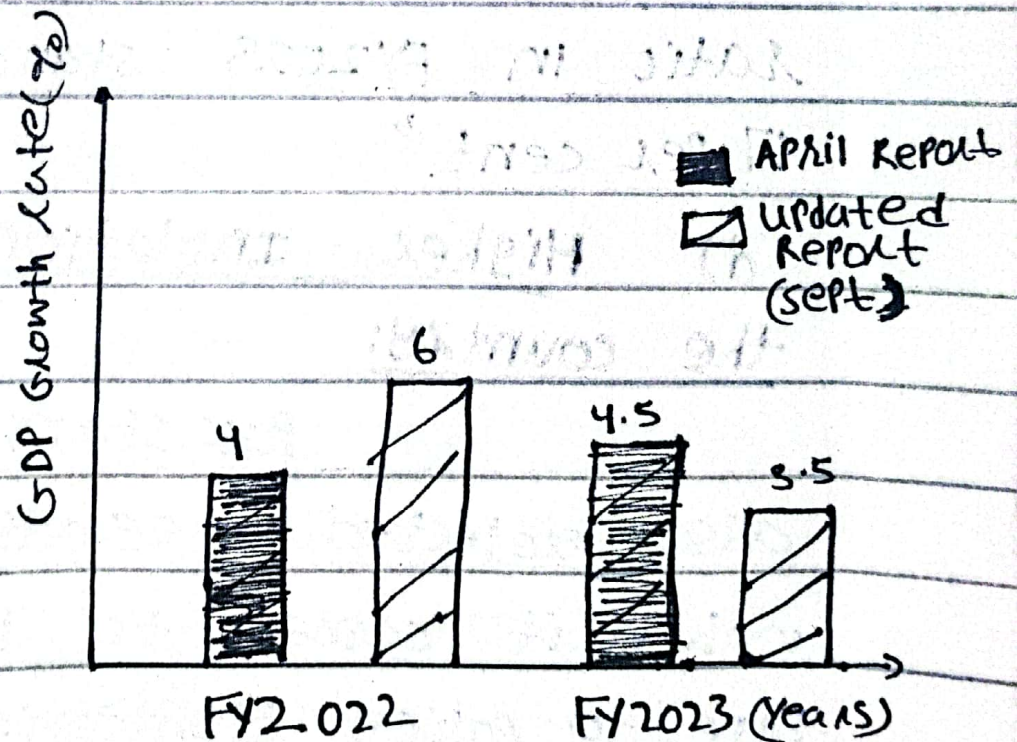
Currently, Pakistani Rupee has lost its value in comparison to dollar, aggravating higher import costs. The dollar in inter-bank market has surpassed the mark of 300 rupees. Besides, foreign exchange reserves are in precarious conditions, enabling imports for only a week.

"Pakistan's economy has reached to catastrophic level," Atif Mian, a well-known economist

b) Dismal state of GDP Growth:

Moreover, another

Economic indicator - Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate has also declined. Due to poor economic performance of major sectors, including agriculture and higher economic uncertainty. GDP growth rate has sharply declined to 0.29 Percent in FY2023, according to the Economic Survey Report 2022-23.



"Asian Development Bank
Outlook Report"

c) Low taxation rate:

Besides, the country has confronted with low taxation rate due to poor tax administration and meagre tax reforms.

According to the Federal Board of Revenue,

"Pakistan's tax to GDP ratio in FY2023 stands at 17.1 per cent."

d) Higher inflation in the country:

Pakistan has also projected negative image when it comes to inflation. Due to policy tightening, currency depreciation and weak price control mechanism, inflation was a record high in FY 2022-23.

According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan, ^{average} inflation stood at 29.5 percent in between May 2022 to July 2023.

3. Evaluating political instability in Pakistan:

From more than three decades of military rule to democratic government by civilian, Pakistan has faced a severe issues in its domestic politics; resulting in polarized politics. To describe recent crisis, one can mention reports by global institutions.

According to International Crisis Group, advocating Global peace efforts,

"Pakistan is currently grapple with resurgence of militancy, economic uncertainty

chronic political instability.

Moreover, some important political issues which confront Pakistan are:

a) Political polarization:

Pakistan's politics has been locked in division. There has been a wave of political confrontation in the country. From uneasy relationship between the former government led by PMEN and the opposition led by PTI. This ended up in bad governance too.

Zahid Hussain, a writer and journalist, has rightly said, "The issues of national importance have become football of party politics owing to divisive politics."

b) Crisis of governance due to political uncertainty:

Economy and politics are intertwined concepts which highly depend on good governance.

However, there has been an issue of governance in Pakistan due to political uncertainty. The issues such as illiteracy and unemployment, which could be tackled if crisis of governance could have been addressed.

It is rightly said by renowned author of book "Future of Pakistan," Stephen Cohen,

"The future trajectory of Pakistan will be shaped by internal cohesion and economic development."

c) Increasing political uncertainty and deepening dismal state of foreign investment:

Foreign investment cannot be ensured when there is an environment of political uncertainty. Pakistan saw decline in Foreign Direct Investment in FY2023.

According to the recent report of Economic survey, the FDI has reduced to \$1.2bn from \$1.5bn in FY2023.

4. Constitutional crisis in Pakistan:

Pakistan also confronts with constitutional crisis leading to interstate disharmony. Some of the major features of it are:

a) Constitutional crisis over Electoral process:

After the dissolution of the Punjab and KPK Assembly, the Election

Commission was mandated to conduct the elections as per constitutional obligation to conduct elections within 90 days after the dissolution of Assemblies. But this did not happen even after the verdict of the supreme court.

b) Weak law and order situation:

Besides, there has been a weak law and order situation in the country as well. Commonly constitutional crisis has deteriorated public trust in parliament as well as judiciary. Resultantly, law and order situations have painted a sorry state of affairs.

According to the world

Justic Project, Pakistan stands at 129 out of 140 countries on Rule of law index.

c) Clash between Parliament and Judiciary:

The former government led by the Pakistan Democratic Alliance had called for a full-bench court on deciding the election matters of the Punjab and KP Assembly. However, the court did not entertain the demand and the ^{National} Assembly passed a bill named "Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 to curtail power of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

5. Recommendations to tackle economic, Political and constitutional crisis:

2M3 Following strategies may go a long way to address economic, political, and legal issues:

a) Conducting of free and fair elections:

Free and fair elections should be conducted as it not only gives impetus to stable politics but also bring institutional reforms in economy.

One cannot discard the notion that the former government and the opposition kept up demand for elections.

b) Developing economic policies with consistent outputs of all stakeholders: Economic

Policies should be consistent to ensure sufficient taxation and create certain environment for investment. Hence, all

Stakeholders' output is essential.

c) Institutional Reforms:

Institutional reforms are essential to cause smooth functioning of all state institutions in their domains. Besides, constitutional crisis can also be mitigated with institutional reforms to respect separation of powers to avoid interinstitutional clashes.

d) Avoiding confrontational politics and embracing consensus-based politics:

Confrontational politics must be avoided and consensusⁱⁿ politics should be introduced. The parliamentary form of government is working well in those countries which practice tolerance in politics. The policymaking becomes easy with a consensus-based political ideology.

6. Conclusion:

To conclude, Pakistan has been grappling with many economic, political and constitutional challenges. Its economy is in the doldrums, politics is divisive, and a crisis in legal arena is far from over. However, there is yet a room to meet the challenges.

Q.8

Ans:

1. Introduction

On the session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2021, Boris Johnson said, "The world should learn from Pakistan to tackle climate change with massive abhorrestation." Pakistan, though witnessing severe consequences of climate change, has played a key role on climate change in its foreign policy. However, yet the country has to do more.

2. Pakistan's Foreign Policy on climate change:

Pakistan's foreign policy is clear on climate change. It is committed to follow Paris climate Agreement in letter and spirit. Pakistan has consistently supported for limiting global warming to 1.1°C. The incoming discussion will evaluate its policy in this regard.

A) Success of Pakistan's Foreign Policy on Climate Change:

a) National Climate Policy 2021 in line with Paris Agreement 2021

In 2021 Pakistan outlined National Climate Policy. According to the policy, the government of Pakistan is committed to ensure and accelerate mitigation and adaptation efforts in 12 sectors. This is also added to the country's success.

b) Fund raising efforts for climate resilience:

In a commitment to mitigate and adapt climate change consequences, Pakistan sought fund-raising efforts. In January 2023,

Pakistan and with the UNO raised fund worth \$10 billion to its "Climate Resilience" initiative.

c) Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan's efforts on climate change:

The ministry of climate change has also played efforts to support international commitment on climate change. Pakistan's ministry

of climate change had planned ^{in 2021} policy to follow the UN targets on ^{climate change}

d) Living Indus Initiative and Urban forestry projects of Pakistan:

Despite poor state of economy, Pakistan has initiated ambitious projects to lower down effects of climate change. Pakistan has launched Living Indus Initiati

ive to save Indus water
from degradation as well as plantation
drive.

e) Climate change cooperation
with the USA:

Pakistan and
the USA have shown willingness
to cooperate on climate change.

For instance, the USA has cospons-
ored Pakistan in making electrical
vehicles by 2030.

A) Global Engagement on
Climate change through UNO:

Besides, Pakistan
has also increased its intern-
ational efforts on climate
change. In COP27 in Egypt, 2022
Pakistan's Prime Minister was
co-chair in global climate conference

B. Weakness of Pakistan's

Foreign Policy on Climate

Change:

With success, there

have been some weakness too:

a) Despite international commitments, higher consumption of non-renewable sources.

However, Pakistan's international engagements may paint a bleak picture if the country entirely adheres to non-renewables for domestic energy needs. In the national energy mix, only 5% is the share of renewable.

b) Higher deforestation:

Besides, the country has higher deforestation rate, projecting abysmal state on the country's foreign policy on climate change.

According to ^{the} UN agency on environment, the country's forest cover has reduced to 4-5%

c) Dilapidated resilience
against climate change in
Urban areas:

Urban areas
of Pakistan include several
industrial units. They are
emitting much carbon dioxides
which provoke health issue
too. The smog in Lahore
is one of examples, reflecting
Pakistan has yet to achieve ^{success} _{on climate}
change.

3. Conclusion

To conclude, Pakistan
is engulfing with climatic
catastrophe which has
caused devastating effects on
its economy as well as social
fabric. Despite that it has
gained success in its foreign
policy on climate change
with limited weakness.

Q: 1

Ans:

1. Introduction

"China has shocked the world by mediating between two arch rivals - Saudi Arabia and Iran, undermining the USA's diplomacy in Middle East," - Al Jazeera.

Despite efforts by many countries, China has successfully brought Iran and KSA on table. It shows rising role of China as mediator.

2. Beijing Role as mediator in Saudi-Iran rapprochement:

In recent times Saudi Arabia and Iran have defused their ties and are ready to open embassies in their respective countries and engage on security and economics. The historic agreement has highlighted China's role as successful mediator.

a) Projection of soft power diplomacy of china:

The deal shows the soft power ~~of~~ diplomacy of china. China, without pressurizing either country, brokered a historic deal. It reflected the use of soft power in international relations to deuse ties.

b) Create common area of cooperation no matter how tough enemies may be

china has also risen as diplomatic heavyweight in creating realization that arch rivals, no matter how hard they may be, can be brought close with diplomatic efforts.

c) Economic ambitions making diplomacy a workable solution to conflicts:

Economic ambitions can bring enemies together too. Saudi Arabia is occupied with vision 2030 and Iran with sale of its oil abroad, while China's BRI helped China as successful negotiator.

d) Chinese strategies to boom multilateral and peaceful world:

China has ambition to shape the world order to multipolarity. Due to this reason, it finds it suitable to set diplomatic efforts in middle East. It is in a better position to set its bootprints in the middle East.

3. Why China could be a better mediator than US:

Following points indicate that China could be a better mediator:

a) China's policy of economic diplomacy, the USA's policy of coercion:

In the past, from Latin American states, Iraq, Syria to Afghanistan, the USA's foreign policy resorted to the violence.

However, China has provided an alternative approach to the world ^{as} economically diplomat to ^{debuse} tensions.

b) China's quest to shape multilateral world and American ambition to strengthen US hegemony

China has proved itself as supporter of multilateral world unlike the USA which

is preoccupied with hegemonic design. This gives edge to china to influence other states and mediate in several issues.

c) Uncertain relationship of the USA with allies:

Besides, Americans' relations with its allies remain uncertain, making china to get leverage. For example, Saudi Arabia got infuriated when Biden withdrew from security guarantee to the Kingdom, but china kept soft image ^{there}.

d) China's ambitious project of BRI making it

diplomatic heavy-weight

China's ambitious

Project - BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) is gaining ground across the world. Through this project, china offers soft loans and infrastructural

supports to the countries, including those in the Middle. This also gives China an edge over the USA.

Al Jazeera reports that with BRI projects, China has given alternative model of finance to the world, replacing the USA led World Bank and IMF.

4. Conclusion:

To conclude, with Saudi-Arabia and Iran's rapprochement, a new reality has been created. China has arisen in international arena as a better mediator than the USA. From soft power approach to economic carrots, China has been thought to be a new player in mediating long-standing disputes.

Q: 3

Ans: 1. Introduction

Due to ~~the~~ the US-China rivalry, the world politics and economy is likely to be divided, triggering chaos and conflicts at global level. This may cause deterioration of world peace and security if not resisted. "The world seems to be divided into two camps, determined by the world's two largest economies," ^{Antonio Guterres}

2. Dangers to International Peace exacerbated by US-China conflicts:

Due to tug of war between the USA and China, a danger looms large on global horizon, making global peace elusive. From geopolitics to geoeconomics, there are a number of domains dividing China and the USA:

a) Trade wars between USA and China:

During Donald Trump's era, both China and the USA engaged in trade wars. On account of trade surplus of China with the USA, the latter country increased trade tariffs, initiating formal trade wars.

b) Cold war mentality

There are certain experts who view that China and the USA are giving impression of cold war engagements. The American President Joe Biden says,

"American relations with China will have three aspects - confrontation, cooperation and competition."

c) New alliances and rise

of bloc politics:

From AUKUS deal, Quadilateral security dialogue to Build Back Better World (B3W), the USA is highly engaged to give tough time to China, leading to bloc politics.

d) Issues ~~AA~~ dividing USA

and China - Indo-Pacific Region

Indo-Pacific has become a battle field for seemingly cold war between the USA and China. The USA is touching China's red line (Pursuing China on Taiwan, South China sea and Hongkong), while giving warning statements.

3. A way forward to settlement of bilateral and regional issues between China and the USA

In order to have peaceful world, there is indeed a need to settle bilateral as well as regional issues between China and the USA. Following are

some strategies in this regard:

a) Laying out common areas of engagement:

First of all, common areas of engagement should be bound out. The USA and China can cooperate on climate change. Recently, John Kerry visited Beijing to discuss on climate change.

b) Evaluating complex web of economic interdependence:

To avoid war, the USA and China must realize their complex web of interdependence in economics.

They cannot isolate each other in economy. This could also make another cold war

in full swing impossible since the Soviet Union and the

USA did not share much

economic ties like the USA

and China. In April 2022's edition

of "The Economist", one writer opines that the USA and China

cannot decouple each other in economy.

c) Playing soft power diplomacy
in dealing bilateral relations to
assure win-win situation:

There is need
to have soft power diplomacy
to manage regional and
bilateral relations between
the USA and China to assure
win-win situation. They should
promote cultural exchange programs.

d) Refrain from engaging
into the affairs of each
other: (Principle of non-inter-
ference

As China is
occupied with 'one china policy',
its core issues should not
be politicized by the USA
unnecessary. Besides, China
should refrain from spying
activities in Washington as
alleged by the USA.

e) Respecting international laws and treaties:

Furthermore, there should be respect for international treaties and laws by both sides. From International laws on seas to obligations of the World Trade Organization, all laws should not be politicized by the both countries, and due respect should be given.

4. Conclusion:

To conclude, the world is divided more than ever due to chronic confrontation of two largest economies - the USA and China. It threatens the world peace. From economy to technology, the USA and China are locked in competition, leading to bloc politics. With cooperation over confrontation, peace can be ensured.

by the USA and China.