

①

Pak Affairs .

② These cant be more people than we can feed ?

1) Introduction :-

The recent census report 2023 shows that Pakistan's population has crossed 240 million. The unmitigated growth of population is alarming for the country as it puts stress on the already meagre resources.

2. The population and carrying capacity linkage:- Every ecosystem or an environment has a certain capacity of holding species or population indefinitely. If the population crosses that certain threshold the system becomes unsustainable and ultimately collapses. In Pakistan's case the resources of the country are already under tremendous stress.

3. Effect of Population on resources.

The population determines the number or quantity of resources available to every person. If the population is less, the ~~possible~~ citizens can have access to a greater amount of resources and vice versa. For example, consider a pie which has to be divided between 2 people. On the other hand if the same pie has to be divided among 10 people ~~the~~ each will get a smaller share.

4) How population explosion is putting stress on resources:-

i) Water Crisis:

Population of the country has made Pakistan a water stressed country. The per capita availability of water in 1960 was more than 5000 cubic meter. In 2018 it fell below 1000 cubic meter.

(3)

With the consistent increase in population it is estimated to fall below 800 cubic meter by 2025

ii. Unemployment :-

Due to the uncontrolled rise in population the government has been unable to create enough jobs & sources of livelihood to accommodate its growing youth bulge.

As a consequence unemployment rate has shot upto 6.8%.

iii. Food availability :-

Pakistan being an agricultural country used to have food in surplus. But due to the rising population it has to import food items like wheat, rice etc.

iv. Climatic changes:-

Due to increased population, the carbon footprint has also increased. Although Pakistan contributes to less than one percent of the global carbon emission, but the number could have been even smaller had the population been under a manageable rate.

v. Deforestation :-

Pakistan's forest cover is already 5%, which is less than the recommended 25%. Due to the increasing population, more land is required for agriculture and housing. Therefore forests are being cut down.

(5)

200

vi Education :- According to UNICEF more than 22.8 million children aged 5-16 are out of school in the country. The government does not have enough resources to educate its young population and the education system is already under huge strain

vii Health :-

Hospitals and clinics in Pakistan are already running beyond their capacity. There is a grave shortage of trained medical staff and the patient influx is overwhelming. Under such conditions, an increasing population will result in the collapse of the system

viii Governance :-

Pakistan's governance and administrative system is not very efficient to start with

(6)

increased population results in increased crime rates and poverty, which puts the already fragile system under greater pressure.

X. Judiciary:-

The national assembly was recently told that there are 1.86 million cases pending in the courts of Pakistan.

5) Conclusion:-

Population explosion in Pakistan is already stretching the meager resources beyond breaking point. ~~because~~ If Pakistan is to progress and become an economic power, the population issue will have to be brought to a sustainable level.

(7)

1. Non traditional security threats

Introduction :-

Pakistan faces a host of non traditional security threats which become part of the discourse at regional and international level. These threat are political, social economic and environmental in nature.

2. What are non-traditional security threats :- Non traditional security threats are issues which ~~are~~ are a challenge to the wellbeing of security of the state but arise out of non military sources.

These threats include :-

- i. Climate change
- ii. Water crisis
- iii. Natural disasters
- iv. Food security
- v. Energy crisis

(8)

- v. Economic downturn
- vi. Terrorism
- vii. Sectarian violence
- viii. Violence against minorities
- ix. Pandemics
- x. Drug trafficking

(3) Non traditional security threats plaguing Pakistan:-

Many of the above mentioned threats are adversely affecting Pakistan. and most often become part of the debate at regional and international level.

i. Climate change:-

According to the climate Risk Index 2023 Pakistan stands at 8th position in the list of countries most vulnerable to climate change. This is a hot button issue at the international level and is

the focus of media attention

ii Water Crisis :-

Pakistan is also facing an acute water shortage its per capita water capacity has plummeted to under 1000 cubic meters. Recently India signalled that it wanted to renegotiate the Indus Water treaty - which is the bedrock of Pakistan's water supply. If India reduces the water supply to Pakistan or changes the direction of flow, it could spell disaster for Pakistan.

iii Natural Disaster :-

The recent monsoon flood which wreaked havoc in Pakistan is still fresh in memory. It caused tremendous damage to the infrastructure and livelihood of the country.

More than 33 million people were affected by the flood which caused a damage of almost \$30 billion to the economy. The monster flood of Pakistan was widely reported in international media.

iv) Energy Crisis :-

Pakistan's energy crisis is the source of media headlines. The capacity payments to the IPPs has increased the cost of electricity for the consumers. In August, the price of per unit electricity was raised to 50 PKR, which is the highest in the region.

v) Economic Crisis :-

Pakistan has become chronically dependent on loans and aid in recent

year. Currently it is part of an IMF programme. The economic crisis of Pakistan is widely reported on the international media.

vi Political instability :-

Last 5 years have been marked by increased polarization and political turmoil. The political interference by the establishment has exacerbated the crisis.

vii Violence against minorities;

The persecution of minorities has become more prevalent in the country. The recent burning of churches and homes of the Christian community in Jaranwala is part of a series of similar events which have transpired in the country in recent memory.

viii. Terrorism :-

The resurgence of TIP and other terrorist groups like IS-K has claimed many lives in the country. In 2023 alone there have been 368 attacks claiming lives of 652 people (ISSI report).

The rise of terrorism is a cause of concern for regional security.

Conclusion :-

Pakistan faces a plethora of non traditional threats which are a cause of concern for the region and international community. Such events bring ill repute to Pakistan's capacity as a state to handle crises. If Pakistan is to succeed, these threats will have to be tackled on well footings.

Q Pakistan's triject of crisis

Introduction :-

The situation in Pakistan is becoming increasingly rightmarish as it is going through one of the toughest phases in its political history. The trinity of crisis - economical, political and foreign policy fronts are stretching the handling capacity of the state to its limits. The political polarization has reached unprecedented levels, inflation has crippled the buying power of citizens and the issues in Afghanistan, India and global level have rendered the foreign policy futile.

① Political Situation in Pakistan.

i Political polarization :-

The society stands

divided on political ground - New
in the history of the country,
politics has become so personalized
dirty and vindictive. The
animosity between political
parties has reached unprecedented
level. For example, parties have resorted
to the politics of audio and videotapes to mal-
their adversaries

ii Political victimization :-

The
practice of victimizing the
opposition parties existed
since the inception of the
country. For example Ayub
Khan introduced ERDs in the
1960s to persecute his opponent.
Recently, this trend has
approached the crescendo as
political opponents are jailed
immediately after the court
orders their release.

iii Fascism :-

Fascism is on the
rise in society as well as

politics of the country. Controlship of media and newspapers has become a norm. For example, PEMRA recently barred TV channels from televising the images or videos of PTI leader ~~Imran~~ Imran Khan.

iv Civ. Military relations :-

Pakistan's military has been a part and parcel of the political system in Pakistan. The fact that Pakistan has been ruled by 4 military dictators proves military's involvement in politics. Pakistan is governed under a system known as hybrid regime. The events in the past 6 months have increased military's involvement in political affairs. For example the establishment of SIFC to facilitate investment in Pakistan. Its governing body will include military leaders. Moreover the

the passage of official secrets act and amendments in the army act increase the role of military

v. Attack on military installations -
The shameful acts of 9th May are another example of the political instability. The enemies of Pakistan have always tried to turn the citizens against the armed forces. The burning of the Corp command house Lahore and multiple other installations has put ordinary citizens to shame. Such an act can prove detrimental to the well being of the country.

3) - Economic Crisis :-

The economy of the country is in doldrums again as the country is faced with severe inflation

(17)

chronic unemployment, BoP crisis and capacity payment issues.

i. Inflation :- The rising tide of inflation is not abating. In 2022, the monthly inflation rose upto 42%. In 2023 the inflation rate is hovering between 22-27% (Pakistan Economic Survey 2023).

ii. Capacity Payments :-

Due to the poorly concluded contracts with IPPs, ordinary citizens will have to pay full amount even if the powerhouse is running on half capacity.

This sum of money will instead be extracted from ordinary citizens.

The per unit price has already shot up to PKR 50. By 2025

Pakistan has to pay PKR 1 trillion to

IPPs which will make electricity more expensive.

expensive.

Debt servicing :- Pakistan's debt servicing crisis has reached biblical proportions as the country has to acquire more loans in order to pay just the interest of loans. Pakistan's debt servicing obligation for July 2023 is \$ 2.44 billion. Pakistan is currently part of an IMF loan programme.

iv. Poor GDP growth :-

Pakistan recorded a GDP growth of just 0.32% for financial year 2022-23 (PESP). Such poor growth reveals the structural issues of Pakistan's economy.

v. Low exports and remittances :-

The remittances and exports have also declined which

is causing further trouble
to the already ailing economy

4. Foreign Policy front -

i Terrorism and Afghanistan:-

Pakistan has to convince
the Afghan government to
not allow its soil to be
used for terrorism in Pakistan.

There are reports that TTP
is regrouping in Afghanistan.

The recent spike in terrorist
attacks is a testament to
this fact.

ii India and Kashmir :-

Pakistan's
long standing disputes with
India are a challenge to
its security. India's recent
calls to renegotiate Indus
water treaty can increase
Pakistan's water uses.

Moreover India's rising power and
its alliance with USA pose a

grave challenge to the foreign office of Pakistan.

iii US - China rivalry:-

The growing US - China rivalry is testing Pakistan's ability to balance its policy without antagonize one of them. Pakistan is a part of China's BRI project with CPEC being a flagship project. On the other hand, Pakistan's dependency on IMF and World Bank and its historical relations with USA make it quite difficult for the country to part ways with USA.

5) Conclusion :- The triple crisis faced by Pakistan requires political pragmatism, economic discipline and statesmanship. If Pakistan manages to expertly tackle these issues, it will come out as a stronger country.