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Pakistan Affairs (Mock)

02

Introduction

The ideology of Pakistan is rooted in Islam. Pakistan came into being as a result of the Muslims of the sub-continent, who wanted a separate Muslim homeland for themselves. A separate Muslim homeland was needed to protect the rights and honour of the Muslims, who were being persecuted at the hands of the Hindus of the subcontinent. ^{As a result} The ideology of Pakistan provided the theoretical basis on which the country was to be developed. Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal both played critical roles ⁱⁿ developing the ideology ^{of Pakistan} and creating the nation.

The ideology in the light of speeches and statements by Allama Iqbal

(i) Iqbal's negation of a single nation of India

Iqbal held that the Muslims and the Hindus could live together

in harmony. He firmly believed in a separate Muslim nation for the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent.

He expressed this through the following words:

"I am fully convinced that the Muslims of India will ultimately have to establish a separate homeland as they cannot live with Hindus in the United India."

He made the Muslims realize their true worth and position. He also encouraged them to stay united as a glorious Muslim Ummah.

(ii) Iqbal's emphasis on Islam as the guiding force for the Muslims.

Iqbal based the foundation of a separate Muslim homeland on religion, this later became the ideology of Pakistan.

To emphasize this he said:

"Islam guides the mankind in every aspect of worldly life and, therefore, must be enforced in

in an Islamic state as a code of life.²³

Iqbal believed Islam to be the complete code of life and a guiding source for the Muslims. It was the only source, according to Iqbal, through which the Muslims could get back their lost glory.

iii) Allama Iqbal's Allahabad address

Allama Iqbal's Allahabad address played an important role in clarifying the two-nation theory and making the demand for a separate Muslim homeland more pronounced.

During the Allahabad address Iqbal said:

"... I believe that the protection of separate national identity is in the best interests of both Hindus and Muslims!"

Since the Muslims are a separate nation with their distinct cultural values and religion, and they

want to have a system of their own liking, they should be allowed to live under such system considering their separate religious and cultural identity.

Hence, Allama Iqbal's ideas played a crucial role in arousing a sense of realization and determination amongst the Muslims. This moved the Muslims of the subcontinent to actively participate in the freedom struggle.

The ideology in the light of the speeches and statements by Quaid-e-Azam

(i) Quaid-e-Azam's role in shaping the ideology of Pakistan

Quaid-e-Azam gave life to the ideology of Pakistan presented by Allama Iqbal. He played a pivotal role in convincing the Hindus and the British of the ideology of Pakistan and also of the need for a separate Muslim homeland.

Hence, during the second round table conference, he said,

.... Until you do not give guarantee for the safe guard of the muslims. Until you do not win their (muslim) cooperation, any constitution you enforce shall not last for even 24 hours."

This proves his unflinching support for the protect of the rights of the muslims.

ii) Quaid-e-Azam's emphasis on the Two-Nation theory

Quaid-e-Azam was a firm believer of the Two-Nation theory.

Hence, he said,

"Pakistan was created the day the first Indian National entered the fold of Islam."

The Quaid further said,

"The muslims are a nation by every right to establish their separate homeland. They can adopt any means to promote

and protect their economic, social, political and cultural interests."

(iii) Quaid-e-Azam's presidential address during the Lahore Resolution:

Quaid-e-Azam's address during the Lahore resolution made it clear that the Muslim would not settle for anything less than a separate Muslim homeland based on ^{an} Islamic ideology.

During the address, he said,

"... The Hindus and Muslims belong to two different religions, philosophies, social customs and literatures... Muslims and Hindus derive their inspiration from different sources of History"

Conclusion

Based on the speeches and the statements made by both Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam, it can be said that these two iconic figures shaped and defined the ideology of Pakistan. This ideology was to serve as the basis for the creation of a separate Muslim homeland, Pakistan.

04

Introduction

Pakistan faces various problems and challenges within the sectors of its economy. These problems in turn affect the economic landscape of the country. Thus, the economic challenges which Pakistan currently faces are determined by the problems and the performance of the different sectors of the country.

Problems of major sectors of economy

i) Lack of investment in different sectors

There is a lack of investment in sectors such as research and development, agriculture, manufacturing etc. This is due to Pakistan's poor performance on the Ease of doing business index.

ii) Lack of Professionalism

In major sectors of the economy such as agriculture, there is a lack of professionalism and things are done on ad hoc bases.

Farmers, for example, lack the education needed to demonstrate professionalism in the work they do.

(iii) Many major sectors of the economy are not documented. Pakistan present one of the biggest underground economy of the world. Some of its major sectors such as freelancing, manufacturing, and agriculture are either not documented or are exempt from the payment of taxes.

Performance of major sectors of the economy

(i) Performance of the agricultural sector

The agricultural sector of Pakistan's economy makes a contribution of around 22% to the GDP. Moreover, it employs around 60% of the total labour force available to the country. Yet the agriculture sector is not growing at a healthy rate which hovers around 3-5%. Moreover the recent floods have adversely affected the agricultural sector of the country.

(ii) Performance of the industrial manufacturing sector

The manufacturing sector of the country is also not doing well, with major manufacturing units of the country being shut down. This is also happening as a result of a lack of investor trust in the sector.

(iii) Performance of the R&D and information technology sectors

When compared to the progress which other developing countries are making, especially India, with regard to R&D and IT sectors, Pakistan is far behind. The country still imports and outsources the latest technology and the required IT software.

The contemporary economic challenges in light of these problems and performance

(i) Balance of payment crises

As a result of the poor performance of the major sectors of the economy, the country is currently facing a balance of payment crises. This is all due

to the mismanagement of the economic policy makers, poor balance of trade performance, and the deteriorating exchange rate.

ii) Budget Deficit

The country is currently facing a budget deficit which amounts to $\text{Rs } 43$ trillion. This means that expenditure in the country is much higher than revenue collection.

iii) Low tax to GDP ratio

Pakistan has one of the lowest tax-to-GDP ratio in the region, which hovers around 8-9%. This is mainly due to the various undocumented sectors of the economy, tax evasion and lack of development of the tax infrastructure.

Conclusion

The contemporary economic challenges in Pakistan do emanate from the problems and the poor performance of the major sectors of the country's economy. Hence, these problems must be effectively dealt with in order to revive the faltering economy of the country.

Introduction

In recent times the democratic system in Pakistan has evolved substantially. Developments such as the 18th Amendment, the transition from one democratically elected government to another, freedom of expression, role of social media have played a crucial role in the evolution of the democratic system of Pakistan. However, democracy is facing different challenges in the contemporary world in general and in Pakistan in particular.

The evolution of democratic system in Pakistan

↳ Passing of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution

The 18th amendment is a hallmark achievement in the process of the evolution of the democratic system in Pakistan.

The amendment modified almost 1/3rd of the constitution of the country. It devolved different subjects to the provinces and gave greater provincial autonomy to the country. It also curtailed

the powers of the President.
Thus, the 18th Amendment has played a major role in the evolution of Pakistan's democracy.

ii) Transitions from one democratically elected government to another

For two consecutive terms Pakistan has experienced the transition from one democratically elected government to another.

The first democratic transition took place in 2013 and the second one in 2018.

iii) Freedom of expression

Promotion of freedom of expression in the country ~~in~~ ^{has} played a major role in the evolution of democracy in the country. People are freer than before to express their opinions and provide their input in the policy making of the country.

iv) Role of social media

The increasing use of social media platforms by both the politicians and

the general public has done a huge favour to the democratic project of the country. People are able to interact with each other, exchange ideas, and provide valuable feedback.

Challenges that democracy is facing in the world

Democracy is facing various challenges in the world. There is a rise in populism, nationalism in the world. This could be judged by the election populist leaders such as Donald Trump, Bolsonaro, Narendra Modi, etc. Moreover, authoritarian rule is also gaining currency such as Vladimir Putin's rule in Russia, Xi Jinping in China, etc.

Thus, these developments present various challenges to democracy in the world.

Challenges to democracy in Pakistan

In Pakistan, the democratic project has a long way to go. The factors which impede Pakistan's democratic progress are the civil-military relations, lack of an educated electorate, weak institutions, undemocratic dynastic political parties. Unless or until these issues are addressed Pakistan cannot become a fully democratic country.

Conclusion

Democracy does face several challenges both in the world and in Pakistan. However, one should be optimistic that gradual progress towards the evolution of democracy is also taking place.

Q6

Introduction

Pakistan is home to various social problems. Poverty and education being the two most prominent of them. Pakistan inherited these social problems at the time of its creation. Though the country is making a concerted effort to address these social problems. It still has a long way to go in terms of resolving them. Proper strategies need to be drafted and implemented in order to deal with these ^{social} problems of the country.

Prevailing social problems of Pakistan

(i) Poverty

Poverty is one of the major social problems of the country. Around 60% of Pakistani live below the poverty line. In other words, they make less than \$2 per day.

During its initial years Pakistan was primarily an agr-based country this meant that most of its population remained poor and backward.

As the country is developing efforts are being made to lift people out of poverty in the country.

(ii) Education

Education is another important social problem for

the country. The literacy rate currently hovers around 62%. This is one of the lowest even by the South Asian standards. Literacy among the male population is around 80%, while amongst the female population it is even lower at 40-45%.

The lack of an educated workforce is preventing the country from progressing economically and socially - moreover, the undocumented contribution of the females working in households doesn't become part of the economy.

Strategies to deal with these problems

- i) Programs and Initiatives to address the issues of poverty and illiteracy in

the country.

The government of Pakistan must come up with different programs and policies to address the social issues of the country.

Programs such as the Ehsaas program and the Benazir Income Support Program are good initiatives in this regard. However, more could be done in a similar vein to eradicate the root cause of the prevailing issues.

Conclusion

The social problems of Pakistan can be successfully addressed if proper measures are taken and well-directed policies are adopted. As it is only through a well-thought out strategy that these problems could be resolved.