

Q3) 1) Introduction :

Hindus and Muslims lived, side by side, for centuries in sub-continent. Despite this long time, their differences and the hostilities they harboured for the other could not be diminished. The dichotomy grew so much so that it left the colonisers with no choice but to divide the country ~~in~~ in order to secure peace.

2) Reasons for this Unbridgeable Gulf :

2.1) Religious Differences :

Religious differences between Hinduism and Islam is one of the, if not the most, important factor that perpetuated the differences between both the communities. Islam and Hinduism are distinct religions, ~~with~~ both having basic teachings that contradict the other.

Example :

Islam is a monotheistic religion that

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teaches worship of One God, Allah Almighty. Hinduism, in contrast, is a polytheistic religion that has many gods for different aspects of life. Furthermore, the sacrifice of cattle is encouraged on 10<sup>th</sup> Zill Hajj in line with Islamic teachings. This cattle could be goat, camel, buffalo or even a cow. Hinduism, on the other hand, considered cow to be sacred, and any harm done to a cow was not tolerated, let alone to sacrifice it.

Such opposing practices only contributed to widen the gulf and exacerbate, the already hostile, relations.

## 2.2) Historical Divisions:

Hindus were settled in the sub-continent for far longer than Muslims. For these Hindus, Muslims were foreign invaders who fought their way in the sub continent. The advent of Muslims, hence, was regarded with little admiration by the Hindus. Such historical divisions grounded the

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seeds for further hatred between the two communities. Muslim heroes, who first arrived in India after invading Hindu opposition, were depicted as evil men who resorted to gross tactics and only won against Hindus after employing devious and dishonest tactics.

### Example:

Sultan Mahmud of Ghazi, a prominent muslim invader, extolled for his achievement amongst muslims was ~~was~~ depicted as a cruel murderer that destroyed a notable Hindu temple called somnath, despite the Hindus pleading to stop him.

### 2.3) Political Factors:

With the advent of British, the ~~of~~ gulf, between the Hindus and Muslims, only grew wider. The prominent political parties, i.e Congress and All India Muslim League, were established on different agendas. Both the parties, though they



denied initially, represented different communities and ideologies. The Congress aimed at suppressing Muslims and leverage the influence the wield, ~~to~~ on the political landscape of British India, to elevate the status of Hindus. Conversely, All India Muslim League, was established with the resolve to protect the rights of Muslims of the sub-continent and draw attention of British to the cruelties faced by a Muslim minority in a Hindu majority community. Such contrasting objectives on the political horizon, did little to unite the two hostile communities.

#### 2.4) Colonial Policies :

As a newly established power still working to strengthen their hold on India, the British were prudent to indentify these tense ties between Muslims and Hindus and leveraged this weakness to their advantage. This, they called 'Divide and Rule'. The imperialists were quick to introduce policies that increased ~~hostiti~~



hostilities between the two communities, depriving them from the much needed unity to combat the common foreign invader.

### 2.5) Communal Violence:

Communal violence between the Hindus and Muslims was very common. Hindu stronghold areas were merciless towards the Muslims and left no stone unturned to make everyday life miserable for them. Muslims returned the favour in a similar fashion where they enjoyed numbers over their Hindu counterparts.

#### Example:

A glimpse of such violence was witnessed during the short lived Congress rule from 1937-38. The era was marred with unabated hostilities from Hindus towards Muslims. Even religious places of Muslims were not spared with Hindus



leaving pigs inside mosques and playing loud music, during prayer times, outside mosque. These events hold vital significance in history of sub-continent, as it reinforced the idea of Pakistan.

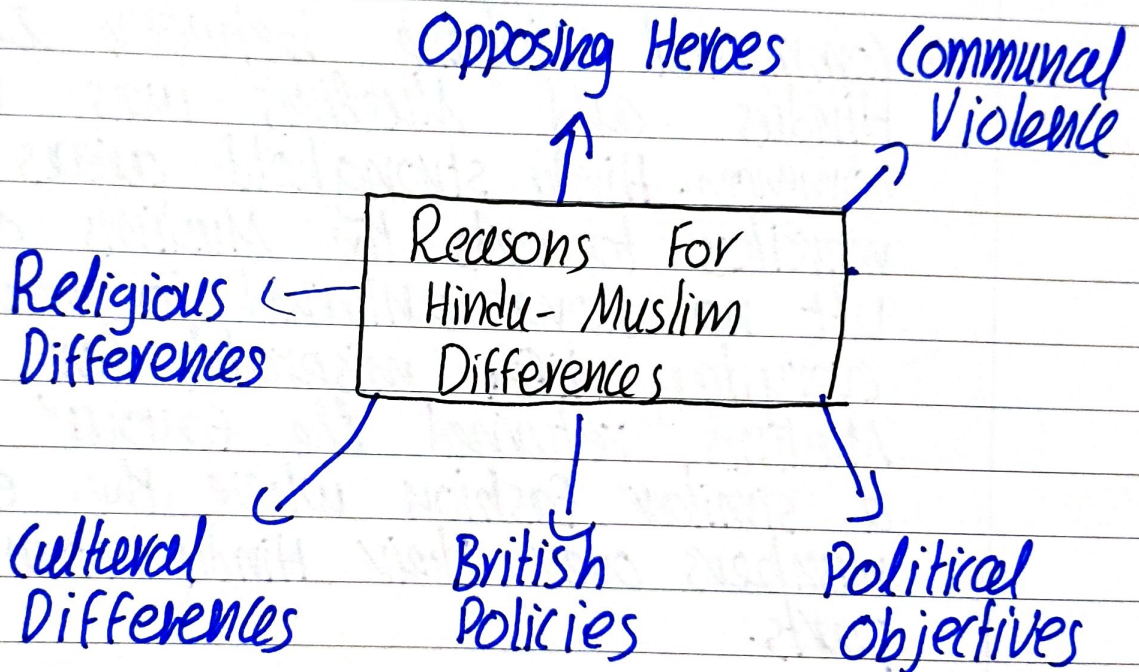


Fig 1: Reasons attributed to Hindu-Muslim conflicts.

### 3) Conclusion:

There remains no ambivalence that ~~the~~ Hindu-Muslim ties were hostile since the muslims advent in



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India. Throughout the history, even after the partition of India, ~~the~~ hostilities continued and are perpetuating hitherto.



## 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) Structural Weaknesses:

### 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 health care. 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.



### 3) Low Confidence and Investment:

#### 3.1) 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.

#### 3.2) Policy Reversals:

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

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ambience, businessmen are deterred from investing.

### 3.3) 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

### 4) Protracted Policy and Political uncertainty:

#### 4.1) 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.

#### 4.2) 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.

#### 4.3) Instable 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.

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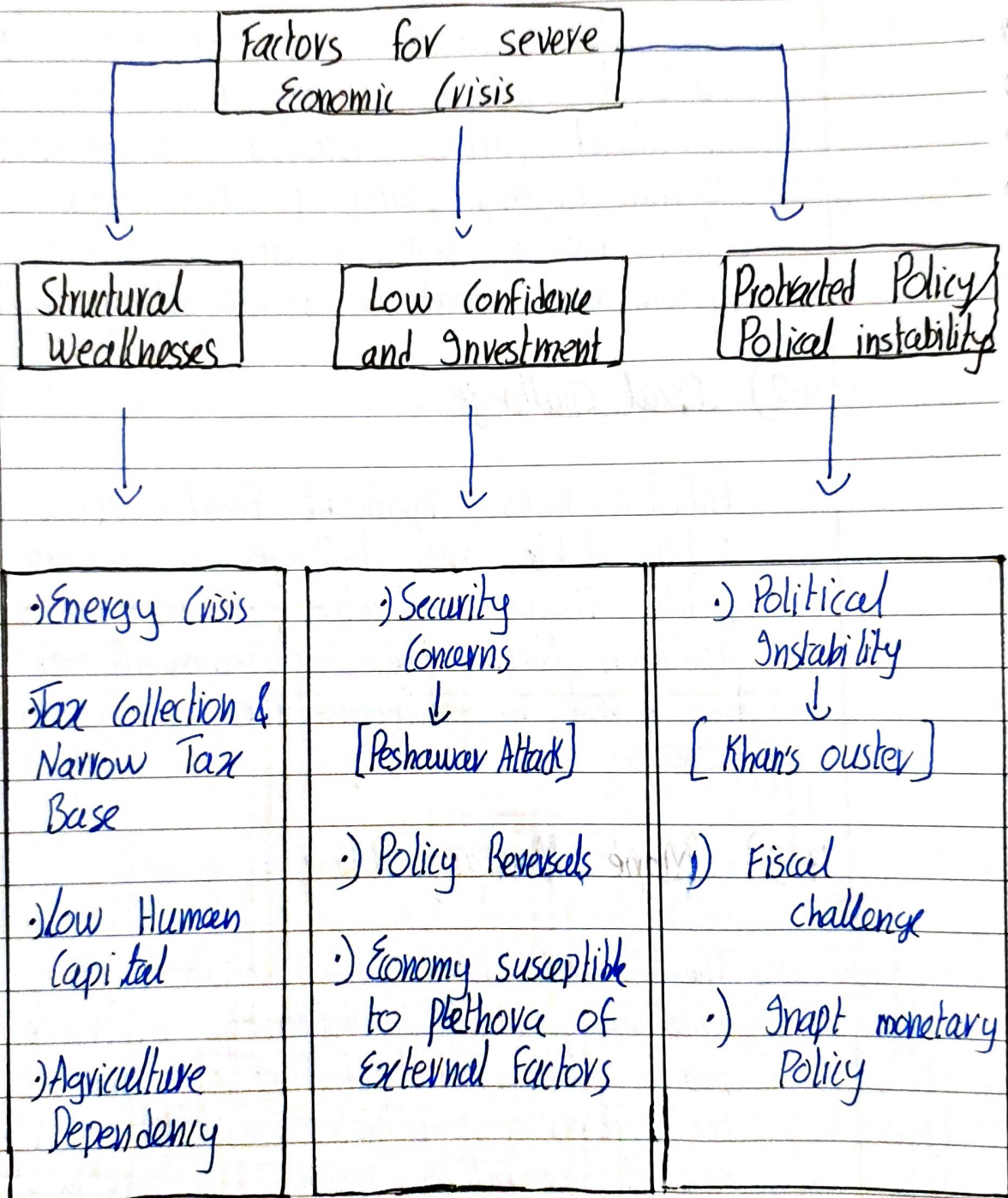


Fig 1: Economic Challenges overview



## 5) Solutions

### 5.1) Foster Foreign Investment:

One way to combat the myriad of challenges mentioned above, is to stimulate foreign investment in the country. The government should embellish the economic sector of the country for foreign investment. This can be achieved by providing incentives in different sectors, such as infrastructure, real estate, etc.

#### Example:

In a similar fashion, the President of ~~Erdogan~~ Turkey, Erdogan, introduced ~~invest~~ citizenship via investment scheme, where the country offered citizenship to foreigners for as little as

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\$ 400,000 worth of investment in the real estate sector.

### 5.2) Transition to Renewable means of Energy Production:

Pakistan faces an enormous challenge in the shape of energy crisis. The country relies heavily on non-renewable source of energy generation, such as oil, gas, coal to produce energy. Since Pakistan has to import these hydrocarbons, it takes a serious toll on the economic outlook of the country. Hence by stimulating renewable energy production methods, the economic plight can be ameliorated.

### 5.3) Transparency and Accountability:

This is a high time for the country to tackle this economic meltdown at the ~~source~~ grass-root level. Pakistan is a country that suffers from corruption and mismanagement of funds. Such practices go unnoticed or ~~are~~ are hardly



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probe & probed, grappling the country with persistent economic meltdown. By introduce transparency policies and by stepping up accountability laws, sustainable economic growth of the country can be secured.



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5) Conclusion :

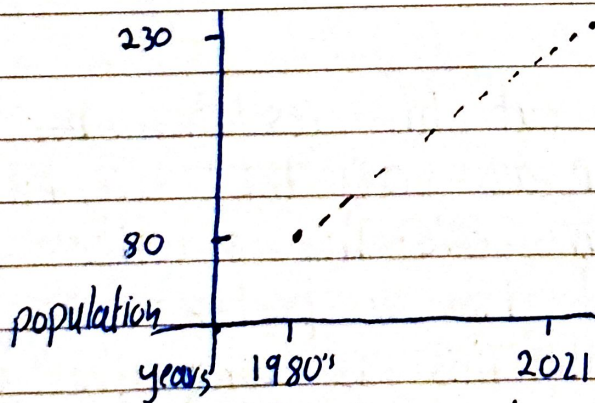
The causes, of the severe ongoing economic challenges, embodied in this answer is only the tip of iceberg. There are countless other factors that contributed to the contemporary crisis. There is no single panacea that can navigate the, nearly default, country to thriving hub of economic excellence. However,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

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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, Sulej, 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

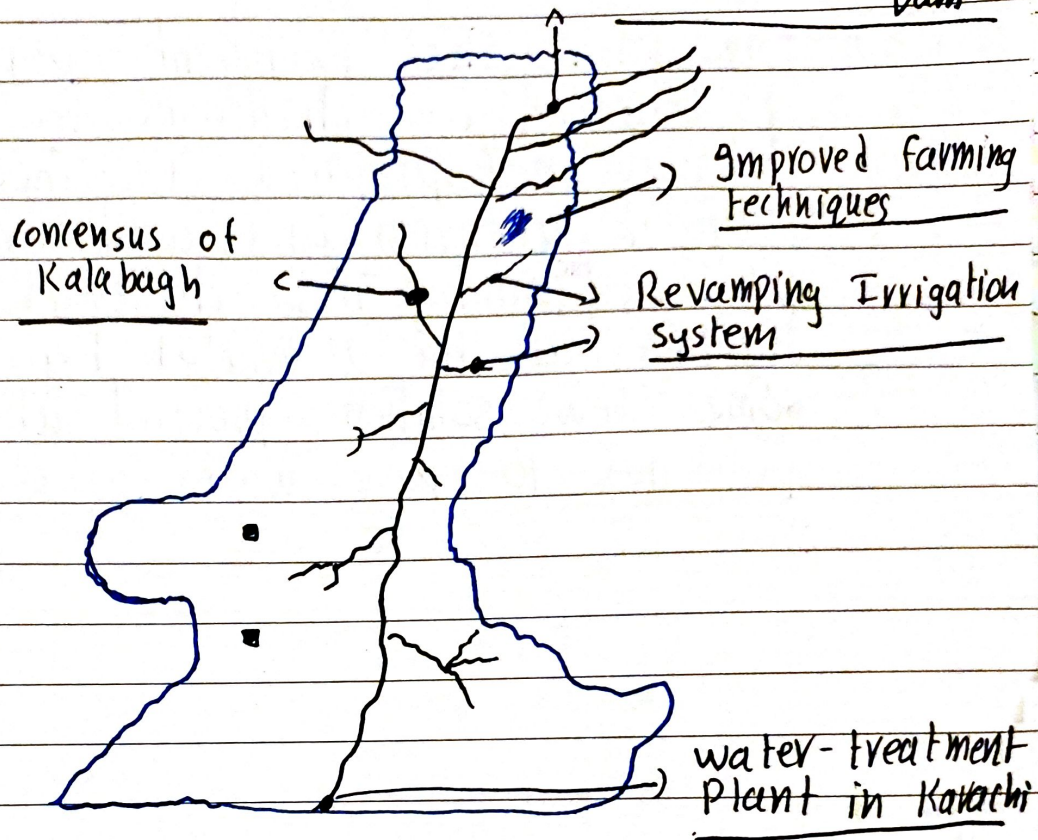


Figure: Comprehensive Road Map to overcome water crisis.

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 <sup>the</sup> 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:

The Belt and Road Project (BRI), launched by China in 2013, is a massive economic development project aimed at enhancing connectivity and cooperation between countries across Asia, Europe, Africa, and beyond.

## 2) Key Benefits of BRI:

While BRI has generated both support and criticism, proponents argue that it offers several potential benefits for the world:

### 2.1) Infrastructure Developments:



As the name suggests, BRI involves significant investments in infrastructure, including roads, railway, ports, and energy facilities. This can be a pivotal step in improving transportation, and hence, connectivity between countries.

### 2-2) Economic Growth:

By promoting trade and investment, the BRI can play a significant role in stimulating economic growth in participating regions. This can lead to job creation, hence, improving the employment prospects.

### 2-3) Regional Disputes can be settled:

One of the major underlying benefit of BRI that is often overlooked, is the ~~regio~~ inter and intra regional harmony it can lead to. As mentioned BRI can ~~in~~ stimulate connectivity and economic integration between countries and regions. such collaborations



can lead to establishment of cordial ties between the previously hostile elements. In this way, BRI can lead to a ~~pro~~ prosperous and conflict free world.

#### 2.4) Global Trade:

Enhanced connectivity can lead to less transportation costs and a reduce in transit times. This can benefit both exporting and importing countries by expanding market access.

#### 2.5) Poverty Alleviation:

Economic development resulting from BRI projects can contribute to poverty alleviation. This can be achieved by increasing income levels and providing employment opportunities for the marginalised communities.

#### 2.6) Technology Transfer:



collaborations on ~~infra~~ infrastructure projects may lead to technology transfers and knowledge sharing, which can benefit countries seeking ~~that~~ to enhance their technological capabilities.

### Example:

The experience of Pakistan, in this regard, serves as a powerful example. Despite the country's modest technological capacity, collaborations with China, particularly in BRI, have fostered technology transfers which has drastically improved the technological capability of the country.

### 2.7) Energy security:

A major component of BRI project involves investment in the energy infrastructure. This can alleviate much of the energy crisis of the participating countries.



### 2.8) Political stability:

As already mentioned, BRI project has the potential to mitigate, if not entirely expunge, regional disputes. This alleviation in disputes in conjunction with economic growth can pave the way for political stability in ~~even~~ even the most troubled countries.

### 2.9) Cultural Exchange:

The initiative of BRI also promotes cultural exchange and people-to-people ties. This can go a long way in dispelling misconceptions amongst the people hailing from rival nations and ~~then~~, therefore can foster mutual understanding and cooperation among nations.

### 2.10) Environmental sustainability:

Some BRI projects incorporate environmentally sustainable practices such as renewable energy



energy initiatives and green infrastructure development, promoting sustainability goals.

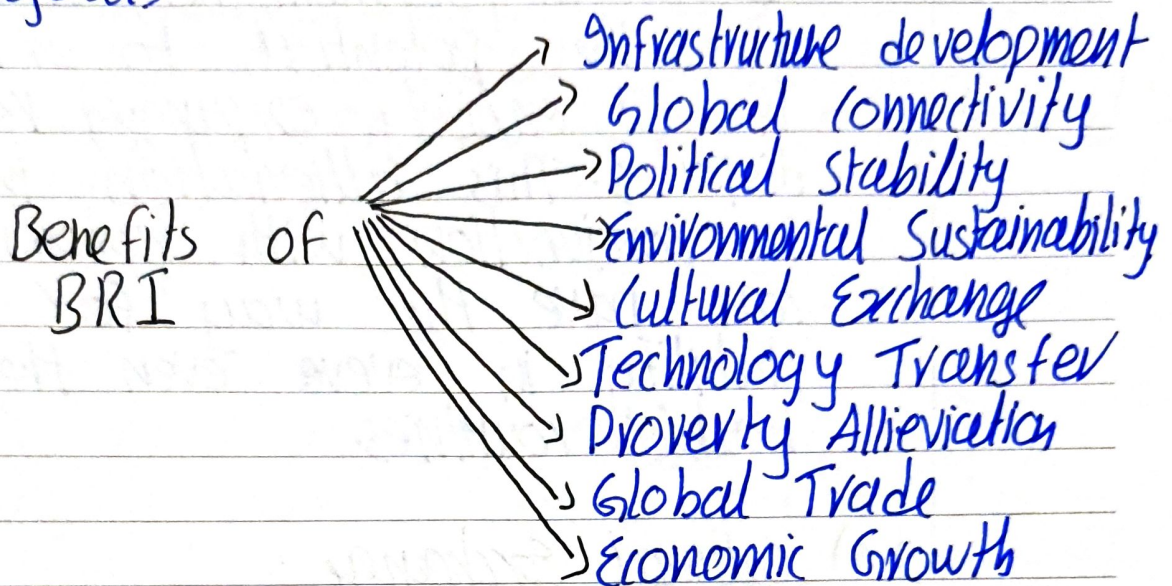


Fig 1 : Encapsulation of the Answer.

### 3) Conclusion :

In a nutshell, Despite the criticism it attracts, BRI has many benefits that extend to many regions and countries across the globe. This potential project has the potential to change the outlook of the world, enhancing day to day live of billions.