

Pakistan Affairs

-Part - II B-

-Ans No. 7 B-

Introduction

Pakistan Education System is certainly not upto the mark, and with the world progressing so rapidly that without requisite advancements in education, not only shall we left behind others in education but may be wiped out altogether. Unfortunately, our education system has so many flaws and unless immediate attention is given to it, the nation is bound to fail.

Global Standards of Education System

Countries around the world lay extreme importance to their education system. For instance, in Japan, children are taught morality and ethics and their culture become integral part of their social life. Similarly, in West, especially US and Europe, advanced research techniques are encouraged to get maximum potential

An overview of Pakistan's Education System

Pakistan under article 25-A gives children of age 5-16 a right to acquire free education. Moreover, the education of Pakistan is also divided into Formal and Informal system. Our Informal Education system, includes family institutions, peers and media. Whereas, our Formal education system is divided into primary, secondary and higher level. Unfortunately, due to many structural flaws in education sector, Pakistan as a nation is unable to compete in science and technology.

Disturbing issues in the Education System of Pakistan

Pakistan faces many disturbing issues which are as follows:

(a). Outdated Curriculum

The curriculum of classes from 1 to 10th grade and from 11th - 12th grade is largely unchanged for years. Children in schools and students in colleges are being taught same old outdated methods and syllabus which has no practicality in the Modern World.

(b). Lack of Basic Educational Infrastructure

It is only Pakistan, where ghost schools exist as the teachers are largely absent from the schools due to lack of student attendance. Moreover, a recent report showed that Balochistan lacked basic infrastructure such as lack of toilets and safe transportation facility for women.

(c). Barriers to women Education

A stigma around women education still persists in Pakistan. Tribal areas in EX-FATA and rural areas of KPK and Punjab and Balochistan are against women education which impedes our prospect of rising as an advanced nation.

(d). Stagnant spending on Education System

While countries around the world spend 10-20% of their GDP on education, Pakistan is one of those countries which spend only a fraction of its GDP on education (around 1-2%, which is less than some African countries)

(e). Poor Implementation of Education Policies and Reforms

Successive reforms such as SNC - Single

National Curriculum has been put forward by the government but almost none of it reached its promised potential

Major Problems impeding the Requisite Advancement in Education system of Pakistan

Following are the major problems.

(a). Out of School Children

To succeed and advanced country's education, first and foremost requisite is the attendance of school children. Pakistan as a nation has largely failed. Currently, there are 26 million children out of school (more than 12m are women)

(b). Poor nutrition intake leading to suboptimal Educational Results

It is rightly said that, Healthy Body has Healthy Mind. But, in Pakistan children in large quantity has little or no access to essential nutrients which hinders their chances to contribute in society as Modern Individual.

(c). Lack of Political Will

Successive governments have shown their lack of political will to uplift education system

of the country, without which advancement in Education System is far from achievable.

(d). Weak Institutional Capacity of Education System in Pakistan

Similarly, to employ advance education research techniques in higher education sector, modern tools and equipments such as labs, computers, special-rooms for serious discussion on politics are largely unavailable in educational institution.

“Education system is the backbone of any nation”

Therefore, institutional capacity building is the need of an hour.

(e). Lack of Professional Staff

Another fundamental problem that impedes our progress in science and technology is lack of professional staff. Trained teachers, IT Experts and Political Scientist are missing from scene

(f). Plagiarism and Cheating : A new normal

Another silent epidemic that is slowly but surely plaguing the education sector and our students is the habit of cheating and unbridled Plagiarism, which shows our seriousness

towards advancing as a nation.

(g). Flawed evaluation system in Exams

Similarly, flawed evaluation system is another big challenge, where students are busy in pleasing their teachers in order to get high marks. Absence of centralized examination at high level education is a serious problem to deal with.

(h). Lack of Practicality

Moreover, from the very beginning in class 1st to Graduation, students are taught to cram up unnecessary things which has no clarity of concepts and practicality in the modern world.

(i). Poor monitoring and catering of Alumnis

In addition to that, Universities in Pakistan are more like business enterprises rather than an institutions which are entrusted to groom future leaders. Once a student graduates, universities do not take into account numerous employment problems faced by Alumnis.

Recommendations/ Solutions for Education System of Pakistan to ensure that we are not left behind others or even wiped out altogether.

Some recommendations are as follows:

(a). Role of Family in instilling values for upcoming leaders of the society

Family is the first institution who holds the prime responsibility to instill values of integrity and morality in a child. Parents should take parenting more seriously

(b). Role of Schools and Colleges to work on ethics and morality of students

Moreover, schools are the second major player in shaping children's personality. Therefore, like Japan, Pakistan's schools and colleges should work on developing ethics in students

(c). Role of HEC to provide advanced educational instru-

ments to under-graduates
and graduates

HEC - Higher Education Commission - holds significant position and authority to cater needs of universities to advance our education system. Such as providing essential instruments and scholarships.

(d). Government - Civil society collaboration to ensure enrollment in schools

Recently, Cambridge led initiative in Islamabad school's has been employed to advance the education system of Pakistan. Similar, kind of Govt - Civil collaboration can be fruitful.

Conclusion

In Conclusion, Education is very important for any nation to compete with the rising nation and it is very rightly said that, Education is the key to success and to lay more emphasis on education, someone has rightly said, future of a nation is decided in a classroom.

—Ans No. 3B—

Introduction

Despite longstanding efforts by the state institution, the menace of terrorism is once again back which has threatened national security of Pakistan and also raised international concerns. Unless this menace is dealt on time, it can have grave consequences for Pakistan and its international standing. Unfortunately, this revival of terrorism has exposed Pakistan's policy failure in the long run.

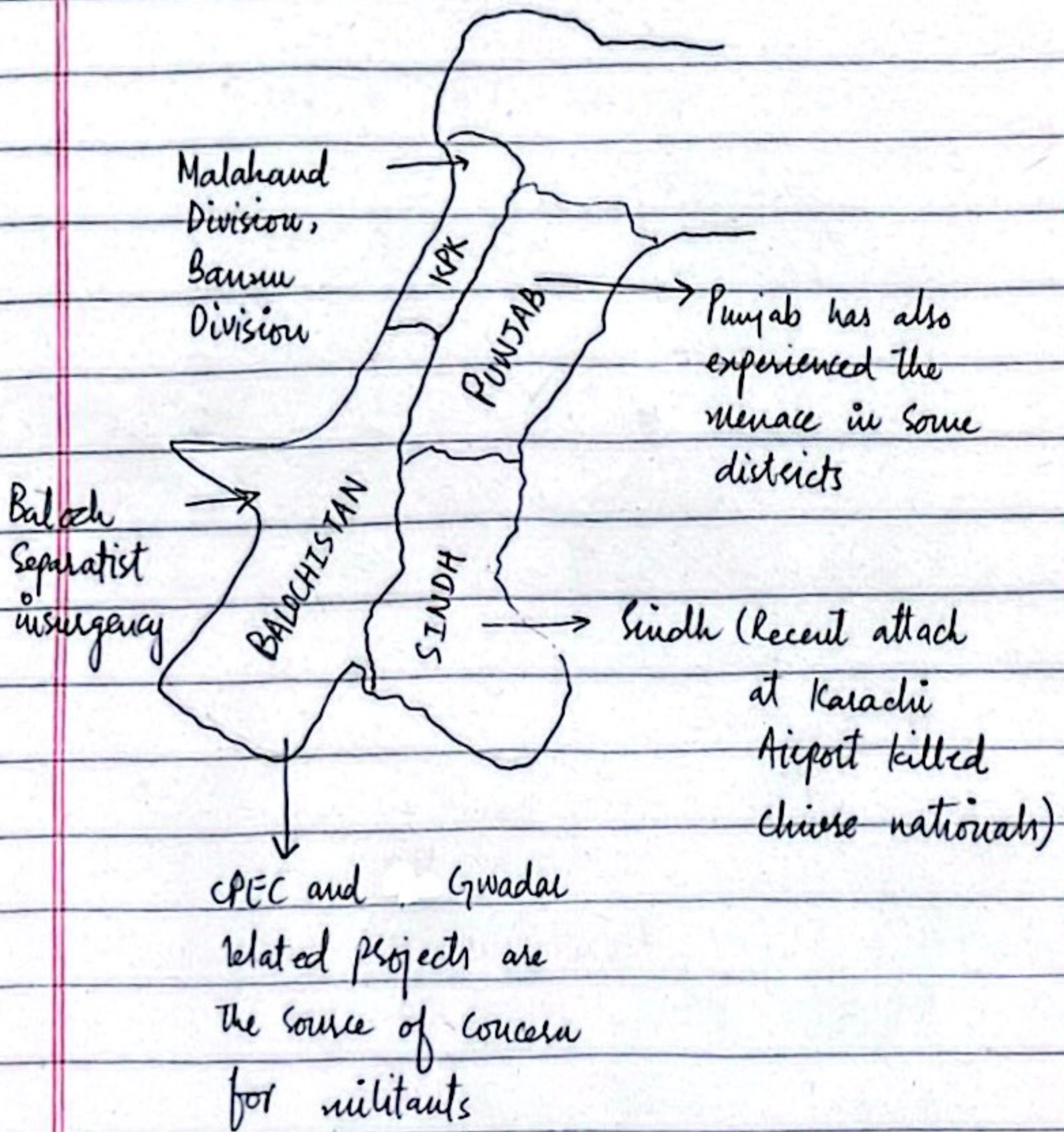
An Extent of New Wave of Terrorism in Pakistan

A Brief overview is as follows:

(a). Revival of Militancy in different parts of the country

Different parts of country, especially KPK and Balochistan has seen the revival of militancy. Malakand division and Bannu Division are among the worst hit. Moreover, parts of Punjab such as Bahawalpur have also seen surge in terrorist attacks.

(Map of Pakistan highlighting the extent of terrorism).



Recently, the attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi Airport have raised alarming concerns for Chinese authorities which have demanded immediate probe about the incident. Similarly, attacks on security personals are also on the rise.

(b) - Prime Targets for Militants

Unlike previous adventures of terrorists, this time they have strategically picked their targets and tried to corrupt Pakistan's image on the international scene.

i. Chinese Nationals

Among the top targets, Chinese nationals including people related to CPEC such as technical experts and engineers are being targeted.

ii. Security Personals

To weaken Pakistan's national security agencies, terrorists have deliberately chosen to target law & enforcement personals.

iii. CPEC Project and related authorities

Similarly, planned attacks on Gwadar Port to disrupt the process of CPEC completion, and FWO related people are also among the prime target of terrorist attack conducted by TTP, BLA, BLO etc.

State-led efforts to counter the Menace

Numerous operations have been done in ex-FATA such as Operation Rad-al-Fasad, and the famous Operation Zarb-e-Azab (which took place after the APS Attack in 2014). These military operations were like double edge sword, at one edge, it has been able to temporary stop the terrorist attacks saving many lives, but at the other end, it has led to internal displacement in many areas.

Pakistan's Policy failure is the prime reason for the revival of Terrorism in Pakistan

(a). Pakistan's Policy in Soviet-Afghan War : Long term consequences

Analyst in Pakistan and around the Globe highlight the biggest policy failure to date in Pakistan's policy in Soviet Afghan war. Because, Pakistan trained Mujahideen against Soviet but who would have deliberated enough that this can have devastating consequences in the long run.

(b). Pakistan's Policy in Global war on terror

Similarly, during GWOT, Pakistan was forced on gun point to alienate Afghan Taliban, which left Pakistan with no foreign policy choice, but to stand with the US. In hindsight, US withdrew, leaving Pakistan to tackle this menace alone.

(c). Allowing Taliban's to get back to their hideouts without weapons : A Major Failure

Moreover, when Pakistan Defense Institution successfully defeated TTP, they were allowed to return back to their native locations but without weapons. TTP, including its 37 outfits, resurfaced due to availability of weapons in Pakistan.

(d). Coercive policy regarding Balochistan and failure to ameliorate the plight of Baloch nationals

To add more, successive governments have revolved around Punjab as they consider it as the only source of power. Therefore, the necessary attention to other provinces was largely absent and more often than not, coercive policy

was implemented against Balochs.

Is Blaming Pakistan's Policy enough?
or External Elements are also responsible for this menace?

It would be unjust to blame solely Pakistan's policy, external-element's role is equally complicit to blame for the revival of new wave.

(a). Role of India and its proxies : Hybrid warfare?

Kal Bushan Yadav have acknowledge that RAW was involved in supporting separatist elements in Pakistan. This shows greater challenge for Pakistan in the form of hybrid warfare.

(b). Taliban 2.0 government in Afghanistan

With the withdrawal of US forces from of Afghanistan, Afghan Taliban 2.0 have declared their triumph and emerged as more emboldened than ever, which has further added to Pakistan's national security concerns. Taliban 2.0 govt in Afghan - ideological brothers of TTP - are no way close to help Pakistan in counter terrorism.

Other Problems which exposes state's failure to combat this menace:

(a). Poor Implementation of NAP

NAP - National Action Plan - which was very ambitiously drafted has been unable to be fully implemented which highlights state's seriousness about the menace.

(b). Lack of regulation on Madrassahs

Similarly, many Madrassahs operating without registration in small towns and districts which are responsible for imparting hateful rhetoric and terrorism.

(c). Relying on hard power rather than covert operation

History of war has shown that relying solely on hard power has brought suboptimal results, while covert operations (targeting terrorist hideouts) are more appropriate response.

(d). Trust deficit between state and people

Military operations in Ex-fata region

has led to internal displacement, people had to leave their homes during these operations, which has created huge trust deficit between state and people.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while Mao even discouraging hurting animals, has obviously not allowed to kill people in coldblood. This new wave of terrorism is a huge genie which needs to be put inside the bottle as soon as possible.