

(Part - II)

QNO 8:

a) Pakistan's Environmental Challenges

1. Introduction:

With the rapidly changing (enviro)* climate and Industrial revolution worldwide, Pakistan is grappling with the environmental challenges at home. According to the IPCC 2023 Report, Pakistan is among the top ten countries vulnerable to the climate change. The environmental challenges of Pakistan includes inconsistent weather patterns, increased intensity of floods, heatwaves, and the issues of environmental pollution. However, a comprehensive strategy based on climate sensitivity can eliminate these issues.

2) Climate Change and Environmental Challenges: An Overview

Environmental challenges are directly linked to the climate change. The uncontrolled carbon emissions are posing threats to the sustainability of the environment in Pakistan.

Although the role of Pakistan as a developing country is minimal in emitting carbon but still the environmental challenges are of severe level.

3. Environmental Challenges Unfolding in Pakistan

The environmental challenges in Pakistan includes rapidly changing weather patterns, pollution, escalating risk of food insecurity and the worsening water crisis.

(i) Rapidly Changing Climate and Weather Patterns:

Pakistan is witnessing rapidly changing climate and inconsistent weather patterns. The Asian Development Bank in 2023 declared the 2023 the hottest year of the decade.

(ii) Increased Intensity of Floods, Droughts, and Bipartays:

Another main environmental challenge is the increased intensity of floods, droughts, and bipartays. The 2022 flood in Pakistan and the 2023 risk of Bipartay in Arabian Sea are the examples.

(iii) Escalating Risk of Food Insecurity and Deforestation:

Another environmental challenge is the escalating risk of food insecurity that has become an inevitable reality due to

deforestation. According to WFO, around 1.8bn people are facing the issue of food insecurity.

(iv) Looming Water Crisis:

Water crisis has become a major environmental challenge for Pakistan. The availability of clean drinking water has become a cause of concern.

(v) Global Warming and Pollution:

Global warming and pollution is one of the gravest issue that is impacting environmental sustainability of Pakistan. Inconsistent temperature patterns and issues of smog and fog are the leading causes of death.

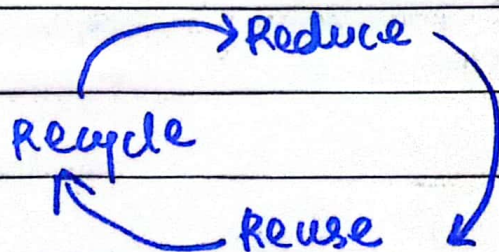
4) A Way Forward to Address the Environmental Challenges of Pakistan:

(i) Introducing Climate Friendly Policies:

It is the need of the hour to introduce the climate friendly at national level to control the environmental challenges. The climate friendly policies include prioritizing sustainable development in the country.

(ii) Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:

It is important to introduce the policy of reduce, reuse, and recycle.



This policy will help overcoming the challenge of conserving

environment.

(iii) Demanding Loss and Damage Fund:

Pakistan must demand "Loss and Damage" Fund in order to mitigate the issues of climate. By raising responsibly, the issue of it international level the environment can be preserved.

(iv) Using technological advancement to plan mitigation:

The use of AI can help devising a mitigation plan. The automation system can predict the disaster timely and can suggest a mitigation plan.

(v) Educating and Raising Awareness:

It is the need of the hour to raise awareness on the environmental challenges to

manage the issue at hand.

5. Conclusion:

In conclusion, Pakistan is grappling with number of environmental challenges due to changing climate. There is a need to implement a comprehensive strategy to mitigate the environmental challenges. By properly raising awareness and educating people, the environmental challenges can be overcome.

(b) Population Explosion: Impacts and Future Course

1. Introduction:

Population explosion has become one of the prevalent issues of the 21st century. According to the UN Report, the world population has reached eight billion people. The world population growth rate is standing at 2pc. The population explosion has devastating impacts on the economic stability, environmental conservation, health system and social fabric. A comprehensive strategy based on controlling population growth can help mitigating the issue.

2. Population Explosion: An Overview:

Population explosion is defined as the rapidly increasing population growth rate that exceeds the limit of available resources needed to support the survival of life on Earth planet.

According to World Bank,
"it is estimated that
World population growth
rate is standing at 2pc."

Population of countries	Countries	Growth Rate
World Population 8 billion	Globally	2pc
240 m	Pakistan	1.9pc
1bn	India	3pc

3) Impacts of Population Explosion

(i) Burdening Economic Stability

One of the leading impact of the population explosion is the burdening economy. The overpopulation impacts the economic stability.

(ii) Environmental Degradation:

Another impact of the population explosion is the environmental degradation. The increased population impacts the environment directly by creating shortage of available resources.

(iii) Higher Risk of Collapsing Health System:

Another impact of the population explosion is the collapsing health system. The overpopulation is prone to diseases and pandemics. It can be responsible for collapsing health system.

(iv) Food and Water Scarcity:

Population explosion impacts the availability of the food and water resources.

The increasing threat of food insecurity is the result of the rapidly increasing population.

4) Future Course to Address the Issue of Population Explosion:

(i) Raise Awareness on Family Planning:

It is the need of the hour to raise awareness on the family planning. The proper guidance on family issues will prepare the population to take decisions as per the changing circumstances and availability of the resources.

(ii) Education of Women:

The proper awareness of the women and education can help mitigate the issue of rapidly increasing population. The female literacy rate reduce the risk of population

explosion.

(iii) Debunking the traditional practices of child marriage

Child marriage is one of the leading cause behind the uncontrolled population growth rate. The traditional child marriage practices are responsible for escalating population growth rate.

(iv) Ensuring the Availability and Access to Contraceptives:

To control the population growth rate, the access and availability to the contraceptives by the general population must be ensured by the government.

5) Conclusion:

In conclusion, the issue of population explosion can be mitigated by taking timely actions. The government must design state policies to overcome the issue of population explosion. The awareness raising programs can educate people about the gravity of the issue.

QNO 4:

1. Introduction :

Since the last decade, Pakistan is countering various internal and external security challenges that are undermining the social fabric and national integrity of the country. The leading security issues include the escalating issue of terrorist attacks, border issues and dividing population in Balochistan and the KPK. In order to mitigate these issues, Pakistan must revisit its foreign policy to bring stability in the region and in the country.

2) Identifying Pakistan's Security Challenges:

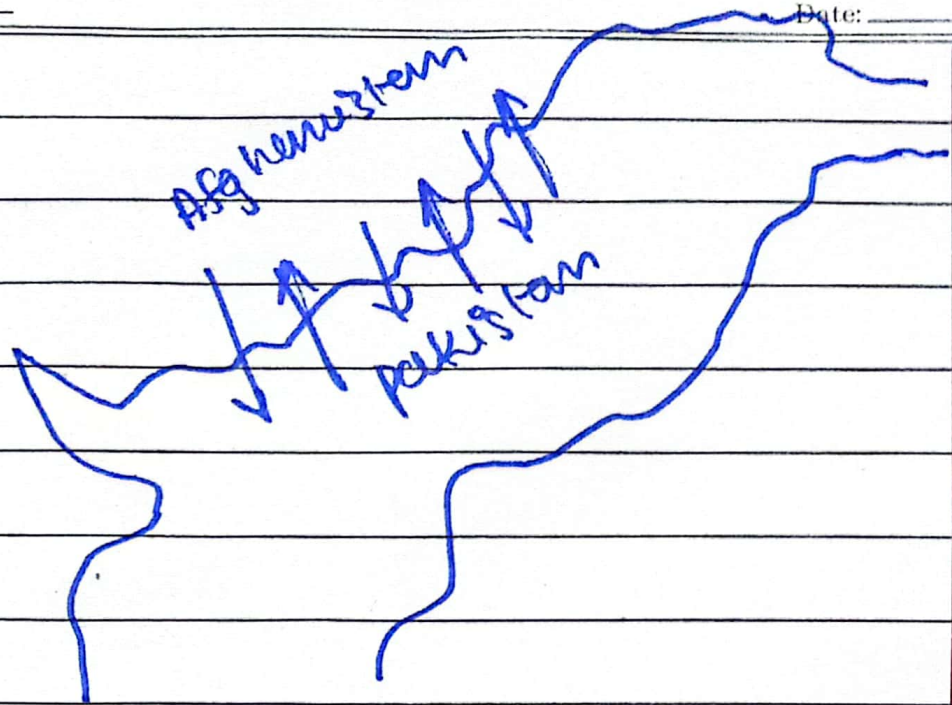
Pakistan has been facing number of security challenges since its inception. But the intensity of these issues has increased since the last decade.

(i) External Security Challenges:

The external security challenges include terrorism, Kashmir's issue and the border issues with Afghanistan after the fall of Kabul to Taliban.

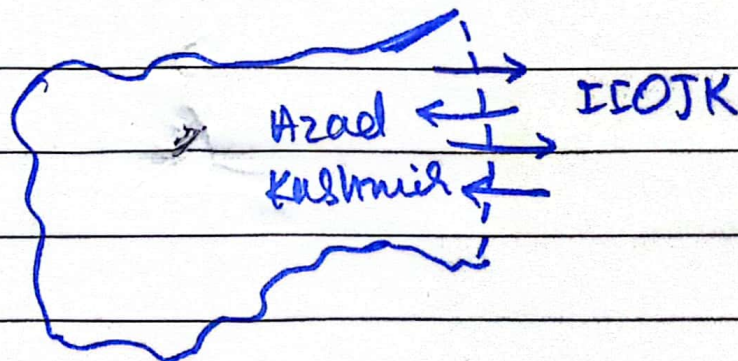
a) Terrorism:

Terrorism is one of the major security challenge from the Afghan side to Pakistan. After the fall of the Kabul to the Taliban, the terrorist attacks in Pakistan have become a new reality.



b) Kashmir Issue:

Another external security challenge to Pakistan is the Kashmir Issue. The firings across the border over the Kashmir issue are the constant cause of concern.



c) Border Issue with Afghanistan:

Another issue with external security is the fall of Kabul to

to Taliban. After taking the control of Afghanistan, Taliban has denied to recognize the Durand Line between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

(ii) Internal Security Challenges:

The internal security challenges include economic instability, political instability, separatist sentiments among Baloch counterparts and insurgency in the KPK.

a) Economic Challenges:

Pakistan is grappling with the current account deficit, balance of payment crisis and the fiscal deficit. The economic challenges are posing threat to the stability of the country.

(b) Political Instability:

The political instability in Pakistan is one of the internal security challenge. The constitutional crisis and political protests have undermined the security of the state.

(iii) Separatist Sentiments Among Baloch Counterparts:

The separatist sentiments among the Baloch counterparts over the lack of resources is another cause of concern for Pakistan. The lack of government commitment to address the missing Baloch issues and CPEC stagnant project is the cause of concern.

(iv) Insurgency of KPK:

After the fall of Kabul the insurgency across the Pashtun belt is another cause of

concern for the internal security of the Pakistan.

3) Shortcomings of Pakistan's Foreign Policy to tackle the security issues:

(i) Confrontational Policy with Neighbors:

The confrontational foreign policy with India is one of the major cause of concern and shortcoming in FP of Pakistan.

(ii) Diplomatic deadlock in Addressing terrorist issue

Diplomatic deadlock in conveying terrorist issues on the soil of Pakistan from the soil of Afghanistan is another concern.

(iii) Skewed FP and Lack of Direction:

The foreign policy of Pakistan lacks direction in addressing security issues. It is based on the binary thinking.

4) Measures to Revisit the Foreign Policy of Pakistan to Tackle Security Challenges:

(i) Setting Direction:

It is the need of the hour to set the direction of the foreign policy. A policy must be based on the interests of Pakistan.

(ii) Addressing Terrorist and Border Issue with Afghanistan

Pakistan must utilise the soft power toolkit from the

strategies of its FP to solve the terrorist issue with Afghanistan. Pakistan must offer incentives and convey its concerns.

(iii) Trade and Investment with India:

Pakistan must shed the confrontational FP and involve diplomatically with Indian state. Pakistan must invest in trade and develop ties with India and solve Kashmir issue diplomatically.

(iv) Addressing Domestic Issues

For the strong FP, addressing the domestic issues is the key. Pakistan must correct its economic and political policies for having leverage in the FP.

(v) Avoiding Diplomatic Deadlock

Pakistan must avoid the diplomatic deadlock with its neighbors. Diplomacy is the key to achieve the interests of the country.

5) Conclusion:

Pakistan has been grappling with the lot of issues since the last decade. Security issue is one of the main issues that has given tough times. Pakistan must design its foreign policy in a way to secure the national interests with the help of diplomacy and the soft power toolkit.