

PART-II

Q. NO. 8

(a)

PAKISTAN'S ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES:-

1. Introduction:-

Pakistan is at a critical juncture, grappling with multiple crises and challenges at the same time. The rapid rise in temperature, turning the dynamics of environment poses some severe threats to Pakistan. Due to the drastic change in environment, the country is facing a lot of challenges such as heat wave, deadly air-pollution, floods, heavy rainfalls etc. It

is high-time that Pakistan take some huge preventive measures to cope-up with the upcoming challenges.

2. Extreme Levels of Air Pollution:-

The ever-increasing air pollution in the country has affected the daily lives of people in every possible way. The over-reliance on fossil fuels has ruined the environment of the country. According to the Macrotrends, Lahore is on the top, being the most polluted city in the world. The air pollution causes many harmful effects not only to the human beings but also the animals, plants etc.

(i) Air pollution harms a healthy body:-

Air pollution has the most harm on the healthy body as it causes severe asthma, cholera, anxiety,

infections etc. This changes the pattern of living for a person, suffering from such illness in a long-run.

(ii) Air pollution has negative effect psychologically:
Air pollution not only effect the physical health but also it has same serious impact on mental health as it changes the hormonal level and leads to violent behavior, depression, etc.

3. Water Scarcity and low Quality:-

Pakistan has severe water scarcity, as with the expanding population there is now a severe shortage of water. People living in remote areas don't even have access to the clean water which affects the overall well-being of human beings especially the children in order to survive. According to

UNDP, around 55% of children under the age of 10 suffer from stunted growth. The major factors that contribute to this is the inefficient management in providing basic necessities to the people. Moreover, 17% of children could not make until their 5th birthday.

4. High Risk of Flash-Flooding:

Pakistan is in the list of

those countries who will have to face worst consequences of climate change. The mountains of Himalaya, with the change in environment, rapid increase in temperature will cause flash-floods annihilating the agriculture and all the other resources, degrading the lives, taking the devastation to another level causing famine all over the country.

(i) Food Insecurity:

The flash floods will destroy the agriculture and as Pakistan relies majorly on it, this will destroy its economy plus the food insecurity will deteriorate the existing resources. Already, the majority of people are suffering due to food insecurity, not having food for days. According to Global Hunger Index, Pakistan ranks 102nd out of the 125 countries (2023).

5. Deforestation and Land Degradation :-

The increasing urbanization demanding more homes, cutting down the forests and compromising the land has damaged the environment, changing the ecology and ecosystem totally. Every year, Pakistan

loses almost 27,000 hectares of natural forest area.

6. Recommendations to control environment change:

- (a) Transition from non-renewable resources to renewable resources.
- (b) Planting more trees, saving the existing ones too.
- (c) Proper and efficient waste management.
- (d) Awareness campaigns to educate about climate risks.
- (e) Implementing efficient water management such as pricing the water in order to limit the use.

Q.No. 8

(b)

Population Explosion: Impacts and Future Course:

1. Introduction:

The alarmingly high growth rate of population in Pakistan can turn the country's dynamic upside down. As with the increasing population, the natural resources are being consumed at an abnormal level disturbing the overall system of the country.

2. Adverse Effects of Over-Population:-

(i) Increase in Poverty:-

The increase in population means, the increase in poverty. The country is

(iii) Unemployment and Urbanization:-

People from rural areas are moving to urban areas rapidly, this results in more unemployment rate in the urban areas as there are limited opportunities available and this gives rise to a vicious poverty cycle.

3. Future Prospects:-

(i) Poverty Alleviation not expected:-

The population will keep growing and with this growing rate, the resources and opportunities will extinct faster than expected making the country collapse and hard to survive.

(ii) Social and Political Instability:-

People will get frustrated when they do not have the resources good enough to feed their families. Eventually disturbing the country's peace, protesting, threatening national's security.

⇒ Conclusion:-

Pakistan require a multifaceted approach involving collaboration between the government, civil society, and international partners to control the population. Preventive measures such as educating families about contraceptive pills, health conditions, clarifying misconceptions with respect to religion etc. All has to be dealt in a delicate manner.

QNO. 6

Pakistan's relations with its neighbors and the super powers of the region will decide the stability of religion. Elucidate.

1. Introduction:-

Pakistan is having a hard time in order to maintain the relations with its neighbors especially India, being the forever enemy despite Pakistan's positive steps India preferred hostility, then Iran, the brotherly relation has now got a crack and Afghanistan, for the first time competing with Pakistan, to attract investments. And when it comes to the superpowers the tables are turning and expectations are high.

2. Pak-India Relation:-

The relation between the two countries is a complex one. The hostility between the two is the deep-rooted events of history. Pakistan did put some efforts to maintain friendly ties but India showed hostility every single time. The Kashmir Issue, Indus water Treaty, War of 1971 (Liberation of Bangladesh) etc. Therefore, there seems less chance of cooperation until India is ready to be a partner.

3. Pak-Iran Relations:-

Pakistan and Iran, from their Independence enjoyed the warm brotherly relation with regional cooperation, mutual understanding,

and supporting each other in hard times. But the recent strike of Iran in the province of Balochistan (Pakistan) and the strike-back of Pakistan in order to maintain it's sovereignty caused both countries in mis-trust and disturbed the regional cooperation.



4. Pak-Afghanistan Relations:-

After the revival of TTP, Pakistan has to face a huge ^{number} ~~amount~~ of terrorist attacks from the soil of Afghanistan. Even on the call of high officials, Afghanistan denied to curb the militant activities. On which Islamabad had to send back the Afghan refugees. This increases the cross-border tensions, regional stability and trade cooperation to drop straining the relations.

5. Pakistan Relation with Super-Powers:-

(i) Russia:-

Pakistan stability with the help of Russia, the cooperation in the field of

energy occupies an important place in bilateral relations plus in the field of oil and gas-production. Pakistan's relation with Russia is now improving as Russia vowed its support for Pakistan in its struggle against the Taliban militants.

(ii) USA:-

Despite their longstanding ties, both countries have experienced significant stresses, and the level of suspicion and acrimony has not subsided yet. As USA has already chose its strategic partner in the region But still it is considering to have ties with Pakistan, Pakistan's significance, a nuclear-armed country, close ties with China, and its geo-graphical location. Both the nation with

mutual cooperation, learning from the past mistakes can benefit significantly.

(iii) China:-

Pakistan has close bilateral ties with the China. This friendly relation has built on the strength of its successive achievements and the bond is getting stronger with each passing day and year. China can help Pakistan to maintain its ties with the neighboring countries as China being a superpower has major influence in the region.

6. Conclusion:-

Though the relations of Pakistan is in a dark phase but with the

strategic and diplomatic ties with the super-powers, it has the opportunity to improve the connection fostering a more stable, peaceful, and cooperative region. with a holistic approach, engaging with the high-officials and resolving the disputes for the mutual benefit will help Pakistan to be in the good-books.

QNO.4

Identify Pakistan's security concerns of the last decade and suggest measures how to revisit our foreign policy.

1. Introduction:

In the last decade, Pakistan has dealt with unprecedented crisis, the changing world order and the relationship with its neighboring countries have put Pakistan in the position to re-evaluate its foreign policy in order to deal with cross-border terrorism, extremism and sectarianism, regional instability, economy and energy crisis, circular debt etc.

⇒ Pakistan's Security Concerns:

2. Cross-Border Terrorism:

The year 2023, witnessed a surge in terrorist activities, hitting an eight-year high-level. According to the data

collected by PICSS and CRSS, there is 56 pc surge in violence and 69 pc increase in the militant attacks. TTP has benefited the most of all with the takeover of Taliban government. It poses a threat greatly to Pakistan.

3. Political Instability and Inefficient Governance:-

Since 2022, Pakistan faced unprecedented political rest plus the inefficiencies of government to make suitable policies has also caused regional disruption, people being fear-less are becoming more violent. ultimately, this unrest will lead to a failure of country to protect its integrity.

4. Rise in Extremism and Sectarianism:-

The economic and political failure of the country gave rise to extremism and sectarianism, this sense of not being a part of the country threaten's nation's unity showing and portraying a country as a weak one affecting its position in the world and also deviating the interest of the investors.

5. Ballooning Circular Debt:-

The energy crisis of the country has raised so much that it is heavily dependent on the international funds and aids. This dependence and extremely

high debts has limited the growth of the country. Additionally, the agreements with IPPs have strained Pakistan's growth too.

6. Proxy Conflicts:-

Pakistan has shared borders, its complex relations with Afghanistan and India has raised so many concerns over proxy conflicts. The Kashmir dispute and the terrorism in the region. Pakistan has been accused of supporting Taliban insurgency, by Afghanistan. Additionally, Pakistan has accused India of backing terrorist groups in Balochistan, further exacerbating bilateral tensions. These proxy conflicts have contributed to regional instability, hindering efforts to resolve disputes and promote peace in South-Asia.

7. Water Security; a big concern:

The tension with neighboring countries, particularly India over shared rivers like Indus River, further complicates the issue and the situation. The violation of treaties and shared-agreements and the construction of dams by upper-stream countries have exacerbated the issue. It is a big concern for Pakistan, for its stability in the region.

8. Cybersecurity threat:

There are multiple cybersecurity threats to Pakistan, phishing, malfunctioning its softwares, and hacking the official data sites. As the country lack enough resources to empower the people to be trained and skilled

reflects a great threat to the sensitive and legal information of the country, getting in the wrong hands can cause the country, maximum level of destruction.

9. Nuclear Arsenal Concern:

There's a big concern, as many attempts by the terrorist groups have been made by attacking security, to get hands on the nuclear stuff and leading to unexpected situation.

10. Recommended Measures to Revisit Foreign Policy:-

- (i) Pakistan should diversify its international allies to strengthen its diplomatic ties.

- (ii) Pakistan should take strict measures against terrorism such as change in ties with Kabul as the ineffective response on curbing militant attacks from Afghan soil is unacceptable
- (iii) Investing in soft power initiatives such as cultural exchange
- (iv) Enhancement of Public diplomacy
- (v) Resolution of Regional conflicts and prioritizing diplomacy fostering sustainability in the region

11. Conclusion:-

Revisiting Pakistan's foreign policy is a challenge for upoming administration, addressing various challenges and opportunities in the international arena. Through pro-active and strategic measures, international partnerships, Pakistan can position itself as a constructive and influential player on the global stage, fostering regional stability.