

Date: ___/___/___

Day: (Mon) (Tue) (Wed) (Thu) (Fri) (Sat)

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Subjective Part

Pakistan Affairs

Part - II

Question-01

In the absence of regional consensus ... Critically evaluate.

Answer:

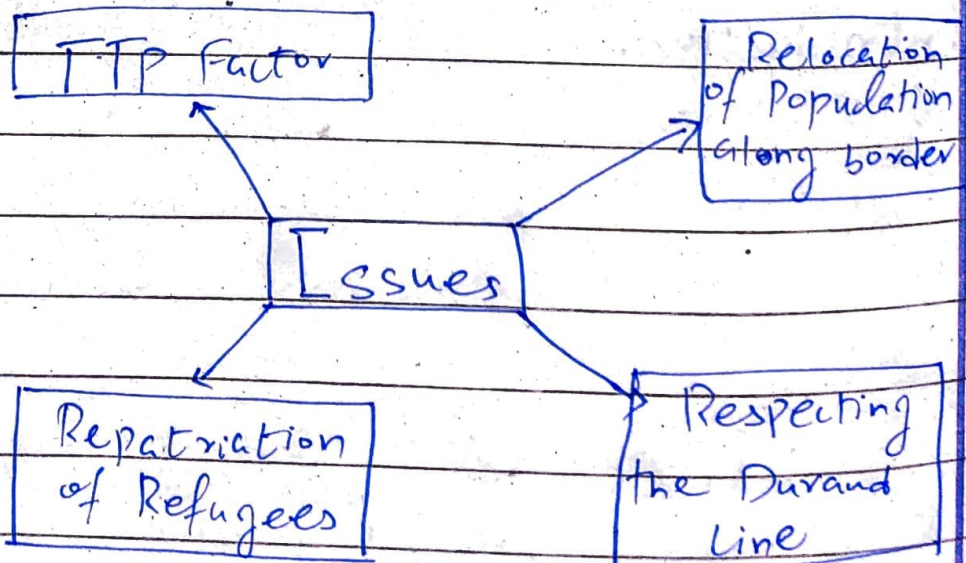
Introduction:

Both Pakistan and Afghanistan have seen ups and downs in their relations since the start. Historic relations were made further crucial in Soviet Afghan war, and, later in America's War on Terror. Post U.S. withdrawal ^{era} it has seen a

rift in Pak-Afghan relations. Multiple factors affecting both the countries are the reasons for it. However, both countries are at crucial point in history where the circumstances of today will define the tomorrow for both.

Underlying Issues Staining Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations

Post-US withdrawal ^{era} from Afghanistan is marked with a shift and unexpected circumstances.



2.1 - The TTP Factor

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has become a matter of concern in the recent years. With the rise of Taliban in Afghanistan, it has strengthened its foot in Balochistan and KPK.

- PIDE report says that terrorism in Pakistan has seen a surge by 53 percent in 2023.

Most of these attacks were traced back to TTP or its splinter groups i.e., Jaish-e-Muhammad and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi.

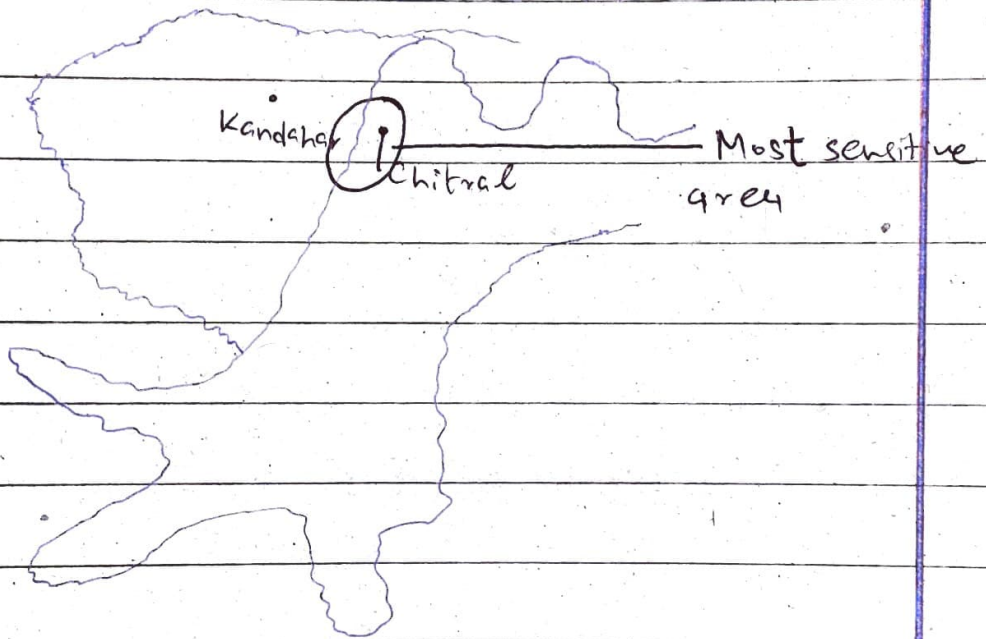
BBC Report:-

"TTP has got its hands on a vast amount of arsenal left by NATO after its abrupt withdrawal."

Given the TTP factor, if regional consensus-based approach is not utilised timely, it can lead to uncontrollable violence.

2.2 Relocation of Population along the Border

Pakistan and Afghanistan share a long porous border with a relentless terrain.



Pakistan demands Afghanistan to relocate its population along the border, established within a few kilometers of Durand line.

The relentless terrain and porous border is matter of concern for Pakistan, and if not timely resolved can lead to deterioration of tensions.

2.3 Repatriation of Refugees

In the midst of the increasing tensions and terrorist activities, Pakistan in October 2023, decided to send back 1.7 million Afghan refugees. The move was not taken well in Kabul.

Heightened Instability in the absence consensus-based approach

The issues as elaborated above can lead to further tensions between the two countries. The most concerning among them is the inability and unwillingness of Taliban to contain militias especially TTP and its splinter groups.

Moreover, UN Report:- "About 40 militant groups including Al-Qaeda and Islamic State (IS) are enjoying the support of Taliban."

4. Need of the Hour: Urgent Revamp of Relations

Both Pakistan and Afghanistan requires urgent shift in their relations to avoid further tensions.

4.1 Consensus-Based Common Middle Ground

Both countries must initiate reconciliatory talks to put an end the reasons leading to crisis.

TTP containment, border issue and refugee issues must be resolved by bilateral talks.

4.2 Establishing Relations Above Conventional

Pakistan and Afghanistan relations must be more than just terrorism and refugees. Following steps should be taken to win the support of Taliban and bring Afghanistan to global arena:-

(i) Including Afghanistan in CPEC

(ii) Furthering trade

(iii) Putting an end to smuggling

(iv) Abolishing Hawala & Hundi practices for dollar preservation

Conclusion

Both countries have seen relentless times in their history, and now both are at a critical juncture. If timely steps ^{are} not taken and the underlying issues are not resolved, it can lead to a rise of new era of militancy, refugee crisis, bilateral rift and culture far worse than Khashinkove one.

Question-08

Pakistan stands at a crucial juncture, facing --- Explain.

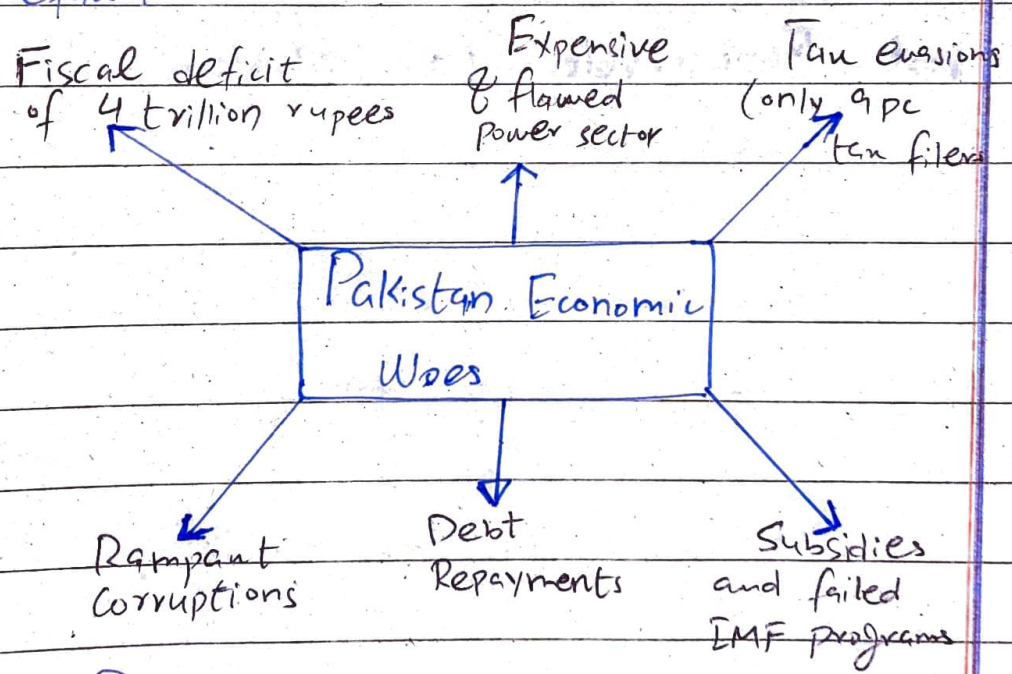
Introduction

The period after 1990 has grappled Pakistan in the issues that are becoming the matters of ^{serious} concern with each passing year. In recent years, Pakistan has seen unprecedented challenges with respect to economy, environment and receding demographic positivity. These issues have brought Pakistan at a critical juncture from where a decisive role of state is required. Further discussion fairly explains Pakistan's issues and its prowess to deal with them.

2. Economic Woes that Haunt Pakistan

Past few years have seen a massive decline in the reserves, foreign direct investments and failure in completing IMF's programs.

In 2023, Pakistan, very narrowly, averted a fiscal default.



Pakistan's economy has been stained due to a massive fiscal deficit, tax evasions and rampant corruption of those in power. Further, Pakistan has failed to complete

half of IMF programs till now, and this created a trust deficit with IMF.

This unprecedented condition can lead to further problems in future which can cause a fiscal default, a massive brain drain, and rise of non-state actors.

3. Even the Environment is not Favourable to Pakistan

The global climate change and global warming has proved unforgiving for Pakistan and other developing countries like India.

In 2022, Pakistan faced a historically massive flood which washed away areas of Balochistan, KPK, Sindh and the suburbs of Punjab. The overall loss caused by the flood is estimated to be \$30 billion.

The flood further:-

↳ Damage to crops

↳ Washed away schools

↳ 700 million cattles died

In parts of Sindh and Balochistan the government has still not been able to recover from the havoc wreaked by flood.

Moreover, the winter smog has grappled the entire punjab and parts of Sindh. The harmful gases are making people hospitalised at an unprecedented rate.

PIIDE:-

“The allowable presence of particulate matter $PM_{2.5}$ in the air is $50 \mu g/m^3$, not exceeding 35 days a year — while levels of $PM_{2.5}$ recorded in Lahore in December 2023 are $269 \mu g/m^3$.”

4. Uncontrollable Demographic Challenges

In the latest ~~survey~~, census, Pakistan recorded its population as 241 million, at a whopping 2.55 percent rate.

Population Rates of Neighbouring Countries:-

India - 1.5 percent

Bangladesh - 1.2 percent

China - 0.8 percent

(Dawn)

“Having a great number of people is not as bad but the population must be a valuable resource instead of being a liability on public exchequer.”

To further build on this, India celebrated when it surpassed China as the most populous country on the planet.

2.1 Grim Picture as shown by Surveys

Pakistan is lagging in every area of human development. Its population, instead of being a valuable resource is becoming a liability for public exchequer.

- Youth bulge — 53 percent
 - ↳ 9 million graduates jobless every year
- On average, 8.5 million people contributing to brain drain
- Grim positions on Indexes:-
 - ↳ Freedom of Speech → 132/144
 - ↳ women liberty → 142/144
 - ↳ 28 million out of school children
 - ↳ Around 15 million girls

These stats show a sad picture about the current state of Pakistan.

5. How to Govern the Ungovernable

Being on a critical juncture with respect to its economy, environment and demographic challenges serious reforms in policy-making are required as stated by Ishaq Hussain in his book *Governing the Ungovernable*.

5.1 Most of the woes are

Economic

Most of Pakistan's woes are due to being far behind in economic progress in contrast with its environment and population. Reforming other sectors will require a stable and strong economy.

5.2 Doing Away with Governance

Deficit

Second necessary step is doing away with governance deficit.

Stable, strong government, right policymaking and implementation are key steps.

Conclusion

Pakistan has faced challenges in its economy, environment and demography in the past as well, but now condition has exacerbated. Right policymaking, strong and stable government, and the will power to reform are key necessary steps to phase out the crisis.

Question-05

If we do not take charge of our --- to address it.

Introduction

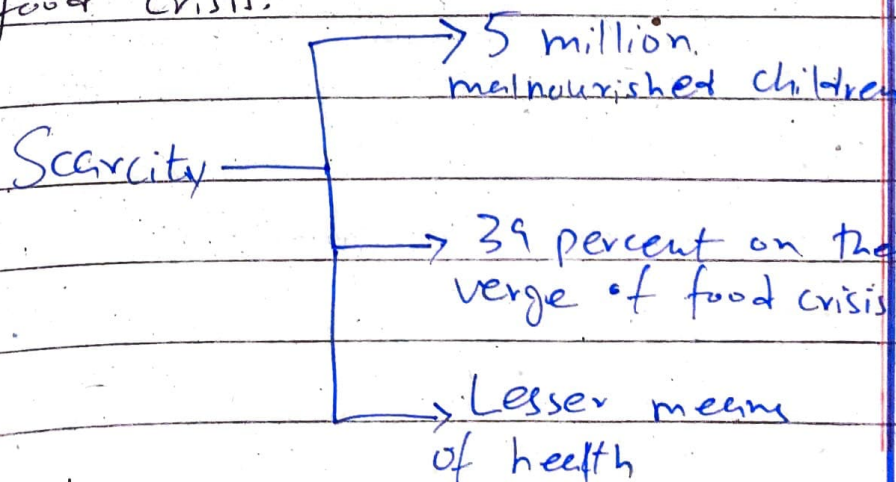
Over the years, Pakistan has seen a bulge in its population, and it has failed to address the increasing population issue. Current census shows that Pakistan has exceeded the population of 240 million with a growth rate of 2.55 percent, the highest in Asia. Further discussion sheds light on the fact that if we do not take care of our population, the nature will do it for us, and give measures to address the growing crisis of population bulge in the context of Pakistan.

2. If we do not charge of our Population Size, the Nature will do it for us.

It can be further said that if we are unable to control our population problem, the nature will take care of it in its own way.

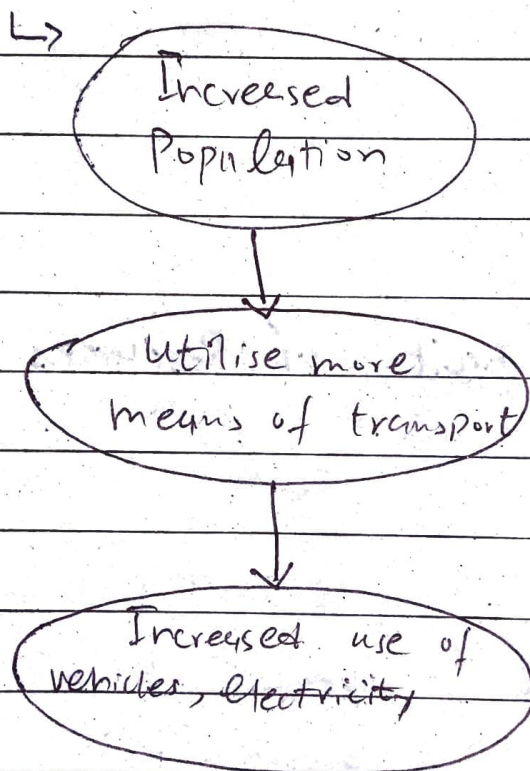
2.1 Scarcity of Resources

An inflated population faces severe scarcity of resources. The resources are then available to a larger number but cannot be got hold of it. For instances, in Pakistan, 39 percent people are on the verge of facing a food crisis.



2.2 Exacerbating Climate

Inflated population also adds to the already exacerbated climate. As of July 2023, Pakistan Population is 241 million.



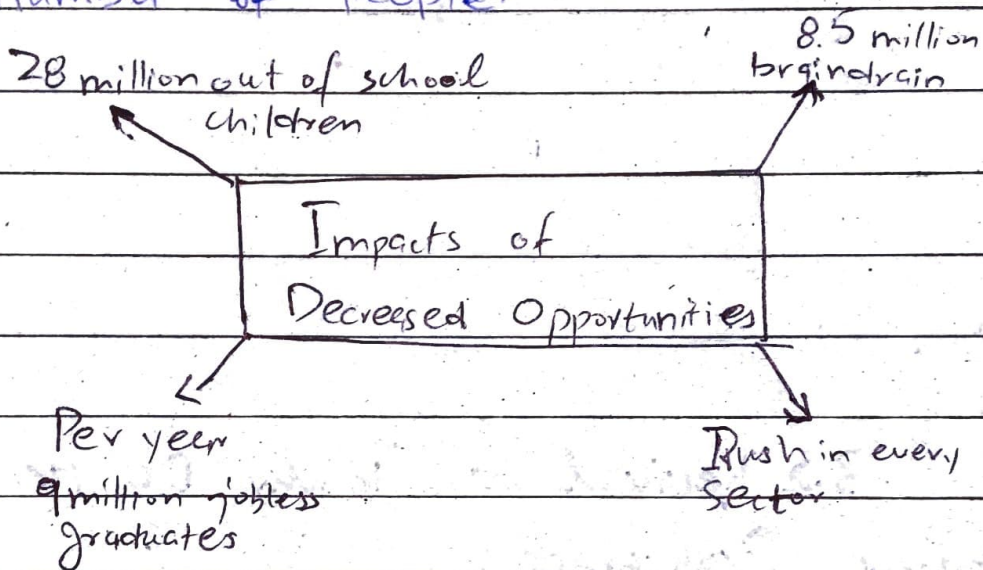
Terrible Condition of Pakistan's

most populous city:-

Lahore recorded level of PM_{2.5} as 269 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ while WHO safe standard is 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

2.3 Decreased Opportunity

Population increase also cause less opportunity for a wider number of people.



2.4 In times of Crisis

Crisis make a larger amount of people vulnerable if population is large. For, instances, India, then the 2nd most populous country, recorded an unprecedented number of deaths each day due to Covid due to its increased population.

3. Taking Care of Pakistan's Population Problem

3.1 Education and awareness

Education and awareness are necessary key steps to contain population. Inclusion in curriculum will be helpful in the coming decades.

3.2 Revival of 'Bachy Do He Achay Programs'

Social media and house to house awareness about family planning.

3.3 Conditional Funds Transfer (CFT) schemes

Using CFT scheme to financially support families who comply with the rules.

3.3.1 Awareness and Free Distribution of Contraceptives

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Awareness and free distribution of contraceptives and doing away with the taboo of using them

Conclusion

Pakistan's population is now at an inflated and crucial stage. It must take necessary measures to address the problem with significant policy-oriented steps. Otherwise, it has to face the nature's consequences.

← The End →