

Pakistan Affairs

Qs-

BRI (Belt Road Initiative) is considered as the project for new silk route that will connect China to various parts of Asia and Europe. It constitutes a route by land as well as sea. It is considered as biggest infrastructure project by China with capital totalling to \$1.3 Trillion. Not only will it act as a route to connect with the world but will also invest in agriculture and energy sector with addition of establishing Special Economic Zones. There are total of 6 corridors with CPEC as the flagship project that will connect China with the Middle East. It constitutes of China's economic diplomacy that would help bring huge inflow of investment in the six corridors of its project.

China's Political Growth

China has initiated such a huge project to enhance and its National Interests in the world. Being the economic superpower, it pave ways to ensure that the National Security is not jeopardised. Following political benefits will be attained by China from BRI:

- i) Shorter access to markets
BRI would shorten the trade distance

and time of countries trade with China. Not will it cut down cost cost for Chinese trade but also enhance trade volume with greater availability of goods especially oil which is an important energy source for China to function its industries. For example, Chinese ship takes around 36 days to reach Saudi-Arab from Shanghai while only 11 days if it uses one of BRJs corridor i.e., CPEC.

ii) Alternative trade route

China's major trade route from South and East China Sea to Arabian Sea and beyond consist of multiple security threats. For example, Strait of Malacca on which China's trade passes is heavily militarized. Hence, China has taken the initiative to an alternative trade route in the form of BRI. QUAD on the other hand is proving to be a serious threat to China in South China Sea. In addition, the issue of Taiwan which is claimed by China could also destabilise this region. Hence, it was in the strategic interest of China to built an alternative trade route.

iii) Increasing its sphere of influence

U.S expanded its influence around the world through economic diplomacy. China

has intended to do the same by huge investments in agriculture, industry, transport and energy sector. In this way the BRI countries will have to align their interests with China. Resultantly, the Chinese global influence will increase.

Inclination of global world towards Connectivity

Industrial revolution was followed by globalisation has connected the world more than ever. Countries have developed a heavy reliance on one another with huge competition in economic growth and development, greater global interdependence for National Security and geo-strategic interests. ^{Heavily} China's BRI offer a huge flow of investment into countries in transport, Energy, agriculture and Industrial sector. Furthermore, trade with countries will be enhanced and job opportunities created. Chinese investments is explained as follow:

i) Transportation Sector

Transportation sector will have heavy investments in the form of roads / highways across BRI countries such as construction of 10 motorways in Pakistan. Investment has been made to develop the port of Gawadar and Chabahar, for example. Lastly, there will be development of dry ports.

ii) Investment in Special Economic zone,
The objective of BRI is to establish around 150-200 SEZs. 9 of them are situated in Pakistan. Such installations will be made on specific sites with abundance of raw material. Some examples, include Textile Mills, Copper and Food industry in Pakistan.

iii) Investment in agriculture sector
BRI's investment in agriculture has mainly targetted South Asia, Central Asia and other ASEAN countries with rivers and underground water. Investment will focus on efficient production of agri product, livestock, and fisheries.

iv) Energy Projects
China is keen on investing in Clean Energy projects in BRI countries. Such investments include Solar and Wind Projects. For example, BRI under CPEC has successfully established a setup in Bahawalpur to generate solar energy.

Critical Analysis and Conclusion

China has been ranked as the global economic superpower. Hence, its focus is to ensure its economic security by enhancing their sphere of influence through diplomatic

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relations economically. It heavily rely on oil by Saudi-Arabia to keep its industries running. Hence, it is seriously considering alternative routes due to security concerns over South China Sea. Not only will BRI's flagship project provide the shorter route but also keep the economic security of China intact. However, it cannot be ignored that the countries are benefiting from it too. Since China is leading trade country, countries will be more inclined to enhance trade with it. However, ~~there are many~~ challenges to B

Hence, Chinese BRI do have a significant growth to China's political domain globally. However, it is facing a lot of changes, challenges in the form of US opposition, development of IPEEC to counter BRI's influence.

Q3-

Introduction

After the War of Independence in 1857, Muslims of India were in miserable conditions. British blamed them for the war deteriorating their socio-political conditions further. The golden era of Muslim rule was gone. In such circumstance, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan took drastic measures to uplift the social and economic conditions of Muslim by showing their loyalty to British and by reducing the increasing Hindu dominance on Muslims. Consequently, the Muslim nationalism started building which ultimately led to formation of Pakistan.

Hence, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan started Aligarh movement to uplift Muslim from misery. Following were the aspects of Aligarh Movement.

Political Services

Sir Syed Ahmed was opposed to the participation of Muslims ^{in politics} on following grounds,

- 1) Muslim lacked British education. They were technically 'backward' in the sphere of British enlightenment. This means they could not have a level playing field in

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politics with the right set of demands towards the British.

- 2) Hindus were much more educated than Muslims. They had already embraced British education which provided a soft image to the British. Being educated, they can plan practice politics with British aid set out demands that are efficient and effective.

Therefore, Sir Syed was of the view that after Muslims get sufficient education, they can put a foot forward into politics. His efforts in propagating British education among Muslims have been discussed in details later in this question.

Two Nation Theory

Sir Syed was of the belief that Muslims and Hindus were separate nation with their own religion and language. Since the rise of Muslims, Hindu-Muslims did not amalgamated together throughout the centuries. In fact, there was a rise in Hindu Nationalism that were a threat to Muslim identity.

Moreover, there was Hindi-Urdu Controversy in 1867 when Hindus persuaded British to change the court language from Urdu to Hindi. This was a direct threat to

Muslim linguistic identity and was made Sir Syed Ahmed realise that the two nations are separate. Hence, efforts were made to uplift and protect Urdus such as start of Urdus prose writing and biography.

Social Services

After the fall of Mughal empire the conditions of Muslims were deteriorating. Sir Syed tirelessly made efforts to improve those conditions.

Firstly, Islamic culture and traditions were being promoted in which the real essence of Islam was shown. Hence,

Risala Tahzoes-ul-Akhlaq was published.

Secondly, Muslims were encouraged toward Intellectual approach to life rather than cultural superstitions. ~~They were told~~ Books

were published for the advice of

using rational thinking. This was also a

way to uplift Muslim's economic conditions on rationality of handwork.

Educational Services

In order to improve condition in the lens of social-political ~~has~~ domain, education was promoted. Firstly, schools were established

~~for~~ in various parts of India which resulted in formation of Aligarh university. Secondly

at magazines and books like Asya-e-Mohammedi & India was published to

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improve Muslims' image in front of British.
Lastly, there were Educational Societies,
Committee and conferences, to educate Muslims
on researches and hindrances and have discussions
and debate.

Socio-political outcomes of Aligarh Movement

Educational efforts of Aligarh movement resulted
in formation of Aligarh University. Many
future political figures were alumni of
this university. This was because of the
annual Muhammad Educational Conference,
a product of Sir Syed's efforts, a decision
was made to form a political party known
as All India Muslim League. This party
played a significant role and on forwarding
Muslims' demand based on their nationalistic
Muslim identity and forming a separate state
for Muslims of subcontinent.

Two Nation Theory became a stray element in
Muslim nationalism, Muslims realised that
being a separate Nation with their
own culture and identity, they must have
different sets of interest. Their interests
were translated into efforts to safeguard
Muslims' rights in subcontinent and
paving way to establishment of Pakistan.

Conclusion

Hence, the efforts of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan lifted Muslims politically and socially. In the long time, Pakistan managed to secure their freedom and rights in the form of Pakistan which is based on Muslim nationalism.

ii)

Q6 - Introduction

Energy issue is a global in nature due to limited sources and pressure on controlled use to reduce the process of climate change. These issues will be discussed in the context of Pakistan which is already submerged in issues of politics, economy and security. Pakistan is facing energy crises from long time with loadshedding and a current surge in electric prices with negative implications on industries, agriculture, market, domestic life and public sector. Hence, this issue needs to be urgently addressed.

i)

List of energy issues in Pakistan

i) load shedding in Pakistan

There is a severe load shedding issue in Pakistan especially during summer times. In 2023, the shortfall in summers was 7000 MW in an average of 4-8 hours in urban centers and 10-12 hrs in rural areas.

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ii) Expensive electricity

According to Prime Minister of Pakistan, Pakistan produces the most expensive energy in Asia and 3rd most expensive energy in the world. The introduction of slabs by NEPRA on usage of electrical units has made it further expensive. When it exceeds a slab, the cost/unit of electricity rises. For example, the ~~usage~~ cost of using units less than 100 will cost 27 Rs/ whereas that of 600 units, the cost significantly rises to Rs/72.

Critical analysis to the issues

There are many reasons for electricity being expensive and has resulted in crises such as:

- (60% usage)
- 1) The use of hydrocarbons to generate electricity. Majority of it is imported. The prices of these hydrocarbons fluctuate internationally and a devaluation in currency makes them more expensive. Hence rising the cost of electricity. Moreover, it is a major contributor of BOP crisis of debt-laden country of Pakistan.

2) Heavy reliance on IPPs has proven disastrous. In 1999, Pish agreement with IPPs was signed. It has been

considered a short term solution to energy. Unfortunately, Pakistan is still bearing its repercussions. It was agreed that the govt. will have to buy a certain amount of electricity regardless of its need and have to pay the producers in non-PKR currency.

3) Losses in Transmission lines account to 17% in the form energy theft, subsidies and outdated inefficient transmission lines.

Solutions

These Energy Crises in Pakistan has resulted in closure of more than 200 industries in Pakistan. It has increased agricultural cost of production and has given a major setback on domestic life. Moreover, it has intensified BOP crises. Therefore, Urgent actions needs to be taken which are as follow:

1) Renegotiation with IPPs

With a dip in value of PKR, it is very crucial for Pakistan to pay IPPs in PKR. Moreover, the clause of buying a fixed electricity production has to be scrapped. This was being done in 2020.

However, it minimised losses by 40% as the contract with other IPPs were to expire by 2028. Moreover, SBP should be made autonomous so that the funds generated for IPPs in the form of electricity bills is not spent elsewhere.

2) Install local and cheaper electricity projects

As per the energy policy of 2030, 15000 MW of electricity will be produced from hydro projects. Moreover, more emphasis will be given in production of electricity from local than coal. Moreover, the project of wind turbines and solar energy should be setup to reduce reliance on imported hydro-carbon.

3) Revamp transmission lines

Local transmission and broader network NTDC (National Transmission Dispatch) needs to be changed to reduce transmission losses. Strict law and the enforcement to be introduced against energy theft.

Conclusion

Pakistan is engulfed in severe energy crises in addition to its political, economic and security crises. Although the solutions will improve the energy issue, Pakistan needs stable government policies which will come from political stability.

Intro

Qs:

The world is currently at 8 billion in population with ever increasing demand for resource. These resources are limited on one hand and are the reason of the paving road to mass extinction on another. These resources accounts for natural resources such as water, hydro-carbon, etc. On the other hand, the world witnessed the introduction and proliferation of nuclear weapon in 20th century. Moreover, the excess in Green house gases has endangered world environment to climate change.

Possible Causes of mass extinction

1) Nuclear War

Nuclear War, if ignited, will result in mass extinction in two ways:

i) Detonations killing millions instantly and the radio active emission that makes the place inhabitable for human. This could cause a huge issue of migration and massive deaths.

ii) Nuclear winter will move the world towards ice age causing massive starvation and killing billions.

According to a report, a single nuclear war between two countries, can kill 100 million of India and Pakistan

instantly which is more than those killed in the timespan of WWII

2) Climate Change

Climate change has been the result of industrial revolution. The temperature of the earth is rising due to excessive emission of green house gases. This would result in melting of glaciers which will result in flash floods initially and then drying the rivers. In 2022, flash flood resulted in \$30 billion loss to Pakistan. The temperature of the earth has already increased by 1.5°C from pre-industrial era. This has resulted in an increase in heatwaves and a rise in sea-levels. The threat to food and water security will kill people of starvation and huge displacement resulting in migration problems.

3) Population

Increase in population has increased the depletion of limited resources and a rise in emission of greenhouse gases. Food and water scarcity are already witnessed in many parts of the world. Thus the population is like an inflated balloon that will pop up at any time in the form of wars, starvation and diseases. Hence, making the increasingly

probability of mass extinction more than ever.

- 4) limited resources
Natural resources are limited. The exhaustion of these resources coupled with huge population and climate change will prove to be the most disastrous event in the world. This would cause wars, deaths and deprivation from basic human necessities leading to mass extinction.

Conclusion

Therefore, sustainable measures are to be taken. A greater reliance on renewable energy resources and recyclable material will slow or eradicate the issue of scarce resources. Moreover, countries need to take measures to enhance communication and reduce nuclear weapons such as NPT. One Child policy can be adopted but it has its own drawbacks. Contraceptives should be widely available to control population. Otherwise, the world is gradually paving way to mass extinction with already depleted resources.