

Current Affairs

Section II

Q#3

Introduction:

Pakistan's survival is dependant on IMF bailouts more than its industry. Loans and aid packages have become a routine for the ailing economy of Pakistan. Although they sustain the economy temporarily, they bring massive economic destruction in the long run pushing the country backwards.

2) Growing population and poor agriculture

1) Fossil fuel Imports

4) Security Issues

Reasons why Pak is unable to survive without IMF Loans

3) Tax evasion and corruption

4) Failed tourism

1) Reasons for Pakistan's dependancy on IMF:-

1.1) Fossil Based Economy
: expensive coal and oil imports.

According to a 2022 Nepra Report Pakistan's 59% energy comes from Coal and fossil fuel burning. Only 7% of country's energy comes from renewable energy (wind, solar). This underscores the massive coal and oil imports of Pakistan used to run its industry. Not only does this create a **Negative Balance of Payment** and **trade deficit**, it also forces Pakistan to arrange more IMF loans to run the industry. Lack of green energy and projects also compels the state to import coal etc.

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1.2) Tax Evasion and Corruption:

According to a report by Eon clips, Tobacco industry of Pakistan evades \$3 Billion dollars of tax & which is the ^{crack} amount Pakistan received ~~is~~ from IMF in a Stand By Agreement.

The recent Dubai leaks exposed properties worth Billion of dollars which included many prominent Pakistani politicians.

This shows how corruption and tax evasion cause ^{loss of} billions of dollars making the country stand at IMF door again and again.

1.3) Poor Agricultural produce and growing population needs:

Climate change in 2022 destroyed millions worth agricultural produce including livestock. Poor climate resilience resulted in ~~the~~ food

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insecurity followed by food imports ~~exports~~ of billions. According to **FAO**, the Global Food Price Index in ~~2020~~ 2022 soared by **20%** which meant that food imported by Pakistan was increasingly expensive. This blow to the economy ~~and~~ to feed the 22 Billion population depleted foreign reserves pushing the country in debt and loan seeking.

1.4) Security Issues: A blow to CPEC, tourism and Foreign Direct Investment.

The recent uptick in terrorism by TTP and BLA using Afghan soil has spoiled the global image of Pakistan. This has discouraged investment in the country depleting foreign reserves. Attacks on CPEC projects

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Such as Gwadar port complex attack which killed CPEC workers also worsen the economic conditions. as Pakistan is unable to complete its projects timely and economic growth is halted. These security issues further destroy the tourism industry which already declined post War on Terror. All these issues collectively cause a failure to raise foreign reserves and generate money for loan repayment.

2) Impacts of Bail out Packages:

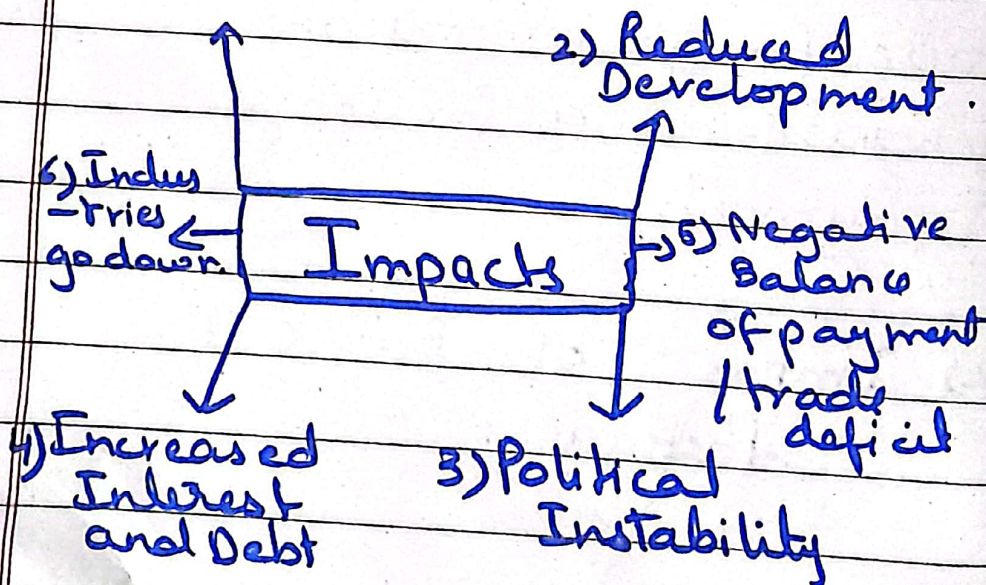
Impacts

2) Impacts or Implications of Bail out packages:

Introduction:

The bail out packages save Pakistan's economy from collapse and avert bankruptcy but eventually they bring the status quo with an even worst scenario.

1) Currency Depreciation



2.1) Currency Depreciation and its impacts:

The IMF demands the indebted state to depreciate its currency

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for boosted exports. This is followed by increased printing of currency and devaluation. Pakistani rupee stands at 277 (rupees) against 1\$. This is expected to rise to 300. Such policies create inflation and trade deficit at home. Inflation reduces the buying power of a common man and this leads to closure of local industries. Faisalabad's major textile industries were closed in 2022 as they lost customers due to inflation.

2.2) Reduced Development and progress and Political Instability

IMF demands the state and government to lower their expenditure. This in turn decreases government spending on public welfare projects.

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Government owned Enterprises such as PTA and Railway are advised to be sold. Such measures to enrage the public who are already grappling with inflation. ~~As~~ They are forced to spend on health ^{and} education in the private sectors, public resentment increases which results in mass protests and political instability.

Conclusion:

In the long run, ~~Pakistan do~~ ^{IMF does} is more harm to Pakistan than any other policy. Pakistan should focus on working to enhance its indigenous capabilities in agriculture, green energy and improve its security situation. ~~As~~ This will reduce dependancy on IMF to sustain the state.

267 BRICS:

Introduction:

The term BRICS was coined by Jim O' Neill in 2001 for China, Russia, Brazil, India South Africa. He claimed that these economies will dominate world economy by 2050.

Despite their individual differences, these ^{states} organisations have shown determination to achieve this goal.

1.2) Factors needed for success adopted by BRICS:

1.1) Unity and Cooperation:

Despite the China-India border issues, the two states have shown incredible cooperation. They have demonstrated

the importance of geoeconomics
in spite of geopolitical differences.
Despite the skirmishes between
China and India in 2020

Galvan Valley the two states
have remained steadfast on
economic cooperation.

1.2) Inclusivity principle of BRICS:

The inclusion of Ethiopia, Iran
and Saudi Arabia in the
organisation can yield
significant benefits. It will
help to tap the unknown
potential of Ethiopia, while
the high labour market
of India and China will
find opportunities in the
labour short markets of
UAE and Saudi Arab.

1.3) Common Interests of BRICS members:

For any organisation to succeed, there must be a common goal or interest for its members. Apart from boosting economic growth, challenging Western World order and hegemony is another sought after goal of BRICS members and specially China, ~~India~~ and Russia.

Why the organisation will succeed despite hurdles:

1) Economic Inter-dependency:-

The exchange of labour force, trade and culture will boost ~~the~~ diplomatic ties and create dependency. This will avert chances of war and conflicts promoting regional peace and security. This inter-

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dependance will make the States and their leaders stick to their goal.

2) A new world order:

Introduction of cryptocurrency and Asian Development Bank are all part of the **de-dollarisation plan**. The new multiple polar world order will decrease western hegemony and control leading to the success of the organisation.

Conclusion:

Despite the differences of BRICS States, the resolve of their leaders will eventually result in a world more inclusive, prosperous and peaceful.

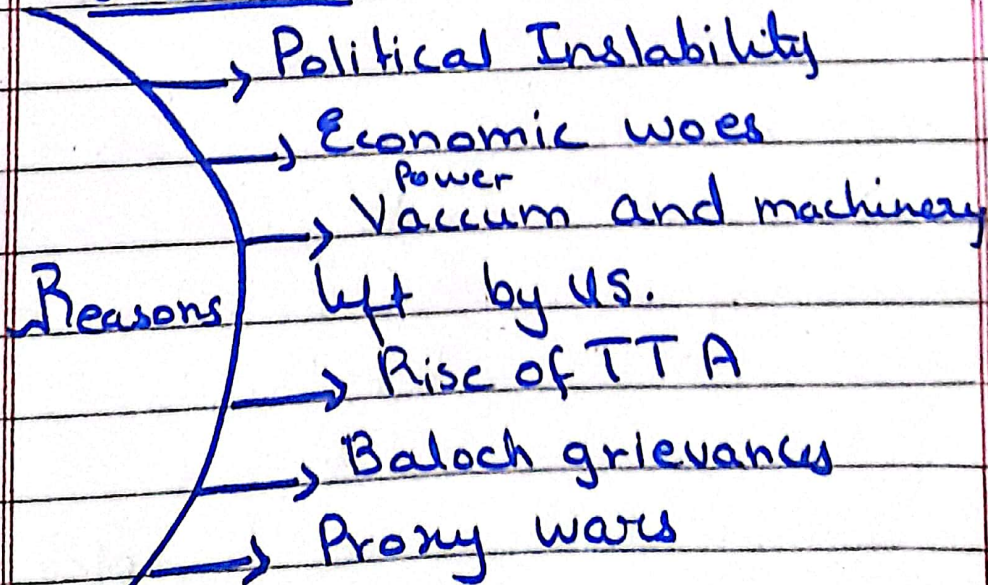
Q#7: A Insurgency in Pak.

•) Introduction:

The ^{revival of} insurgency in Pakistan reminds the nations of the horror of war on terror. Loss of 80,000 lives and operations like Zaab-e-Azb averted this terror and reestablished peace in Pakistan.

1) Reasons for Revival of insurgency in Pakistan:-

Overview :-



1.1) Political Instability:-

With the impeachment of Imran Khan's government, a caretaker cabinet was installed. This was headed by Anwar ul Karakari. The new government turned its attention towards handling mass protests in the country while the terrorists carried out their tasks swiftly.

A change of 3 governments from May 2023 to February 2024, has led to a failure in implementation of the National Security Plan 2026.

2.2) Economic woes: Population rise and unemployment:

According to ECP data, more than 40% of voters were of the age bracket 18-35 in 2024. Inflation and unemployment have caused the

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young minds to be exploited by terrorist organisations, ^{by} luring them with money and basic necessities which the government has failed to provide.

1.3) U.S Withdrawal: Power Vacuum and Sophisticated Weaponry left behind:

The sudden withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan in 2021 created a power vacuum which was taken over by Afghan Taliban. The sophisticated weaponry such as machine, guns, rifles were taken by the Taliban. These weapons further galvanized them strengthening their counter-strike capabilities.

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1.4) Rise of Afghan Taliban:

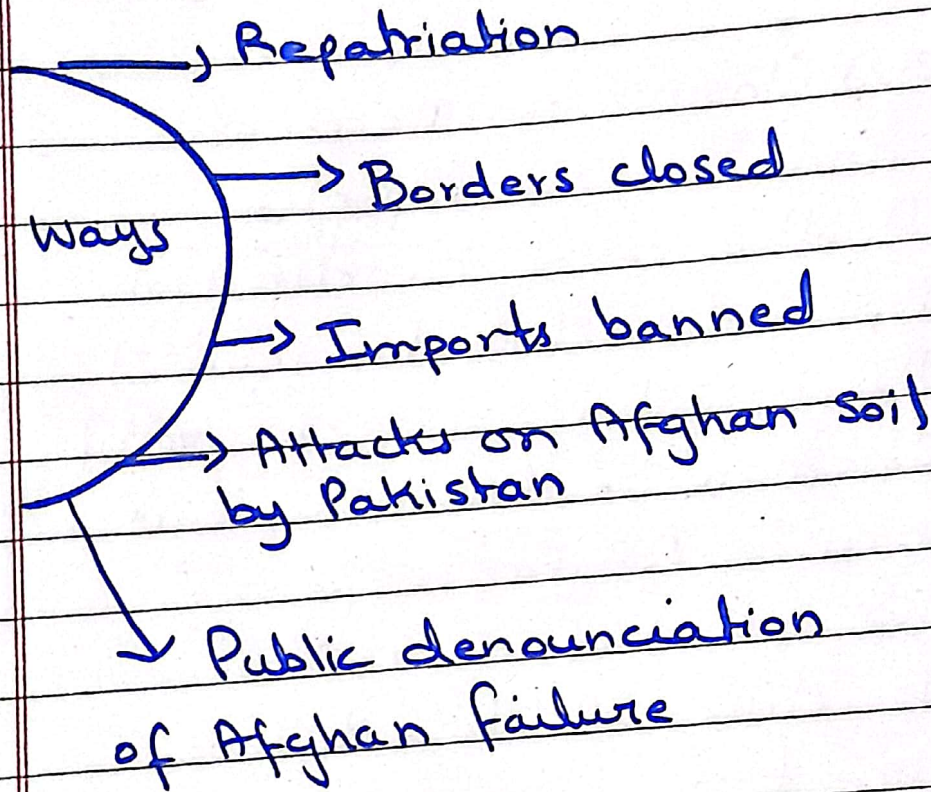
The pre conceived notion of Pakistan was shattered about Afghan Taliban as friends.

Intelligence data and the cold response of Afghan Taliban to stop Taliban Pakistan using Afghan soil for attack against Pakistan shattered Pakistan's hope for peace and diplomatic talks. Refugees post-2021 also brought terrorist elements

1.5) Baloch grievances and proxy wars:

Economic disparity and inequality of Balochis has given the separatist elements a chance for exploitation. Proxy wars aided by adversaries like India has also led to an uptick in terrorism.

2) In ways terrorism has impacted Pak - Afghan Relations:



2.1: Repatriation of millions of Afghans by caretaker

PM:

The first impact came in the shape of a reaction by Pakistan by a decision of caretaker cabinet to repatriate 10 million Afghans. These undocumented Afghans came post 2021

to seek shelter from Afghan policies, such as ban on women's education.

2.2) Closure of Borders and ban on imports:

Another coercive tool deployed by Pakistan against Afghanistan was closure of Chaman Border as well as ban on Afghan imports.

This has further strained the diplomatic ties between the two states.

2.3) Attacks on Afghan soil by Pakistan:

Pakistan openly accepted the attack on Afghan soil carried out by its government in April 2024. Not only did it accept the attack's responsibility, President Zardari also

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publically denounced Afghan go Taliban's failure to cooperate. This has imbued more resentment between in the relations of the two states.

Conclusion:

The failure of Afghan Taliban to respond and cooperate with Pakistan's government to tackle the menace of terrorism has forced Pakistan to adopt ~~use~~ coercive measures. This has strained the already sour relations of the two states.

Q# 8

o) Introduction:

The Gaza war, which began on 7th October, has led to slaughter of 36500 Palestinian ^{ing} ~~included~~ women and children.

The crimes committed by PM Netanyahu are a classical example of war crimes, yet the world watches silently.

1) War Crimes Committed by Israel:

1.1) Failure to distinguish between combatants and non-combatants:

Innocent civilians, who had nothing to do with the war, have been brutally bombed, killed and beheaded by Israeli IDF forces. Doctors,

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who are considered a non-combatant by the Statute of Rome of ICC, have been killed by bombing buildings.

1.2) Blockade of Humanitarian Access

Bombing of UN's UNRWA trucks, which carried aid for refugees, is another violation of Human Rights laws.

1.3) Vandalization of Public and Private Property:

Schools, Hospitals and houses of non-combatant civilians have been vandalized by Israel's relentless bombing which is protected under International Human Law of war and peace.

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1.4) Harsh treatment of Prisoners of war:

Footage and stories of amputated children, adults and women taken as hostages by IDF forces are circulating all over the internet. This is another violation of Human Rights as well as laws of war and peace.

How and why
2) ~~Why~~ the Champion of Rights (United States) is silent?

2.1) Veto Power of U.S.

The United States has vetoed 3 UN resolutions for ceasefire. It has also vetoed the trial of PM Netanyahu by ICC as Israel is not a signatory of Roman Statute.

2.2) Israeli Lobbying in US :

The presence of Israeli lobbyists in US parliament has mounted significant pressure on Washington to support Israel in its war crimes. According to Al-Jazeera, US has supplied with ~~\$14B~~ \$14B aid to support its war against Gaza.

2.3) Evangelical Christians:

A significant demographic of U.S. is formed by Evangelical Christians, who share ideological and religious similarities with Jews (specially Zionists). Displeasing them means losing a significant portion of vote Bank. The U.S president, Joe Biden, is a staunch Zionist himself.

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2.4) Interests in Middle East:

The resource rich Gaza is another target of U.S. fuel based industry. Israel is a watchdog of U.S. in the middle East to safeguard its economic interests. A de-stabilized Middle-East is always easy to exploit. A 2019 report by UN says shows that Gaza has 3 Billion Barrels of oil.

2.5) Interests of Elites:

The weapon industry of U.S which supplies weapons to Israel, is owned by U.S elites including many lobbyists and U.S politicians. Their interest is to prolong the war so their weapons are sold.

3) Impact on Relations with of U.S with the Muslim world:

3.1) U.S - Iran Relations:

Attack by Iranian government on Israel on 1st April and the retaliation by ~~US~~ Israel signalled an ~~es~~ regional escalation of war. The animosity between Iran-U.S could further be fueled if Iran keeps striking on ^{the} ally of U.S in future.

3.2) Strained US - Pak relations:

Although Pakistan doesn't support the Gaza campaign by weapons, its relations with the U.S can come under strain due to sour US-Iran relations. This was seen when U.S imposed sanctions on Pakistan when she decided to revive the

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Iran-Gaza pipeline. This could have an indirect impact on Pak-US ties.

Conclusion :-

The war in Gaza and Israel's impunity in committing war crimes can lead to regional escalation and can have significant geo-political impacts. It can lead to new ~~alliances~~ alliances while breaking the older ones.
