Q5

Population Growth & Climate Change; A vicious cycle:

Introduction:-

Population growth & Climate change are intricately interconnected phenomonena that reinforce each other in a vicious cycle. Rapid population growth intensifies pressure on natural resources, increase energy consumption, accelerates greenhouse gas emissions, and complicates climate adaptation. Conversly, climate change degrades resources, undermine livelihoods, and exacerbates poverty often leading to higher population growth through reduced resilience, migration and weakened social services.

The Intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) aptly states;

> "Population growth and economic development are the most important drivers of increases in CO_2 emissions."

1 How Population Growth Drives Climate Change;

(i) Increased Resources Demand & Emissions;

A growing population directly increases demand for food, water, energy, housing and transport, all of which are carbon intensive.

Expansion of agriculture leads to deforestation, methane emissions, and

land degradation.
Urban growth increases fossil-fuel based energy consumption.
According to World Bank;
"Population growth magnifies environmental pressures by accelerating land-use change, energy demand, and greenhouse gas emissions."
In developing countries like Pakistan, rapid population growth occurs alongside inefficient technologies, making emissions per unit of output higher.

(ii) Urbanization & Energy Stress:-
Population growth fuels rapid urbanization, often in an unplanned manner. According to UN-Habitat, 2022 Urban areas contribute over 70% of global CO2 emissions. Informal settlement lack resilient infrastructure, increasing energy inefficiency and vulnerability.
The UN Department of Economic & Social Affairs warns;
"Urban population growth without sustainable planning locks societies into high-emission pathways."

(iii) Pressure On Land & Forests:-
To meet food & housing needs, forests

are cleared and ecosystems destroyed. Deforestation reduces carbon sinks and Biodiversity loss weakens natural climate buffers. The FAO reports that agriculture growth driven by population growth accounts for 90% of global deforestation.

How Climate Change Impacts Population & Livelihoods:-

a Depletion of Natural Resources:

Climate change reduces the availability of water, fertile land, and food, particularly in climate-vulnerable regions. Glacier melting effects river system while Drought & floods reduce agricultural productivity.

The IPCC notes that,

> "Climate change has already reduced crop productivity growth, especially in low-income and high population regions."

b Poverty, Health & Demographic Stress;

Climate shocks deepens poverty, which in turn sustains high fertility rates due to reduced access to education (especially for women), weak healthcare system and dependece on child labor for

Survival.

The UNFPA (2022) emphasises;

"Climate vulnerability & high fertility often coexist, reinforcing cycles of deprivation & environmental stress."

C Climat-Induced Migration:

Climate change displaces populations through floods, heatwaves and sea-level rise. Migration increases pressures on urban resources, services and emissions. Pakistan's 2022 floods displaced over 33 million people.

The World Bank (Groundswell Report, 2021) Projects

"upto 216 million people could be internally displaced by climate change by 2050."

As Paul Ehrlich warned in "The Population Bomb";

"overpopulation is not just a social problem; it is an environmental & climatic one."

Pakistan As a Case Study;

Pakistan exemplifies this vicious cycle;

5th most populous country with growth

rate nearly equal to 2%.
Contribute less than 1% of global emissions but ranks among the top 10 most Climate-vulnerable countries.
High population growth strains water availability (per capita water below the scarcity threshold).

According to Pakistan Economic Survey (2023) :-

"Climate stress combined with demographic pressure is emerging as a serious threat to food, water & economic security."

Way forward : Breaking the cycle :-

1 **Integrating population policy with Climate Action;**
Promote family planning and reproductive health. Invest in female education has strong inverse link with fertility.

2 **Sustainable Development Pathways:-**
Renewable energy transition
Climate - smart agriculture
Water efficient Urban planning

3 **Climate Adaptation & Resilience:-**
Disaster-resilient infrastructure
Social safety
Climate finance for vulnerable populations.

The UN Secretary-Genral Antonio Guterres rightly observes;

"Climate change is a threat multiplier-it amplifies existing demographic, social and economic pressures."

Conclusions:-

Population growth and climate change reinforce eachother in a self-perpetuating vicious cycle, especially in developing countries. Managing this nexus requires integrated policies that adress demographics, development and decarbonization simultaneously. Without population-sensitive climate strategies and climate-aware population planning, sustainable development will remain elusive.

Q 6 Date: M T W T F S

What Pakistan needs the most; new Province or effective Local governance? Take a stance & Explain your answer through arguments.

→ Pakistan needs effective Local governance far more urgently than the creation of new Provinces.

1 Constitutional & Administrative logic :-

According to Constitution of Pakistan (Article 140-A) mandates that " Political, administrative & financial Powers Shall be devolved to elected Local governments."

However this constitutional provision has never been fully implemented.

According to Dr. Sultan Khan (Local Government in Pakistan) Local governments serve as the foundation of democratic service delivery, ensuring participation, accountability and responsiveness.

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→ Thus strengthening what already exists constitutionally is more urgent than creating new provinces, which is not constitutionally required.

2 Governance Gap is at Local Level, Not the Provincial Boundry level;

According to World Bank recent update on Pakistan (2025), Strengthening local governance are crucial for improving public services (health, water, sanitation) and delivering development.

According to Asian Development Bank, Focuses on improving Pakistan's local governance by addressing weak financial autonomy, Political interference and Poor service delivery through strategic support, technical assistance & investment in urban infrastructure, recognizing systemic issues from past military rule & advocating for stronger local democracy, better funding & coordination.

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According to Cheema & Mohmad (LSA Research), Pakistan's core governance failure is poor service delivery, weak accountability, corruption & lack of citizen voice.

Creating new provinces does not fix;

- dysfunctional municipalities
- Broked district administration
- Weak revenue collection
- Centralized provincial control

Only effective local governments can address these gaps.

3 **New Provinces Create Massive Administrative & Political costs;**

From Pakistani federalism studies (S.L. Kelly's "World constitutions")

Creating new provinces requires;

- new Assemblies → new secretariates
- new police, taxation → large recurrent budget & administrative structure

This can creat;

Bureaucratic expansion

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Political Bargaining
Inter-Provincial tensions
Further ethnic Polarization.
Example → from South Punjab debate
Show that political consensus is weak
& costs are extremly high.
2010 → 18th amendment → NWFP → KP
↓
cost

→ Strengthening local governments is
Cheaper, faster and more constitutionally
Straightforward.

4 **Local Governance Directly Improves Service Delivery;**

According to UNDP Pakistan & Punjab
Local government commission reports,
devolved local System Improves;
→ Wast managment
→ water Supply
→ health & education access
→ local disputes resolution
→ Municipal Planning

Provinces are too far from the citizens
to manage everyday Service needs.

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New Provinces may change political maps, but they do not automatically improves Schools, hospitals, Sanitation, or municipal Services.

5 Local Governments Control Only 5-7% of Public Expenditure:

According to the World Bank Pakistan Public Expenditure Review, "Pakistan is one of the most centralized federation in the world in fiscal terms." Provinces control almost everything;

→ Funds → development Schemes
→ Recruitment → Local taxation

When 93%+ Spending is at fedral/provincial level, no number of Provinces can fix governance without true devolution.

6 International Evidances favours Strong local Governance Over New Administrative Units:-

From comparative Studies (S.L. Kelly, "World constitutions" & UN habitat);

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Countries like Turkey, Indonesia, UK, Germany strengthened local governments rather than fragmented Provinces.

Effective municipalities generate better development outcomes than redrawing boundaries.

7 **Public Demands also favours Services, Not New Provinces;**

Dawn, PIDE research & Gallup Pakistan Surveys Show;

Citizens demand clean water, roads, safety, education, jobs.

→ non of these requires new provincial borders only responsive local governments.

Conclusion:-

Pakistan does not need more Provinces at this stage. It needs effective, empowered & financialy autonomous local governments.

→ New Provinces;

→ Politically divisive

→ costly

→ donot fix delivery problem

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Effective local governance:

Constitutionally mandated
Improves Service delivery
Strengthens democracy
enhances accountability
Reduced provincial workload

Therefore, Pakistan's priority must be full of implementation of Article 140-A, fiscal devolution, empowered local council and genuine grassroots democracy.

Q7.

CENTRIPETAL & CENTRIFUGAL FORCES OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION IN PAKISTAN :-

Introduction:-

National integration is the process through which diverse ethnic, linguistic, cultural and regional groups unite to form a cohesive national identity. In Pakistan, this process has been deeply affected by historical legacies, governance patterns, and uneven socio-economic development. As Dr Safdar Mahmood (1999) aptly observes,

"The success of Pakistan as a state depends not only on its survival as a political entity but on the creation of an emotional and ideological unity among its peoples."

Pakistan integration process reflects a persistent struggle between centripetal (integrative) and centrifugal (fragmenting) forces.

1. Centripetal Forces (Forces of Integration) :-

1 **Islamic Ideology :-**

The most significant centripetal force is Islam, which provides a shared moral, cultural and spiritual identity. Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah emphasized that,

"Pakistan was created because Muslims desired to live according to their own faith and culture."
— 1948, Dhaka

According to Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed, "Islamic Symbolism still serves as the ideological glue binding Pakistan's diverse groups."
— 2017, Lahore Journal of Policy Studies.

3 **Urdu Language as National Symbol:-**

Despite being native to a small minority, Urdu symbolizes Muslim unity and cultural identity.
K. K. Aziz (2001) in "The Making of Pakistan" notes that Urdu acted as a "linguistic cement" for the Muslim nationhood project.
The Stat's promotion of Urdu as lingua franca remains a key integrative attempt, although it also created tension (notably in East Pakistan).

3 **Armed forces & National Institutions:-**

The Pakistan Armed forces function as one of the strongest unifying institutions due to their discipline, national presence and perceived neutrality.

Ayesha Siddiqa (2007) argues that military centralized authority "ensured administrative cohesion when civilian politics fractured."

National institutions like the Supreme Court, Election Commission, and civil services also symbolize unity and governance.

4 **Shared Struggles & National Crises :-**

Natural disasters (like the 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods) and external threats particularly from India and Afghanistan have often fostered temporary national solidarity.

IPRI Journal reports that "crises have acted as a catalyst for rediscovering national identity, though the effects remain episodic".

5 **Media & Connectivity :-**

Expansion of electronic & digital media, particularly after 2005, has fostered cultural exchange and national awareness.

PIDE Policy viewpoint ~~2023~~ states that "the rise of a shared media culture is reinforcing inter-provincial understanding among youth."

2- CENTRIFUGAL FORCES (FORCES OF DISINTEGRATION) :-

1 **Ethnic & Liguistic Diversity :-**

Pakistan's multi ethnic composition in which Punjabi, Pustun, Sindhi, Suraiki, Baloch, had lead to competing regional identities.

Hamza Alavi in State and Ideology in Pakista, described Pakistan as "a State dominated by a central elite, alienated from its peripheral ethnic groups".

Tension in Balochistan, Sindh and former FATA reflect persistent demands for autonomy and recognition.

2 **Unequal Economic Development:-**

Economic concentration in Punjab and Karachi has caused perception of economic injustice.

World Bank 2023, Pakistan Development Update; notes that "Uneven resources allocation fuels Provincial resentment and weakens integration."

The Balochistan insurgency is often rooted in grievances over resources extraction without local benefit.

3 **Political instability & Centralization**

Frequent militar intervention & weak federalism have undermined trust among provinces.

Ayesha Jalal, in "The State of Martial Rule", asserts;

"Pakistan's problem is not too much diversity but too little democracy to accommodate it."

The over-centralized fedral structure prevents equitable political participation.

4 **Language Controversies:-**

The Urdu-Bengali Controversy (1948-1952) symbolized the failure of linguistic accommodation.

Richard Sison and Leo Rose in "War & Secession" argue that "linguistic hegemony became a catalyst for secessionist nationalism."

5 **Religious & Sactarian Divisions:-**

While Islam is a unifying force, sectarian fragmentation (Sunni-Shia, Deobandi—Barelvi divides) has grown.

International Crisis Group reports that sactarian violence "undermines Pakistan's ideological cohesion and fosters localized identities."

6 **External Interference:-**

Regional rivalries (especially with India and Afghanistan) and foreign interventions in Pakistan's internal politics have exacerbated ethnic divisions e.g support for separatist groups.

Effects on National Integration

Positive (centripetal Effects)	Negative (centrifugal effects)
Promotion of shared Islamic & national Identity	Persistent provincialism & ethnic nationalism.
Strengthening of National institution like Army, judiciary.	Distrust in federal Govt & elite capture.
Emergence of youth-based national media culture.	Decline of interprovincial harmony & policy polarization.
Periodic unit in crises	Secession of East Pakistan (1971) as historic reminder.

Result → Despite unifying symbols, Pakistan's nation-building remains incomplete.

As Dr. Moonis Ahmar (University of Karachi) summarizes;

"Pakistan's national integration is constrained not by diversity itself, but by inequity, exclusion & the absence of participatory governance."

WAY FORWARD:-

1 **Strengthen federalism:-**
Full implementation of 18th amendment to empower provinces.

2 Equitable Economic policies:-
Resource Sharing through transparent NFC award.

3 Inclusive National curriculum:-
Reflecting regional histories within a national framework.

4 Political decentralization:-
Empower local Govt for participatory democracy.

5 Interfaith & Interethnic Harmony programs:-
promote pluralism as part of national ideology.

6 Merit Based Governance:-
Reduce elite capture through institutional accountability.

Conclusion:-

National integration in Pakistan is an evolving process oscillating between unity through shared faith & division through inequity & exclusion. The centripetal forces of ideology, defence & national identity often collide with centrifugal pressure of ethnicity, inequality & centralization.
As Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah reminded the nation in 1948,
"We are now all pakistanis — not Baluchis, Pathans, Sindhis, Bengalis, or punjabis — and as a pakistanis we must feel, behave and act and we should be proud to be known as pakistanis and nothing else."

Q 8

ECNOMIC GOVERNANCE IN PAKISTAN: Systemic & STRUCTURAL WEAKNESSES

Ecnomic governance in pakistan suffers from deep systemic & structural flaws in managing public resources and in the unclear role of the state in the economy.

1 Weak Fiscal Managment & Unsustainable Public finances:

Public resources are consumed by current expenditures (salaries, pensions, subsidies) leaving little for development, showing structural fiscal weakness.

Pakistan Ecnomic Survey & IMF Article IV (2023) repeatedly highlight chronic weaknesses in fiscal governance:

- → Persistent fiscal deficit due to low tax-to-GDP ratio (9-10%).
- → Overdependence on direct taxes, causing regressive outcomes.
- → Poor public investment planning and weak monitoring of development projects (PDWP & CDWP).
- → High domestic and external borrowing to finance non-development expenditures.

Dr Ishrat Husain notes that Pakistan's fiscal institutions lack: "discipline, transparency, and medium-term planning" (Governing the Ungo

2 **Political Economy Capture & Elite-Driven Resources Allocation:-**

Resources allocation follows political pressure rather than national priorities (agriculture, real estate and trading sectors are privileged whil manufacturing and innovation remain neglected.
World Bank Country Echomic Memorendum identifies "elite capture of policy" as a core structural problem.
According to PIDE's Reform Agenda 2021, Focused: Pakistan must focused on deep institutional changes for sustained growth, emphasizing level playing field, productivity, investment, meritocracy and depoliticizing the state, moving from colonial-era system to modern, citizen-centric governance.
According to Issues in Pakistan Economy by Akbar Zaidi, " The elite in Pakistan have used their power and influence to appropriate resources and benefits for themselves, rather than allowing them to be used for the benefit of broader population. This has led to a highly unequal & unjust distribution of resources, with the elite capturing a disproportionate share of the country's wealth & oppurtunities."

3 **Weak Regulatory Capacity & Policy Inconsistency:**

Pakistan economic governance suffers from

weak regulatory institutions and frequent policy reversals, creating uncertainty for markets and investors.
"Frequent policy shifts in trade, taxation, and energy pricing discourage long-term private investment."
-World Bank "Pakistan Development update 2023"
Overlapping mandates between fedral & provincial institutions after the 18th amendment create confusion in Regulation (agriculture, energy, water).
-PIDE working paper on institutional

4 **Fedral- Provincial Coordination Issues:-**

After the 18th constitutional Amendment, responsibilities for health, education and local devolved to provinces. However the absence of clear fiscal framework and weak coordination has led to; overlaping mandates, duplication of projects, delays in budget execution and inconsistent service delivery. The 7th NFC award increase provincial fiscal autonomy, but without strengthening provincial capacity. This lead to fragmented fiscal discipline and weak intergovernmental coordination.
Asian Development Bank (ADB, 2022), found that overlapping expenditure responsibilities have blurred accountability between fedral and provincial levels.

5 Ineffeciency of Public Enterprises:-
State-owned Enterprises (SOEs) such as PIA, Pakistan Railway and DISCOs drain public finances due to political interference, overstaffing and corruption.
According to IMF (2023), losses from major SOEs exceed 2% of GDP annually.
Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE 2021) described SOE reforms as "perpetually delayed due to vested interests".

6 Lack of Clarity in State Intervention:-

(a) Policy inconsistancy & Ad-hocism:-
Government interventions in agriculture (wheat support prices), Energy (tariff subsidies) and foreign exchange markets (import controls) are often reactionary rather than strategic.
State Bank of Pakistan (Annual report 2023) criticized "frequent administrative measures in exchange rate managment" that undermine investor confidence.
IMF (2024) → "Industrial policy decisions are inconsistent and lack evidence-based assessment."
(b) Regulatory Capture:-
Institutions like NEPRA, OGRA &

SECP face Political capture, limiting their autonomy and credibility.
Transparency International pakistan 2023 ranked 133/180 while in 2025 dropped by 2 spots 135/180.

Consequences of Poor Economic Governance :-

Chronic fiscal deficit and rising debt-to-GDP ratio (above 75% as per IMF 2024).
Low Private investment due to uncertain Policy environment.
Inflationary Pressures from inefficient Subsidies & Poor Public Spending.
Erosion of institutional credibility, leading to declining foreign investor confidence.

Way forward:-

1 Public finance Reform
Implement a Medium-term Budgetary framework and enhance fiscal transparency (World Bank 2024).

2 SOE Privatization:-
Adopt performance-based governance models (IMF).

3 Regulatory Strengthening
Ensure independence of economic regulators (ADB, 2022)

4 **Rule-based State Intervention**
Shift from ad-hoc to evidence-based policymaking using cost-benefit analysis.

5 **Digital Governance Tools:-**
Introduce e-Procurement & fiscal ~~making~~ monitoring dashboards to reduce corruption (UNDP, 2023).

Conclusion:-

Pakistan's economic governance crises is not one of intent but of institutional design and implementation. Without deep structural reforms to public financial management, regulatory autonomy, and political accountability, the State's role in economic management will remain ambiguous and distortionary. Building a rules-based governance structure is crucial for sustainable economic revival & policy credibility.