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Subjective: Part II

Q #4: Climate Change And Pakistan:

Introduction:

The question statement can be broken into various parts for better analysis. Firstly, "Climate change is not only a threat to environment, but also to the economic security of Pakistan" can be seen in the adverse impacts it has on agriculture, livelihoods, health system, overall economic productivity, education and resources such as water. Secondly, the latter part of the statement "Without population planning

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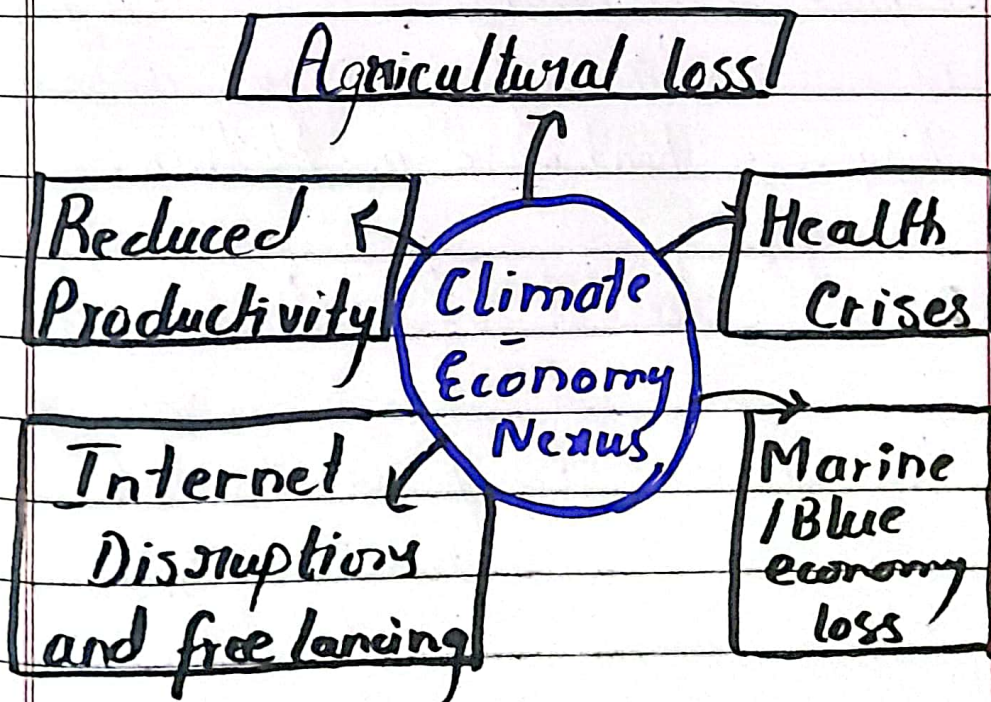
and proper mitigation strategies, climate-induced disasters in Pakistan would become more intense.

The latter part of the pop statement which relates population growth and climate is another dimension to Pakistan's climate predicament.

More people, less resources and the ultimate need to produce more resources, not only puts economic strain amid climate crises, but also risks civil war, unemployment, poverty, terrorism. Proper mitigation strategies like climate resilient infrastructure, dams, rain harvesting, A.T based early warning systems can mitigate these crises.

(A) Climate Change and economic security of Pakistan:-

The 2022 floods and U.N's \$30 billion loss estimation in Pakistan is a proof to how climate change and economic security form an inextricable link. Following are a few ways climate change fuels economic instability:



(1)

Agricultural losses:

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy of Pakistan with more than 50% of population being employed in the sector. Climate change, by prolonged draughts, frequent flooding and changing rainfall patterns damages and reduces productivity. The 2022 floods fueled expensive imports of grain to satiate national needs, the 2024 mango export substantially reduced due to pre-mature ripening of mangoes in May 2024 heat wave in Multan.

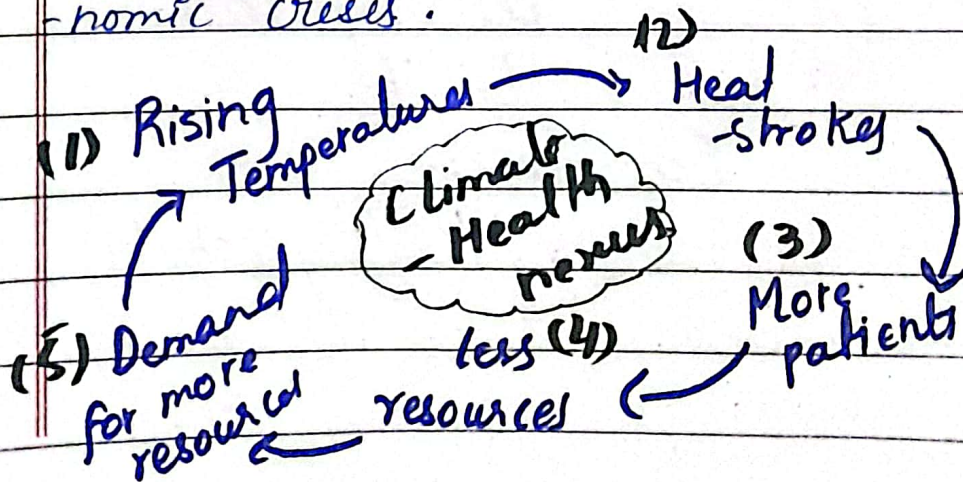
(2) Reduced Productivity:-

During heat waves, people tend to return to their homes early, specially outdoor vendors like labourers, shopkeepers. This reduces working

hours in Pakistan where majority is employed in outdoor-informal economy.

(3) Health Crises: Burdened Health Systems

Back in May 2022, hospitals in Lahore, Multan and Karachi were filled with patients of heat strokes, low blood pressure and other heat-induced disorders. The health system was out of beds, ORS (oral rehydration solution), medicines and even staff. This is an evidence of how climate change can burden the state with additional economic spending amid impending socio-economic crises.



(4) Marine life: Blow to Blue Economy

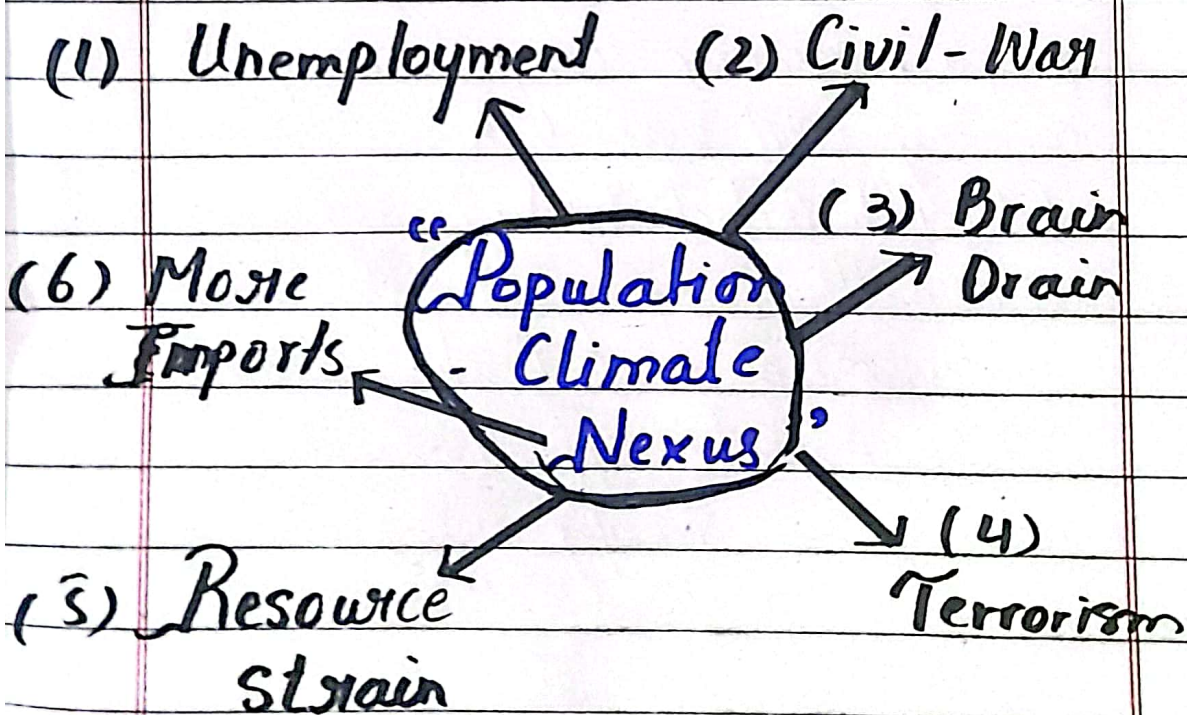
Rising Temperatures of sea have jeopardized the survival and well-being of marine life. Fish, a staple food in coastal regions of Pakistan as well as export material, is threatened by rising ocean temperatures, floods and droughts. This not only threatens the food security of coastal regions, but also destabilizes Pakistan's balance of trade.

(5) Internet Disruptions : loss to Digital Economy:-

Digital economy, trading, stocks, freelancing and youtube earning, is a significant contributor to

Pakistan's foreign reserves - Storms, heavy rainfall and floods cause internet disruptions, load-shedding and hence loss of productive hours, clients and remittances boosting foreign reserves.

(B) Population Growth and Climate Change: : "intensification of climate-induced disasters"



(1) Unemployment:

Growing population and diminishing resources due to climate disasters threatens employment opportunities. This results in aggravated climate-induced disasters like unemployment.

(2) Civil War:

With less resources and more people, resource competition peaks, causing civil war between provinces (Punjab-Balochistan). In the case of Sindh-Punjab, climate-induced water crises and tussle for reforms in IRSA water apportionment accord can intensify interprovincial rivalries.

(3) Brain Drain:-

With growing population, climate disasters and resource competition, brain drain of skilled personnel is another manifestation of climate induced disasters.

According to Pakistan Bureau for Immigration, and Pakistan Economic Survey 2024, over 13 million Pakistani skilled personnel (doctors, CA's, engineers) have left the state.

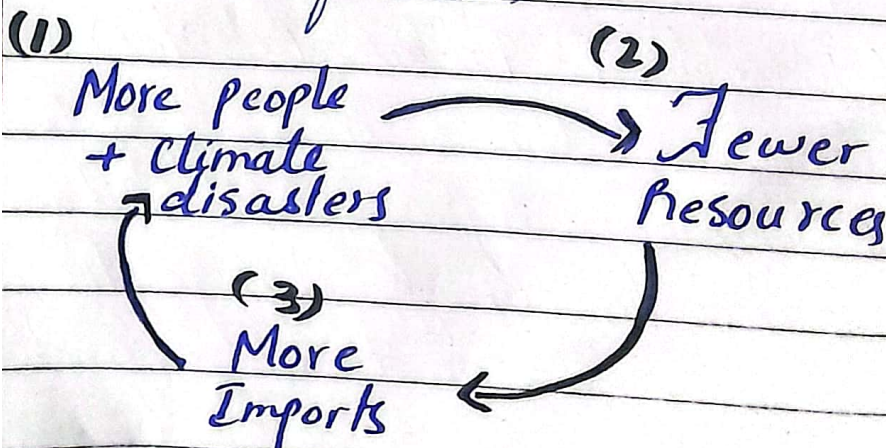
(4) Terrorism: Exploitation of the poor:

Terrorist factions like TIP (Tehreek-e-E-Taliban Pakistan) manipulate the resentment of the socio-economically aggrieved civilians impacted by climate change. The promise to provide livelihood and employment to the climate-stricken

poor people is how climate induced disasters and population growth can interplay to threaten national security.

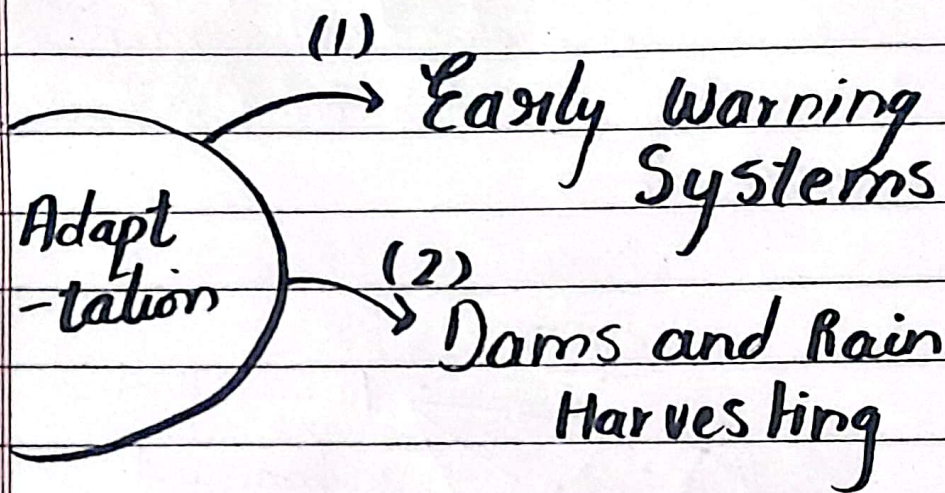
(5) Highest Population = Highest Imports

Diminishing food resources, along with climate disasters places burden on government to import more food and commodities for the growing population straining state's budget and increasing hitting the trade balance negatively (negative balance of trade).



(C) Mitigation

Strategies: "The Way Forward"

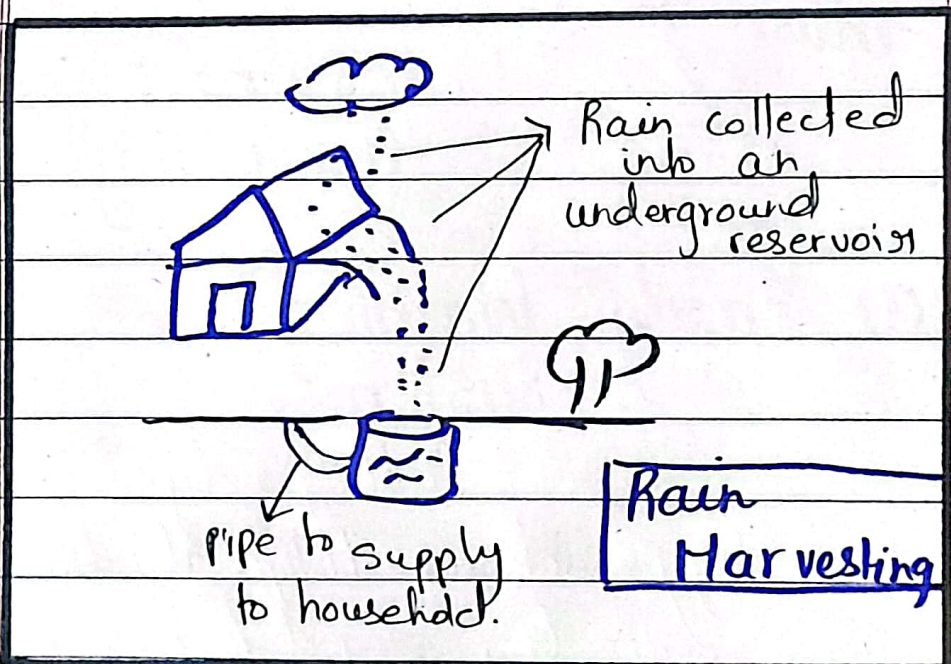


(1) Early-Warning Systems:

Cutting edge technology such as Artificial Intelligence can be employed to ensure early harvestation, evacuation and preparation for disaster risk management.

(2) Dams and Rain Harvesting:

To prevent floods, preserve water resources and mitigate unsafe water crises, dams and rain harvesting are two vital mitigation strategies.



(D) Conclusion:

Concluding it all, old ways won't open new doors. Hence Pakistan should adapt, improvise and strategically

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plan the incumbent threat of climate change while securing its economy, intellectual assets, and national security.

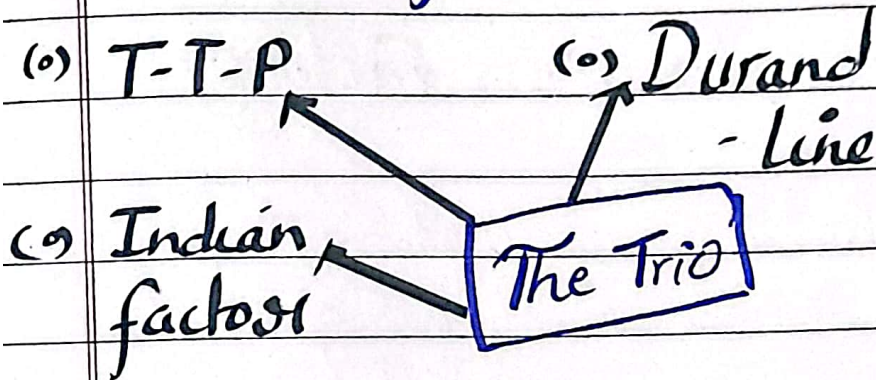
Q# 5: Pak-Afghan Relations: "Nature and dynamics"

Introduction:

The statement that "Pak-Afghan relations are of economic rather security-centric nature and influence of non-state actors" is an over-statement. On the surface, the deportation of 10 million Afghans, border fencing to combat illegal trade amid economic crises might seem that Pakistan's unilateral actions are driven

by economic factors, but. ~~the~~ in reality, the underlying factors are more security centric and driven by the influence of non-state actors. Afghanistan's relentless provision of safe haven to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (a non-state actor), its inclination towards India and reluctance to withdraw support to terrorist factions in Pakistan is what has compelled Pakistan to initiate cross-border attacks, assert diplomatic pressure via deportation and economic fencing as well as condemn the latter internationally. Hence, in the light of these factors, it can be clearly seen, that Pak-Afghan ties are not economic, but security centric and driven by non-state actors.

(A) Security Factors in Pak-Afghan ties:-

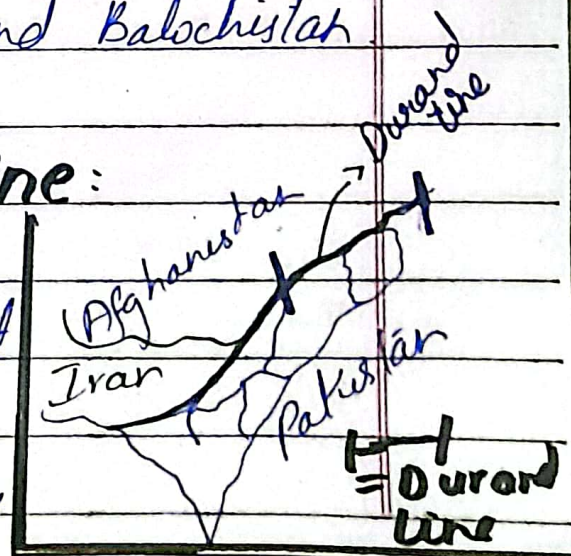


(1) T-T-P = Provision of Safe-Haven

The Afghan soil is being used by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to orchestrate cross border attacks on FATA, KPK and Balochistan

(2) Durand-Line:

Afghanistan's constant re-iteration to go beyond the durand line



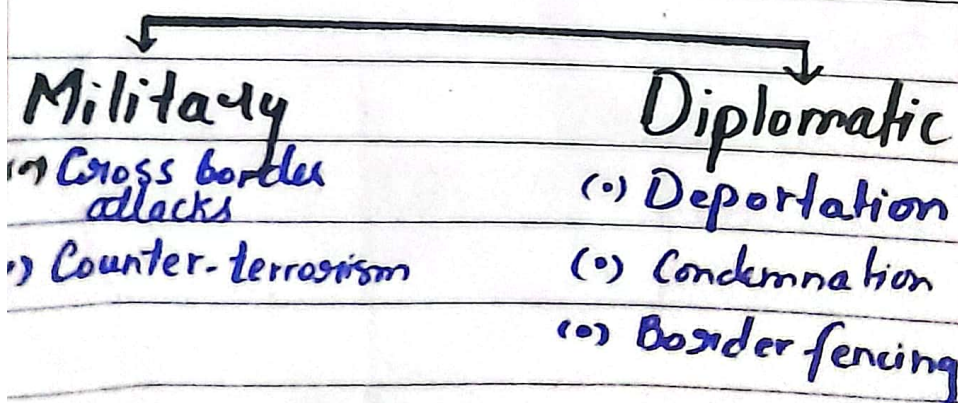
and annex more territory in FATA adds another security dimension to Pak-Afghan ties.

3) The Indian Factor:-

Afghanistan's inclination towards the hostile neighbour of Pakistan, India, alarms Pakistani authorities over potential ramifications.

(B) Pakistan's

Response: "Driven by Security Concerns":-



(1) Diplomatic: "Response"

(1.1) Deportation:

The businesses held by Afghans living in Pakistan is a part of Pakistan's economy. Yet, the government decided to let go of these businesses and deport their owners back to their parent state. This is a proof that Pakistan's actions are driven by security concerns and hence Pak-Afghan ties are more security centric than economic.

(1.2) Condemnation:-

The condemnation by Pakistani diplomats such as Maleeha Lodhi and Muneer Akram at U.N is itself a testament to the security primacy of security in driving

Pak-Afghan inter-state relations.

(1.3) Borders Fencing:

The main objective to block borders like Chaman (hub of illegal trade) is not just protecting Pakistan's economy, but preventing infiltration of terrorists and weapons under the guise of trade. This also proves that security is the driving force in the relations between the two states.

(2) Military Response:

(2.1) Cross Border Attacks:

Pakistan's attacks on Afghanistan in May 2024 and then December 2024 after the latter killed security personnel and innocent

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civilian shows how security plays a key role in their relations.

(2.2) Counter-Terrorism:

After diplomatic failures, Pakistan resort to operations like Zarb-e-Azb in 2015 and Atm-E-Istehkham in 2024 (present) to counter and neutralise TTP sponsored by Afghanistan shows how security, rather than economic factors determine the trajectory of Pak-Afghan ties.

Conclusion:-

Afghanistan's role in Pakistan's national security (fighting terrorism) over-shadows the primacy and role of other factors (economic) in shaping Pak-Afghan ties. Hence, security has historically as well as contemporarily been the determining variable of

the two Muslim states.

Q #6:- "Evaluation of Pakistan's Economic Predicament"

Introduction:-

The question statement offers a rich insight into the economic dilemma of Pakistan. Firstly, "We just need quick money" refers to aid and loan seeking tendencies of Pakistan, historical as well as contemporary. Secondly, "Without an assessment of why we are where we are" refers to failure and inability to identify the systemic failures and root causes that have brought

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us to external doors, indebtedness and economic collapse. Thirdly, after getting quick money, our next failure lies in "^{our own plan} ~~planning~~ to stabilize, reform and restructure to put an end to never ending economic tragedy". "Our plan" indicates how "beggars can't be choosers" (Shahbaz Shareef in a press conference) and our inability and lack of autonomy to formulate a plan tailored to our needs.

(A) Pakistan's Economic Plight: "loans and Dependancy"

(1) - No foresight:

Pakistan has acquired 24 loans from IMF alone since 1968. This inherent feature of debt and aid seeking has been a major source of economic crises. From getting "quick money" in 1979 Afghan Jihad,

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to 9/11, the quest for quick money brought unwanted and unseen ramifications like terrorism, drug culture and humanitarian losses. These factors and consequences fueled instability and economic crises, rendering the 'quick money' pointless and fruitless.

(B) No Self Reflection:-

"without an assessment of why we are where we are"

The failure and inability to self-reflect and point out systemic causes of economic crises jeopardizes the prospects for economic prosperity in Pakistan.

(1) Failure to identify a failed Education System:-

A redundant, obsolete and skill-less education system which produces crammers for the practical world is an inherent feature of Pakistan's education system. Skill-less graduates for the skill-seeking corporate world is driving unemployment and dissatisfied youth in Pakistan.

(2) Failure to reflect upon corruption and unaccountability:

Embezzlement of funds, aid, loans as well as tax evasion deplete the foreign reserves and render the 'quick money' ineffective. A Chinese firm recently took a bureaucrat to NAB as he demanded an apert

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-ment in Burj Khalifa as a bribe. One should ponder, who would prefer opening businesses in a state drowned in red-tape and corruption.

(3) Reliance on unsustainable growth practices:

o (3-1) fossil conundrum:

The reliance on expensive fossil fuels for industrial as well as domestic consumption causes the foreign reserves, loans and aid to evaporate quickly initiating another vicious cycle of loan seeking and industrial stagnation.

(C) Failure to Reform, Stabilize and Re-structure:

The failure of Pakistan to exert autonomy over its fiscal

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matter stems from its dependance on donors (IMF). SAP's (Structural Adjustment Programmes) attached with these loans limit Pakistan's autonomy to exert control over areas that can assure stability and sustainability, like:

(1) Skill development and education reforms:

Fiscal cuts and austerity measures prevent the government from following an independent educational policy.

(2) Transition to Green Energy:

Liberalisation, currency depreciation and inflation leaves no fiscal space to import or develop green energy projects.

Conclusion:

Lack of autonomy, fiscal space, poor administration of funds and corruption, red tape and embezzlement characterise the plight of Pakistan's economic tragedy.

"Beggars Can't Be
Choosers"

Q#7: Industry
- Agriculture
Nexus in
Pakistan:

Introduction :-

The statement that Pakistan is a semi-industrialised country

heavily dependant on agriculture
and elucidates the partial state
of industrialisation in Pakistan.
with a hybrid model of formal
and informal economy. The Phrase
"heavily dependant on agriculture"
is evident via surveys showing
more than 50% population from
lower, upper and elite classes
being employed in agriculture.
The latter part of the statement
"problems in the latter affect
the farmer" can be seen in
industrial stagnation, closure,
failure amid climate induced
disasters, farmer strikes and
food shortage.

(A) Semi-Industrialisation in Pakistan:

Semi-industrialisation or partial
industrialisation is seen as follows:

(1) Traditional Businesses:

Handmade pottery, traditional sewing and embroidery methods and self-employment in food businesses, carts shows that Pakistan is not fully industrialised and certain families rely on traditional, instead of industrial methods, to generate income.

(2) Traditional Farming Practices:

Traditional methods of irrigation, ploughing (via animals) shows how Pakistan is not fully reliant on industrialisation yet.

(B) "Pakistan is heavily reliant on Agriculture"

(1) Food Businesses:

(1.1) Snacks and Beverages:

Snacks like Bunty Slantly, B.P spacer, Chilli Milli and everyone's favourite "Cocomo" owned by business tycoon and former finance minister Miftah Ismail shows how even the privileged are reliant on agriculture in Pakistan.

(1.2) Exports: Agriculture Driven:

(2.1) Sugar Mills, Rice Mills:
Pakistan's sugar and rice, which are major export items

are based on agriculture.

(2.2) Textile industry:

Pakistan's textile exports are heavily reliant on locally produced cotton.

(2.3) Fruits: major exports:

Oranges, Multani mangoes and dry fruits like Walnuts, Cajuns, Pistas and almonds are exported to various regions of the world.

(C) The Industry - Agriculture nexus: "An inextricable link"

In the light of above mentioned data, the link between Pakistan's industrial sector and agriculture can be easily deduced: the latter provides

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the former with raw material.

A change in latter affects the former undoubtedly by:

(1) Determining the cost-price:

Climate disasters and subsequent food and grain shortages can inflate the prices of raw materials ultimately increasing the final product price, its accessibility, its success (whether people will buy an inflated product or not).

In a striking example, a boy on X (formerly twitter) complained about the surging prices and diminishing size of cocomo, to which Miftah Ismail (owner) ~~is~~ blamed it on surging prices of sugar, wheat and other raw materials.

Conclusion:

In the light of above mentioned arguments, the state of industrialization in Pakistan, the state of agriculture in Pakistan and the inextricable link between the two can easily be pointed out.
