

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS MOCK

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SECTION - B

QUESTION No-4

Climate change Forward.

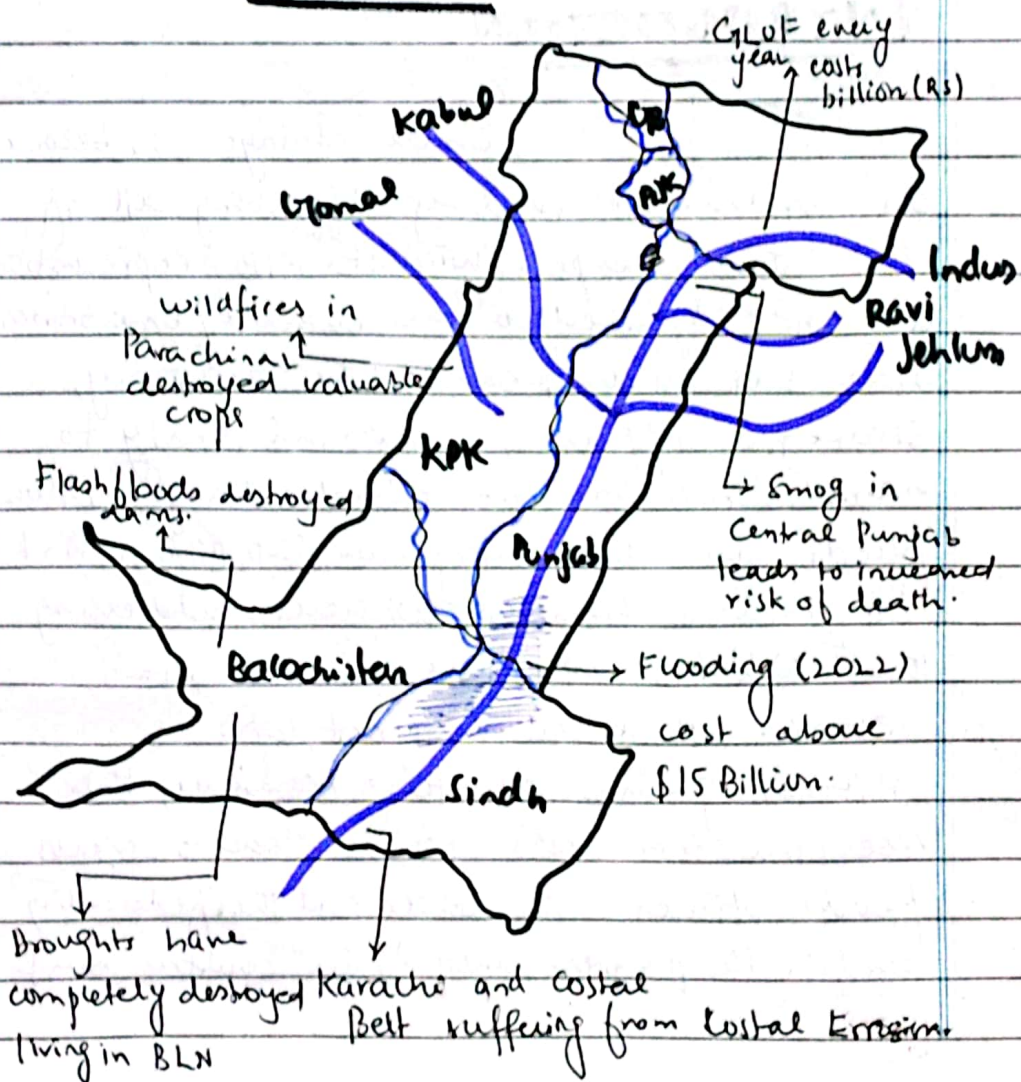
INTRODUCTION

Climate change has become an undeniable reality affecting all of the world, especially Pakistan. Its repercussions are not limited to the climate/environmental side but also spread to the economy, strategic affairs, national unity to name some. In 2022, climate change induced floods cost the country over \$20 Billion and left millions homeless. Without addressing the ^{issue} Pakistan will lose out on vital resources that will be spent (or) on mitigating the disasters. Moreover, the reconstruction costs would lead to serious feuds between the center and the federating units. To progress ahead, the country must

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holistically tackle this issue by planning from the ground up and creating opportunities that cater the future needs.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECONOMIC SECURITY OF PAKISTAN



Wild fires burnt valuable forests in Parachinar

Due to hot and dry conditions and low rain, the wild forests which had trees of pine nuts, walnuts and other dry fruits were burnt through. The local as well as national economy depended on exports of these, but lost on it due to climate induced disasters.

"Dry Fruits, including pine nuts and walnuts, prices skyrocketed in the aftermath of Korum/Parachinar Wildfires."

Rainfall Cycles have changed leaving growers confused

Areas where agriculture depended on rainfall have been hit the hardest. The change in rainfall patterns have brought drought-like

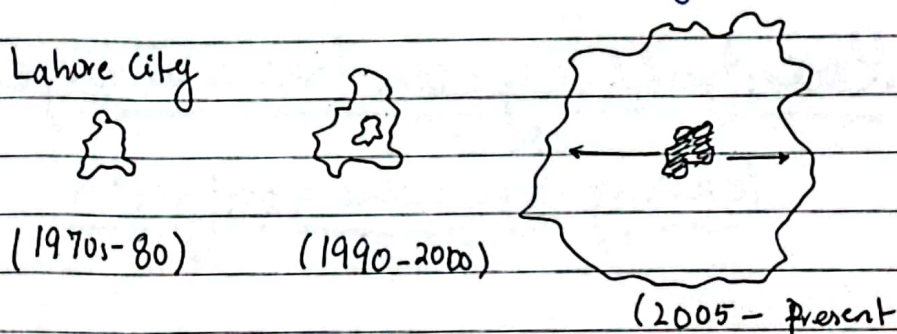
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Central Punjab &
conditions to areas of the Potohar Plateau.
Farmers have now started burning crops in
order to take advantage to the small
sowing window.

"Met Office in December issued
a drought advisory as the
number of dry days crossed 150
days in the upper Potohar
Plateau."

Cost of Rural to Urban Migration

The countries cities are buckling under the
load of the increased rural-urban migration.
Cities sprawl and start occupying agricultural
land and natural barriers such as forests.



"Over the course of 40-50
years, Lahore has sprawled
over 10,000 hectares"

(Urban Unit)

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Flash flooding and GLOF in Northern Areas

As temperatures rise and summer are prolonged, the snow melt increases. So much so, they form glacial lakes near the mountainous regions. When these lakes rupture, people living downstream, ultimately become entrapped.

“ 2022, Kalam suffered flash floods due to which all of the hotels and restaurants were submerged and the total cost to repair the city was estimated in the billions.”

SOLUTIONS FOR PROGRESSING SUSTAINABLY

Developing Intermediate Cities

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Intermediate cities are defined as those having a population not more than 1 million. These cities in Pakistan, do not have proper infrastructure and industries for the local population. By developing them, the country can alleviate the burden of major cities.

"PICIIP (Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Investment Program) plans to modernize cities in 7 districts by upgrading infrastructure and developing environment for sustainable industrialization."

Cutting Transport Emissions to Combat Smog

"76% of all emissions contributing to smog originate from vehicular exhaust."

(Urban Unit)

Smog causes losses in the tune of millions. It is a major hassle as industries and private

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companies lose out on work days. By developing mass-transit solutions on the provincial scale, the country can hope to combat this menace and restore productivity to above normal standards.

Local Governments to lead fight against Pollution

Local governments play a vital role as they allow for communal participation and responsibility. The federal or provincial governments neither have the capacity nor the ^{ability} ~~responsibility~~ to administer change at the local level. If pollution needs to be combated local government participation is a must.

Planning for the future Population

The country's current population is 240.7 million according to the latest census exercise. It is

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high time that the government focus on the following.

Population Planning Approach

- Focus on slowing growth curve
- Educating about the prospects of family planning
- Bringing Religious minds on board to counter misinformation.

Planning for the future

- Accomodating existing in the economy
- Providing sustainable opportunities to all
- Making ^{available} the resources for future generations
- Increasing sustainable industries.

CONCLUSION

Pakistan is in a dire situation, where on one hand the country suffers from climate change and the country has to walk a tight fiscal rope. The only way to get out of this quagmire is by enabling a bottom-up approach to development and combatting this menace led by the center and

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implemented by the Units. Only by empowering the bottom-tier can be the country fight off climate change.

QUESTION No. 6

INTRODUCTION

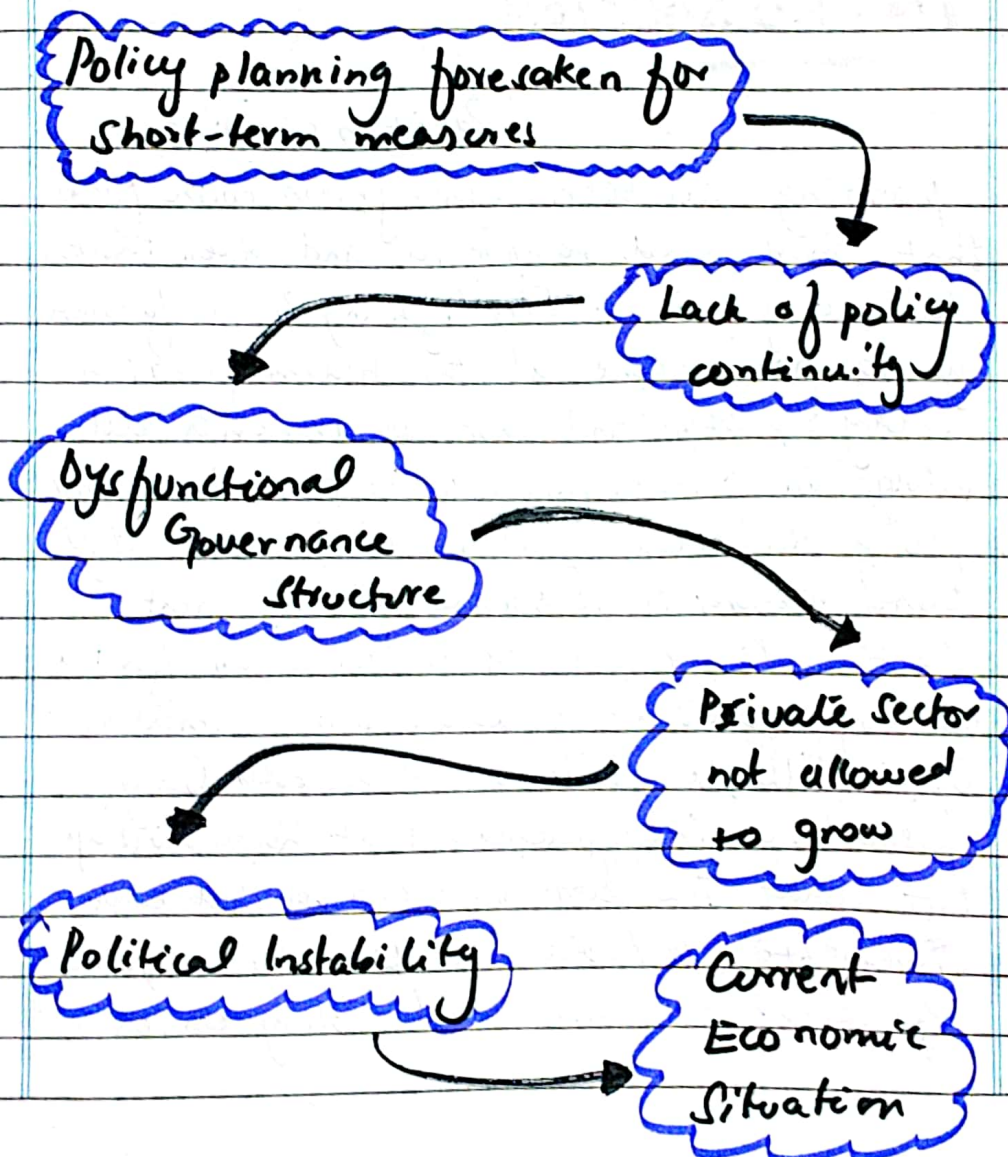
Pakistan's economic planning has been synonymous with fixes that short-lived, temporary and often that lack any vision. Firefighting is a favorite go-to for anyone at the helm of affairs. Today, present and past governments all indulge in firefighting. All of them lack any policy direction what so ever. The goal of these measures is to survive until the next elections. Policy planning is foresaken for the cost of political actions. It is a mixture of multiple problems and decades long structural inefficiencies that have built up into what the current scenario is. That even firefighting is futile. Tackling this requires political, economic and policy consensus

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to plan our way through the quagmire.

PAKISTAN'S ECONOMIC PLIGHT

REASONS FOR MISFORTUNE



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Short-term policy measures instead of long-term planning

The current economic situation has forced not only the present but all those before it to plan for the next week or even less. The government of the day is busy at fire fighting. As soon as it recovers from one problem it faces another. All problems of the economy are interlinked and cannot be solved with mere fire fighting.

Lack of Policy Continuity

In a bid to remove their predecessors legacy successive government eliminate all schemes that the previous ones left in place

A policy requires 20-30 years to mature and only then can its benefits be reaped, but if every 5 years policy is revoked, then

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no progress can ever be achieved.

Dysfunctional Governance Structure

The governance structures of the country are an absolute nightmare to deal with. Foreign Investors do not like to interact with due to the complexity of the system. moreover, the public is not even spared due to the arbitrary nature of the system.

'Duplication of departments, redtapism, overstaffing and bottom-heavy governance has lead economic growth to nose dive like its contemporary structure.'

Lack of Private Sector Growth

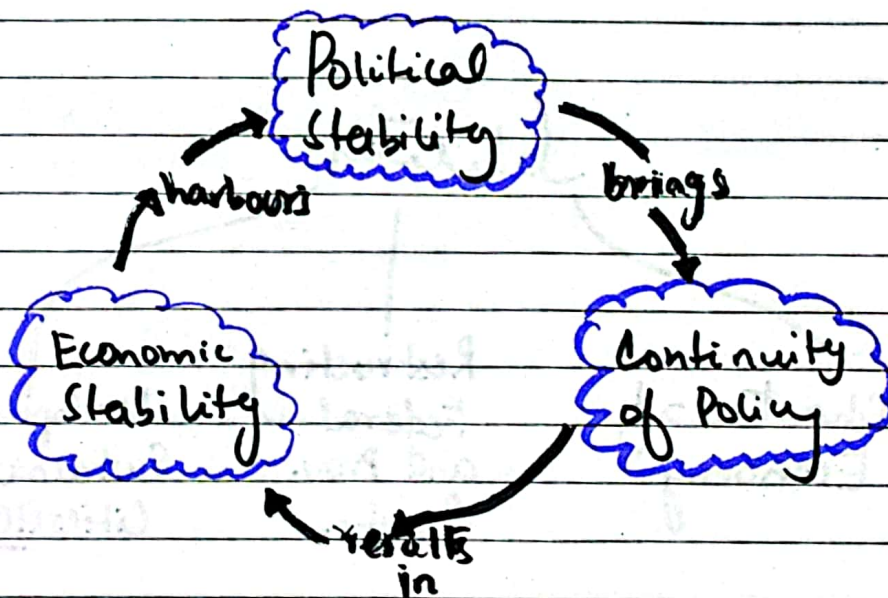
The governments uncertain and haphazard economic policies have stifled private sector growth. Government intervention in the

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domain of 'private business is ripe. As the Finance Minister remarked.

"The role of government is not do business, it is to provide an environment conducive to the private sector's growth."

Political Instability at the helm

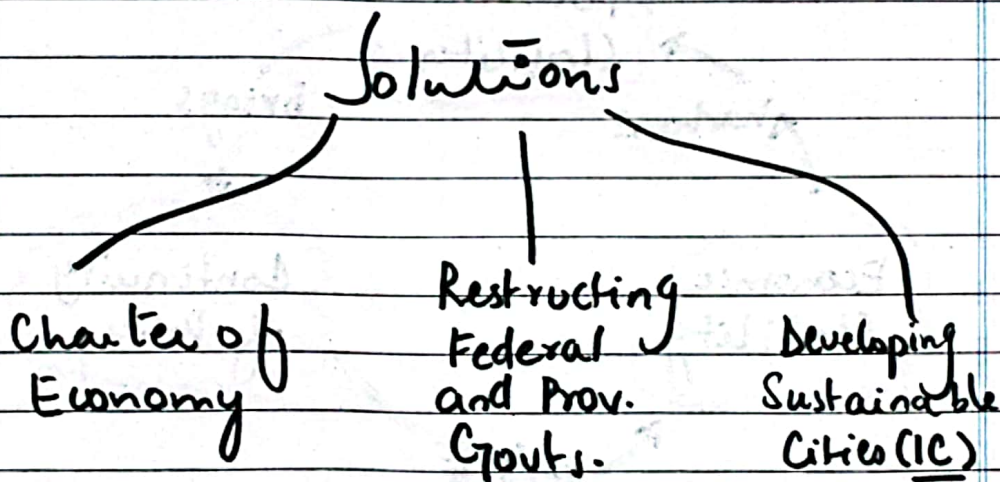


Since time immemorial, Pakistan is suffering from instability at the helm. Without stability, no policy planning can take. Neither

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implementation would be successful because the policy would be revoked eventually. The reason the country is in this quagmire is because of political instability.

WAY FORWARD FOR THE COUNTRY TO ESCAPE THIS QUAGMIRE



Bringing the Charter of Economy

A charter of economy must be developed

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For the future economic needs of the country the charter must be given constitutional cover, so that no one backtracks from their promises. Some salient points that could be added are.

Salient Proposed Features

- (a) Policy continuity should be addressed
- (b) Sustainability over haphazard developmental practices
- (c) Uplifting of remote areas and war-torn regions
- (d) Uplifting the socio-economic status of the common Pakistani.

Restructuring of Center & Units Governments

After 18th Amendment and Article 140A, various powers should have been devolved to the local level. However, both Federal and Provincial governments have failed to do.

Restructuring should involve elimination of defunct and duplicate departments, posts and manpower. Financial powers should be devolved to local level to

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ensure better service delivery.

Developing Intermediate cities to grow sustainably

"Intermediate cities hold the key to the growth of the country."

Developing these cities would relieve the burden from the metropolises. Moreover, it would go for the economic uplifting and generation of revenue from these areas. Local industries could be financed through micro loans and made compliant with sustainable goals accomplishment.

CONCLUSION

Economy of Pakistan is an interconnected web of mismanagement and lost dreams. Tackling this and unlocking its true potential requires stability between the planners and implementers, most of all

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It will require a concerted effort from the every participant of the economy. This requires significant political will and capacity to do so.

QUESTION No. 5

Pak-Afghan relations Evaluate.

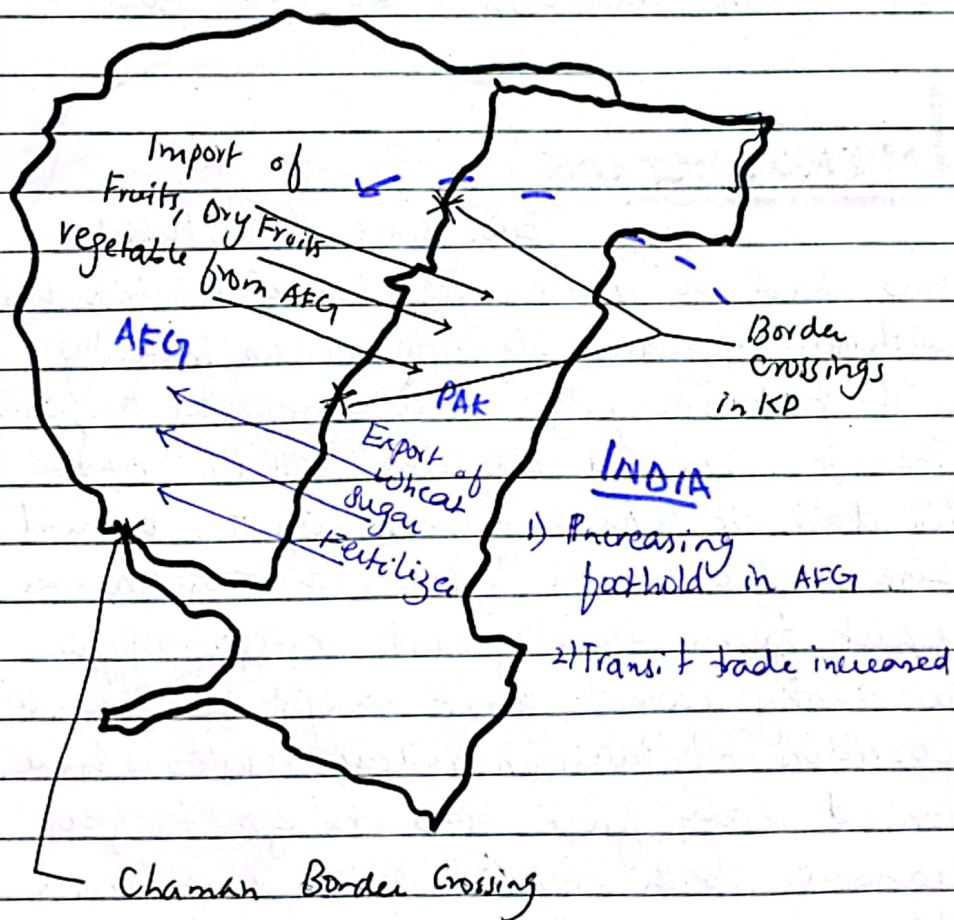
INTRODUCTION

Ever since 1947, Pakistan has had a tense geopolitical relationship with the Afghan side. Afghanistan initially did not recognize as a country at the UN. Then it invaded the tribal belt in 1962 and till date, it refuses to recognize the Durand Line as the border between the two. However apart from security and strategic affairs, the country carries great weight in economic corridors of Pakistan. Today, relations have turned away from geo-strategic to geo-economic. With regional players, each trying to increase their influence in Afghanistan

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Pakistan has also recognized this need and pivoted from strategic point of view to geo-economic one. There are some deficiencies that need to be overcome to achieve our interests. Unless those are done, the situation will continue to be volatile.

AF-PAK ECONOMIC RELATIONS A NEW OPPORTUNITY



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Countering India's Presence and Influence

India has long helped and supported Afghan elements. They have developed the largest hospital in Kabul. By doing so, they gave a reason to be preferred over Pakistan.

Indian influence in Kabul is causing massive disputes between Pakistan and Afg. Trade between is also higher as compared to Pak-Afghan Trade.

India has in many ways pushed Islamabad out of Kabul.

Afghan - Pak Trade Lower in Comparison to Transit Trade

Pakistan, in a bid to register its protests over

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The TTP attacks and hideouts has lost to India in the trade arena. As Kabul shifted from Pakistan to India, to supply it with much needed goods and services.

Indian exports to Afghan = \$480 M and increasing

Pak - Afghan exports = \$2.3 Billion →
↓ 1.4 Billion and dropping.

(Trade Ministry)

Border Markets still in Limbo

The border markets that were to be established on the western border have still not been established. The infrastructure of the Afghan side is still pending and is nowhere near completion.

Border Markets on Iranian side have bureaucratic hurdles on the Iranian side, while the ones on Afghan side are completed however cannot be activated due

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the Afghan side lack of
willingness?"

OG (ISPR)
~~Foreign Minister~~
during

Intermittent Closures of Border

After any attack by the TTP, Pakistan in retaliation closes the border. This makes it lose out on potential revenue through custom duties. This approach might work on the short-term, but that trade would be rerouted through smuggling channels and all that would ^{have} been for naught.

A holistic approach must be taken in order to balance the disapproval and trade.

Carrot and Stick Approach has yielded no results

The policy being implemented by the

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state involves a carrot and stick approach. A reward is given in compliance and harsh measures are taken when compliance is not shown.

Closing of borders is an example of the trade policy involving the stick. However, Afghanistan has decided to diversify its portfolio and leave Pakistan in the dust while it's holding the stick.

IS THERE A BETTER FUTURE POSSIBILITY?

Pakistan must reevaluate Afghan
Economic and Increase trade

Afghanistan has a lot of developmental needs and economic ones too. The task for Pakistan is to identify those needs and

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and sell/establish its market presence over there. Pakistan must understand trade and the limitations of the government in Kabul.

Increasing dependance through trade can be beneficial for both countries. As the Afghan people can enjoy our goods, while Pakistan ~~we~~ can counter Indian influence

Bringing in Professionals who understand Afghan Code

Afghanistan is hodge podge of cultures. It is mainly comprised of ethnic Pashtoons who share vast affinity with those in KP. The job that Pakistan must do is incorporate that thinking in its economic policy with Afghanistan.

'Pashtoon wali' forms the basic for a cultural interactions within Afghanistan. The Trade ministry and Foreign office

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must equip themselves with this to tackle the problems in Afghanistan.

Improving Infrastructure needs of the Tribal Belt

The western Route of CPEC holds significant promise for more connectivity between the countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Through this, the tribal areas can receive a boost in their infrastructure. That will trickle down into more trade and revenue generated from the proposed border markets.

CPEC holds the key for enhanced integration between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

CONCLUSION

Pakistan and Afghanistan are countries embroiled in a tense standoff. Today, if both wish to progress ahead some reevaluation of the current policy

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if needed. There is a need for a dire shift from geo-strategic thinking to a geo-economic one. Through mutual trade and connectivity both countries can hope to enjoy the benefits of a sustainable and peaceful future.

QUESTION No. 7

Pakistan is a semi-industrialized Elucidate.

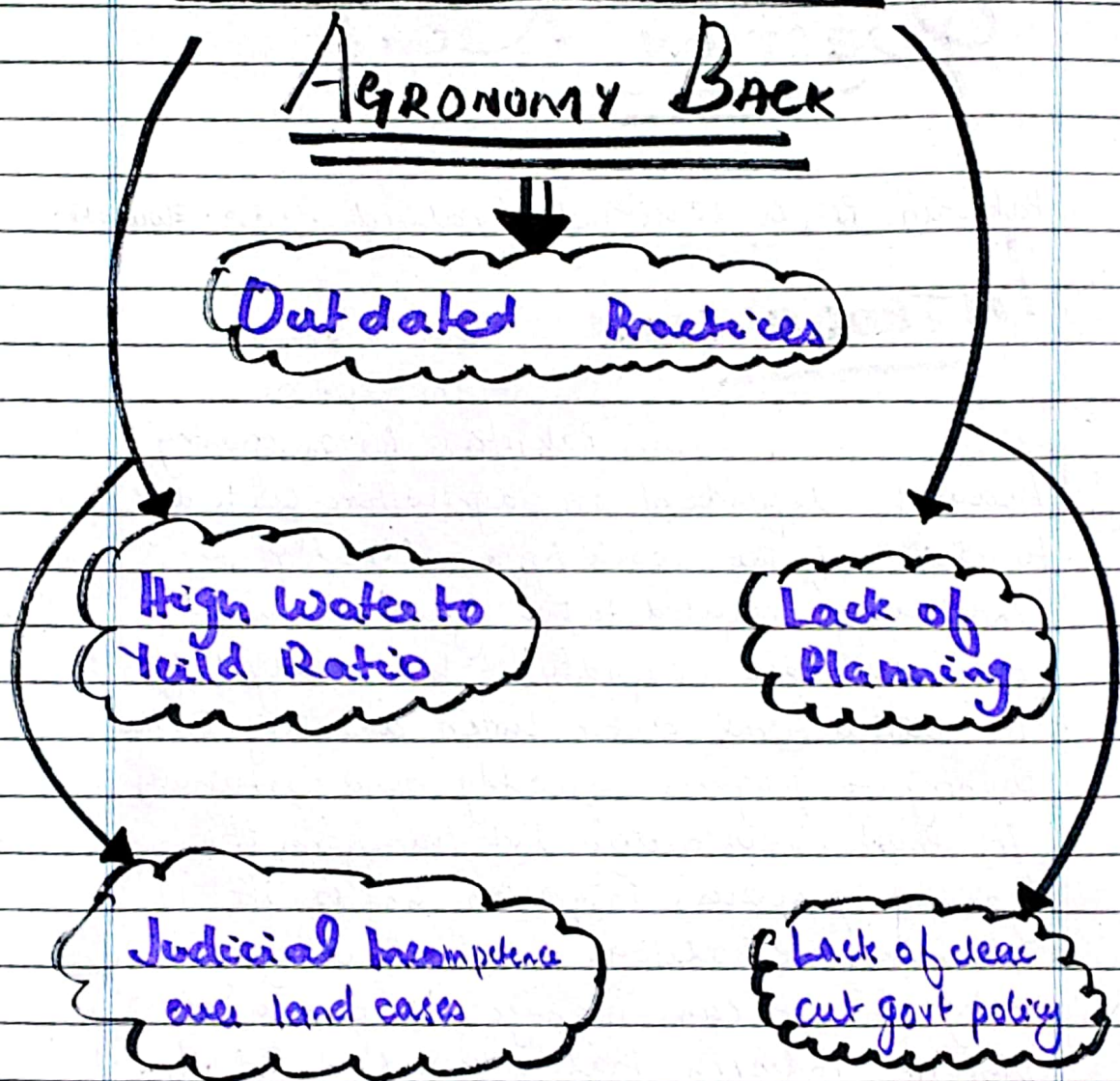
INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is a country heavily dependent on agriculture. With close to 56% of the work force directly or indirectly related to the field. In a bid to industrialize rapidly it has totally left its agricultural sector barren and dry. For the country to progress quickly and sustainably it must industrialize and transform its farming practices, irrigation needs, its planning methodology and land usage. By doing so, it can manage to create a vibrant industry that will safeguard it from any potential downfalls. Any country that has progressed, has done by

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Leveraging its agronomy. Pakistan needs to do same.

PROBLEMS HOLDING PAKISTAN'S



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Out dated Agricultural Practices

Farmers in Pakistan are undoubtedly one of the most hardworking people. However, the lack of adoption of new machinery reduces their efficiency. Farmers struggle to earn a decent profit over their harvests. With inflation, raising the prices sky high, modern machinery has become out of reach for every farmer.

Inflation, coupled with low profits has pushed the farmers to abandon dreams of upgrading their equipment.

High Water to Yield Ratio

"Farmers in Pakistan use 10x times more water to produce the same crop, farmed elsewhere"

(Dr Hassan Abbas)

For one unit of crop, farmers produce they

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use 10 times more water as compared to the regional average. The same amount of water in India yields higher crops/harvests as they have started using better irrigation techniques.

Lack of Planning in Agriculture

"Farmers are in a perpetual boom - bust cycle, as they anticipate a rate but due to the supply dynamics the market become flooded with the same crop, next year due to paucity of the same crop, the demand dynamic work against the farmer"

(Dr Khalid Saeed
watoo)

Crop planning is mismanaged, as farmers across Pakistan reference last years demand dynamics only to flood the market with the crop leading to a shortage next year.

Judicial Incompetence in Land Cases

Judicial incompetence in land cases is also a bane for the farmers. Farmers have their generations fighting in court over the illegal possession of land. Cases take up to 30-40 years and justice is dispensed when the door of the Supreme Court is knocked.

“ Behind every strong nation, is a strong army, behind that is a strong farmer and behind that are strong functioning courts.”

(~~Popular~~ Urdu Saying)

x Lack of Clear Government Policy

The government must devise a clear cut policy for all the agriculture sector. The Punjab government exited from the scene at the eleventh hour leaving the farmers in

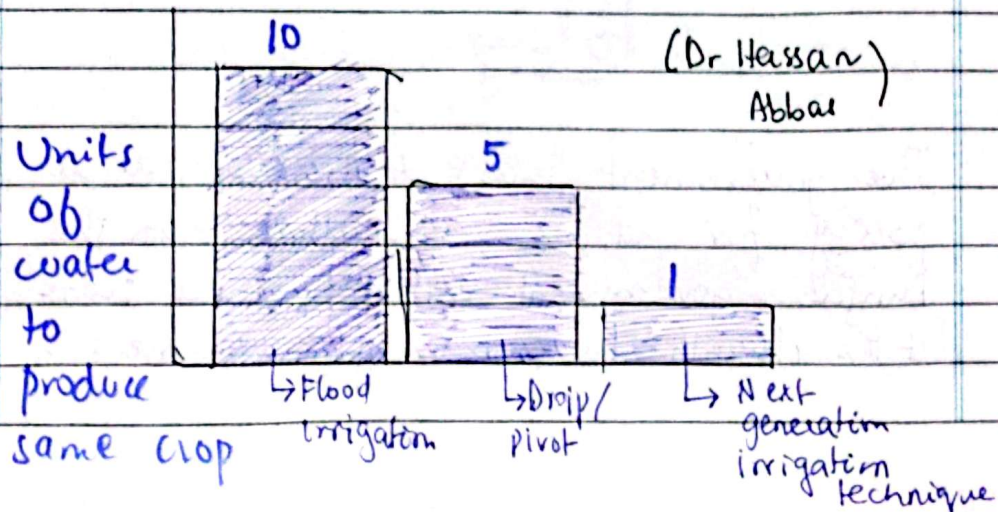
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Limbo

"Government should decide whether it wishes to intervene in the agri-market through MSP (Minimum Support Price). If not, it should develop policies that safeguard farmers' rights."

PATHWAYS FOR A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Phasing out outdated irrigation Techniques



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It is evident that the future lies in adopting next generation techniques to reduce the consumption and fast-depletion of groundwater.

Involving Market and Commodity Experts in Planning

In order to escape the agriboom - bust cycle commodity and market experts must be brought in help plan for the next season. Traditional methods often lead to the flooding of the market and low returns of the ~~sector~~ sector. Only through the adoption latest technology and expertise can farmer hope to achieve a better return on their crops/harvest.

Streamlining the Judicial Dispensation on Land Disputes

This requires a complete overhaul to not only implement but achieve the desired results. The revamping of

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procedural laws is a must, if the farmer is to be freed from the clutches of disputes.

Land Revenue Act (1861), Civil Procedure Code (1908), Punjab Revenue Act (1960) all have become outdated due to which major lacuna have arisen that aim to hinder the dispensation of justice.

CONCLUSION

Without a prosperous farmer, the country cannot hope to achieve its dream of industrializing sustainably. By implementing these changes and doing away with outdated methods the country can hope to quickly progress. It is only the agriculture sector that can guarantee our food security, without it the country may be left at the mercy of the global volatility. The country's security and well being are tied to this sector and its healthy functioning means, betterment for the country.