

Q#1 Discuss the Kashmir problem in its entirety, throwing light on its background and prospects of ... Pakistan.

#### 1. Introduction:

The Kashmir issue remains a core point of contention between Pakistan and India since 1947. Rooted in historical, political and ideological differences, the dispute has led to wars, skirmishes and prolonged diplomatic stalemates. The issue has far-reaching implications for regional and global stability as two nuclear forces are facing off each other. The very issue has also resulted in worsening of humanitarian conditions as thousands of people have sacrificed their lives in the face of Indian atrocities and lately Azad Jammu and Kashmir has been converted into an open air prison by Indian forces.

#### 2. Kashmir Issue; Historical Background

The ongoing Kashmir issue is the product of hurriedly worked out partition plan by British

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empire. The ill-planned partition of India, along with the biased approach towards Pakistan has led to the creation of this issue.

### a- Indian Independence Act 1947:

At the time of partition, there were 580 princely states with an area of approximately 712,000 square miles and with a population around 93.20 million. The Indian Independence Act clearly stated that states were free to accede to India or Pakistan. Hari Singh, initially opted for independence later he decided to join India.

The Lord Mountbatten, 3rd June 1947 plan stated that the decision of the ruler should be qualified by the geographical proximity, people's aspirations and religio-ethnic composition of the state. Kashmir enjoyed majority of Muslim population and physically contiguous to territories forming Pakistan. However, in this case India applied political pressures on the ruler to accede to India relegating the guiding principles of geographic proximity and aspirations

of the people.

### b- Instrument of Accession 1947 and Pakistan's Rejection:

Hari Singh, the ruler of Kashmir, ignoring the aspirations of local people signed the Instrument of Accession on Oct 26, 1947, acceding to India. However, Pakistan rejected this accession as illegitimate citing the state's Muslim majority population and geographical proximity with Pakistan.

### c- UN Involvement 1948:

India approached the United Nations submitting the stance that Kashmir is an integral part of India, as Maharaja Hari Singh has signed accession treaty with India. While on the other hand, Pakistan, on the basis of principles of geographical contiguity and Muslim population, declared Kashmir as an integral part of Pakistan.

United Nations Security Council Resolutions 47 (passed in 1947) and 99 (passed in 1951) called for a ceasefire and a plebiscite to determine Kashmir's future. However, due to the Indian stalling tactics, it remain unimplemented.

#### d- Simla Agreement:

The UNSC resolutions did not produce desired outcomes. It were passed under chapter 6 not 7 of UN charter. It makes the decision resolution advisory and non-binding, especially if one party unilaterally takes up the issue. However, following the failure of UNSC resolutions, Pakistan and India engaged in another war of 1971.

Following the 1971 war, Pakistan and India agreed to resolve the Kashmir issue bilaterally. The Line of Control (LoC) was formalized, but the issue remain unresolved.

## e- Wars and Conflicts:

Pakistan and India has been engaged in number of wars and conflicts due to Kashmir dispute.

1947 war resulted in a ceasefire and the establishment of Line of Control. Second war was fought in 1965. Thirdly, Pakistani forces infiltrated Indian positions in Kargil in 1999, escalating tensions between two states over the Kashmir dispute.

3. Present-Day Scenario in Kashmir  
On August 5, 2019, India abrogated Article 370 and reversed the special status of Kashmir given in Article 35A. Article 370 granted Kashmir special autonomy that it was independent in its internal affairs with the exception of foreign policy, defense, currency and communication. With the abrogation of Article 370, India integrated Kashmir into its union territory system.

Similarly, the reversion of Article 35-A is to change the demographic situation in Kashmir as non-Kashmiri, now, can become the permanent resident of Kashmir.

### a- India's legal and administrative policies:

India's abrogation of Article 370 and reversion of Article 35-A is seen as its attempt to usurp Kashmir through legal and administrative measures. It further claims this to be their internal matter, irrespective of mass human rights violations.

### b- Human rights violation:

India's excessive use of Special Protection Act, granting Indian Army, policing powers and imposition of Section 144, that prohibits two people to be together, is severely worsening the human rights in Kashmir. With the media, internet, telephone being closed

Kashmir has been converted into an open air prison.

The <sup>use of</sup> pellet-firing shotguns left severe impact on civilians. The Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons reported 3800 cases of pellet injuries and blindness since 2016. However, the actual number may be higher as many victims go unreported.

#### 4- Prospects for of Solutions of Kashmir Dispute:

Resolving the on-going Kashmir issue is instrumental for regional peace, stability and development.

##### a- Bilateral Dialogue:

Bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan can be initiated to resolve this long-standing issue. As discussed in Simla Agreement 1972, peaceful bilateral talks can be initiated to rebuild trust. However, historical mistrust and cross-border infiltrations have been sabotaging the

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prospect of meaningful dialogue.

- **Third Party Mediation:**

The Kashmir dispute can be resolved through third-party mediation. United States, China or United Nations platform can be used to mediate between both countries.

**Indus Water Treaty 1960**, is the successful demonstration of 3<sup>rd</sup> party involvement, as India ensures the compliance.

- **Implementation of UN Resolutions:**

United Nations Security Council Resolutions **47** and **91**, called for plebiscite. If through, international pressure and diplomatic efforts of great powers, these resolutions can be implemented on true terms, the humanitarian crisis can be mitigated in Kashmir.

- **Autonomy for Kashmir**

Kashmir is deprived of its autonomy through imposition of curfews and section 144. Furthermore, the abrogation of Article 370, bereft Kashmir of its autonomous status. Therefore, the granting



Of self-rule could address grievances and reduce local tensions.

### • Economic Interdependence:

The economic cooperation between the two countries have the potential to reduce hostilities and build interdependence. According to **World Bank Report 2022**, Pakistan and India have the trade potential of **\$50 billion** while it currently stands at **\$2 billion**. The enhanced economic collaboration can foster peace between historically antagonistic nations.

### • Regional Cooperation:

Similarly, the regional cooperation can alleviate tensions between the two states. The hostile attitude towards each other has paralyzed **SAARC**. The regional cooperation will bring prosperity to South Asia and will indirectly address the Kashmir issue. Therefore, economic interdependence combined with regional cooperation have the capacity to address this issue.

### • Confidence-Building Measures:

People-to-people contact coupled with educational and cultural exchange can reduce tensions. Initiatives

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like Aman Ki Asha, can be used as soft measures...

Conclusion:

The Kashmir issue is deeply rooted in ideological, political and historical complexities. A sustainable resolution requires political will of both states, economic interdependence, regional cooperation and international support. The respect for aspirations of Kashmiri people and granting political and civil rights can bring the only ways to bring lasting peace in the region.

Q#2 • Population explosion is acting as a hurdle in the country's development.

### 1. Introduction:

Pakistan is globally recognized as a country facing challenges in its population growth.

With more than 241 million population, Pakistan is 5<sup>th</sup> most populous state in terms of area. The population is expected to reach 300 million by 2030. With shrinking resources, it has alarming population growth rate, that poses serious challenges to its social, economic and political development. For a developing country like Pakistan, population explosion and limited resources impede socio-economic progress. It put pressures on basic services, lead towards increasing unemployment and overcrowding in urban areas. The phenomenon results in governance challenges and hamper economic progress of a state.

## B. Population Explosion in Pakistan; An Overview

Pakistan is currently grappling with high population growth rate with dwindling economy and scarce natural resources.

It has population growth rate of **2.4%** per annum, which translates to between **4 million** and **5 million** children being added to the total each year. (ISSI

Report). The rapid growth of population poses serious links to internal security of state as it can lead to social inequalities, inadequate provision of basic necessities and

perpetuate poverty and illiteracy. This not only hinders the economic progress of a state but puts immense

pressure on natural resources and infrastructure. With the

poverty ratio at **37%**, according to **Hajez Pasha, Former Finance**

**Advisor and Minister**, Pakistan also struggles with providing adequate services to the people, and alleviation of poverty seems like a distant dream.

### 3. Causes of Population Explosion in Pakistan

The exponential growth over the past few decades can be attributed to high birth rates, limited access to family planning services and lack of awareness.

#### a- Lack of Family Planning:

According to WHO, an estimated 3.8 million unintended pregnancies occur each year. It is a direct result of lack of family planning.

#### b- Lack of Awareness:

Lack of awareness and myths present in the Pakistani society regarding contraceptive measures contribute to this problem.

#### c- Social and Religious Factors:

Pakistan's birth rate has remained high as majority considers birth control unislamic and a western concept.

Similarly, social and family pressure also majorly contributes to this problem.

# Implications of Pakistan's Population Growth on Social, Economic and Political Development:

Population's exponential growth in Pakistan has adversely affected the social, economic and political development of the country. Some of the implications are discussed below:

## Social Implications:

### • Pressure on Services:

Overspopulation puts pressure on basic services. It leads to inadequate access for the majority that further exacerbates the social inequality and unrest in the society. Pakistan is ranked 164 out of 193 countries in Human Development Index.

### • Illiteracy and Unemployment:

Overspopulation adversely affects the population's access to quality education and perpetuates the cycle of poverty and illiteracy. Pakistan has

62% literacy rate with inadequate educational opportunities available for the people.

### • Urban Overcrowding:

The phenomena of overcrowding also is also exacerbated by overpopulation. The migration to urban areas puts stress on communities of Lahore and Karachi and big cities.

### Economic Implications:

#### • Low Savings Rate:

Overpopulation reduces per capita income and decreases savings and investment rate.

This negatively affects the economy at large.

#### • Pressure on Natural Resources:

High population growth rate depletes natural resources such as water, arable land and lead to shortages and increased costs. Pakistan per capita water availability has fallen to 964 cubic meters in 2023 below the scarcity threshold.

#### • Increase Public Expenditure:

The population explosion increases public expenditure. It compels government to

to allocate more funds for infrastructure, healthcare services and development projects.

## Political Implications:

### • Governance challenges:

Large population puts strains on administrative capacities. It makes governance less efficient and ineffective in some cases.

### • Political Instability:

The & social inequalities, illiteracy and unemployment perpetuated by population explosion lead to protests and social unrest. It weakens political institutions and exacerbates political instability.