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Day: Saturday

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Q3. Introduction

Since its inception in 1947, Pakistan faces persistent energy crises. The country has been ineffective in addressing the issue due to short-term solutions. Energy crisis in Pakistan constitutes of both shortage of electricity and high bills. Pakistan, through geo-economic perspectives, face several challenges with regards to energy. They include loss in exports, shutdowns of companies, reduction in potential Foreign Direct Investment (FDIs), domestic grievances, low quality local hydrocarbons and inaccessibility to cheaper alternatives. The reasons of unsustainable energy policy lies in structural weaknesses such as cyclical debt, 'weak' agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs), low political will, short-term vision and institutional crises.

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Pakistan's energy crises from a geo-political perspective

Loss in exports:

Pakistan has lost a significant amount of export due to energy crises. The weak economy, coupled with high energy costs led to fall in international competitiveness of items like cotton and apparels. Balance of Trade worsened, as countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam substituted Pakistani exports.

Layoffs and withdrawals - Businesses.

During Covid-19, many companies started laying-off employees. The issue got worse due to rising energy crises. The total cost of production increased the total price of product. Consequently, the demand decr-

ceased, resulting in withdrawals of companies like Shell, BP, and Chevron.

Fall in potential Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs):

Pakistan has faced a reduction in total potential foreign investment. This is because the energy security prompt investors to assess the risk of investment. Hence, riskier investment with lesser returns deter investors from bringing cash. Therefore, inflow of investment decreases, slowing economic growth, export and employment. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) slowed down with energy crises as one of the major reasons.

Domestic grievances due to high energy bills:

The general population has shown frustration

over rising bills ~~with~~ coupled with inflation and loss in real income. Poverty line constitutes of 45% of population. Issues like theft, hunger and crime rose.

Low quality local hydrocarbons:

Pakistan imports major portion of its hydrocarbons for electricity generation. In fact, it is the highest import bill of Pakistan. The locally produced coal such as Thar coal is of low quality. Moreover, it lacks sufficient local hydrocarbons to meet the demand. The depletion in Sui of gas has already resulted in gas shortage.

Inaccessibility to cheaper imported alternatives & hydrocarbon:

Pakistan's energy cost could reduce if imported hydro-carbons from neighbouring countries become possible. Many diplomatic attempts were made to import Russian and Iranian oil which failed. Similarly TAPI gas pipeline is facing hurdles due to geo-security issues of Afghanistan.

Structural weaknesses that hinder sustainable energy policy

Cyclical debt in energy production chain:

Cyclical debt is the transmission of debt from one party to another, causing deadlock. The cyclical debt persists due to government debt on the TPB. The amount generated from electricity is utilised elsewhere. A neutral body should be enacted, away from political influence, to strictly solve this issue.

Questionable agreements with IPPs:

The previous governments made unrealistic power agreements with IPPs such as capacity payment and purchase in dollars. These agreements are yet to expire. However, certain renewal in agreements were made during the recent government.

Low political will and short-term vision:

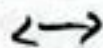
Historically, IPPs were created to meet short-term energy needs. However, no real alternative was initiated such as increasing hydro power. Political entities proceeded with IPPs for short-term appeasement of general public. Moreover, the strong influence of IPPs weakens the political will to take actionable measures.

Institutional crises - inefficiency and corruption:

Even Power generating and transmitting institutions worsen the issue due to corruption and red-tapism. 17% of energy is lost in land lines. Many Electricity theft is overlooked and no real accountability of those responsible exist.

Conclusion

Energy crises, through geo-economic angle, has reduced exports, decreased FDI, caused business shutdowns, enhanced poverty, and highlighted the issue of low quality local hydro-carbons and raised concern of inaccessibility to cheaper alternatives. One reason of this problem is structural weakness due to institutional crises, IP agreements, cyclical debt and low political will.



Q5: Introduction

Extremism is a historical issue in

Pakistan, dating back to the era of Islamization. During cold war ~~the~~ Religious extremism has been on a rise in Pakistan, involving blasphemy, minorities and the conflicts of Middle East. The rise of extremism is driven by both external and internal policies such as Afghan radicalization, Indian proxy war, sectarian conflicts, ~~the~~ and the Islamisation of Zia-ul-Haq (ex-President).

Critical analysis of religious extremism in Pakistan

Contemporary events of religious extremism:

Religious extremism took an exponential rise after Covid-19. To begin with, the ban of TLP (Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan) initiated after disruption of law and order. Many incidents of blasphemy occurred

in Quetta, KPK and Lahore. Minorities were attacked in Jammuwal. Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan has increased its attack in the country. Lastly, sectarian conflicts erupted in Kurram agency.

Reasons for rise in religious extremism:

1. ~~False~~ Idea Mob mentality in the social fabric of Pakistan

Mob violence is a prevalent issue and a product of religious extremism. In mob-mentality, people forget their ethical values and conduct atrocities in the name of justice. They take the laws in their own hands and commit murder. An ideal example is mob violence on accusation of blasphemy that resulted in death of a Sikhian national.

2. False accusation of blasphemy

Many incidents are reported to have occurred due to false accusation of blasphemy. People, without any consideration to its authenticity or justice system, take law in their own hands. The gruesome killing of Michael Knottak in university hostel is one such incident.

3- Misinterpretation of religious texts.

Religious extremists misinterpret the Quranic text and declare a so called 'Jihad' to reinstate (true) Islamic teachings. During the caliphate of Hazrat Usman (R.A) and Hazrat Ali (R.A), religious extremists exist and were known as Khawarij. Similarly, the Taliban has also adopted a strict interpretation of Quran, therefore, giving rise to extremism.

Religious extremism - a product of both internal policy choices and external geopolitical pressure

Internal policy choices - causes of religious extremism:

1. Islamization during ex-President Zia-ul-Haq era

Pakistan is created on the basis of Islamic ideology. However, President Zia-ul-Haq devised certain policies that gave rise to extremist culture. First, he introduced a controversial law related to rape that undermined the legal safety of women under Hudood Ordinance. Second, he aided West in radicalization of Afghanistan, which spilled over into Pakistan.

2. Illiteracy and in modern education

Pakistan has a literacy rate of 64%. Low literacy expose individuals to easy manipulation. It results in underdevelopment of civic sense. Subjects like sociology, philosophy and media are essential to develop traits of tolerance, pluralism and rationality. Therefore, the state failed to provide a sufficient and effective education system that hinder extremism.

3- The need for religious education on proper interpretations

Pakistan bred many extremist through Madrasah systems that are accused of operating on foreign agenda. First, it should modernize and update Madrasah systems. Second, moderate religious teachers should be regulated to promote religious tolerance and peace. Third, proper Islamic teachings should be

introduced in school curriculum that reduces tendencies of extremism and risk of manipulation.

External geo-political pressures

1. Sectarian conflict of Shia-Sunni

Sectarian conflict between Shia and Sunni is rooted back in geo-political tussle between Saudi-Arabia and Iran. Tuss led to conflicts and civil war in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq and Libya. The effects were also visible in Pakistan.

2. Proxy warfare - facilitation by neighbouring countries

Proxy warfare is a new warfare. Countries like India and Afghanistan are using religious outfits like TTP to further their motives. India wants to destabilise Pakistan while Afghan-

istan use it as edge over border.
disputes and trade transit

Conclusion

Extremism of religion prevail in Pakistan due to false accusation, mob mentality and religious misinterpretations. Although external pressure in the form of proxy warfare and sectarian conflict have pushed the issue, failure in internal policy choices like Zia's Islamization, educational crises and lack of moderate interpretation of Quran have exacerbated the issue.

Introduction ↔

Q4. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was initiated between Pakistan and China in 2015, a flagship project of Chinese Belt and Road Initiative. CPEC led to various socio-economic implications such as rise in Chinese

investment, energy security, enhanced connectivity, agricultural development and intensification & local grievances.

CPEC is a transformative opportunity due to trade transit, deep sea port, geo-political advantage and economic development. However, proper strong political will, institutional framework and education is crucial to make it a sustainable project.

Socio-economic implication of CPEC for Pakistan

Inflow of Chinese investment.

Inflow of Chinese investment through CPEC will result in number of benefits in Pakistan. First, it will result in better Balance of payment, reducing reliance on external debt. Second, it will create better employment

opportunities for locals. Third, it will increase the value of exports through creation of Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

Meeting Pakistan's energy security:

CPEC has initiated a completed various energy project, renewable and non-renewable. Bahawalpur and Rawdar completed their solar energy projects. Windmill projects are initiated in coastal areas of Pakistan. Their coal project and Chashma nuclear power plant are other such examples. This has increased the total energy generation required to meet country's energy needs.

Greater transport connectivity:

Under CPEC, various roads and

motorways were initiated to connect Rawalakot with Xinjiang Province of China. For example, Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway and M-I railway between Karachi and Peshawar has increased connectivity, making Pakistan a more efficient country for transit trade.

Agricultural development under CPEC:

Agricultural sector is the backbone of Pakistan's economy. Through CPEC, measures are taken to introduce technologically advanced seeds, better fertilizers, water system and machinery. This will increase agricultural productivity in the country, leading to economic growth.

Grievances of Balochistan:

Many inhabitants of Balochistan

have accused the state of using CPEC to exploit the natural resources of the neglected province without real benefit to locals. This has led to separatist movements. For instance, Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) is actively targeting security personnel and Chinese investors to sabotage the project. Hence, government needs to promptly address this concerns to make CPEC's success a reality.

CPEC - A Conditional Transformative Opportunity

Stronger trade transit:

China is the fastest growing economy, paving its way to become an economic superpower. However, Indo-Pacific region poses threats to its trade. Pakistan's CPEC can provide

a safer, shorter and alternative opportunity. This will increase Pakistan's trade transit, contributing to economy.

Gwadar - a deep-sea port:

Gwadar port is unique because of its feature of being a deep sea port. Large water vessels can park nearer to the shore, making the process of loading more feasible. It provides better alternative to its competitor, Chabahar port. Thus, Gwadar is a potential international trade hub.

Geo-political advantage:

Pakistan has a geo-strategic location, connecting with Central Asia, Middle East, South Asia and China. Hence, it could use CPEC to leverage its diplomatic relations, security and economic relations.

Conditions to make CPEC a transformative opportunity:

1. Pakistan must have a strong political leadership to make CPEC a success for the country. It should have political stability, united leadership and coordination of leaders with other institutions.
2. Pakistan should address structural inefficiencies and red-tapism to facilitate investment. The country established Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to ease doing business through one-window operation.
3. Pakistan should make education reform and increase vocational training programs. This will help country gain employment opportu-

unities through CPEC.

Conclusion

Hence, CPEC has various socio-economic implications such as investment inflow, energy security, connectivity, agricultural productivity and grievances of Balochistan. It is possible to become a transformative opportunity for Pakistan through because of potential trade transit, deep sea port and country's geo-strategic location. However, it must ensure strong political will, efficient institutional framework, educational reforms and vocational trainings.

Q7. Introduction

Pakistan national security has always remained security centric. However,

its national security paradigm also constitutes of national integration, civil-military relations, religious extremism, climate and energy. In the changing global dynamics, it is crucial for Pakistan to balance security with strong geo-economic model for sustainable relations, economic growth, emancipation from borrowing institutions and prosperity.

Pakistan's National Security paradigm

Internal security from terrorism:

Pakistan's national security concentrates on securing the country from nationalist and religious terrorism. For this purpose, it has conducted security operations to clear areas from terror sanctuaries, prevent terror attacks through intelligence

and redress the grievances of local people. TTP and BLA are two main groups that determine internal security measures. TTP was recently banned along with Baloch Vakilahi Movement (BYC) and Baloch Tahafuz Movement (BTM) to ensure law and order.

External security threats:

Pakistan ensures its external security through air, land and sea. It effectively responded to Indian attack recently by ensuring air superiority and suppressed TTP by airstrikes and border clashes with Afghanistan. Cyber security and intelligence network is a major part of external security ensuring sovereignty and territorial integrity.

National Integration:

Pakistan is using both soft and hard tools to maintain national integration.

Through hard approaches, it banned TLP, BXC and PTM. Soft approaches include awareness on negative propaganda, strict of media laws (PECA amendment), Jirga system to resolve local issues and stabilizing the economic indicators.

Coordinated Civil-Military relations:

Smooth Civil-Military relations are necessary for national security. Historically, patches in civil-military relations during Z.A Bhutto's ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{and} era and Nawaz Sharif era resulted in weak economic and political stability. Ultimately, it creates threat to country's national security.

Religious extremism and national security:

Religious sect extremism threatens law and order of the country. Pakistan has taken measures to ban TLP and suppress TLP to ensure stability. Strict measures were taken against perpetrators of Jamaat-ul-Islami incidents and blasphemy laws are enacted to ensure legal action.

Climate change and Pakistan:

UN has designated Pakistan as one of the countries vulnerable to climate change. It has faced three major floods in 2010, 2017, and 2025, resulting in economic loss, destruction of infrastructure, loss of agriculture and loss of livestock. It is pressuring the global world through diplomacy to through COP-29 and Paris Agreement to grant them aid instead of loans to tackle the issue.

Pakistan should create a balance between security and economy

Historical outlook of security-centric approach with foreign countries:

Historically, Pakistan established ties with US based on security rather than deep economic cooperation. Both cold-war and 9/11 AWT resulted in Pakistan gaining short-term security benefits only. India, on the other hand has established deep trade and defence ties, gaining trade surplus of \$46 billion with US.

The need of economic security to deter Indian threat:

Pakistan must use economic leverage for cancelling effects of non-nuclear threats of conflict with India. This is

because conflicts require economic resilience in the form of strong GDP, low poverty, and ability to absorb economic shocks.

Emancipation from borrowing institutions:

Pakistan's economic reliance on IMF, China and Saudi Arabia has created patron-client relations. These entities influence Pakistan's economic decision making, unfavourable for low and middle class population. Moreover, half of Pakistan's budget is utilised to repay the debt, reducing availability of loan for education, development and health.

Conclusion

Pakistan's security paradigm revolves around both external and internal security threat. It includes fighting terrorism, security budget, national integration,

civil-military relations, climate change and religious extremism.

Pakistan must balance security and economic by building strong economic sustainable relations, stabilising economy and reducing dependency on foreign loans.