

Date: Oct 22, 2025

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PAKISTAN AFFAIRS

Part-II

Q2.

(i) Introduction

Since its inception, the political landscape of Pakistan has remained in turmoil. As evidenced by history and records, the nation achieved with sacrifices got its first constitution after 9 years. This beginning marked by vacuum of leadership led to disintegration of democratic governments. The military dictator Pervez Musharraf in a speech on a news channel was seen saying that constitution is just a piece of paper. This shows the gravity of concern during the era. The year 1999 is marked with India and Pakistan a direct conflict known as Kargil War. It was later on October 12, 1999 that due to different views, Musharraf held in abeyance the constitution and became chief executive. However, the nation this time was prepared to deal with dictatorship and he felt quite difficulty in maintaining his power. Political parties, judiciary, lawyers, and civil society played its role to abdicate the mighty dictator and later developments such as 18th amendment, 7th NFC and legal resistance helped establish continuity in democratic governance.

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(II) How Constitutional Developments in this Era Shaped Democratic Continuity and Governance

→ Charter of democracy, 2006



→ Lawyers Movement, 2007



→ Musharaff's resignation, 2008



→ 7th NFC



→ 18th Amendment

Achieving democratic continuity was marked by serious struggles and commitment by democratic forces. Mutual contribution by political forces, lawyers, and constitutional protections led for the first time establishment of continual civilian rule that was hardly imagined before 1999.

a. Charter of democracy

Pakistan's two major parties, Pakistan's Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN), for the first time understood the idea that being in opposition is much better than being ruled by a dictator where they have no say in political landscape. This was for the first time that they agreed not to let any military ruler let

topple the government. This mutual agreement made significant impact on undemocratic forces who have always used the context of inefficiency and failure of political parties to establish their government.

b) Lawyers Movement, 2007

Along with political parties, the strong lobby of lawyers also came against Musharraf to get him ousted as he had dismissed an active Chief Justice, Iftikhar Chaudhary, first case of this instance. Lawyers and civil societies took on streets against dictatorial rule. This led to international pressures on restoration of civilian government and enshoring of independence of judiciary.

c) Musharraf's Resignation

In result of protests and clashes, the democratic forces won and on August 18, 2008, the President Pervez Musharraf resigned. This development sent clear message to power corridors that democratic forces cannot be faced and silenced this time.

d) 7th NFC

After resignation of Musharraf, elections were held and PPP became victorious, they for the first time changed economic landscape of country. The share of provinces from divisible pool was increased to 57.5%. This development

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led to provinces being strong and giving the center only important subjects and matters to deal with.

e) 18th Amendment

18th Constitutional amendment passed on April 19, 2010 was the first instance where President willingly reduced his powers. The misused Article 58(2)(b) was removed from the constitution and power was devolved in provincial governments leaving federation only with important subjects. This legal development gave provinces autonomy and the federal government had no interference in provinces because of restrictions set by this amendment.

(III) Critical Evaluation of Post-1999 Legal Developments

The era post 1999 proved to be rewriting the long history of direct military interventions. The 18th amendment, 7th NFC Award, Lawyers movement and Charter of democracy stood as strong resistance. However, in recent times, democracy seems to be compromised once again after 2018 elections which were alleged to be rigged and set by military. Moreover, according to World Democracy Ranking by Economist Intelligence Unit, Pakistan ranks 124/165.

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This shows that despite past struggles, democracy still faces much problems. It not directly, indirectly. Moreover, the recent 26th constitutional Amendment further deteriorates the essence of ~~jud~~democracy which is independence of judiciary as said by critics. However, despite being in many problems, there is a continuity in democratic governance which will develop gradually.

(iv) Conclusion

Pakistan's turmoil history has saw many changes. With leadership and constitutional crisis, the nation has had along dictatorial history. But, with each passing year, the nation came to understand the importance of democracy and it was after 1999 that civilians tried their every effort to close doors for military intervention. It is because of efforts of not only political parties but also civil societies, judiciary and lawyers that nation is seeing democratic continuity.

X ————— X

Q4.

(I) Introduction

The relations of Muslim nations that meant to be brotherly and of understanding have never been in serenity. This is the case of Pakistan - Afghan relations. The history and the developed nations have remained rude on Afghanistan. Pakistan has always had an active role in Afghanistan's political landscape, they supported the Afghan Jihad against USSR and then the US against Taliban. This led to enmity being built in hearts of the people of that nation. After 2021, the Taliban came into power after US's withdrawal. This set a new course of history. Pakistan had supported Afghanistan in their crisis, had their refugees, however, both countries part has led to deterioration of bilateral trade and peace.

(II) How Border Security, Refugee Issues, and Regional Re-alignments Influenced Bilateral Trade After 2021

a) Affects of border security on bilateral trade

Pakistan and Afghanistan labeled border clashes since the new Afghan leadership. Most of the time it is observed that terrorist elements like the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

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operates from Afghan soil. They have been in Afghanistan as stated during recent border crisis by Defense Minister Khwaja Asif. Pakistan's security on western border remains strict to prevent any element entering. In recent days of September, the trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan halted because of attack by Afghan forces and Taliban on Pakistani forces killing 26 soldiers of Pakistan. This led to suspension of bilateral trade.

b) Refugee Issue impending bilateral trade

After the withdrawal of US troops and during the war of US on Afghanistan, more than ~~10~~ 1.6 million Afghan refugees moved to Pakistan. This enormous population led to create serious crisis for already economically struggling country. Pakistan after the proper formation of Afghan local Taliban's rule announced to send back refugees who have been living here for so long. This created and proved to be another bone of contention for both nations affecting bilateral trade.

c) Regional realignments underscoring bilateral trade

Afghanistan's government has after the takeover of Taliban has been more tilted towards India, a rival of Pakistan. This shift of relation and involvement of New Delhi in affairs of Kabul is seen as a direct

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threat to relation of both countries. The instance of this is visit of Afghan Foreign Minister Muhammad Mutaghi to India which seem to be a result for Afghan attack on Pakistani forces. This regional realignment impedes the bilateral trade and already worsened ties between both nations.

(iii) Critical Evaluation

Pakistan-Afghan relations post 2021 have severely deteriorated. The Indian involvement factor, border clashes, and refugees issue seem to be major contributor to worsening of ties. A Holistic approach is required to ensure improvement of ties as it is not in interest of any nation including Pakistan or Afghanistan to be involved in clashes and to halt their trade. This not only impacts their relation and creates hate among people but also affects major projects like CPEC.

(iv) Conclusion

The turbulent history of Afghanistan served to be a result of recent clashes and enmity between Pakistan and Afghanistan. After the US withdrawal and establishment of Taliban rule in 2021, there have been rise in border clashes between both nations. Due to security issues, border, refugee issue and regional realignments, the relations have further deteriorated.

Q7-(I) Introduction

Despite contributing less than 1% in global warming, Pakistan remains the most vulnerable according to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This is a result of series of reasons, the climate change itself and Pakistan's environmental hazardous model is responsible for making Pakistan among top 20 most vulnerable countries. The ranking is result of inefficient policies, rising temperatures and poor budgeting. The consequences of which are heavy floods in almost all urban and rural areas affecting not only lives but also agriculture.

(II) How Climate Change and Pakistan's Environmental-Hazardous-Development Models leads to Top 20 Vulnerable Countriesa) Climate Change making Pakistan vulnerable

As rightly said by United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres "The era of global ~~warming~~ ^{warming} has ended, now is the era of global boiling." These words fit the condition of worsening situation of Pakistan. Climate change has resulted in rise of temperatures. Pakistan being the only country outside

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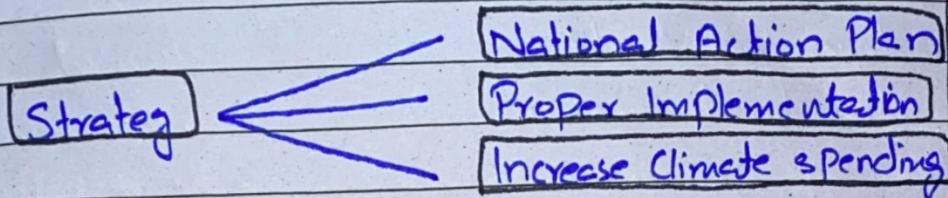
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polar regions to have glaciers in vast numbers has seen many floods in past 10 years. Most of these are a result of glacial melt due to rising heat that left thousands dead and stranded. Moreover, the cutting of trees termed as deforestation has also been a cause of deteriorating condition and thus making Pakistan among top 20 vulnerable countries.

b) Hazardous model making Pakistan vulnerable

Pakistan has very well devised policies however when it comes to their implementation, Pakistan has failed. The policies devised to control and mitigate climate change and reduce its impact are just on paper. In a recent article in Dawn Newspaper, by Muhammad Yalje it argued that despite having a well organized department to tackle and reduce impacts of climate change, the NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority), there is no district level implementation. The NDMA Act provides for the establishment of district level body however, due to non-fulfilment of policies and lack of funding. There is no system to fight against it making Pakistan to be ranked among top 20 in most vulnerable countries.

(iii) Strategy to Mitigate Environmental Risks and Enhance Resilience



a) National Action Plan

Firstly, government should adopt a national action plan, the purpose of this should be to be promoted with full zeal. People should be encouraged to participate in climate action. Local governments should be made active and involvement of all stakeholders be ensured. There should also be incentives for good performance. This strategy will be successful for mitigation and enhancing resilience.

b) Proper Implementation

The already devised policies should be implemented. The approach should be bottom-up and if there is any point of contention, the policy should be revised to be consensus oriented so that each and every person should feel the stake and work for mitigation and enhancing resilience against climate change.

c) Increase climate spending

The spending on climate

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that is only 2.7b according to Budget 2025-26 should be increased. There should be transparency in climate spending and every independent audit should be welcomed so that funds are properly used and managed. This way, environmental crisis can be managed and resilience can be enhanced.

(IV) Conclusion

Pakistan's climate action despite being among 20 vulnerable countries is not in the manner it should be. There is less public participation, low funding and no district level administration for climate hazards. Moreover, climate change is also a factor leading to poor ranking as it is not only Pakistan that is being impacted but almost every nation is feeling. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that strong policies be devised and those pending be implemented, moreover, climate budgeting be improved and increased as said by former US President Barrack Obama that "we are the first generation to feel the effects of climate change and last who can do something about it."

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THE END