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05-01-2026

General Knowledge III

Pakistan Affairs

Part-II

Question no: 01

Examine political strategy of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan vs Indian national congress.

I- Introduction:

The failure of War of Independence in 1857 proved disastrous for Indian Muslims. They suffered severe political repression, economic decline, and social marginalization under British rule. The destruction of Mughal authority further weakened Muslim influence, while the rise of Hindu middle class created new challenges. In this context, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan emerged as a visionary leader who devised a distinct political

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Strategy aimed to protecting Muslim interests. His approach differed fundamentally from the methods later adopted by the Indian National Congress, which pursued mass politics and unified nationalism.

II- Political strategy of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan

1) Educational uplift as political empowerment:

Sir Syed believed that the root cause of Muslim backwardness was lack of modern education. He argued that without scientific and western knowledge, Muslims would remain politically powerless. The establishment of Muhammadan Anglo-oriental college was a strategic move to produce Muslim elite capable of engaging with colonial administration. For Sir Syed, education was the first step towards political survival.

2) Policy of loyalty to British:

Sir Syed emphasized loyalty to British crown. He believed that confrontation would further harm Muslims, who were already viewed as suspicious after 1857. By promoting cooperation, he sought British good will, which will

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help muslims gain access to jobs, education and political concessions

'The causes of Indian Revolt' aimed to bridge misunderstanding between both.

3) Avoidance of mass politics:

Sir Syed strongly opposed muslims participation in mass political movements, especially the Indian national Congress. He believed that these political movements would permanently disadvantage muslims as minority.

4) Protection of Muslim identity as minority:

Sir Syed viewed muslims as a distinct socio-political community with separate historical, religious, and cultural tradition. He warned that majority rule in a united political system would result in Muslim subjugation.

5) Urdu-Hindi controversy and cultural survival:

The Urdu-Hindi controversy 1867 convinced Sir Syed that Hindus and Muslims were two separate nations. His

defense of Urdu was not merely linguistic rather symbolic of Muslim cultural and political identity. He saw the replacement of Urdu with Hindi as an attempt to erase Muslim heritage.

III- Critical evaluation of Sir Syed's Approach

Strengths:

- 1) Saved Muslims from further persecution after 1857
- 2) Promoted intellectual survival
- 3) Raised political consciousness
- 4) Preserved Muslims cultural and religious identity

Limitations:

- 1) Excessive reliance on British good will
- 2) Delayed direct political participation of Muslims
- 3) Elite-focus strategy with limited mass involvement

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Despite these limitations, Sir Syed's approach was realistic and protective given the hostile political environment.

IV- Methods of Indian national congress:

1) Unified Indian nationalism:

The INC advocated composite Indian nationalism, claiming to represent all communities, however, it largely reflected the interest of Hindu majority.

2) Majoritarian bias despite secular claims:

Although congress professed secularism, its leadership, language and political agenda were dominated by Hindu elites.

3) Political agitation over educational reform:

Unlike Sir Syed's gradualism, the congress favored political agitation, constitutional demands, and later mass movements to British government. This confrontational style contrasted sharply with Sir Syed's cautious and reformist approach.

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V- Difference between Sir Syed and INC

	S. Syed	INC
1)	Minority based political vision	Majority based nationalism
2)	Gradual reform through education	Mass political agitation
3)	Loyalty and cooperation with British	Pressure and confrontation
4)	Separate Muslim identity	Composite Indian nationalism

VI- Conclusion:

Sir Syed's strategy focused on education, cultural preservation, and cautious political engagement to protect Muslims' interest after 1857. While avoiding mass politics, he emphasized Muslim distinctiveness, laying the foundation for separatist politics. His approach sharply contrasted with the Congress majoritarian and confrontational methods.

Question no : 2

Climate change as non-traditional security threat to Pakistan and its implication.

I. Introduction:

Climate change is a major non-traditional security threat affecting human security, economic stability, and governance. Pakistan, despite contributing less than 1% of global emissions, is highly vulnerable due to its geography, dependence on agriculture, weak infrastructure, and low adaptive capacity. Frequent floods, droughts, heatwaves, and glacial melting threaten livelihoods, food security, and development, making climate change a historical national concern.

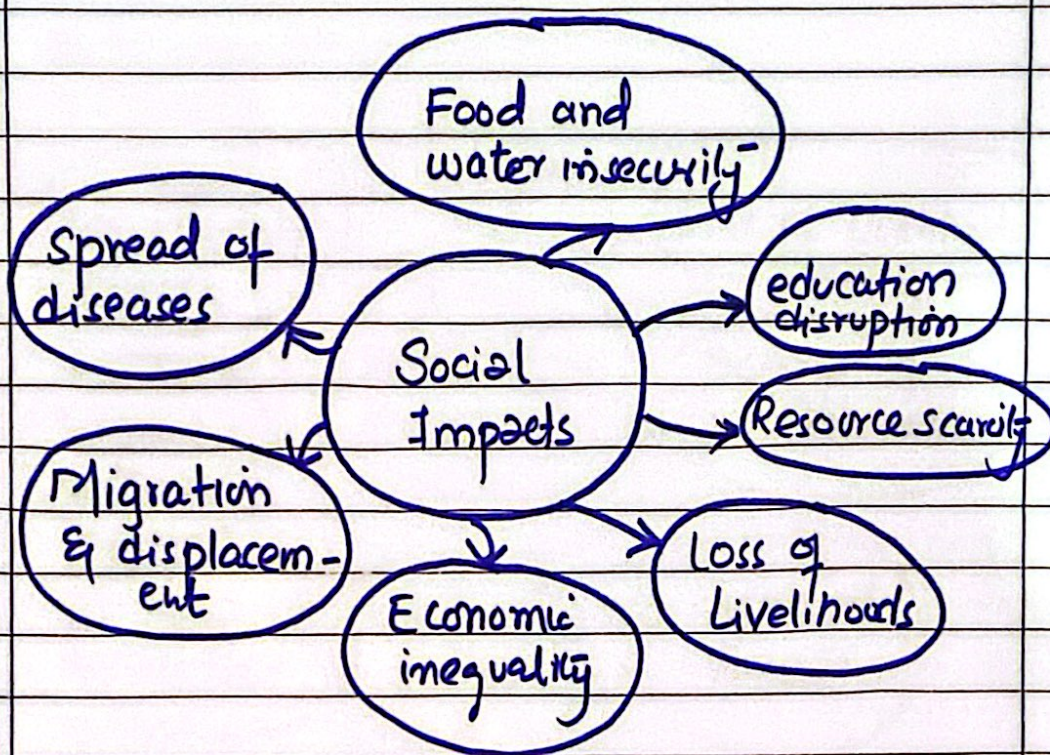
II. Climate change as a Non-traditional security threat:

Climate change under-mines access to food, water, and health services, increasing poverty, malnutrition, and disease. It also leads to social

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unrest, migration and conflicts. Floods like 2022- and 2025 demonstrate how climate disasters can weaken state capacity and threaten national stability

III- Social impacts of climate change:



1) Displacement:

Around 7.9 ~~per~~ million people were displaced by 2022 floods.

2) Loss of Livelihoods:

48.7% of surveyed people lost their income after flooding, and

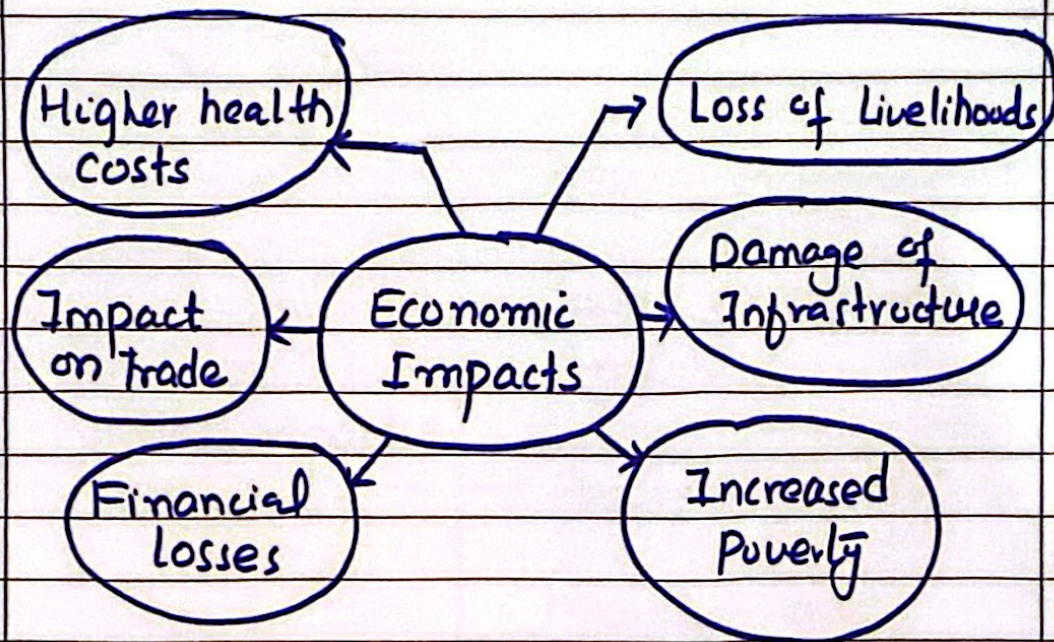
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major agricultural lands and livestock were devastated.

3) Education disruption:

over 2.6 million students were affected and 17,566 schools damaged.

III Economic impacts:



1) Total economic loss:

Around 2.9 billion dollar loss was estimated in total damages across all sectors in Flood 2025.

2) Livelihoods and employment:

Disruption to agriculture, fisheries

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and small businesses led to millions losing their income temporarily or permanently.

3) Housing:

Thousands of homes destroyed resulting in high reconstruction costs and loss of property wealth.

V. Political Impacts:

Political impacts:

- Pressure on Government
- Social unrest and Protests
- Resource scarcity
- Migration and refugee crises
- Conflict over resources
- Aid dependency
- Political instability

1) Aid dependency:

Countries frequently hit by disasters become dependent on foreign aid. Pakistan's dependency has also influenced its diplomatic relations.

2) Government criticisms:

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf publically criticized the federal government for a poor flood response being in opposition.

VI- Pakistan's Institutional Response:

1) National climate change Policy and Ministry of climate change:

Provides framework for adaptation, mitigation, and policy coordination

2) National Disaster management authorities:

manage emergency relief
and
disaster & risk reduction

3) International climate diplomacy:

Pakistan advocates climate financing, loss and damage mechanisms in

UNFCCC and COP meetings.

- 4) challenges: limited resources
weak implementation
Inequitable technical expertise

7/11. Conclusion:

Climate change threatens Pakistan's social, economic and political stability.
Weak policy implementation limit effectiveness of existing measures. However, strengthening institutions, investing climate resilient infrastructure and integrating disaster risk management are essential for a proactive approach to protect security.

Question no: 03

Geo-economic significance of Pakistan under BRI.

I- Introduction:

In the post-cold war era, global politics has increasingly shifted from geo-politics to geo-economics, where economic connectivity, trade routes, and infrastructure shape

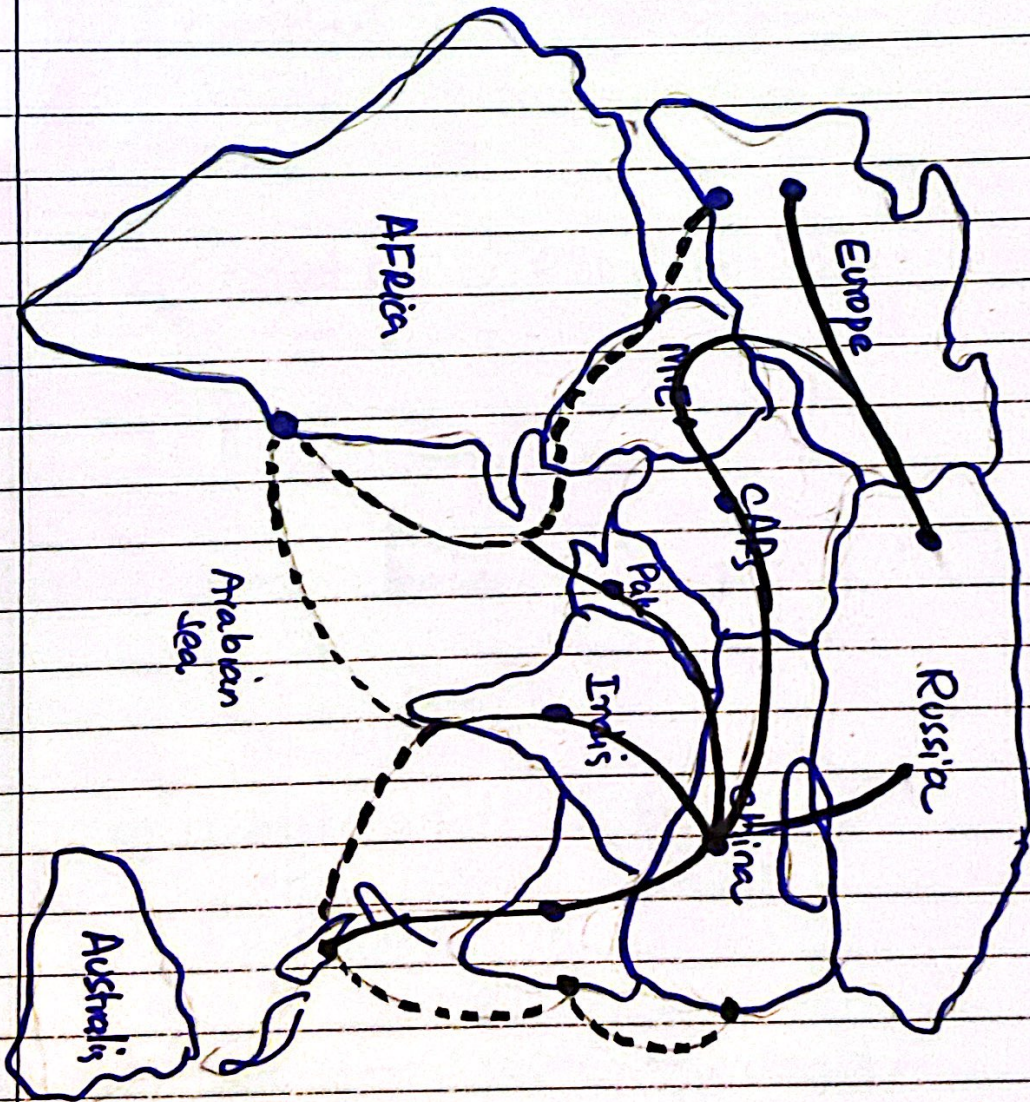
national power. China's Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) reflects this shift by promoting transnational connectivity and economic integration. Pakistan, through China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC) occupies a pivotal position in this framework. However, changing regional alignments in Asia such as Indo-Pacific strategy, QUAD, and emerging trade corridors, raise question about whether Pakistan's strategic relevance has declined or merely transformed.

II- Belt and Road Initiatives:

The BRI, launched by China in 2013, aims to enhance regional connectivity across Asia, Europe, and Africa. Pakistan's flagship partner of BRI through CPEC connects Gwadar port to China's western region Xinjiang. CPEC is considered the most mature and strategically significant corridor under BRI due to its geographic and economic potential.

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Belt and Road Initiatives:



III- Geo-economic Significance

1) Pakistan as transit and Trade Corridor:

Shortest and secure route to Arab's sea

2) Connectivity to Global markets:

Middle East

Africa

Europe

3) Increase strategic relevance of Pakistan:

key stake holder of China's long term trade

4) Linkages with CARs:

Land locked countries and access to water through Pakistan

5) Development of Energy corridor

TAPI

CASA 1000

Alternate route to China

6) Special Economic Zones:

Industrialization, employment, trade

7) Infrastructure and logistics development

Roads

Railways

Ports

Digital infrastructure

8) Renewable energy cooperation:

Renewable energy projects

Wind, hydro, solar

9) Increased Chinese dependence on Pakistan:

CPEC increased Chinese dependence
and Pakistan's leverage within
Sino-Pakistan relations

IV. Evolving Regional Alignments in Asia:

1) Indo-Pacific Strategy:

The US-led Indo Pacific strategy
aims to counter China's rise.

2) QUAD alliance:

(US, China, Japan, Australia)

Strengthens India's regional role.

3) India Middle-East Europe Economic corridor:

seeks to provide alternative to BRI

V- Has Pakistan's strategic relevance reduced?

From a geo-economic perspective, Pakistan's importance has increased because of

1) Pakistan's transition from a frontier geopolitical state to an economic bridge.

2) Geographical advantage

VI- Conclusion:

Pakistan's Belt and road connectivity initiatives have boosted its geo-economic importance as a transit hub, energy corridor, and industrial partner. Even though regional shifts have reshaped power structures but not diminished strategic relevance, which now leans more on geo-economics.

Question no : 04

Internal political instability of Pakistan- impact on national security.

I- Introduction:

Political stability is the cornerstone of economic growth and effective diplomacy. In Pakistan, recurrent political instability has consistently constrained the country's development and undermine its international standing. The interplay of structural weakness and political polarization has created a volatile environment badly affecting domestic security, investor confidence and foreign policy decision making.

II- Structural causes of Political Instability

1) Political polarization and zero-sum politics

Pakistan's political landscape is highly polarized, with parties often viewing governance as a winner-takes-all game. Electoral competition frequently

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generates personalized and ideological rivalries, limiting consensus on national policies.

2) Weak democratic institutions:

Electoral bodies, judiciary, and parliamentary institutions have historically lacked full autonomy. Frequent allegations of rigged elections or judicial interference erode public trust and weaken institutional credibility, creating cycle of instability.

3) Frequent Government changes:

Short-lived governments lead to policy discontinuity, affecting economic planning and development projects.

4) Civil-military imbalance:

The historical dominance of military in Pakistan's politics has created a dual power structure. Civilian government often struggle to assert authority while military interventions disrupt democratic processes.

5) Governance and Rule of law crisis:

Weak enforcement of laws, corruption, and administrative inefficiency limit state capacity to manage crisis.

III- Impact on National Security:

1) Protests, violence, and law and order breakdown:

Political instability often triggers mass demonstration strikes and violent clashes.

Example: Baloch Yalquti committee
Pashtun Tahafuz movement

2) Regional marginalization and under-development:

Prolonged instability has prevented balanced development across provinces, leaving regions like

Balochistan

KPK

marginalized.

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3) Rise of extremism and separatism:

Political vacuums and weak governance allow extremist and separatist groups to gain influence. This directly threatens internal security.

Example: BLA
TTP

4) Over-Reliance on military operations:

Civilian governments' inability to maintain law and order often results in military led operations which are temporary solutions.

Examples: Zube Aqab
Rah-e-Rast
Radd-ul-Fasad

IV. Impacts on foreign policy and diplomacy:

1) Weak sovereign credibility:

Frequent political upheavals project an image of institutional fragility, undermining Pakistan's negotiating power in international forums.

2) Decline of Foreign Direct Investment:

Investors seek stability. Political instability discourages FDI and limits Palestine's leverage in economic diplomacy. Resultantly reliance on external loans increases.

3) Reduced influence in Regional and Global forums:

Inconsistent foreign policy due to internal political pressures diminishes Palestine's role in

SAAR

ECO

OIC and

bilateral negotiations.

4) Dependency on external financial institutions:

Instability and weak economic management often force Palestine to depend on

IMF

WB and

Bailouts.

reducing sovereign decision-making and long term strategic autonomy.

V. Conclusions

Internal political instability in Pakistan is rooted in structural weaknesses including political polarization, weak institutions, and governance crisis. These structural flaws not only threaten national security but also undermine economic performance and foreign policy effectiveness, reducing investor confidence, and diplomatic influence. Therefore, sustainable political stability, institutional strengthening and effective governance are essential for Pakistan to secure its internal security and project credible influence on regional and global stage.

The End