

(Part - II)

Q2. Answer:

Climate Change as a Non Traditional Security Threat to Pakistan: Implications and Institutional Response

Climate change has moved beyond being an environmental concern and has emerged as a serious non traditional security threat for Pakistan. Despite contributing less than one percent to global greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan remains among the most climate vulnerable countries in the world. Rising temperatures, erratic monsoon patterns, glacial melt, floods, droughts, and heatwaves now directly effect Pakistan's economic stability, social cohesion, and political governance, making climate change a multidimensional national challenge.

Climate change as a Security Threat

unlike traditional military threat, climate

change undermines national security by weakening state capacity, disruption of livelihoods, and increasing societal stress.

The 2022 floods, prolonged heatwaves, water scarcity, and agricultural losses have demonstrated that climate change can damage infrastructure, displace populations, and strain governance mechanisms. These impacts collectively pose risks to internal stability and long term development.

Socio Economic Implications

• Agriculture and Food Security

Pakistan's economy remains agrarian, with a large population dependent on farming. climate variability has reduced crop yields, damaged irrigation systems, and increased food inflation. Floods and droughts disrupt wheat, rice, and cotton production, directly threatening food security and export earnings.

• Economic Losses and Fiscal Stress

Climate disasters impose heavy financial costs on the State. Infrastructure damage, relief operations, and rehabilitation divert scarce public resources, increasing fiscal pressure in an already debt constrained economy. This limits the government's ability to invest in education, health, and development.

• Poverty and Livelihood Disruption.

Climate shocks disproportionately affect low income groups, especially rural communities. Loss of crops, livestock, and housing pushes vulnerable populations into deeper poverty, increasing dependence on State support systems.

Social and Demographic Implications

• Internal Displacement and Urban Pressure

Floods and droughts trigger internal migration from rural to urban areas, placing

pressure on cities such as Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. This leads to informal settlements, unemployment, and challenges in service delivery.

• Health and Human Security.

Heatwaves, waterborne diseases, and malnutrition have intensified due to climate stress. These health impacts reduce human productivity and increase the burden on public health institutions.

Political and Governance Implications

- Governance and Disaster Management Challenges
- Large scale climate disasters test the capacity of federal and provincial governments. Coordinating relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction across institutions remains complex, requiring continuous improvement in governance mechanisms.

• Regional and Water Security Concerns

Glacial melt and changing river flows affect water availability, raising concerns about long term water security. Managing shared water resources within constitutional frameworks and international obligations remains a strategic priority for the state.

Pakistan's Institutional Response

Despite resource constraints, Pakistan has demonstrated institutional commitment and adaptive capacity in responding to climate challenges.

• Policy and Planning Frameworks

Pakistan has adopted the National Climate Change Policy, updated climate adaptation plans, and integrated climate considerations into development strategies. These frameworks reflect growing recognition of climate change as a national security issue.

• Disaster Management Institutions

Institutions such as the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities have improved early warning systems, coordination, and response mechanisms, particularly evident during recent flood emergencies.

• Climate Diplomacy

Pakistan has actively highlighted climate justice at international forums, emphasizing its limited emissions and disproportionate vulnerability. This diplomatic engagement has strengthened Pakistan's moral position in global climate negotiations.

• Armed Forces' Support Role

State institutions, including the armed forces, have played a crucial humanitarian role in rescue, relief, and rehabilitation during climate disasters, reinforcing national resilience and public trust.

• Evaluation of Institutional Response

While Pakistan's institutional response shows political will, improving coordination, and strategic awareness, challenges remain due to financial limitations, implementation gaps, and capacity constraints. However, these are structural challenges faced by many developing states and should be viewed in the context of Pakistan's economic realities rather than governance failure.

Conclusion

Climate change poses a profound non-traditional security threat to Pakistan, affecting its economy, society, and political governance. Despite contributing minimally to global emissions, Pakistan bears a disproportionate burden of climate impacts. The State's response through policy reforms, disaster management institutions, and proactive

climate diplomacy reflects a responsible and evolving approach. Going forward, strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing climate resilient development, and securing international climate finance will be essential to safeguarding Pakistan's national security and sustainable future.

Q.3. Answer,

Geo Economic Significance of Pakistan's Connectivity Initiatives under the Belt and Road Framework

The global shift from geopolitics to geo economics has made connectivity, trade corridors, and logistics central to national power. Within this evolving landscape, Pakistan occupies a critical geoeconomic position under china's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), particularly through the china Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC). Rather than diminishing Pakistan's relevance, changing regional alignments in Asia have reinforced Pakistan's importance as a connector state linking South Asia, central Asia, the Middle East, and Western China.

Pakistan's centrality in the Belt and Road Framework

- Strategic Geography as a Natural Corridor
Pakistan sits at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, West Asia, and the Indian ocean. This unique geography enables Pakistan to serve as:
- A gateway for landlocked central Asian states to warm waters
- A bridge between China's western regions and global markets
- A transit hub connecting energy rich Middle East with Asian markets

No alternative route offers the same short, secure, and cost effective access as

Pakistan's Connectivity Framework.

Geo Economic Significance of CPEC and Connectivity Initiatives

- Gwadar Port and Maritime Connectivity
Gwadar enhances Pakistan's maritime importance by providing China with the shortest route to Arabian sea, offering regional states an alternative to congested maritime chokepoints and strengthening Pakistan's role in Indian ocean trade dynamics. Gwadar positions Pakistan as a commercial hub rather than merely a transit state.

- Regional Trade and Transit Integration
CPEC's road, rail, and energy infrastructure strengthens Pakistan's capacity to connect China with the Middle East and Africa, Central Asia with global markets, and South Asia with Eurasian trade networks. This connectivity

aligns Pakistan with emerging Asian supply chains and regional trade corridors.

• Economic Transformation and Industrial Linkages

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC aim to promote industrialization, attract foreign investment, and generate employment and exports. This marks Pakistan's transition from aid dependent economics to connectivity driven growth.

- Energy Security and Economic Stability
Energy projects under CPEC have addressed chronic shortages, supporting industrial productivity and economic continuity an essential precondition for sustainable geo economic relevance.

Has Evolving Regional Alignment Reduced Pakistan's Strategic Relevance?

- Shift from Geostrategic to Geo Economic

Relevance

While cold war style military alliances have evolved, Pakistan's relevance has not declined; it has changed in nature. Today, States are valued for Trade routes, connectivity, Economic Corridors. Pakistan fits this new Paradigm effectively.

• Asia's Multipolar order Enhances Pakistan's Role

The rise of China, growing central Asian outreach, and Middle Eastern diversification Strategies increase Pakistan's utility as a neutral connector rather than a bloc dependent actor.

• Complementarity, Not competition

New regional initiatives in Asia do not negate Pakistan's role; instead, they create interconnected Corridors where Pakistan functions as a convergence

Point linking multiple regions.

• Strategic Autonomy through Connectivity.
Pakistan's Participation in BRI has expanded its diplomatic and economic options, reducing over reliance on any single power and enhancing strategic autonomy.

Challenges and Way Forward

While Pakistan's connectivity initiatives hold immense promise, maximizing their benefits requires political continuity and policy consistency. Also improving trade facilitation and customs efficiency, Regional stability to ensure uninterrupted transit, Focus on economic returns alongside infrastructure development. Addressing these challenges will strengthen Pakistan's long term geo economic relevance.

Conclusion

Pakistan's Connectivity initiatives under the Belt and Road Framework have significantly enhanced its geo economic importance. Far from diminishing Pakistan's Strategic relevance, evolving regional alignments in Asia have redefined and strengthened Pakistan's role as a key connector state. By linking China, Central Asia, the Middle East, and South Asia, Pakistan has moved from being a frontline geopolitical State to a central geo economic hub, a role that aligns with the future direction of global power and trade.
