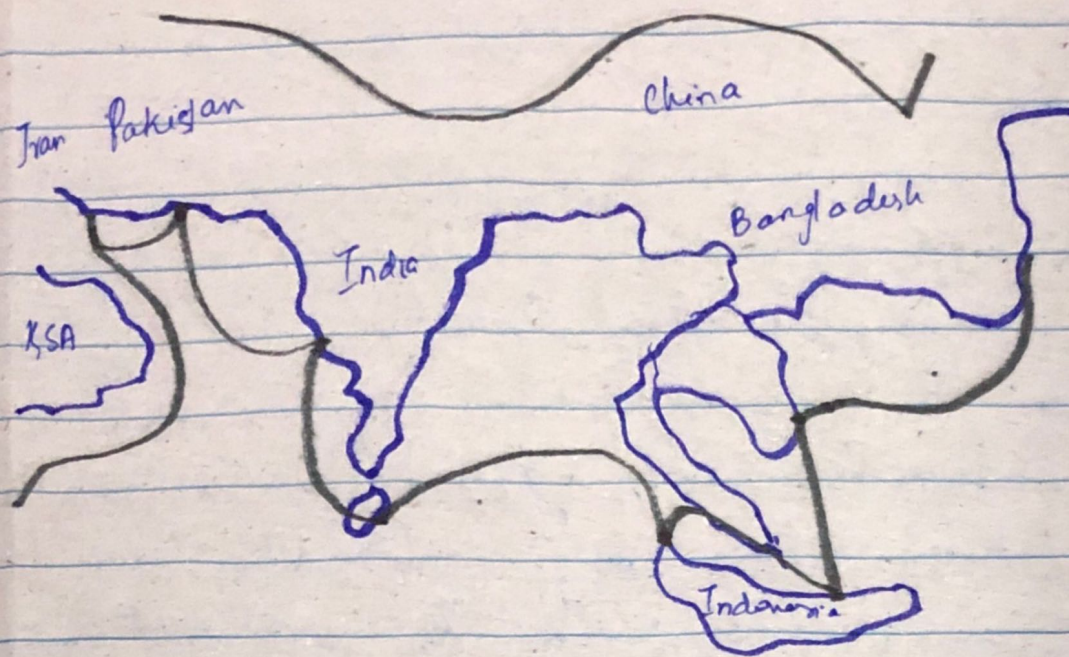


Q3:

INTRODUCTION:

The Belt Road Initiative of China has significant impact on the regional and global dynamics. It has implications politically as well as economically. The sub-part of BRI that is specific to Pakistan is CPEC. CPEC plays imperative role in geo-economic fabric of Pakistan. The relevance of Pakistan in the regional strategic position has evolved, but due to uncertain domestic events, the significance of Pakistan is undermined in Central Asia. However, if fallouts could be addressed, the BRI will play a havoc in the economic integration and regional stability.

GEOECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVE.



The BRI initiative starts from China and extends to ~~multi-co~~ Middle-East, Central Asia and Africa. This project is not only confined to land connectivity but also connects through the warm waters of Arabia sea i.e. string of pearls. The CPEC has significance in Pakistan in the same manner.

• INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT:

The Gwadar Port is the key project of CPEC. The deep-water port of Gwadar provides China

an access to connect Central Asia with Arabian sea and circumventing the Strait of Malacca which is considered a choke point of international trade.

• ENERGY PROJECTS:

CPEC project has also initiated the energy project such as the Thar coal mine, coal-power plant in Sahiwal and Karot hydropower plant on the river Jhelum. These energy project will address the chronic energy crisis of Pakistan. Thus, the CPEC play havoc role in addressing energy crisis of Pakistan.

• ACCESS TO CENTRAL ASIAN MARKETS:

CPEC is building road connectivity of Pakistan to the Central Asian countries' markets. This is primarily through the Karakoram Highway. This initiative play

key role in building a collective Asian economy.

EVOLVING REGIONAL ALIGNMENT: AND ITS IMPACT:

Due to swiftly emergence of multilateralism and minilateralism, the regional alignment is evolving and it has significant impact on Pakistan as well.

• INDIA'S STRATEGIC ALLIANCE:

The role of India in the ~~regi~~ regional alignment is evolving by its involvement in other minilateral initiatives. For instance, QUAD and mega projects like, IMEC. These programs are predominantly initiated to counter the china's ~~to~~ role in the region. The involvement of the US in these

initiatives is primary. This shows that the great powers are maintaining status-quo in the regions with the alliance of India. This pose may undermine the potential of BRI and in the region.

Pakistan's
strategic relevance

• REGIONAL RIVALRIES:

The on-going regional rivalries such as, India-Pakistan and Pakistan-Afghanistan have also shaped the regional dynamics. This can also ~~under~~ affect the Chinese projects. Thus, Pakistan plays a key role in the evolving regional alignment in Asia, but has reduced the strategic relevance due to border clash and instability.

• INTERNAL INSTABILITY:

The terrorism is a global menace which has also impacted the Pakistan's strategic position in

the region. The domestic instability have hindered the regional prosperity in Asia. The events such as, attack on Chinese Consulate in Karachi. In addition to it, delay in Karachi-Lahore Motorway Project shows that the CPEC project has undermined ~~to~~ due to instability in Pakistan. The terrorism and insurgency in Baluchistan has hindered the timely completion. Such uncertainties impact negatively on the Pakistan's strategic relevance in Asia.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, the BRI project of China has significant on regional and global dynamics. Subsequently, prudent in the connectivity aspect of Pakistan. However, the ongoing instability

in internal and external affairs of Pakistan have undermined Pakistan's regional strategic relevance and alignment in Asia.

Q5:

PREAMBLE:

The internal grievance from different ethnic groups are provinces are predominantly upon the federal cohesion absence in Pakistan. This can be classified in political, economic and administrative factors. Due to these factors, the federal cohesion is devoid in the country. However, through adopting certain way forwards, these grievances can be addressed. In addition to it, the federal cohesion will be established in this regard.

FACTORS UNDERMINING FEDERAL COHESION IN PAKISTAN:

POLITICAL

- centralization of power
- Ethnic and provincial nationalism
- Inter-province disputes.

ECONOMIC

- unequal development
- NFC-award
- utilization of natural resources

ADMINIST- -RATIVE

- weak-federal provincial coordination
- Bureaucratic centralization

WAY FORWARD

Decentralization of power

Equitable Economic distribution

Strengthen Council of
Common-Interests.

POLITICAL FACTORS :

- centralization of Power :

The power has been centralized to the central. The power of policy-making and has ~~been~~ trivial part of the provinces. Thus, this ~~leads~~ leads to the federal cohesion on provinces.

- Ethnic and Provincial Nationalism.

The provinces has grievance on the ethnic difference led by the center. In this manner, the spirit of nationalism arise due to federal cohesion.

- Inter-provinces Disputes :

The inter-province relation has also been in dispute. For instance, the recent canal controversy and water issues has

impacted the relations of Sindh and Punjab.

ECONOMIC FACTORS:

- Unequal Development:

The development among the province is also diverse. Such as, the Province Punjab is more developed than Baluchistan and KPK. This further aggravate the perception that federal has undermined the cohesion in Provinces.

- NFC Award distribution:

It is argued that NFC distribution is unequitable. The provinces like Baluchistan require more assistance, the NFC award is inadequate to them. In this way, the grievances over the federal cohesion arise.

- Utilization of natural resources.

It is perceived that natural resources and its adequate share to the provinces is often exploited. For example, the royalty in SAINDEK COOPER by Chinese Company offered 2% to the province which was later increased to 5%. This shows that the natural resources share is often misused by the province.

ADMINISTRATIVE FACTORS:

- Weak federal and provincial coordination.

The coordination between the federal and provinces is weak.

The grievances of provinces is often miscommunicated to federal due to lack of proper administrative medium.

- Bureaucratic Centralization:

The Bureaucratic structure is divided into federal and provincial separately. Thus, the coordination among them and consensus is often hard to establish.

WAY FORWARD - A RAY OF HOPE:

- DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER:

The power among provinces and federal must be decentralised. ~~It~~ This can be adopted by proper implementation of 18th Amendment. In this way; the federal cohesion can be established in in this regard.

• EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DISTRIBUTION:

The economic resources including the NFC award must be revised. This revision should involve the federal as well as provincial consensus. The concerns of federal on the NFC award should also taken into consideration.

• STRENGTHEN CCI:

The Council of Common Interests (CCI) ~~has~~ was established to bring federal and provincial representatives on a single-table. By strengthening the CCI, the issues will be discussed, this will uphold the federal cohesion in Pakistan.

INFERENCE:

In conclusion, the federal cohesion can be adopted through

addressing certain factors. This will subsequently address the political, economical and administrative factors that result in lack of federal cohesion in Pakistan.

Q8:

PREAMBLE:

In the twenty-first century, the technology plays a crucial role in almost every aspect. Subsequently, the driving force of contemporary economy is also led by technology. Additionally, the technology has also resulted in the significant growth of the economies. The potential of Pakistan is yet undermined. However, through structural reforms i.e. policy and institutional, the potential

of Pakistan in technological aspect can be explored and utilized to its maximum.

CURRENT STATE OF TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION IN PAKISTAN:

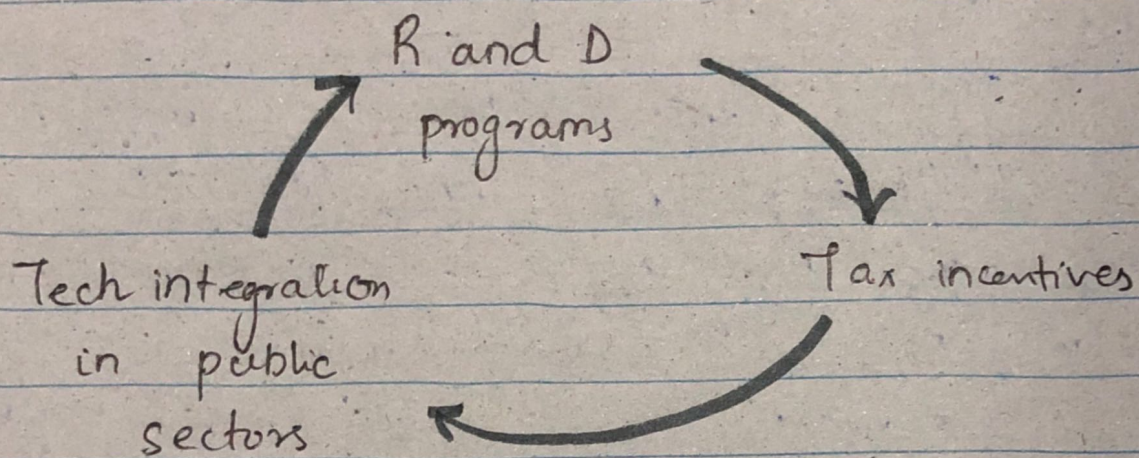
The current status of Pakistan in technology and innovation is emerging drastically. The increase in startups and establishment of multinational companies shows that the tech-sector of Pakistan is growing. However, through certain way forwards, this growth can be accelerated.

POTENTIAL FOR TECH-LED DEVELOPMENT:

Pakistan has almost 65% of its population is youth. The

youth can be the driving force to unlock the tech-led potential in Pakistan.

POLICY REFORMS:



i) INVESTMENT IN R&D:

Pakistan is currently spending 0.22% of GDP in ~~R&D~~ Research and Development (R&D) programs. However the global average standard is 1.7% of GDP. If Pakistan increase its GDP spending on R&D, the tech-sectors will grow drastically.

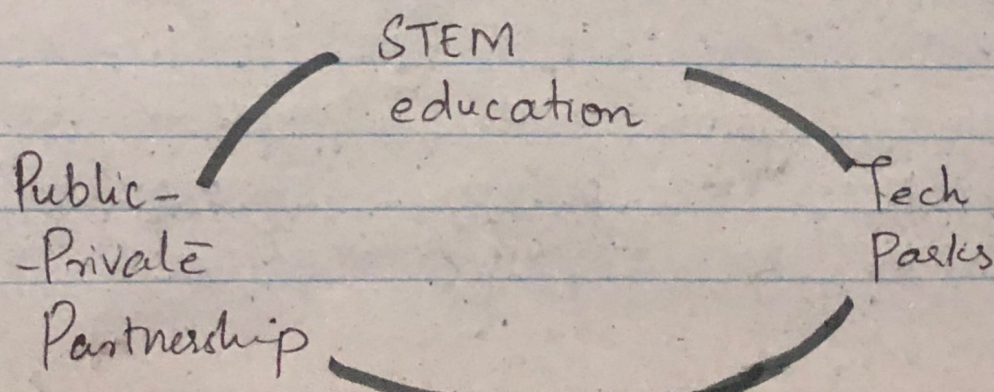
• TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION IN PUBLIC SECTOR:

The Government sectors must be tech-integrated. This provides easy and advanced access to the citizens. The E-Government initiatives like, E-driving license, E-passport facility etc. This will lead to tech-led development in Pakistan.

• TAX INCENTIVES:

The tech-startups can be subsidized. Through this policy, the startups will be encouraged and also will have institutional support. The program like "tax holiday" can also be adopted in this regard.

INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS:



i) STEM-LED EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM :

The STEM-led (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) educational system can be adopted to eliminate the skill-gap in Pakistan. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), only 10% of university graduates get their field-related job. This shows the skill-gap in Pakistan. Through STEM education and technical education through NVTTC can play crucial role in this regard.

ii) TECHNOLOGICAL PARKS :

The technological parks or tech-hubs will encourage the technological-led development in Pakistan. The tech-Parks in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad are established by the collaboration of China. are playing their part in

upholding the technological development in Pakistan.

iii) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP:

The public-private partnership can also support the tech-development in Pakistan. The institutions like Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has shown drastic growth after the public-private partnership. Through product sectors, the tech-development can be upheld in this regard.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, Pakistan possesses enormous potential in the field of technology. Through certain policy and institutional reforms, the tech-potential of Pakistan can be unlocked.