

Q.No.2 climate change has emerged as a major non-traditional security threat to Pakistan. Analyse —
Answer.

Climate change has become a significant non-traditional security threat for Pakistan, affecting the country's socio-economic fabric, political stability, and institutional capacity. The analysis can be structured in three parts, viz. economic implications, political implications and Pakistan's institutional response.

i) Socio-economic Implications.

ii) Agriculture and water security:

Increased frequency of droughts and floods damages crops, impacting food security.

and the livelihoods of a large portion of the population dependent on agriculture.

ii) Health Risks:

Heatwave, waterborne disease, and air pollution lead to increased public health challenges and mortality rates.

iii) Economic Strain:

Infrastructure damage from floods and the cost of adaptation and mitigation efforts strain the national budget and hinder economic growth.

iv) Displacement and migration,

Extreme weather events force internal displacement, creating an influx of climate refugees and putting pressure on urban infrastructure.

=> Political Implications:

i) Resource conflicts,

of a large
 dependent

Scarce water resources
 could exacerbate inter-provincial
 tensions and potentially lead to
 regional instability.

the disease,
 to increased
 and mortality

Governance challenges:

The Government faces
 increased pressure to manage disaster
 relief and long-term climate planning
 which can impact political stability
 and public trust.

range from
 adaptation
 train the
 economic

National Security:

Climate change acts as a
 threat multiplier, intensifying existing
 security concerns and potentially
 diverting resources from traditional
 defense needs.

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1) Pakistan's Institutional Response Policy Frameworks:

The Government has
 developed a national climate change
 policy and a national disaster

Risk reduction policy to guide its response.

Ministry of Climate Change

A dedicated ministry has been established to coordinate efforts and implement climate-related initiatives.

International Commitments:

Pakistan is a signatory to international agreement like the Paris Agreement and actively participates in global climate forums.

Adaptation Projects:

Initiatives such as the Billion Tree Tsunami Project aim to enhance carbon absorption and mitigate environmental degradation.

Evaluation:

Pakistan's response shows awareness of climate risks but faces implementation gaps due to resource constraints and institutional

Regeneration, Enhancing finance, improving data systems, and fostering regional cooperation are critical for effective climate security management.

→ Conclusion:

Climate change poses a severe non-traditional security threat to Pakistan, undermining its socio-economic stability, political governance, and institutional effectiveness. The intertwined effects on agriculture, water resource and economic infrastructure increase poverty, displacement, and potential social conflicts, while also straining the government's legitimacy and regional relations. Pakistan has established policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms to address these challenges, but implementation is hampered by financial shortages, coordination gaps, and technological limitations. To mitigate the threat, Pakistan

needs strengthened financing, improved data and institutional integration, and enhanced regional cooperation for sustainable adaptation and resilience.

Q. NO. 3

Evaluate the geo-economic significance ———
Answer.

The geo-economic significance of Pakistan's connectivity initiatives under the belt and road framework (primarily the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC), is high, and the evolving regional alignment in Asia has not necessarily reduced Pakistan's strategic relevance, but rather shifted its focus and dynamics.

1) Infrastructure Development

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship BRI project in Pakistan, focuses on roads, railways, ports (for example,

(Awaraz), and energy projects.

These investments aim to boost trade flows, reduce logistics costs, and improve energy security, thereby stimulating economic growth and industrialization.

ii) Trade & Market Access.

By enhancing transport corridors, Pakistan seeks to increase its exports and become a regional trans-shipment point. The BRT opens access to Chinese markets and potentially to European markets via improved connectivity, which can diversify Pakistan's trade partners and reduce dependency on traditional routes.

iii) Energy Security.

CPEC includes major energy projects (coal, renewables, and hydropower) intended to alleviate Pakistan's chronic power shortages which in turn supports industrial

Production and overall Economic Stability.

= Strategic Positioning:

The BRI strengthens Pakistan's geopolitical leverage by deepening its partnership with China, providing diplomatic and economic counterbalance in the region. However, this also ties Pakistan's strategic choices closely to Chinese interests.

5) Challenges & Considerations:

Security risks, debt sustainability, and the need for institutional reforms are critical for institutional reform factors that can affect the long-term impact of BRI projects on Pakistan's strategic relevance. Effective management of these challenges is essential to ensure that the initiatives translate into sustainable economic benefits and enhanced geopolitical

→ Regional Alignment & Strategic Relevance:

The evolving regional dynamics in Asia - such as growing India-US cooperation or shifting alliances among central Asia states - have complex effects on Pakistan's relevance. One on one hand, enhanced BRI connectivity can amplify Pakistan's importance as a transit economy, making it indispensable for regional trade networks, on the other hand, if neighboring countries align in ways that bypass Pakistan (for example, alternative trade corridors), it could marginalize Pakistan's role unless it diversifies its partnerships and improves internal governance and security for investors.

→ Conclusion

In Summary, Pakistan's BRI-related connectivity projects are geo-economically significant because

They aim to transform the country into a key regional logistics and energy hub, potentially increasing its strategic relevance. However, the evolving Asian regional alignment can either reinforce or diminish this relevance depending on how Pakistan navigates economic diversification, security concerns, and diplomatic relationships.

Q. No 4: Internal

⇒ Answer

Internal political instability in Pakistan has been attributed to several structural causes, including a weak democratic institutional framework, the powerful influence of the military establishment in civilian affairs, ethnic and provincial disparities, and economic challenges.

i) Institutional weakness

Pakistan's democratic institutions

(Parliament, Judiciary, bureaucracy) often suffer from legitimacy and frequent interference by non-state or military actors. This creates policy paralysis, inconsistent governance, and lack of long-term planning, which scares off investment and hampers economic performance.

⇒ Elite Power Struggles.

Competing interests among political dynasties, the military, and business elites lead to fragmented decision-making and frequent regime changes (coups, elections, with disputed result). The infighting diverts attention from development to political survival, weakening state capacity and diplomatic coherence.

⇒ Socio-economic Grievances.

High poverty, unemployment, and uneven resource distribution

fuel projects and regional discontent.
The internal unrest forces the government to allocate resources to security and crisis management instead of economic projects, and it also signals external projects that the state is unstable complicating foreign relations.

=> Impact on national security, - internal security threats.

instability emboldens militant groups and separatist movements stretching security forces thin and creating domestic terrorism risks.

=> Policy inconsistency:

Frequent leadership changes lead to shifting foreign policy orientations, confusing international partners and reducing long-term strategic alliances.

=> military prioritization:

The armed forces

often step into the political vacuum, focusing on internal control rather than external defense, which can distort strategic priorities and strain relations with neighboring states.

=> Impact on Foreign Policy

= Diplomatic Credibility:

unstable governments find it hard to negotiate stable agreements or attract foreign aid/investment, limiting Pakistan's bargaining power.

=> Ethnic and Provincial disparities

Ethnic and provincial disparities in Pakistan refer to unequal distribution of resources, opportunities, and political representation across different regions and ethnic groups. This imbalance fuels grievance and tensions, contributing to instability.

Effective mitigation strategies

Q. No. 7

Strengthen institutional autonomy and transparency to reduce elite interference.

Promote inclusive economic policies that address regional disparities and reduce grievances.

Establish civilian-military dialogue mechanisms to ensure consistent security and foreign policy planning.

Conclusion

Pakistan's political instability due to several structural causes, which cripple economic growth and undermine national security by fueling internal threats and military. However, stabilizing the system requires institutional strengthening, inclusive economic reforms, and structured civilian-military dialogue to restore governance coherence and restore confidence among investors and international partners.

Strategies

Q. No. 7

Answer:

1) The security establishment has a highly significant and often dominant role in shaping Pakistan's foreign and security policies. The influence is extensive and impacts the country's international standing in several ways.

2) The military's historical involvement in governance and national security decisions means it often dictates strategic priorities, particularly concerning regional rivals, like India and the Afghanistan border.

3) Policies are heavily influenced by a security-centred worldview which has sometimes led to a focus on military strength and strategic depth over economic or diplomatic considerations.

The influence has drawn criticism regarding the state of democracy and human rights abuses, impacting relationships with western nations and international bodies.

- ⇒ Conversely, the security establishment's role in counter-terrorism efforts and regional stability negotiations has at times been appreciated by international partners, such as during the Afghan Peace Process.
- ⇒ The fluctuating balance between civilian and government and military influence contributes to perceptions of political instability, which can affect foreign investment and diplomatic relations.