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Part II

Question : 02

Climate change emerged as a major non-traditional security threat

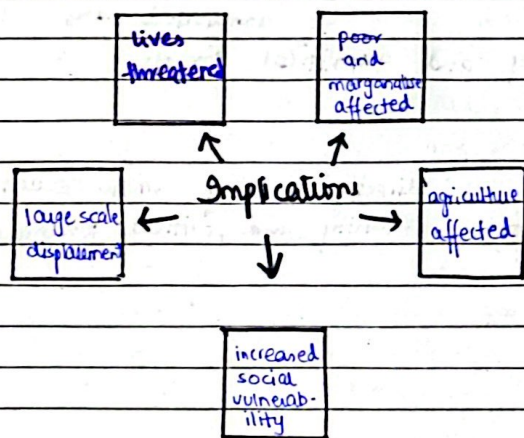
Introduction

Traditionally, Pakistan's security discourse has been dominated by military and geopolitical threats. However, climate change has emerged as a profound non traditional security challenge, directly affecting human security, economic stability and political governance. Ranked among the world's most climate vulnerable countries despite minimal emissions, Pakistan faces recurrent floods, heatwaves, droughts and glacial melt that strain state capacity and social cohesion. The catastrophic 2022 and 2025 floods marked a turning point, exposing how environmental shocks can translate to economic losses, displacement and

governance stress. Thus, climate change in Pakistan is no longer a peripheral environmental concern but a multidimensional security threat requiring institutional, economic and political responses.

Climate change and Human Security in Pakistan

Climate change has severely impacted human security in Pakistan.

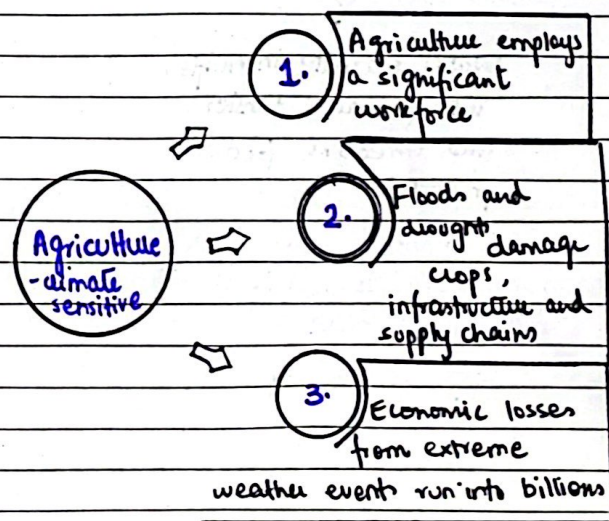


Lives threatened

Climate induced disasters threaten lives, livelihoods and access to basic services. Large scale displacement increases urban pressure and social vulnerability. Climate change undermines human security more persistently than conventional threats, making it a core national security concern.

Socio economic Implications

Climate change brings a myriad of socio economic implications.



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Climate change shocks act as economic threat multipliers, deepening inequality and slowing long term development.

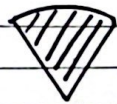
Water and Food Security Challenges

1.



Erratic monsoons and accelerated glacial melt disrupt Indus Basin system

2.



Declining water availability undermines energy generation

3.



Water scarcity intensifies inter provincial tensions and threatens food production

Climate induced water stress poses strategic risks to national cohesion and food sovereignty.

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Public Health and Social Stability

Disease burden and mortality rates

Heatwaves and floods increase disease burdens and mortality rates

Malnutrition and waterborne diseases

These problems rise after climate disasters

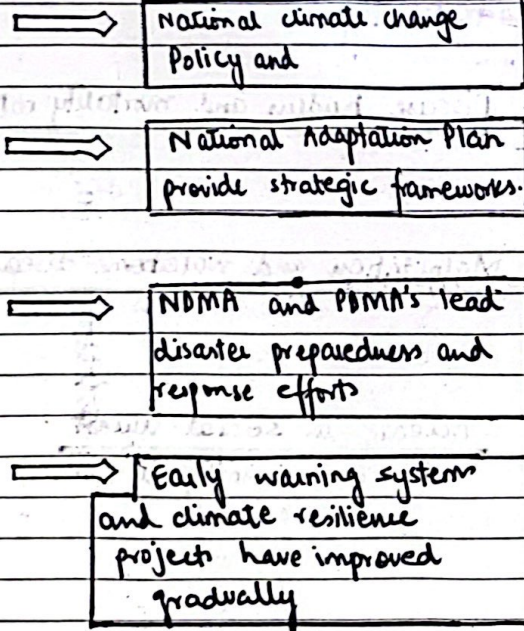
Increase in social unrest

"As per criminological theories, social stress from displacement may fuel crime and social unrest

Climate change amplifies public health vulnerabilities, stretching already fragile social services.

Pakistan's Institutional Response

Pakistan has responded through national climate change policy and National Adaptation Plan

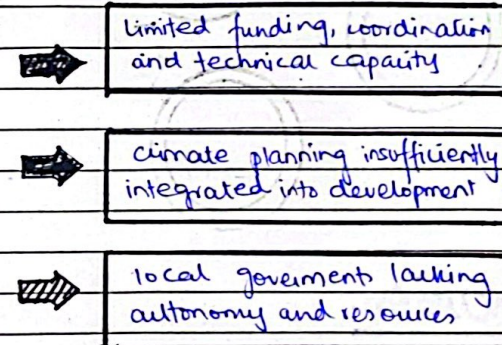


Pakistan's policy architecture exists, but implementation remains uneven and reactive

Gaps and Structural Gaps

Weaknesses

However, there are certain weaknesses and gaps in policy making, structural imbalances and implementation problems.



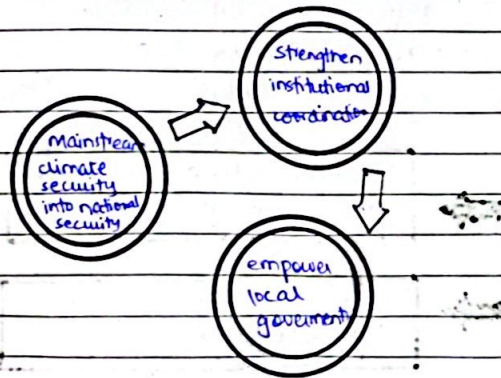
Case of Economic Survey 24-25

Instead of a separate chapter for climate domain, there must have been an integration of climate in sectors of agriculture, infrastructure and all other domains.

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Way Forward

There lies a flicker of hope to build climate resilience. Steps to be taken should include



Conclusion

Climate change has decisively emerged as a non traditional security threat to Pakistan, with far reaching socio-economic and political consequences. While Pakistan has developed institutional frameworks, gaps still exist. However effective institutional reform, sustained investment and integrated governance can transform climate vulnerability into long term resilience.

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Question no: 4

Internal Political Instability

Introduction

Political stability is widely regarded as the backbone of national strength. As Samuel P. Huntington observed, "The most important political distinction among countries concern not their form of government but their degree of government". In Pakistan's case, recurring internal political has persistently undermined governance capacity, economic performance and diplomatic credibility. Since independence, cycles of weak civilian rule, military interventions, institutional imbalance and polarized politics have constrained Pakistan's ability to pursue coherent economic reforms and consistent foreign policy. Consequently, political instability has evolved from a domestic governance issue into a direct threat to

national security and foreign policy effectiveness, weakening the state's internal cohesion and external standing.

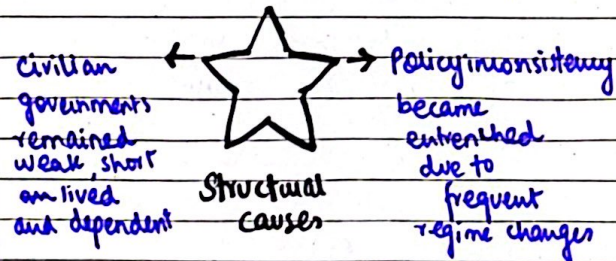
Structural Causes - Civil

military Imbalance

Repeated military interventions

Repeated military interventions disrupted democratic continuity and institutional development.

Repeated military intervention disrupted democratic continuity and institutional development.



Weak civilian government

Civilian government remained weak, short lived and dependent.

Regime change fueling inconsistency

Policy inconsistency became entrenched due to frequent regime changes.

The unresolved civil-military imbalance remains the most enduring structural cause of political instability in Pakistan.

Weak Political Institutions

and Governance Deficits

Institutional Fragility

Parliament, political parties, and local governments remain institutionally fragile.

Patronage Politics

Patronage politics and dynastic leadership limit internal party democracy.

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Personality Driven Policy Making

Policy making is personality driven rather than institution based.

Weak institutions produce fragile government incapable of long term economic or diplomatic planning.

Economic Mismanagement and Political Polarization

Public Discontent fueled

Poor economic performance fuels public discontent and political agitation.

Legitimacy crises deepened

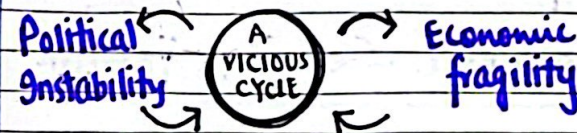
Govt programs, inflation and unemployment deepen legitimacy crises.

Exploitation of economic hardship

Political actors exploit economic hardship to mobilize street power.

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(World Bank Governance Indicators consistently link Pakistan's political instability with poor economic governance)



Judicialization of Politics

Politicisation of Accountability Mechanisms

↓
Frequent judicial intervention politicise accountability mechanism

Resolution of Disputes

↓
Legal battles replace parliamentary resolution of disputes

Prolonged Constitutional Uncertainty

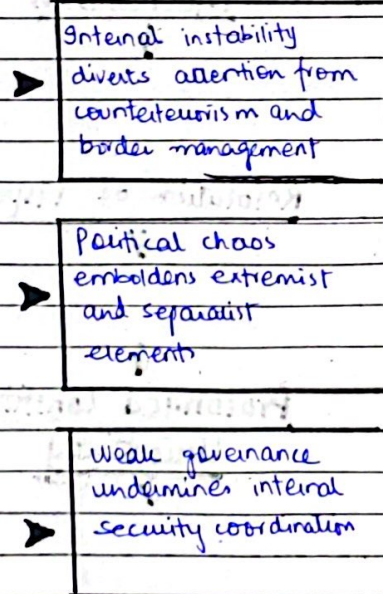
↓
Governance paralysis emerges amid prolonged constitutional uncertainty.

Excessive judicialization weakens democratic norms and fuels institutional confrontation.

Impacts on National and Economic Security, Foreign Policy and Diplomacy

Political instability brings a cascade of impact

Impact
on
National
Security



Impacts on Economic Security

Economic security is also severely impacted

Decline in investor confidence

Investor confidence declines amid policy uncertainty

Currency volatility intensified

Capital flight and currency volatility intensify.

Long term development

Long term development planning becomes impossible

"Asian Development Bank notes that political uncertainty remains a primary deterrent to sustained foreign investment in Pakistan".

Impact on Foreign Policy

Frequent leadership changes

→ Disrupt diplomatic consistency

Allies and partners hesitate

→ to engage in longterm

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Pakistan's global image → suffer as an unstable state

Former Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi once remarked that

"No foreign policy can succeed without domestic political stability."

Therefore, political instability directly weakens Pakistan's diplomatic credibility and bargaining power.

Regional and Strategic Consequences

Regional and strategic consequences are tied with political instability

- India exploits Pakistan's internal instability diplomatically
- Afghanistan policy suffers from inconsistency
- Strategic initiatives like CPEC face delays and credibility challenges

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Chinese policy statements repeatedly emphasize "political stability" as essential for sustained economic cooperation

Internal instability → translates into → Strategic vulnerability at regional level

Way Forward - stabilising the Political Order

1. Restore constitutional balance among state institutions
2. Strengthen parliamentary sovereignty and civilian governance
3. Ensure continuity of economic policies beyond electoral cycles
4. Reform political parties to enhance internal democracy
5. Depoliticise accountability mechanisms
6. Revive local governments for grassroots

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stability.

10. Promote political dialogue over confrontation.

Conclusion - stability as a strategic imperative

As Henry Kissinger aptly noted: "No country can act wisely simultaneously in every part of the globe unless it has stability at home". Pakistan's experience confirms that internal political instability has constrained not only economic performance but also national security and foreign policy effectiveness. Without sustained political stability, Pakistan's diplomatic ambitions and security objectives will remain compromised.

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Question no: 05

Federal Cohesion in Pakistan:

Structural Fault Lines and Lessons for Preventing Regional Alienation

Introduction

Federal cohesion is sustained not merely through constitutional design but through political trust, equitable resource sharing and administrative inclusion. As Daniel J. Elazar famously noted that "Federalism is a covenant of trust among diverse political communities." In Pakistan, however, recurring grievances among provinces particularly smaller and peripheral regions suggest that this covenant remains fragile. Despite the 18th Constitutional Amendment and periodic reform efforts, political centralization, economic disparities, and administrative overreach continue

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to undermine federal harmony.

These structural weaknesses risk deepening regional alienation, posing long term challenges to national integration and internal security.

Political Centralization and Weak Provincial Autonomy

Federal cohesion cannot survive symbolic decentralisation without genuine political empowerment of provinces. The UNDP Pakistan Federalism Report highlights centralisation as a persistent grievance in smaller provinces.



Historically power has remained concentrated at the federal centre despite constitutional guarantees



Inconsistent implementation of the 18th Amendment has diluted provincial autonomy.



Decision making remains Islamabad centric, limiting provincial ownership of policies

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Civil Military Imbalance and its Federal Implications

Institutional imbalance weakens democratic federalism and fuels perceptions of domination. "The International Crisis Group notes that civil military imbalance complicates centre-province trust".

Unelected institutions have historically influenced political outcomes.

Smaller provinces perceive security centric governance as exclusionary.

Military led development models prioritise strategic regions unevenly

Economic Disparities and Unequal Resource Distribution

Economic injustice is the most tangible driver of federal resentment. According to Pakistan Multidimensional Poverty Index (UNDP), regional inequality remains

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stark.

Development Indicators

Provinces differ sharply in development indicators.

Health and Education

Balochistan and former FATA lag in health education and infrastructure.

Benefits from mega projects

Uneven benefit from mega projects reinforce economic alienation.

NFC Award Disputes and Fiscal Federalism

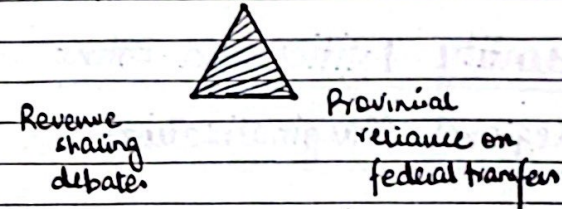
Without predictable fiscal federalism, political unity remains transactional and fragile. The World Bank's Pakistan Public Finance Review stresses fiscal imbalance as a cohesion risk.

Contestation over NFC Awards

Delays and contestation over NFC Awards strain inter-provincial relations.

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Delay and contestations over NFC Awards



Revenue sharing debate.

Revenue sharing debates centre on population versus backwardness criteria.

Provincial reliance on federal transfers

Provinces rely heavily on federal transfers, limiting fiscal autonomy.

Administrative Overcentralisation and Bureaucratic Control

Federal services dominate provincial administration while the local governments remain weak or intermittently suspended.

"The OECD Governance Review of Pakistan identifies bureaucratic centralization as a governance bottleneck"

The administrative decisions often bypass provincial inputs. This

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administrative exclusion undermines the spirit of participatory federalism.

Identity Politics and Ethno Regional Marginalization

Linguistic, ethnic and cultural identities feel underrepresented. Ignoring identity based grievances transforms diversity into dissent

Historical grievances in Balochistan and Sindh persist

Forced assimilation natives deepen mistrust

"The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) links marginalization with regional discontent".

Governance Deficits and Service Delivery Failures

Poor governance reinforces perceptions of neglect. The governance failures converts federal weaknesses into existential challenges

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Apart from that,

Inadequate service delivery	→	fuels separatist narratives
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Development gaps are politicized by	→	regional actors
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The World Governance Indicators consistently rank Pakistan low on government effectiveness

Lessons to prevent Regional Alienation

Regional alienation can be prevented by

1. fully implementing the 18th Amendment in letter and spirit
2. Ensure regular and transparent NFC Awards based on equity
3. Strengthen local government as pillar of grassroots federalism

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4. Promote inclusive development in lagging regions

5. Enhance provincial participation in national decision making

6. Respect cultural and linguistic diversity within state policy

7. Depoliticize development initiatives and ensure fair distribution

8. Institutionalize inter provincial dialogue through the Council of Common Interests

Conclusion - Federal Unity through Equity and Inclusion

As Quaid-e-Azam emphasized "unity can only be achieved by respecting diversity and justice". Pakistan's federal cohesion has been rapidly repeatedly tested by political centralization, economic inequality, and administrative overreach. Therefore, Pakistan's survival as a

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cohesive federation depends on transforming federalism from a legal arrangement into a lived political reality.

Question no. 08

Technology Led Development in Pakistan: Potential, Constraints and Reform Pathways

Introduction

In the words of economist Paul Romer, "Economic growth springs from better recipes, not just more ingredients." In the 21st century, technological innovation has become the primary driver of productivity, competitiveness and inclusive growth. Countries such as South Korea, China, and India demonstrate how coherent policies, strong institutions and human capital can translate technology into sustained development. For Pakistan, grappling with low productivity, export stagnation

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and demographic pressures, technology led growth offers a critical pathway out of the low growth trap. However, realizing this potential depends on deep policy coherence, institutional reform and ecosystem development rather than isolated digital initiatives.

Pakistan's Demographic and Digital Potential

According to Pakistan Economic Survey and World Bank Digital Economy Assessments, "Pakistan possesses latent human capital for digital growth. Pakistan has a



large youth population, offering a potential digital dividend



mobile broadband penetration and fintech adoption are expanding rapidly

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Freelancing and IT exports show upward trends.

Therefore, demography provides opportunity but without skills and institutions, it can quickly become a liability

Technology and Productivity Constraints

The World Bank productivity Report links Pakistan's low growth to weak technological diffusion. Pakistan's productivity growth remains low across sectors.

1. Limited technology adoption in agriculture and manufacturing → restricts value addition
2. SME's lack access to digital tools and innovation frame

Technology must penetrate traditional sectors to generate economy wide growth

Policy Framework for Technology Development

"The OECD Policy Review of Pakistan" highlights fragmentation as a core policy weakness. Policies such as the Digital Pakistan vision and IT Export Strategy exist, but regulatory uncertainty and policy discontinuity weaken outcomes.

Overlapping mandates among ministries
↓
can create coordination gaps

Therefore, vision without policy coherence limits technology's transformative impact.

Institutional Capacity and Governance Challenges

"The World Governance Indicators consistently rank Pakistan low on regulatory quality." The public institutions lack technical expertise and agility. Also,

challenges

Slow procurement and rigid rules hinder innovation

Weak public-private coordination constraints ecosystem growth

Therefore, institutional reform is as important as technological investment.

Education, Skills, and Human Capital Deficit

"UNESCO and Global Innovation Index reports identify skills mismatch as a key barrier." In Pakistan, education outcomes lag behind regional peers because of various factors. For instance

(a) STEM enrollment and research output

↓
remain limited

(b) Industry-academia linkages

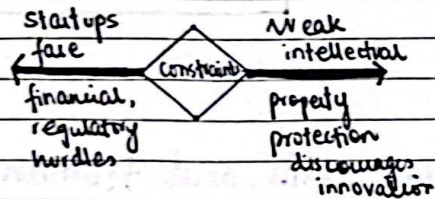
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are weak

This shows that technology led development is impossible without skills led development

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Innovation Ecosystem and R and D Constraints

"The Global Innovation Index places Pakistan low on innovation inputs and outputs". In Pakistan



But, innovation systems cannot thrive without sustained investment and protection.

Technology, Exports and Global Integration

"The Asian Development Bank emphasizes digital exports as a growth opportunity for Pakistan. IT services exports offer diversification beyond traditional goods.

"Limited integration into global value chains restricts scale" also, Digital trade regulations remain underdeveloped

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Reform Agenda for Technology-Led Growth

1. Ensure policy continuity → in → digital and innovation strategies
2. Strengthen institutions → through → technical capacity and autonomy
3. Invest in skills aligned → with → market needs
4. Increase R and D spending → with → private sector incentives
5. Improve regulatory quality → for → startups and digital businesses

Conclusion

As Joseph Schumpeter argued, "Innovation is the fundamental impulse that sets capitalism in motion". Pakistan's potential for technology led development is real but underutilized. Technology alone cannot deliver growth; it must be embedded within strong governance, human capital development and global integration strategies.