

PART-II

Q. NO. 01

Political Strategy Of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan For The Protection Of Muslim Interest In British India

Introduction

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan emerged as the foremost Muslim political leader in the 19th century for the Muslims of British India. It was the time when Muslims were politically marginalized, economically backwards, and psychologically demoralized after the war of 1857. His political strategy was protective and reformist. He aimed at safeguarding Muslim interest under British rule.

In contrast, the Indian National Congress, founded in 1885, adopted an aggressive, majoritarian, and all-India nationalist approach. Sir Syed believed that the objectives of the Congress would endanger Muslim political survival.

Political Strategy Of Sir Syed

Loyalty to British and
participation in
Bureaucracy

Promotion of
advanced education
among the Muslims
of the sub-continent

Cultural and Political
empowerment of
the Muslims

Intellectual well-
being and growth

Opposition of the
narratives of the
Indian National
Congress

Preservation of separate
Muslim Political
interests

Gaining Trust Of the British

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan advised the Muslims to gain the loyalty of the British. He apprehended further marginalization of the Muslims if they lost the trust of ~~British~~ British. He maintained that cooperation would ensure Muslim safety, their participation in governance and bureaucracy, and educational opportunities.

Educational Empowerment of Muslims

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan viewed modern education as a necessity for the Muslims to ensure their political empowerment. He believed that without education, Muslims could never compete with Hindus in administration or politics. To promote his stance on education, he founded Muhammadan Anglo-oriental college at Aligarh where he promoted Western sciences and education for Muslims. This college later evolved into Aligarh university also known as Sir Syed University.

Two-Nation Narrative

Although Sir Syed did not explicitly demand a separate nation for Muslims, he promoted strong narrative on two distinct cultural and political realms of Muslims and Hindus. He believed that since rule is based on majority, democracy will always result in marginalization of Muslims. He compared both communities to "two eyes of a beautiful bride" yet distinct in function. Hence he wanted separate rights for Muslims in British dominion.

Opposition of Indian National Congress

Sir Syed opposed the Indian National Congress due to its aggression towards Muslims and longing for a majoritarian, all-India Nationalist state for the Hindus. Sir Syed feared that the narratives of the INC, if succeed, would lead to Hindu domination due to their numerical superiority while largely marginalizing the Muslims.

Advocacy Of Separate Muslim Political Interests

Sir Syed did not demand for a separate, yet emphasized the separate political identity for Muslims, their appropriate representation in politics, and safeguards against majoritarian tyranny. This demand later evolved into separate electorates for Muslims and was formally accepted in 1909.

Strategies Of Indian National Congress

Promotion Of Majoritarian Nationalism

The Indian National Congress largely promoted the majority-based rule based on territorial nationalism. It largely denied the idea of separate electorates and separate political identity of Muslims. This framework inherently favored Hindus of the sub-continent.

Rejection Of Communal Safeguards

The Indian national congress greatly opposed separate electorates and weightage for minorities in the sub-continent. It wanted to marginalize the Muslims and wanted a single nation for Hindus. This intensified Muslim fears of permanent political marginalization.

Effectiveness Of The Strategies Of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan

The approach of Sir Syed Ahmed was based on realistic measures. He realized the inherent weaknesses of the Muslims and worked to improve them on the grass roots level. He focused on long-term stability of Muslims and promoted education while preventing reckless confrontation of the powerful Hindus. His efforts later resulted in separate Muslim identity. K.K. Aziz, in his book "Party politics in Pakistan," criticizes Sir Syed for political passivity but acknowledges his foresight on protecting minority of Muslims.

Conclusion

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's political strategies for the Muslims of the sub-continent was defensive yet visionary. He identified the strengths and weaknesses of the Muslims of British India and addressed them on the grass-roots levels. He strengthened the educational and political foundations of the Muslims, while protecting them against the objectives of the Indian National Congress. His efforts fostered a strong foundation of Muslims which later resulted in the political reality in the shape of Pakistan.

Q. NO. 02

Socio-Economic, and Political Implications Of Climate Change On Pakistan

Introduction

In the 21st century, climate change has redefined the concept of security by introducing non-traditional

threats that undermine human safety, economic stability, and political order. Pakistan is ranked among top 10 climate-vulnerable countries in the world (The Global Climate Index Report of 2025). It is no longer an environmental issue, but a national security concern. Recurrent floods, heatwaves, glacial melts, and other climate events have deeper socio-economic and political implications for the country, yet the institutional responses and preparedness is largely fragmented in the land.

Climate Change As A Non-Traditional Security Threat

Normally the military confrontations or governance shortcomings act as security threat for a country. However, due to a number of factors, the exacerbating climate change has started threatening the state well-being and resources at large. This includes threats to food security, water security, and economic security of the country. It further weakens the structural issues like poverty and weak governance.

Socio-Economic Implications Of Climate Change In Pakistan

Economic losses In The country

Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. It experiences billions of dollars in climate-related losses annually. In 2022 floods, the related losses exceeded 30 billion dollars (NDMA report on 2022 floods). This affected more than 30 million people, the infrastructure, and agriculture in the country (world bank report on Pakistan's flood 2022)

Agricultural Decline

Pakistan is an agrarian country with more than 38% of its labour employed in the sector of agriculture. The climate change leads to erratic monsoons and extreme weather events. These include extreme heatwaves, recurrent floods, rising temperature, etc. This impacts the crop yield and production. FAO lists climate change as one of the crucial causes of agricultural decline in Pakistan.

Floods Due To Glacial Melt

The changing and unstable climate dynamics in Pakistan are resulting in rapid melting of glaciers. Pakistan is covered with massive glaciers at its North. This includes massive glaciers in the Hindu-Kush Himalayan region of the country. The climate change has expedited their melting. This rapid melting is among the reasons of recurrent floods in the country.

Exacerbating Social Issues

Rapid climate change is leading to growing urbanization, problems in health sector, and exacerbating poverty. According to the WHO survey on social issues of Pakistan, more than 55% of the country's populace lives below the poverty line. Moreover, the frequent weather events in Karachi and Punjab have raised the climate related mortality rates in the country. The deaths often result from vector diseases, heat waves, and water-borne diseases.

Political Implications of Climate Change In Pakistan

Crisis Of Government Legitimacy

Poor climate regulation, lack of disaster preparedness, and absence of proper response mechanisms have upheaved and weakened public trust in the governance. Hassan Askari Rizvi argues in his column "Governance and Crisis Management in Pakistan" that governance failures during crises undermine state legitimacy and exacerbate socio-political unrest.

Threat To National Security

Pakistan's National Security Policy (2022-2026) explicitly recognizes climate change as a national security threat. Absence of response mechanisms lead to political and social crisis. The hostile countries take advantage of such ~~to~~ grave circumstances to further the unrest. For example India has repeatedly opened its water in the rivers of Pakistan leading to frequent flooding in the affected areas.

Pakistan's Institutional Response To Climate Change Policy Frameworks

Pakistan has developed multiple policy frameworks to combat the climate change in the country. These include the National Climate Change Policy of 2012 ~~was~~ recently amended in 2021, and National Adaptation Plan (NAP). These instruments aim at increasing preparedness and response mechanisms against climate associated disasters.

Institutional Skeleton Against Climate Change

Pakistan has numerous institutions delegated against climate action. These include Ministry of Climate Change, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA's). However, the system suffers from coordinations gaps.

Financial Constraints

Pakistan's economy is still in its developing stages. In order to regulate the climatic mechanisms, Pakistan greatly relies on international climate funds. Due to such financial constraints, the response and rebuilding after climate disasters remain weak in the country.

Way forward for Pakistan

To overcome the gaps in climate actions and financing, Pakistan needs to integrate climate adaptation into economic planning. Other factors that can yield great deal of results include strengthening early warning systems, investing in climate resilient infrastructure, and improving transparency in climate finances.

Conclusion

Climate change poses a non-traditional existential threat for Pakistan. It not only destabilizes the country's economy, but also exacerbate social and political issues.

While the country exhibits commitment to dealing with the problem, the structural flaws and corrupt practices greatly block the path. However, by ensuring preparedness, fostering transparency, and integrating climate-resistant infrastructure, the country can mitigate the socio-economic and political implications of climate change.

Q. NO. 03

Geo-Economic Significance Of Pakistan's Connectivity Initiatives Under the BRI

Introduction

The shifted focus from politics to geo-economics has redefined power in Asia. In this context, Pakistan occupies an important position under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) primarily through China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Pakistan's connectivity initiatives guarantee economic benefits, strategic trade alliances, and dynamic politics in the region.

Geo-Economic Significance of Pakistan's Connectivity Initiatives A Trade And Transit Hub

Pakistan, through Gwadar port, offers China with shortest route to access Arabian sea via ^{Hormuz} strait. It shortens the China's route from ~6000 kms to ~1500 kms by land and sea combined. It does not only ensure swift trade, it also ensures secure transit for the growing economy of China.

Infrastructure Development

CPEC under BRI is focused on energy generation, transport infrastructure such as railways, motorway, etc, and Industrial zones. This aims at addressing Pakistan's structural bottlenecks especially the issues of energy capacity. World Bank in its report 'Pakistan Development Update' acknowledges that CPEC is indeed improving Pakistan's infrastructure and logistics, yet its benefits remain largely dependant upon governance reforms.

Increased Regional Connectivity

Pakistan's connectivity vision extends beyond China to reach Central Asia via Afghanistan and rest of the world. Projects like TAPI and CASA-1000 complement the BRI and its objectives by enabling the regional connectivity and fostering positive alliances among countries.

Leverage In Global Power Competition

CPEC under BRI strengthens Pakistan's bargaining position amid global rivalries. Such as US-China trade war, and US-India alliance. Pakistan gains significant leverage by positioning itself on the crossroads of strategically important projects.

Evolving Regional Alignments In

Asia - Relevance Of Pakistan

India - Middle East - Europe Corridor

Initiatives like India-Middle East-Europe corridor have dissected

and bypassed Pakistan geographically. The initiative carries similar objectives to BRI, on a smaller scale. Thus, it has provided for a counter against geographical importance of the Pakistan.

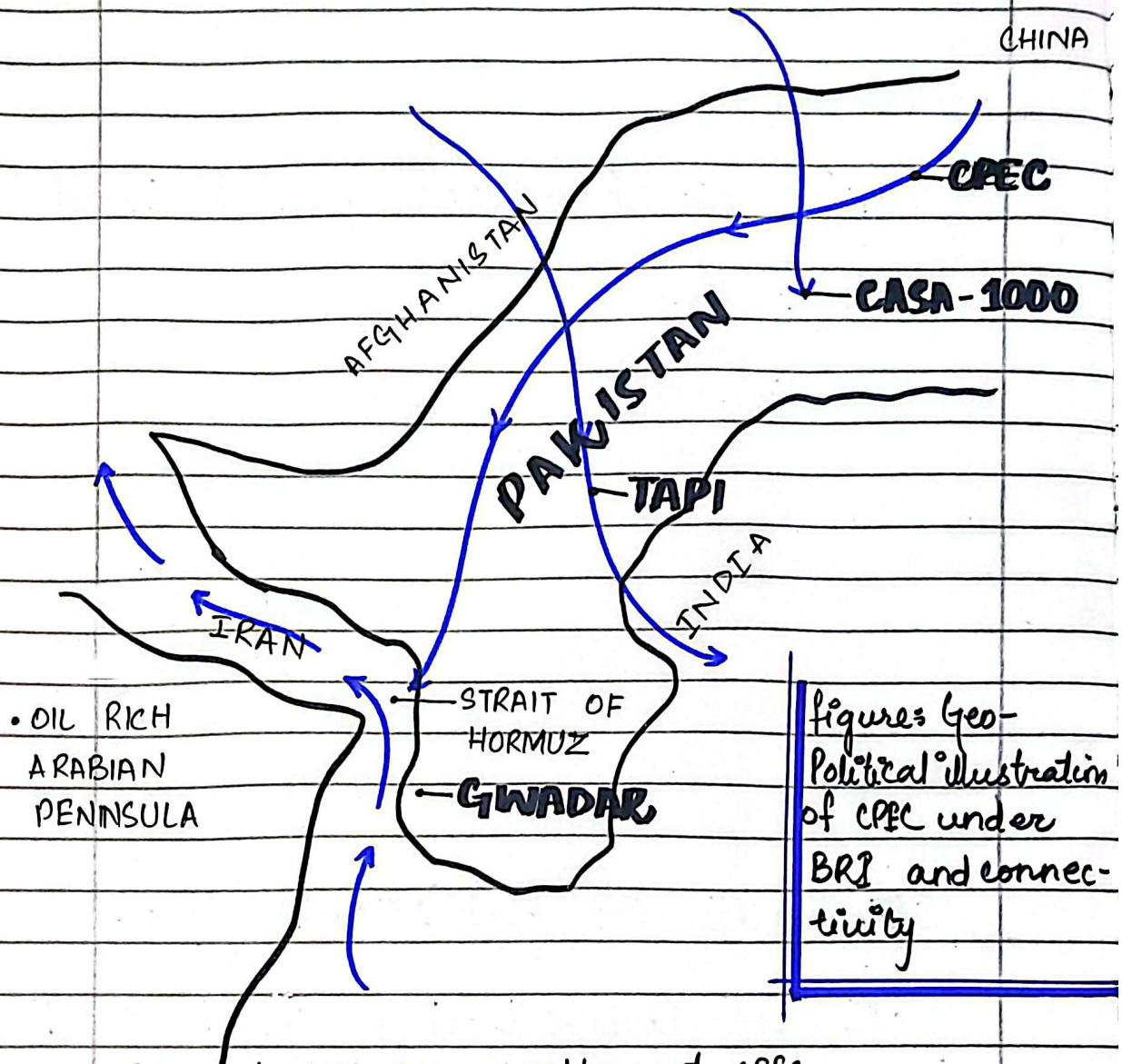
Pakistan's Relevance Has Shifted Not Declined

Despite new projects and initiatives, Pakistan, under BRI remains crucial. Gwadar carries the significant potential to transit and trade through massive cargo. It also retains great value for energy security, whereas Pakistan's ~~nuclear~~ nuclear status retains the geopolitical weight.

Strengths of Pakistan's Geopolitical Connectivity Under BRI

The strategic geography remains unchanged and plays a crucial role in China's Westward outreach to expand trade and connectivity. While other initiatives have similar objectives, the massive and res'

versatile nature of BRI combined with CASA-1000 and TAPI keeps Pakistan's geo-economic status extremely relevant.



- TAPI and CASA-1000 complement CPEC
- Trade route shortened for China
- Access to oil rich Arab; new prospects of trade for China.
- Gwadar as trade and transit hub.
- Energy prospects at Gwadar
- Access to Central Asia through CASA-1000

Conclusion

The connectivity initiatives of Pakistan under BRI have enhanced its geo-political significance as well as its geo-economic value. While geographically evolving regional alignments have altered the power dynamics in Asia, they have not diminished the strategic relevance of Pakistan. However, they have redefined it. Thus, the connectivity under BRI remains a crucial initiative which allures the world towards strategic importance of Pakistan.

Q. NO. 05

Political, Economic, and Administrative Undermining of Federal Cohesion In Pakistan

Introduction

Federal cohesion has been a long incurring issue in Pakistan. It has remained fragile due to structural imbalances, political centralization, economic disparities, and administrative inefficiencies. While the 1973 constitution provides a

federal framework recognizing provincial autonomy, the recurrent crisis in the shape of dismemberment of East Pakistan in 1971 and persistent grievances in Sindh and Balochistan, have revealed a widened gap between constitutional ideals and practice.

Political Factors Undermining Federal Cohesion In Pakistan

Over Centralization Of Powers

Pakistan's political system has historically concentrated authority in federal executive undermining provincial autonomy. Although the 18th amendment aimed at expanding provincial autonomy, the key policy domains such as; security, finance, and order remain greatly centralized. This is described by M. Hamid Khan as "a quasi-unitary state structure" in his book "constitutional and political history of Pakistan".

Ethnic and Sectarian Marginalization

Pakistan is home to abundant

ethnic and sectarian groups. However, the failure to accommodate ethnic identities has intensified perceptions of exclusion. The federation often focused on suppression of ~~dissonance~~ different perceptions such as in Balochistan. It has led to deepened alienation.

Economic Factors Undermining Federal Cohesion

Inter-Provincial Economic Disparities

Uneven development in the provinces has generated enduring grievances. For instance, the Province of Punjab recorded 70% developmental projects whereas Sindh remained at 30% (UNDP survey). Punjab's relative economic dominance contrasts with underdevelopment in Balochistan and interior Sindh. (UNDP's Pakistan National Human Development Report).

Unequal Resource Distribution

The provinces experience gaps in fund provision. Article 160 of the

constitution mandates NFC distribution equitably, yet implementation gaps persist. This leads to disputes over NFC awards, gas royalties, etc. which in turn results in fiscal decentralization.

Administrative Factors Undermining Federal Cohesion

Weak Implementation Of The 18th Constitutional Amendment

Although the 18th constitutional amendment of 2010 devolved powers, provinces greatly lack administrative and fiscal capacities. Federal ministries often encroach upon devolved subjects including health and education. This leads to erosion of federal cohesion as a result of suppressing practices.

Absence Of Effective Local Government

The devolution of powers in local governments is an entrenched

issue in Pakistan. The weak and suspended local governments disconnect citizens from the state. Provinces also replicate centralization at sub-provincial levels which results in administrative inefficiencies.

Lessons To Prevent Regional Alienation

Genuine Federalism

Federation/Center should respect constitutional boundaries and strengthen decentralization mechanisms. The Council of Common Interests (CCI) should be strengthened as a conflict-resolution forum. This could play a role in fostering federal harmony.

Equitable Economic Development

Government should prioritize growth and development in lagging regions such as Baluchistan and interior Sindh. It needs to ensure local ownership of mega-projects like CPEC and ensure inclusivity.

Strengthening local Institutions

Strengthening local institutions is integral to ensure continuance of democracy and efficient administration. Example can be drawn from the Kerala's model of decentralization to delegate and devolve powers to local government bodies.

Conclusion

Federal cohesion in Pakistan is greatly undermined. Some common reasons include political centralization, economic disparities, and administrative inefficiencies. The lesson from Pakistan's history is unequivocal that unity cannot be enforced, it must be negotiated, institutionalized, and sustained through inclusion.