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Batch No. _____

Campuses

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Question 02:

Critically Examine the Political Strategy of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan for the Protection of Muslim Interests in British India. How did his approach Differ from the Indian National Congress?

• Introduction :

The political strategy of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was formulated in the aftermath of 1857 War of Independence, a period marked by Muslim political decline, British distrust, and Hindu socio-economic ascendancy.

Sir Syed adopted a pragmatic, defensive and gradualist approach to safeguard Muslim interests. His strategy stood in sharp contrast to the nationalist and agitational politics of Indian National Congress (INC). A critical examination reveals that while Sir Syed avoided mass politics, his strategy ensured Muslim political survival and identity preservation.

• Historical Context Shaping Sir Syed's Strategy:

1857 War of Independence



Muslim Political Collapse:



British Hostility Towards Muslims:



Educational and Economic Backwardness



Need of a Protective Political Strategy.

• Political Strategy of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan for the Protection of Muslim Interests in British India:

1. Policy of Loyalty and Cooperation with the Britishers:

Sir Syed believed that confrontation with the Britishers would further marginalize Muslims. So, he advocated loyalty as a temporary political necessity. The aim was to rebuild the trust of Britishers and a mean of securing Muslim Interests.

2. Avoidance of Confrontational and Agitational Politics:

Sir Syed discouraged agitational politics. He believed that Muslims were politically unprepared.

and he also feared British repressions. That's why, he preferred dialogues and petitions.

3. Creation of Modern Education as a Political Power:

Sir Syed considered education as a cornerstone of political revival. He founded Mohammadan Anglo-Oriented College (Aligarh). He promoted English language and prepared Muslims for government services and leadership roles.

4. Rejection to Composite Nationalisms:

Sir Syed dismissed the idea that Hindu and Muslims formed one nation. He highlighted religious, cultural and historical differences and emphasized communal pluralism.

5. Opposition to Indian National Congress:

Sir Syed openly advised Muslims to stay away from Congress. He viewed it as a Hindu-dominated and harmful to Muslim political interests. He believed Congress demands would benefit Hindu majority.

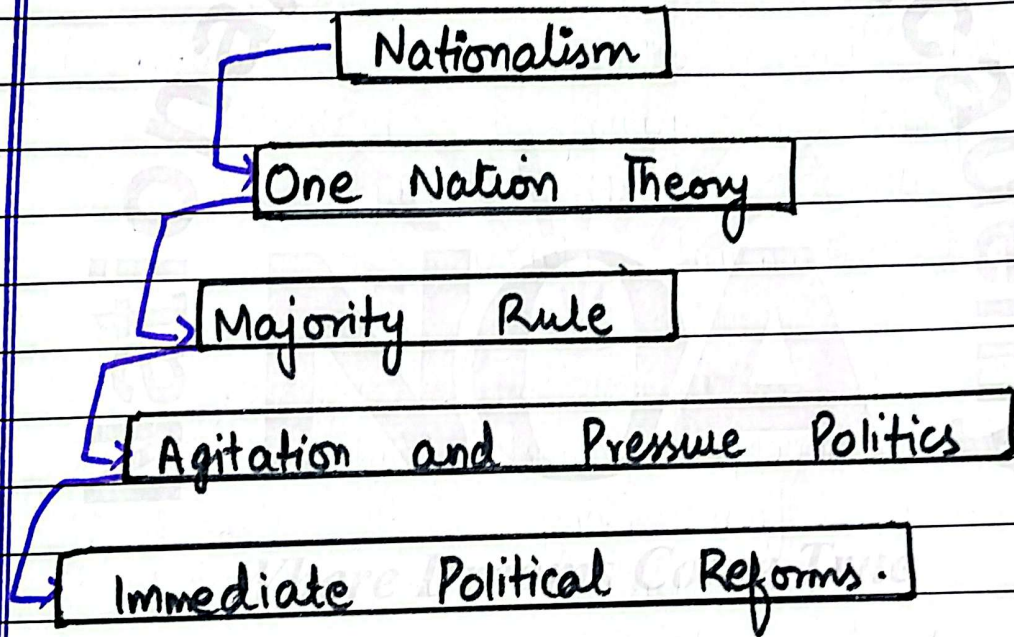
6. Gradualist Approach to Political Participation.

He believed Muslims should enter politics after educational and social uplift. He opposed pre-mature political involvement. He supported evolutionary rather than revolutionary change.

7. Intellectual foundation of two-nation theory:

Though not a separatist, Sir Syed provided its ideological basis. He asserted that Hindus and Muslims are separate political entities and he shaped Muslim political movements as well.

• Political Method of Indian National Congress:



• Key Features:

- ✓ Mass mobilization.
- ✓ Public agitation and protests.
- ✓ Representative Democracy.
- ✓ Assumption of Hindu Muslim Unity.

• Comparative Analysis : Sir Syed vs Congress

Here is a comparative analysis of political strategies of both the parties.

Dimension	Sir Syed Ahmed Khan	Indian National Congress.
Political Method	Gradual and constitutional	Agitational and confrontational
British Policy	Cooperation	Pressure politics.
Concept of Nation.	Communal Pluralism	Composite Nationalism
Democracy	Skeptical of Majority Rule	Faith in majority Rule
Minority Rights	Central Concern	Secondary Concern.

• Conclusion

• Critical Evaluation :

Sir Syed's strategy has been criticized for:

- Political passivity.
- Delay in nationalist mobilization.
- Elite-centric reformism.

However, a contentual analysis shows that Muslims lacked capacity of confrontation, but the foresight of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan preserved Muslim identity and leadership. In contrast, Congress politics - though nationalist, failed to institutionalize minority safeguards, contributing to communal polarization.

• Conclusion :

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's political strategy was a protective shield rather than an offensive weapon. Rooted in realism, education, and constitutionalism, it differed from Indian National Congress. Sir Syed succeeded in what matters most at that time: saving Muslims from political annihilation and preparing them for future self-assertion. His approach laid the ideological and institutional groundwork for organized Muslim politics in British India.

Question 03 :

Climate Change has emerged as a major non-traditional security threat to Pakistan. Analyze its socio-economic and political implications, and evaluate Pakistan's institutional response to climate-induced challenges.

• Introduction :

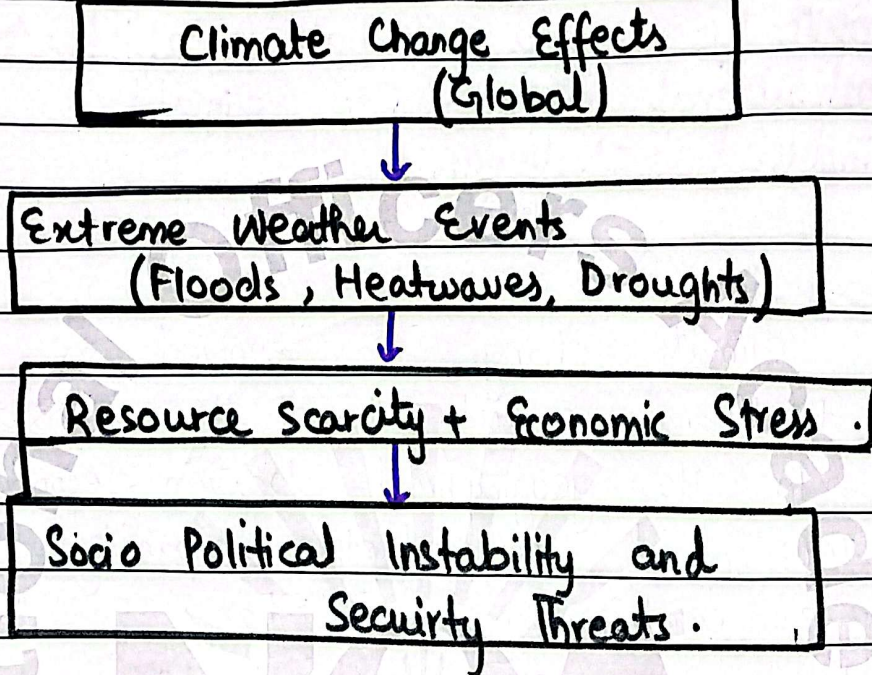
Climate change has evolved as a non-traditional security threat for Pakistan due to its geographical location, economic structure, and low adaptive capacity.

Despite contributing less than 1% to global greenhouse gas emission, Pakistan is among the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate impacts (Economic Survey of Pakistan). Moreover, climate change interacts with poverty, governance weaknesses, resource scarcity, and demographic pressures, thereby threatening national stability, economic growth and human well-being. Thus, it becomes a pivotal issue for Pakistan's security calculus.

• Why Climate Change is a Non-traditional Security Threat in Pakistan:

Climate change acts as a multiplier of risks, weakening social cohesion,

undermining economic stability and testing state institutions. This makes it a non-traditional security threat - one that does not stem from military dynamics but from environmental and human vulnerabilities.



• Socio-Economic Implications of Climate Change:

A. Impact on Agriculture and Food Security:

Agriculture contributes significantly (~24% of the GDP) and employs a large share of the population. Erratic monsoons, heatwaves, droughts and floods reduce crop yield and disrupt planting cycles. Reduced agricultural productivity aggravates food insecurity and increases poverty, especially in rural areas.

B. Water Stress and Glacier Melting:

Pakistan relies on glacier-fed rivers; accelerated

melting increases flood risk and threatens long-term water supply. Water scarcity exacerbates urban water crisis, decreasing portable water access and increasing public health risks.

c. Economic Losses and Infrastructural Damage:

Extreme weather events destroy infrastructure. The 2022 floods caused billions of dollars in economic losses, affecting industries and services. According to World Bank, the financial toll of infrastructure disruptions in low and middle income countries reached \$ 647 billion in 2019.

d. Poverty and displacement:

Disasters displace millions, pushing vulnerable population into urban slums. Loss of assets deepens poverty and stresses social safety nets.

• Political Implications of Climate Change:

A. Governance Strain:

Disasters response exposes weaknesses in governance, coordination and emergency services. Reduced access and public frustration over ineffective response can erode trust in state institutions.

B. Security and Internal Conflicts:

Resource scarcity, especially water, fuels

inter-provincial and community tensions. Moreover, reduced access to water and arable land can intensify local conflicts and migratory pressures.

c. International Relations and Water diplomacy:

Shared water river basins like Indus make climate-induced water stress a geopolitical concern. Any disruption in water flows can heighten tensions with neighboring countries, notably India.

• Institutional Response to Climate-Induced Challenges:

Pakistan's institutional response can be evaluated under policy formulation, implementation, disaster management and international engagement.

1- Policy Frameworks:

National Climate change policy and strategies aim to integrate climate goals into development planning, but implementation remains inconsistent. Pakistan hosts international climate forum (Breatho Pakistan) to generate cooperation on climate resilience.

2- Budgetary allocations and projects:

Government announcements include allocations as well as projects as Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Projects (IFRAP) focus on flood preparedness, early warning systems and infrastructural resilience.

3- Early Warnings and Disasters Response:

Disaster management authorities coordinate immediate flood and heatwave response. However, deficiencies in early warning systems and lack of community preparedness reduce effectiveness.

4- International Cooperation:

Participation of Pakistan in Cop Processes and seeking climate finances for adaptation.

Moreover, World Bank's Partnership plan for resilience and clean green energy represents external support for long-term climate actions.

IMF supports links economic stability with climate reforms, recognizing climate resilience as part of broader policy goals.

● Recommendations:

- 1) Strengthening institutional coordination.
- 2) Increase domestic climate finance.
- 3) Enhance early warning systems and disaster preparedness.
- 4) Mainstream climate in national planning.
- 5) Public awareness and private sector engagement.

● Conclusion:

Climate change represents a major non-traditional security threat for Pakistan.

with deep socio-economic and political implications. While Pakistan has taken policy steps and secured international funding, significant gap remains in implementation, transparency and institutional coherence. Addressing these challenges require a whole-of-society approach, linking governance reforms, community engagement and international cooperation - to build climate resilience and secure Pakistan's future.

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Question 04:

Why have Regional Organizations in South and Central Asia failed to deliver meaningful integration? Suggest Practical Measures for Strengthening regional connectivity involving Pakistan.

• **Introduction:**

Regional integration in South and Central Asia has remained one of the weakest globally, despite immense economic, potential, shared history, and geographical contiguity. Organizations such as SAARC, ECO and SCO have failed to achieve meaningful economic, political and infrastructural integration. This failure stems from political conflicts, security dilemmas, institutional weakness and lack of political will. Pakistan, located at the crossroads of South Asia, and Middle East, occupies a pivotal

geostrategic position and can play a transformative role if regional connectivity is pursued pragmatically.

- Why Regional Organizations have Failed?

1. Persistent Political Conflicts:

One of the main reasons why regional organizations failed is that persistent political conflicts such as India-Pakistan rivalry. The unresolved Kashmir dispute has paralyzed SAARC. SAARC summits have repeatedly been postponed or cancelled due to Indo-Pak tensions. After 2016 Uri incident, India boycotted SAARC, effectively freezing the organization.

2. Security-Centric State Behaviours.

States prioritize national security over regional cooperation. It aggravates cross-border terrorism allegation and lack of trust among member states. For instance, India views Pakistan through a security lens, not an economic partner.

3. Weak Institutional Design of Regional Organizations:

Most organizations lack supranational

authority, binding dispute resolution mechanisms and enforcement powers.

For instance,

ECO agreements largely remain non-binding and declaratory.

4. Low Intra-Regional Trade:

South Asia's intra-regional trade is less than 0.5% (one of the lowest globally); Central Asia also trades more with Russia, China, Europe than among itself.

5. Asymmetric Power Structure:

Smaller states perceive SAARC as India-centric rather region centric due to that it creates fear of economic dominance, political imbalance and resistance from smaller states.

6. Overlapping membership and Institutional Redundancy:

Countries belong to multiple organizations such as SAARC, SCO, ECO leads to policy diffusion and lack of focus.

7. Lack of Political will and leadership continuity:

Frequent regime change, coups and weak civilian government hinder long-

term commitment. Policy discontinuity affects transit and trade agreements.

• Case Studies of Failed Regional Initiatives:

SAARC: A Dormant Organization:

- No summit since 2014.
- SAPTA and SFTTA failed to boost trade.

ECO: Missed economic Potential:

- Enormous natural resources and transit potential.
- Poor implementation of ECO Trade agreement.
- Weak Private sector involvement.

Failed Regional Initiatives.

Afghanistan as a Connectivity Bottleneck:

- Instability prevents central-south Asian integration.
- Transit routes remain insecure and unreliable.

Tapi Gas pipeline failure:

- Political instability in Afghanistan.
- Financing and security concerns.
- Lack of regional consensus.

• Practical Measures for Strengthening Regional Connectivity w.r.t Pakistan:

1- Depoliticizing Regional economic Cooperation:

Pakistan should advocate issue-specific cooperation platforms. Organizations should separate economics from political disputes and follow ASEAN's "economics first" model.

2- Revitalizing SAARC through functional Cooperation:

Focus of the organizations should be issues like climate change, health, disaster management. They should avoid contentious political issues.

3- Leveraging CPEC as a Regional Corridor:

Pakistan should internationalize CPEC for countries like CARs, Iran and Afghanistan.

4. Promoting Energy and Trade Corridors:

Pakistan can act as :-

- ✓ Transit hub
- ✓ Energy corridor
- ✓ Trade gateway.

5- Enhancing Soft Connectivity:

Organizations must enhance soft connectivity through visa liberalization, academic exchanges, cultural diplomacy and business forums. SCO platform can be utilized for this purpose.

• Conclusions:

Regional organizations in South and Central Asia have failed due to political rivalries, security dilemmas, and lack of political will. Pakistan, given its strategic location, must pursue connectivity-driven diplomacy, and transform itself into a regional trade, energy and transit hub.
