

Pak affairs

Part II.

Question no. 01.

Critically examine the political strategy of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan for protection of Muslims interests in British India. How did his approach differ from methods adopted by Indian National Congress?

Introduction :

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan is the father of Muslim renaissance. He was a political, religious and social reformer of the 19th century. After the 1857 revolt, Muslims were blamed. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan left no stone unturned to justify Muslims in front of the British. For this purpose he wrote many literary material to convince British that Muslims were not responsible for this revolt. Sir Syed also advised Muslims to get education in order to earn their livelihood. Sir Syed's strategies for protection of Muslim India in British India are undeniable.

Political strategy of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan for Muslims:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan is one of the renowned leaders of the Muslims in Subcontinent.

Background:

The British entered the subcontinent in 1608, early 17th century. They entered as traders but then started to become rulers. British's harsh policies lead to the 1857 revolt. After this, British started to blame Muslims solely for the revolt. They started to remove Muslims from government jobs, high posts, and made them a marginalized community. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan who was a highly educated man, born in 1817, perceived the situation and began to reform the condition. For this purpose he opt multiple effective strategies that led Muslims to find a respectable living in the Subcontinent.

Political Strategy of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan for Muslims:

(i) Educating Muslims to fit with British.

→ Opened Schools, Colleges, scientific society.

- (ii) Literary strategies
(iii) Political strategies.

a. Education Strategy to make Muslims political aware.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan rendered numerous education services Muslims of that time, believed it a sin to study or learn English. However, Sir Syed forced Muslims to learn English and other literature of British. He opened various educational institutes such as:

- School at Ghazipur (1859)
- School at Muradabad (1862)
- Scientific society - Ghazipur (1864)
- M. Anglo oriental school (1875)
- M. Anglo oriental college (1877)

b. Literary services to make a soft place for Muslim in British political system

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was a highly educated man. He wrote a lot in order to save Muslims from the resentment of British. He wrote:

- Tabain ul Kalam; a commentary of Bible in which he highlighted the similarities between Christians and Muslim

- Asbab e Bighwanat e Hind; in this book, he highlighted British cruel practices such as marginalizing Muslims, hurting religious sentiments of Hindu and Muslims, annexation of states and high jizya as an ~~response~~ actual cause of the revolt.

- Tehzib ul Aqlaq; to uplift Muslims social and moral character.

C. Practical political strategies:-

Though with his educational and literary services, Sir Syed was making Muslims prepared for politics. Still, with his strategic planning and excellent wisdom, he delivered his services in the political field too.

- Abstained Muslims to join Politics:

Initially, Sir Syed Ahmed abstained Muslims to enter the politics. He encouraged them to learn English and upgrade themselves.

- Encouraged to join Government jobs:

He encouraged Muslims to join govt. jobs and learn skills.

- Encouraged to join Politics:-

When he saw that Muslims have become capable enough to join politics he allowed them to.

Difference between Indian National Congress and Sir Syed:

Sir Syed's approach	Indian National Congress' approach
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• Toward Politics

Abstained Muslims to join politics in the initial days

Always encouraged Muslims to join politics

• Main Priority

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan prioritized education over priority

INC never strived for the education of Muslims

• Nationalism

Sir Syed Ahmed was a supporter of two nation theory

INC wanted a single nation for Muslims and Indians

Conclusion:

Sir Syed Ahmed strived hard for the Muslim's right to live in the subcontinent. He rendered his social, religious and political services to upgrade the status of the marginalized Muslims. His wisdom behind abstaining Muslims from entering politics, paved the way for the Muslim renaissance in subcontinent.

Question no. 03.

Evaluate the geo economic significance of Pakistan's connectivity initiatives under the Belt and road framework. Has the evolving regional alignment in Asia reduced Pakistan's strategic relevance?

Introduction:-

Pakistan has shifted from being a security centric once to an economic centric country. This fact is evident from the National Security Plan 2022-2026 which has focussed the citizens more than the state.

State Centric → Citizen Centric
and the welfare of citizens demands economic prosperity. Pakistan's connectivity initiatives under the Belt and Road framework are a lifeline to Pakistan's economy. CPEC; the flagship project of BRI is under its 2nd phase and is prospected to achieve numerous benefits to the country. This shift from security to economic and the regional alignments such as Indo-Pacific, Aukus, QUAD has not reduced rather increased Pakistan's significance.

Geo economic significance of Belt and Road Framework :

(i). Transit trade route :-

Pakistan offers the shortest route to Arabia sea via Gwadarport. Connecting Kashgar to Gwadar will save China to travel 10000s km.

(ii). Regional connectivity :-

Pakistan being on the crossroads of central Asia, South Asia and Middle East provides the best route to the land locked Central Asian Republics to warm water. Moreover, it provides a way for Eastern countries to access Western markets.

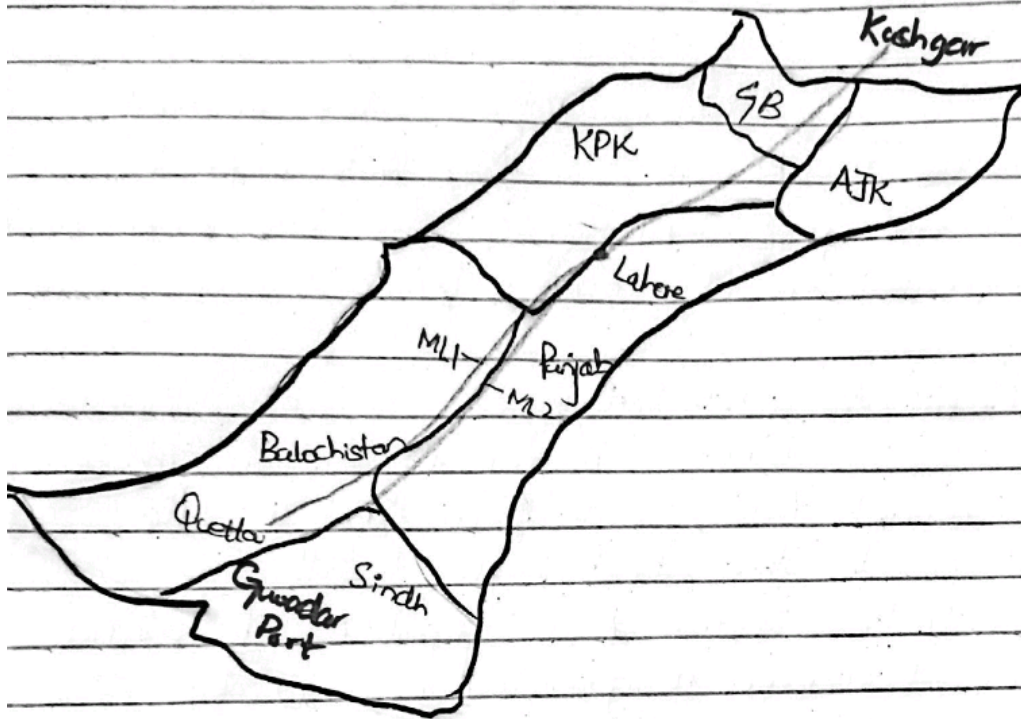
(iii). Bolster Economy of Pakistan:

Pakistan acting as a hub of regional connectivity has many prospects to increase its economy. BRI's CPEC phase II, focuses on the B2B businesses, Special Economic Zones and Maritime construction which definitely bolster the country's economy.

(iv). Pakistan's energy framework :-

CPEC has focussed to fulfilled Pakistan's growing energy needs and has installed numerous power plants

in Pakistan. These power plants tried to fulfill Pakistan's energy shortage.



Impact of evolving regional alignment on Pakistan's strategic relevance.

Regional alignments have positively impacted Pakistan. They have not marginalized Pakistan instead they have made Pakistan a zipper state.

1. US tilt toward India:

Despite a US tilt toward India in recent years, still Pakistan hold high position for China.

2. Pakistan; a strategic market for agriculture:

Most of the countries are looking forward to invest in the fertile land of Pakistan. The Middle Eastern countries rich in resources but barren land see Pakistan as a strategic choice for their food security.

3. Pakistan's role in SCO:

Pakistan is an active member of SCO. With China's aid, it has high potential to attract other SCO members toward its land.

• Conclusion:-

Belt and Road framework is a ticket for Pakistan to development. Pakistan has been blessed by various seasons and strategic location with fertile land. It has potential to connect Central Asia, Middle Asia and South Asia with its flagship project CPEC. However, various regional alignments that might seem as a threat to Pakistan's economy is actually a blessing to Pakistan. As noted by

While history has been unfair to Pakistan, its geostrategic significance is benefit.