

## Question 2

## Climate change as a non-traditional security threat to Pakistan

Climate change is increasingly recognised as a major non-traditional security threat for Pakistan, impacting its socio-economic stability, political governance, and overall national security. Unlike conventional threats, it affects human security, livelihood, and resource availability, making it a multi-dimensional challenge.

## Socio-economic implications

## 1) Agriculture and food security

Pakistan agriculture contributing around 19% to GDP and employing over 40% of the population is highly climate sensitive. Rising temperatures, irregular monsoons, floods, and droughts reduce crop yields and livestock productivity, jeopardizing food security.

## 2) Water scarcity

Melting glaciers in the Himalayas and reduced river flows threaten water availability, aggravating tensions between provinces and sectors dependent on irrigation.

## 3) Health impacts

Climate induced heatwaves, vector-borne diseases, and poor air quality increase morbidity and mortality, placing

pressure on public health infrastructure.

#### 4) Economic losses

The Pakistan Climate Risk Index (2022) ranks Pakistan among the top 10 most climate vulnerable countries. Floods such as those in 2010 and 2022, caused billions of dollars in losses, affecting infrastructure, housing and livelihoods.

#### Political implications

##### 1) Resource conflicts

Water scarcity and land degradation can intensify internal-political disputes.

##### 2) Governance challenges

Repeated climate disasters expose weakness in disaster management, urban policy/planning, and policy implementation, undermining public trust in institutions.

##### 3) Migration and social stress

Climate-induced displacement such as flood and drought migration creates humanitarian crisis and pressure on urban centers, potentially destabilising local governance and social cohesion.

#### Pakistan's institutional response

##### 1) Policy frameworks

Pakistan has developed frameworks like the National Climate Change Policy (2012) and the Pakistan Climate Change Act (2017), aiming to mainstream climate

adaptation and mitigation into development planning.

## 2) Climate financing

The establishment of Pakistan Climate Change Fund seeks to support adaptation projects.

## 3) Disaster management

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and provincial disaster management authorities coordinate responses to floods, droughts, and heatwaves. Early warning systems have improved, but coverage remains limited in remote areas.

## 4) Challenges

Despite institutional mechanisms, responses are often reactive rather than preventive, underfunded and fragmented across federal and provincial levels. Implementation gaps, limited technical capacity, and inadequate public awareness reduce effectiveness.

## Way forward

While Pakistan has recognised climate as a national security concern, its institutional response remains insufficient for the scale of the threat. Strengthening adaptive capacity requires:

1) Enhancing inter-provincial coordination on water and resource management.

2) Mainstreaming climate adaptation into development

planning and infrastructural projects.

- 3) Expanding community-based resilience programs in vulnerable regions.
- 4) Leveraging international climate finance for sustainable development projects.

Hence, climate change represents a profound non-traditional security threats to Pakistan, with far-reaching socio-economic and political implications. Although institutional mechanisms exist, their effectiveness is limited by resource constraints and implementation gaps. A proactive, coordinated, and comprehensive strategy is essential to safeguard Pakistan's human, economic, and environmental security.

## Question 4

### Internal Political Instability and its implication for Pakistan

Political Instability has been a persistent challenge for Pakistan, limiting its economic growth, undermining governance, and constraining its diplomatic and security objectives. It affects state's capacity, policy continuity, and public trust, thereby influencing both domestic and foreign spheres.

# Structural cause of political instability

## 1) Civil-military imbalance

Frequent military interventions in politics have disrupted democratic consolidation, weakened civilian institutions, and created recurring power struggles.

## 2) Weak political institutions

Parliamentary institutions, political parties, and the judiciary often lack internal cohesion, accountability, and merit-based functioning, resulting in short-term policy making and fragile governance.

## 3) Economic inequality and social fragmentation

Widening gaps between urban and rural populations, regional disparities (Punjab vs. Baluchistan/KP), and ethnic/sectarian divisions fuel political tensions and unrest.

## 4) Patronage politics and corruption

Politics dominated by elite families and dynastic structures reduces public confidence, encourages political opportunism, and marginalizes merit-based leadership.

## 5) Judicial and constitutional ambiguities

Conflicts between the executive, Legislature, and the judiciary along with unclear constitutional limits on caretaker governments, contribute to instability.

## Impact on economic performance

### 1) Policy discontinuity

Frequent government changes disrupt long-term economic planning, investment policies, and structural reforms.

### 2) Reduced investor confidence

Political unrest, strikes, and governance inefficiencies deter both domestic and foreign investment.

### 3) Inflation and fiscal strain

Instability often leads to populist short-term economic measures, undermining fiscal discipline and macroeconomic stability.

## Impact on national security and foreign policy

### 1) Weak defense-civil coordination

Political instability hampers coherent defense planning and civil-military coordination, affecting operational readiness and strategic decision making.

### 2) Diplomatic constraints

Unstable governments struggle to maintain consistent foreign policies, weakening Pakistan's bargaining power with major powers like the US, China, and regional actors.

### 3) Regional security challenges

Internal instability intensifies vulnerabilities to cross-border terrorism, insurgency in border provinces, and

sectarian conflicts, complicating Pakistan's security environment.

#### 4) Dependence on external aid

Political fragility increases reliance on IMF, World Bank, and foreign aid, limiting policy autonomy in foreign relations.

### Way forward

- 1) Strengthen democratic institutions and civil governance to ensure continuity and policy credibility.
- 2) Promote inclusive politics and address regional disparities to reduce social grievances.
- 3) Enhance judicial and electoral reforms to reduce conflicts between state organs and ensure transparent governance.
- 4) Build a consistent foreign policy framework, resilient to domestic political changes to improve diplomatic and economic leverage.

### Conclusion

Structural weaknesses in Pakistan's political system (civil-military imbalance, weak institutions, economic inequality, and patronage politics) have perpetuated instability which in turn hinders economic growth, undermines national security, and weakens foreign policy effectiveness. Sustainable progress requires institutional strengthening, political maturity, and strategic consistency in governance.

## Question 6

### Regional organizations in South and Central Asia :

#### Challenges and Prospects

Regional organizations in South and Central Asia such as SAARC, SCO, and initiatives like CPEC for connectivity have largely failed to achieve meaningful integration due to structural, political and economic challenges.

#### Reasons for Failure of Regional integration

##### 1) Bilateral conflicts and rivalries

India-Pakistan tensions particularly over Kashmir, have undermined SAARC's cohesion, with repeated boycotts of summits and initiatives.

##### 2) Lack of trust and security concerns

Historical disputes, border conflicts, and concerns over terrorism have limited cross-border cooperation.

##### 3) Economic disparities

Wide differences in GDP, infrastructure, and industrial capacity among member states, create imbalance in benefits, making integration politically sensitive.

##### 4) Poor institutional mechanisms

Regional organisations often lack enforcement powers, binding commitments, and effective secretariates for implementation.

##### 5) External influence

Major powers → strategic competition e.g; US, China, and

Russia, often shapes regional dynamics, undermining autonomous regional decision-making.

## 6) Connectivity gaps

Inadequate transport energy and digital infrastructure impede trade, people to people exchange and regional economic integration.

## Impact of weak integration

### 1) Low intra-regional trade

South Asia's intra-regional trade remains below 5% of total trade far behind other regions.

### 2) Limited regional security cooperation

Joint counter-terrorism, disaster management, and conflict resolution mechanisms are weak.

### 3) Economic isolation

Member states miss opportunities for collective economic growth, industrial collaboration, and shared infrastructure development.

## Practical measures for regional connectivity strength (with Pakistan's role)

### 1) Economic cooperation enhancement

Promote intra-regional trade through reduction of tariffs, trade facilitation agreements, and harmonised custom procedures.

### 2) Develop transport and energy corridors

Expand CPEC, CAREC and other road, rail, and other linkages, connecting Pakistan with central Asia,

Afghanistan, and China.

### 3) Institutional strengthening

Rewamp regional organizations' secretariats (SAARC, SCO) to monitor, enforce, and implement agreements effectively.

### 4) People to people exchanges

Promote educational, cultural, and professional exchanges to build trust and mutual understanding.

### 5) Conflict mitigation mechanism

Establish confidence building measures, dialogues forums, and joint security initiatives to reduce bilateral tensions.

### 6) Leverage multilateral frameworks

Encourage Pakistan to play a proactive role in SCO, ECO, and CPEC projects to enhance regional integration beyond south Asia.

Make flowcharts

Add references/ facts and figures.

Write conclusion