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# QUESTION 2 CLIMATE CHANGE

## 1. Introduction

Climate change threatens Pakistan's people and state's capacity not through armies but through floods, heatwaves, droughts, glacial melt and diseases. After the 2022 floods in Pakistan, UN Secretary General said:

"I have never seen climate carnage on this scale."

- Antonio Guterres

## 2. Socio-economic Implications on Pakistan

### A. Disastrous floods exacerbates Poverty

During floods, people's property gets disturbed, agricultural lands are filled with flood waters, individual's livelihood gets disturbed. Owing to this, people ~~lose~~ lost their incomes and poverty increases.

"\$14.9 bn damages, \$15.2 bn losses, and \$16.3 bn recovery needs."

- Post-Disaster Needs Assessment.

### B. Water Insecurity Deminishes Agricult-

## Water Decline

Pakistan is already near to the water scarcity pressure. It would decrease crop yields especially during heatwaves and drought seasons. This would also lay the foundation of poor water appropriation dispute.

"Pakistan's per capita water availability around  $1100\text{ m}^3$ , illustrating close to scarcity."

-The World Bank

## C. Increasing Heatwaves and Health Emergencies

Heatwaves in Pakistan are frequent and intense. Due to which labour productivity in the industrial and agricultural sectors decrease, children remain out of school due to low attendance and it further increase burden on hospitals.

"2015 heatwaves killed over 1200 people in Karachi."

-National Disaster Management Authority

## D. Glacial melting and GLOFs damages infrastructure

According to United Nations Convention framework on climate change illustrates that the risk of (catastrophic like outbreak floods) will increase as sea level risks are expanding at alarm levels. This could threaten roads, bridges in Sindh and KP province and damage to hydropower assets.

"22 people of one family incident in Sindh, incident."

- The Express Tribune

### 3. Political Implication in Pakistan by Climate Change

#### A. Federal-Provincial disputes over resource allocation

Flood recovery and water management require strong coordination, but Pakistan's governance is split across federal and provincial responsibilities that create delays and blame games.

#### B. Climate-induced migration pressurise urban societies

Repeated floods and drought force families to settle into cities that create informal settlements in the urban cities. This

also increase pressure on housing, unemployment, crime rates and creates policy complications

### C. State legitimacy and service delivery politics

When early warning mechanism fails, and there is illegal construction and need more enforcement then losses further increase. Report also highlights that poor planning and weak preparedness also adds political pressure on government.

## 4. Pakistan's Institutional Response on Climate Change

### A. Climate Governance Institutions

↳ Pakistan Climate Change Act 2017:- created Pakistan climate change Council and climate change Authority for over sight and coordination in disastrous situations.

↳ National Climate Change Policy 2012:- for adaptation and mitigation

↳ National Adaptation Plan

### B. Disaster Risk Management Institution

National Disaster Management Act created for national disaster system and role.

It manages, manages preparedness, mitigation, risk reduction, relief and rehabilitation.

### 5. Evaluating How Strong is Pakistan's response?

#### \* Strengths

- ↳ Institution exist:- Act 2017, NDMA Mechanism
- ↳ Clear Policy Direction:- NCEP 2021, NDC 2021, NAP
- ↳ Focus on Early Warnings:- Heatwaves and Drought

#### \* Weakness

- ↳ Implementation Gap:- policies are strong on paper but weak on ground due to limited funding
- ↳ Coordination Problem:- federal - provincial - local coordination often breaks during emergencies
- ↳ Land-use and enforcement failure:- Encroachment, deforestation and weak building code & multiple losses
- ↳ Financing Gap:- Disaster recovery needs huge funding but domestic fiscal is limited.

## 6. Recommendation for climate-induced disaster in Pakistan.

- Strengthening local Government
- Shift from relief to risk reduction
- Considering water security as a national security
- Climate-resistant Agriculture
- Strong warning systems
- Building a credible pipeline for donors

## 7. Conclusion

Climate change is a non-traditional security threat because it creates mass destruction, displacement and economic losses. Pakistan has law and policies but the implementation remained low. especially at local level where disaster actually hit.

# QUESTION 3

## 1. Introduction

Pakistan's connectivity initiatives under the Belt and Road Initiative, mainly CPEC, have real geo-economic value. But ~~that~~ its full payoff is still limited by security, ~~weak~~ <sup>inadequate</sup> legislation and governance, low port utilization and new competing corridors in Asia.

## 2. Geo-economic Significance of Pakistan's BRI Connectivity

### A. Energy Security Enhancing Productivity and Industrial Output

A large part of early CPEC was energy, which matters because without reliable electricity, exports and industry can not grow. Thus, more stable energy can reduce shutdowns, improve industrial utilization and support FIEZs.

Project Name	Mega Watts	Cost
Sahiba Coal Power	1320 MW	\$ 1.912 billion
Port Qasim Coal Power	1320 MW	\$ 1.9 billion
Thar Power and more	660 MW	\$ 995.4m

- Business Recorder

## B. Lower Logistic Cost Improving Competitiveness of Exports

Connectivity corridors pay off when they reduce transport time and cost from ports to roads and railway to the markets

"ML-1 (Karachi-Reshawar Rail Upgrade) Cost estimated is \$6.67 billion."

-The Express Tribune

## C. Gwader as a connectivity Node

China-Pakistan joint statements repeatedly call Gwader a connectivity hub. For example, the October 2024, joint statement says Gwader is a "key hub for cross-regional connectivity" and commit to attracting more cargo and hitting power shortages.

"592,000 Tonnes in 2023 Goods Exports via Gwader Port."

-Business Recorder

## D. Provides Opportunity for investments and sector diversification

Infrastructure investment can crowd-in private investment only if Pakistan

Pakistan faces governance, policy certainty and security.

### E. BRI: Trans-regional Connectivity

Pakistan's geography gives it a natural corridor advantage. CPEC gives the hardware. But geo-economic needs software too like customs efficiency, trade facilitation, stable borders and predictable regulation.

3. Has Asia's Evolving Alignment Reduced Pakistan's Strategic Relevance?

4. New alternative corridors are emerging

i) India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)

IMEC is backed by the EU, US and Gulf states. It would link sea-rail corridors linking India to Europe via Middle East. Thus, this gives the Gulf and Europe another connectivity narrative that often centers India.

ii) Initiative on Critical And Emerging Technology (ICAET)

US-India initiatives like ICET are aimed at deepening technology and economic cooperation. Resultantly, Pakistan is no longer the main South Asia strategic bet for western countries.

Henceforth, Pakistan's strategic relevance has reduced in exclusive terms, but it has not disappeared. Today relevance is increasingly earned through geo-economic delivery not assumed through geography alone.

#### 4. Reasons illustrating why Pakistan still remains strategically relevant

##### A. China-Pak alignment remains strong

China and Pakistan reaffirmed "ironclad" ties and emphasized to upgrade cooperation, while also noting Pakistan's effort to protect Chinese national interests connected to CPEC.

##### B. CPEC remains a major BRI alignment

CPEC's total investment was \$65 billion. This China has promised

to change the economic outlook of Pakistan's economy.

↳ Pakistan is also seeing renewed US engagement

During the 2010s, Pak-US relations were seen to get closer, even after Pakistan and India war in May 2019. US president praised Pakistan's army personnel. Moreover, president also signed memorandum of Association with Pakistani officials for investment in mining.

"\$500 billion investment by US President Donald Trump."  
Reuters

5. Recommendation to uphold geo-economic significance and strategic-relevance.

↳ Move from "roads built" to "trade moving"

↳ Make Gwader commercially viable

↳ Prioritize CPEC-1 and national logistic chain

↳ Security and investor confidence should be increased.

6. Conclusion

Pakistan's BRI connectivity is geoeconomically significant because it can lower energy and logistic constraints and potential to trade region. But Pakistan's strategic relevance in Asia has become more competitive due to new alignments and corridors like IMEC.

## QUESTION 5

### 1. Introduction

Federal cohesion is not only a constitutional issue. It is a geo-economic necessity. A country cannot become a trade hub if its provinces feel unfairly treated. Internal divisions increase security risks, project delays and investor confidence which directly reduces Pakistan's strategic relevance.

### 2. Political factors that undermine Federal Cohesion

A. Centralized Decision-Making and weak "shared rule" forums

The constitution created inter-provincial mechanism, especially the council of common interest (CCI), to resolve disputes and strengthen federation. Yet provinces complain that CCI is bypassed.

Provinces interpret unilateral decisions as central dominance, which fuels resentment."

- Maleeha Lodhi

### B. Identity Grievances and human-rights distrust

Alienation deepens when citizens believe the state use force rather than politics. Henceforth, grievances become political narrative sowing distrust in federation.

"The Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances reported it received 10367 cases (March 2011 - Sept-2021) and disposed 8988 while 1650 cases were under investigation."

- Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearance

### C. Unequal political inclusion

When smaller provinces feel that voices do not shape national priorities, like water resources, security operations, mega projects, it creates centre vs province distrust.

### 3. Economic Factors that undermine federal cohesion

#### A. Fiscal imbalance and disputes over resource distribution

The 7th NFC award increased provincial share in vertical distribution and revised horizontal formula. It states provinces' share to rise 56% (2010-11) and 57.5% onwards, horizontal shares become:

Province	Share
Punjab	51.7%
Sindh	24.5%
KP	14.5%
Balochistan	9.09%

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

#### B. Unequal Development Outcomes

When service delivery differs in provinces, people feel a "second

class citizenship". Moreover, social <sup>equity</sup> like poverty, unemployment exasperates and differs in the provinces.

Multidimensional Poverty Index	
Baloduster	70%
ICP	48%
Small	47%
Projects	30%

- Pakistan Institution of Development studies.

#### 4. Administrative factors that undermine federal cohesion

##### A. Weak local Government

The Constitution Article (140A) requires each province to establish local government and devolve political, administrative and financial authority to elected local depi.

##### B. Bureaucratic Centralization and uneven service delivery

The decision-making remains focused in provincial capitals cities of Islamabad. This weakens districts get

slower development.

### C. Governance of Shared Resources

Disputes further intensify when provinces believe resources are extracted locally but benefited elsewhere like Balochistan claim for Saindak and Reo dig mining.

Share	1%
Company	45.2%
Central	50.2%
Province	4.8%

- Pakistan Institute of Development Studies.

### 5. Lessons to prevent regional alienation

#### A. Lesson 1: Make the Federation work through Institutions

Federal should hold and monitor regular CCI meetings and publish decisions so that disputes are solved by law, not street power. Hence, CCI can be used for water, shared projects and inter-provincial disputes.

### B. Lesson 2: Equity must be visible

Targetting lagging provinces and districts through need-based development in education, health, water and roads. For this, poverty and literacy rates show the urgency where development is necessary.

### C. Lesson 3: Local Government must be Strengthened

Implement Article 140 A in a true spirit. Money, power and elected local bodies must be given to local government. This reduces blame on centre and provinces and lowers alienation.

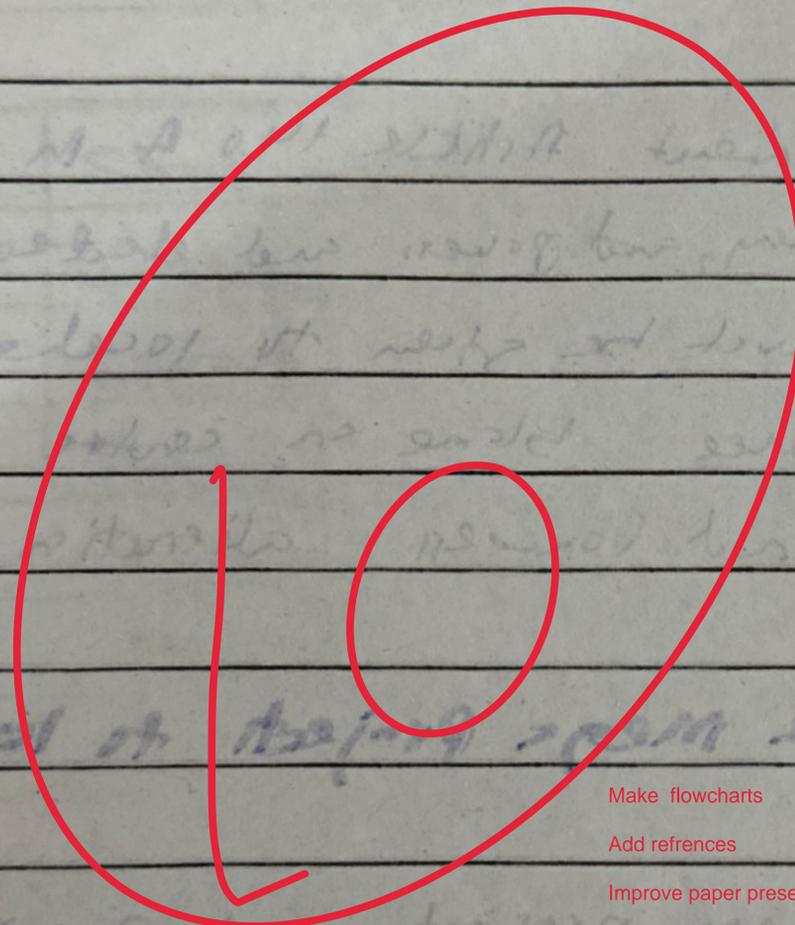
### D. Lesson 4: Link Mega Projects to Local Benefits

Any mega project must provide jobs to local at every hierarchical level & not just providing jobs in lower levels. Mega projects must also support to social welfare programmes for the betterment of the society.

### 6. Conclusion

Pakistan's federal cohesion is undermined mainly by political centralization.

like GDP, economic inequality such as  
 poverty and illiteracy rates, and administrative  
 -territorial distance for example weak  
 local governments. Rebuilding cohesion is  
 not only about unity, it is about geo-  
 economic competitiveness and strategic  
 relevance. Stable federation attracts  
 investment, and strengthens Pakistan's role  
 as a regional connector.



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