

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION–2026

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE–II (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

— COMPLETE & FULLY SOLVED PAPER —

All 20 MCQs (Part-I) with detailed explanations
All 7 Subjective Questions (Part-II) fully answered
Short Notes — all three topics covered

Solved & Compiled by

SCHOLAREYE.XYZ

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Time Allowed: 3 Hours | Part-I: 20 Marks | Part-II: 80 Marks

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Note on approach: Part-I MCQs are compulsory and all 20 have been solved with reasoned explanations grounded in verified current-affairs developments of 2025–26. For Part-II, candidates are required to attempt only FOUR of the seven questions in the actual exam; however, for complete preparation and revision value, **this guide solves all seven questions plus all three short notes**, so you can practise with full-spectrum coverage and select your best four on exam day.

PART-I: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs) — 20 MARKS

Q.1. Select the best option for each of the following twenty (20) statements. Each correct answer carries 1 mark. There is no negative marking.

Q1. What was the central agenda of Emmanuel Macron's 2025 visit to China?

- (A) Military alliance formation (B) Trade rebalancing and economic cooperation (C) Cooperation in AI (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (B) Trade rebalancing and economic cooperation**

Explanation: Macron undertook his fourth state visit to China (3–5 December 2025) at Xi Jinping's invitation. The visit's stated purpose, as confirmed by the Élysée and Chinese state media, was to address "global imbalances" — chiefly China's trade surplus/over-production and the EU's roughly €300 billion trade deficit with China — while pursuing broader economic and trade cooperation, alongside secondary discussions on Ukraine and geopolitics.

Q2. _____ is the author of "Essay on Population (1798)":

- (A) Thomas Malthus (B) Ester Boserupe (C) Garret Hardin (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (A) Thomas Malthus**

Explanation: Thomas Robert Malthus, an English cleric and scholar, published "An Essay on the Principle of Population" anonymously in 1798, arguing that population grows geometrically while food supply grows arithmetically, leading to inevitable checks such as famine, disease, and war.

Q3. During the Putin–Modi summit, Russia emphasised which key priority for bilateral ties?

- (A) Increasing military supply to India (B) Cutting trade imbalance (C) Uninterrupted fuel and energy supplies to India (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (C) Uninterrupted fuel and energy supplies to India**

Explanation: In the 2025 Putin–Modi summit (held in the context of the annual India–Russia summit framework), Moscow repeatedly stressed the reliability and continuity of discounted crude oil and energy supplies to India as the anchor of the bilateral relationship, especially as India came under Western pressure to cut Russian oil purchases.

Q4. _____ got Nobel Peace Prize, 2025:

- (A) Nicolás Maduro (Venezuela) (B) María Corina Machado (Venezuela) (C) Georgia Meloni (Italy) (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (B) María Corina Machado (Venezuela)**

Explanation: The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize to María Corina Machado, the Venezuelan opposition leader, for her sustained, non-violent struggle for democratic rights and a just and peaceful transition from authoritarian rule in Venezuela.

Q5. In 2025, conflict between Thailand and Cambodia erupted on the issue of:

- (A) Human trafficking (B) Boundary claims (C) Unchecked Smuggling **(D) Ownership of a temple**

✓ **Correct Answer: (D) Ownership of a temple**

Explanation: The 2025 Thailand–Cambodia clashes (escalating sharply from July 2025) were rooted in the long-standing dispute over ancient temple sites — principally Preah Vihear and Ta Muen Thom — and the land surrounding them along the colonial-era (1904–1907 Franco-Siamese treaty) border. While the wider issue is a boundary dispute, the immediate flashpoints and historic core of the rivalry are the contested temples, making option (D) the most precise answer intended here.

Q6. On June 22, 2025, US B2 Bombers and Tomahawk missiles hit Iran’s nuclear facility as part of:

- (A) Operation Inherent Resolve (B) Operation Resolute Support (C) Operation Dragoon **(D) Operation Midnight Hammer**

✓ **Correct Answer: (D) Operation Midnight Hammer**

Explanation: The United States launched “Operation Midnight Hammer” on 21–22 June 2025, using B-2 Spirit stealth bombers to drop GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator bombs on Iran’s Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan nuclear sites, supplemented by Tomahawk cruise missile strikes from US Navy submarines, amid the Israel–Iran conflict.

Q7. _____ Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is in vogue for 2015-2030.

- (A) Sendai** (B) Yokohama (C) Hyogo (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (A) Sendai**

Explanation: The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 was adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. It succeeded the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005–2015) and sets seven global targets and four priorities for action to reduce disaster risk and losses.

Q8. The central idea of Anatol Lieven’s book “Pakistan: A Hard Country” is:

- (A) Pakistan is undefeatable (B) Pakistan is hard-wired **(C) Society is extraordinarily resilient** (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (C) Society is extraordinarily resilient**

Explanation: Anatol Lieven’s central thesis is that despite weak formal state institutions, chronic political instability and security threats, Pakistani society survives and functions because of the extraordinary resilience of its informal structures — kinship, patronage (biradari), religion, and local power networks — which hold the country together from below.

Q9. The development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs is called:

- (A) Sustainable Development** (B) Green Development (C) Positive Development (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (A) Sustainable Development**

Explanation: This is the classic Brundtland Commission definition (from the 1987 report “Our Common Future”) of Sustainable Development — balancing economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection across generations, and it underpins the entire UN 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs.

Q10. Doha Forum is an annual global forum held in Doha that gathers world leaders, policymakers, civil-society representatives, business leaders, media etc. Doha Forum and Doha Dialogue are, hence:

- (A) The same (B) Different (C) Doha Forum is part of Doha Dialogue (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (B) Different**

Explanation: Doha Forum (established 2000/2003, hosted by Qatar under “Diplomacy, Dialogue, Diversity”) is a broad, Qatar-sponsored global policy convening. The “Doha Dialogue/Doha Process” refers to separate, narrower UN- and Qatar-facilitated diplomatic tracks (notably the UN-led meetings on Afghanistan held in Doha). The two are distinct mechanisms with different mandates, participants, and sponsors.

Q11. _____ authored the book “Prisoner of Geography”.

- (A) Tim Marshall (B) Henry Kissinger (C) Samuel P. Huntington (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (A) Tim Marshall**

Explanation: “Prisoner of Geography: Ten Maps That Explain Everything About the World” (2015) was written by British journalist and geopolitical analyst Tim Marshall, examining how physical geography shapes the strategic choices and constraints of nations.

Q12. Which Pakistani economist contributed significantly towards development of Human Security Theory?

- (A) Dr. Qaiser Bhangali (B) Dr. Mehboob ul Haq (C) Dr. Ashfaq Hasan Khan (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (B) Dr. Mehboob ul Haq**

Explanation: Dr. Mahbub ul Haq, the eminent Pakistani economist, pioneered the concept of Human Development (creator of the UNDP Human Development Index) and was the intellectual architect behind the 1994 UNDP Human Development Report, which formally introduced and mainstreamed the concept of “Human Security” in international discourse.

Q13. Who authored seminal book “World Order”?

- (A) Fareed Zakriya (B) Henry Kissinger (C) Andrew Heywood (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (B) Henry Kissinger**

Explanation: “World Order” (2014) was authored by Henry Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State and National Security Advisor, examining competing conceptions of order across civilizations (Westphalian, Islamic, Chinese, American) and the search for a legitimate global order.

Q14. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism is currently operational in the European Union (EU). It applies to:

- (A) Imports (B) Exports (C) Production in border regions of EU (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (A) Imports**

Explanation: The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) imposes a carbon price on imports of specified carbon-intensive goods (e.g., cement, iron and steel, aluminium, fertilizers, electricity, hydrogen) entering the EU, to prevent “carbon leakage” by equalising the carbon cost of imports with that faced by EU domestic producers under the EU Emissions Trading System.

Q15. An economic model designed to eliminate waste and keep resources in use for as long as possible is known as:

- (A) Rational consumption (B) Mercantilism **(C) Circular economy** (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (C) Circular economy**

Explanation: The Circular Economy model is built on the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle, and regenerate — designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems, as opposed to the traditional linear “take-make-dispose” model.

Q16. _____ will co-host the next year’s COP-31.

- (A) Indonesia and Turkey **(B) Australia and Turkey** (C) Turkey and Thailand (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (B) Australia and Turkey**

Explanation: At the close of COP30 in Belém, Brazil (November 2025), it was formally announced that Türkiye will host COP31 in Antalya in 2026 and hold the COP Presidency, while Australia — which had contested the hosting bid as part of a proposed “Pacific COP” — will serve as President of the Negotiations, making this an unprecedented dual-country arrangement.

Q17. In a new report, _____ has urged world leaders to halt an “obsession” with energy sources that fuel the climate crisis.

- (A) Amnesty International** (B) UN Environment Protection (C) IPCC (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (A) Amnesty International**

Explanation: Amnesty International released a report around COP30 warning that the world's continuing “fossil fuel obsession” threatens billions of lives, urging leaders to abandon dependence on oil, gas, and coal and accelerate a just and rights-based energy transition.

Q18. Advances in _____ are enabling treatments that are tailored specifically to an individual’s makeup, significantly improving the effectiveness of therapies for conditions like cancer, cardiovascular disease, and mental health disorders.

- (A) Tele medicine **(B) Genomic medicine** (C) Robotic medicine (D) None of these

✓ **Correct Answer: (B) Genomic medicine**

Explanation: Genomic medicine uses an individual's genetic information — DNA sequencing, biomarkers, and molecular profiling — to design personalised, precision treatments, improving outcomes in oncology, cardiology, and increasingly in psychiatric/mental-health care through pharmacogenomics.

Q19. On Inauguration day President Trump withdrew USA from:

- (A) Paris Agreement (B) World Health Organisation (C) NAFTA **(D) Both (A) & (B)**

✓ **Correct Answer: (D) Both (A) & (B)**

Explanation: On his inauguration day, 20 January 2025, President Donald Trump signed executive orders initiating US withdrawal from both the Paris Climate Agreement and the World Health Organization, reversing the Biden-era re-entry into these bodies.

Q20. In May 2025, European Union lifted all economic sanctions against:

- (A) Iraq (B) Cuba (C) Sudan **(D) Syria**

✓ **Correct Answer: (D) Syria**

Explanation: Following the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024 and the political transition in Damascus, the European Union formally lifted its economic sanctions on Syria in May 2025, aiming to support reconstruction and the country's re-integration into the international economy.

PART-II: SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS — 80 MARKS (Attempt any FOUR in the actual exam)

All seven questions are solved below for complete practice. In the examination hall, select any FOUR, write clear headings/sub-headings, and support arguments with recent, dated examples — the CSS examiner rewards structure, currency, and analytical balance over sheer length.

Q. No. 2

(20 Marks)

“Pakistan stands at a decisive turning point where climate shocks, rapid population growth, governance gaps, non-traditional security threats and intense fiscal stress are converging to heighten national vulnerability. Critically evaluate the above statement and propose policy measures for building a stable, secure and disaster-resilient Pakistan.”

Introduction

Pakistan today sits at the intersection of multiple, mutually reinforcing crises. Unlike traditional security threats defined by armed conflict, the country's vulnerability in 2026 is best understood as a convergence of climate stress, demographic pressure, weak governance, non-traditional security challenges (water, food, health, cyber, terrorism-adjacent hybrid threats) and a fiscal space squeezed by debt servicing. The statement is largely valid and demands an integrated, whole-of-government response rather than siloed sectoral fixes.

Critical Evaluation of the Converging Threats

- **Climate shocks:** Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to climate change despite contributing under 1% of global emissions — the 2022 super-floods (a third of the country submerged) and recurring glacial-lake outburst floods, heatwaves, and erratic monsoons illustrate chronic exposure with limited adaptive capacity.
- **Rapid population growth:** With a population exceeding 240 million and one of the highest growth rates in Asia, Pakistan faces a widening gap between resource availability (water, arable land, jobs, schooling, healthcare) and demand, undermining the potential “youth bulge” dividend.
- **Governance gaps:** Weak local government empowerment, low tax-to-GDP ratio, politicised bureaucracy, and fragmented disaster-management institutions (federal-provincial coordination lapses seen post-2022 floods) reduce the state's capacity to plan and deliver.
- **Non-traditional security threats:** Water scarcity (approaching the water-stress threshold), food insecurity, resurgent terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, cyber vulnerabilities, and public health emergencies (dengue, polio persistence) now rival conventional threats in their impact on national stability.
- **Fiscal stress:** High debt-servicing obligations, narrow tax base, energy-sector circular debt, and dependence on IMF programmes leave minimal fiscal space for climate adaptation, disaster preparedness, or social protection.

Policy Measures for a Stable, Secure, and Resilient Pakistan

- **Institutionalise climate governance:** Strengthen the National/Provincial Disaster Management Authorities with real-time early-warning systems, climate-proof infrastructure codes, and dedicated climate-adaptation financing (leveraging the Loss and Damage Fund and green bonds).
- **Population policy integration:** Mainstream family planning into primary healthcare, expand female education and labour-force participation, and align population policy with provincial development plans post-18th Amendment.

- **Governance and fiscal reform:** Broaden the tax base, digitalise revenue collection, empower local governments with fiscal autonomy, and depoliticise disaster-response institutions.
- **Water and food security:** Accelerate the National Water Policy implementation, invest in small/medium dams and drip irrigation, and diversify cropping patterns away from water-intensive crops.
- **Whole-of-society resilience:** Build community-based disaster preparedness, insurance mechanisms for vulnerable farmers, and public-private partnerships for climate financing.

Conclusion: Pakistan's vulnerabilities are structurally interlinked; piecemeal responses will not suffice. A resilient Pakistan requires synchronised climate, demographic, governance and fiscal reform under a single national resilience framework, backed by sustained political will and international climate finance partnerships.

Q. No. 3**(20 Marks)**

“Brain drain threatens Pakistan's ability to achieve its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030”. Write a comprehensive note on the causes and consequences of brain drain from Pakistan, focusing on its impact on achieving SDGs (you may choose any three SDGs for answering this question).”

Introduction

Brain drain — the large-scale emigration of Pakistan's skilled professionals, doctors, engineers, IT specialists, and academics — has accelerated sharply in recent years, with record numbers of skilled workers registering for overseas employment. This exodus of human capital directly undermines the country's capacity to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Causes of Brain Drain

- **Economic push factors:** High inflation, currency devaluation, unemployment, and stagnant wages relative to Gulf, European, and North American opportunities.
- **Governance and political instability:** Policy inconsistency, weak rule of law, and lack of merit-based career progression discourage retention of talent.
- **Security concerns:** Terrorism, sectarian violence, and general law-and-order concerns push professionals, especially from KP and Balochistan, to seek safer environments abroad.
- **Limited research and innovation ecosystem:** Inadequate R&D funding, poor university-industry linkages, and lack of quality employment for STEM and medical graduates.
- **Pull factors:** Attractive immigration pathways (skilled-worker visas in Gulf states, UK, Canada, Australia), better healthcare, education, and quality of life abroad.

Consequences — Impact on Three SDGs

- **SDG-3 (Good Health and Well-being):** Mass emigration of doctors and nurses — Pakistan loses a significant share of its medical graduates annually — worsens the doctor-to-population ratio, particularly in rural and underserved areas, undermining universal health coverage targets.
- **SDG-4 (Quality Education):** Departure of experienced faculty and researchers weakens higher-education quality, research output, and mentorship capacity, creating a vicious cycle that further drives talented students to study and settle abroad.
- **SDG-8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth):** While remittances (over \$30 billion annually) provide short-term macroeconomic relief, the loss of entrepreneurial and technically skilled workers reduces domestic productivity, innovation, and the tax base needed for sustained, inclusive growth.

Way Forward

- Create competitive research grants, tenure-track incentives, and diaspora-engagement programmes (e.g., temporary return fellowships) to retain and re-attract talent.
- Improve macroeconomic stability, ease of doing business, and merit-based governance to reduce push factors.
- Formalise remittance and diaspora-investment channels (e.g., Roshan Digital Account model) to convert brain drain into “brain gain” through knowledge and capital transfer.

Conclusion: Brain drain is both a symptom and a cause of Pakistan's development deficit. Without deliberate retention and diaspora-engagement policies, the loss of human capital will continue to erode progress on health, education, and economic SDGs well beyond 2030.

Q. No. 4**(20 Marks)**

“Critically appraise the following statement with relevant examples. Furthermore, draw relevant lessons and propose way forward for Pakistan. “Natural resources, though desirable for development of a country, can become a source of conflict and instability.””

Introduction

The “resource curse” or “paradox of plenty” describes how countries abundant in natural resources often experience slower development, weaker institutions, and greater instability than resource-poor peers, because resource wealth can breed rent-seeking, corruption, inequitable distribution, and violent contestation over control.

Critical Appraisal with Examples

- **Global examples:** The Democratic Republic of Congo's mineral wealth (coltan, cobalt) has fuelled decades of militia conflict; Nigeria's Niger Delta oil wealth bred insurgency and environmental degradation despite immense export revenue; conversely, Botswana's diamonds, managed through strong institutions, financed development — showing that outcomes depend on governance quality, not resources alone.
- **Pakistan — Balochistan:** The Reko Diq and Saindak mineral/copper-gold reserves and Sui gas fields illustrate how resource wealth, when perceived as inequitably shared between the federation and the province, has fed grievances, nationalist insurgency, and instability rather than prosperity for local communities.
- **Water as a contested resource:** Inter-provincial disputes over Indus water distribution (evident in recurring tensions among Punjab, Sindh, and lower riparian concerns) show that even shared natural resources can become flashpoints for federal instability if governance mechanisms (e.g., IRSA) are perceived as unfair.
- **Climate-resource nexus:** Competition over shrinking water and arable land amid climate stress is increasingly cited globally (e.g., Sahel conflicts) as a driver of local conflict, a dynamic relevant to Pakistan's own water-stressed provinces.

Lessons for Pakistan

- Resource wealth must be paired with transparent revenue-sharing formulas (NFC Award-linked mechanisms) and local community benefit-sharing to prevent alienation.
- Strong, accountable institutions and anti-corruption safeguards are essential to prevent elite capture of resource rents.
- Environmental and social impact assessments, alongside genuine provincial autonomy over resource decisions, reduce the risk of resource-linked grievance politics.

Way Forward

- Establish a transparent Sovereign Wealth/Resource Fund model (as in Norway) to ensure equitable, generational distribution of resource revenues.
- Fast-track community development in resource-rich but underdeveloped regions such as Balochistan, prioritising local employment and infrastructure.
- Strengthen federal-provincial consultative mechanisms (CCI, NFC) for water and mineral resource governance.

Conclusion: *Natural resources are not inherently a curse; the outcome hinges on the quality of governance, equity of distribution, and institutional strength. Pakistan must reform resource governance to convert its mineral and water endowments into genuine engines of stability and shared prosperity.*

Q. No. 5**(20 Marks)**

“Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), once called “force multiplier”, are now having trust issues as public skepticism about the virtues and advantages of NGOs has deepened. Critically examine why NGOs space is shrinking in many parts of the world with specific reference to Pakistan.”

Introduction

NGOs were long celebrated as a “force multiplier” for development, humanitarian relief, and rights advocacy, complementing state capacity in health, education, and disaster response. In recent years, however, a global trend of “shrinking civic space” has emerged, with governments tightening regulation and public trust eroding amid concerns over transparency, foreign funding, and political interference.

Reasons for Shrinking NGO Space — Global Context

- **Sovereignty and security concerns:** Many states view foreign-funded NGOs as vehicles for external political influence, especially in strategically sensitive regions.
- **Transparency and accountability deficits:** High-profile scandals involving misuse of donor funds and opaque governance have damaged public confidence in the sector worldwide.
- **Rise of nationalist/populist politics:** Governments across Asia, Africa, and parts of the West have introduced restrictive laws (registration hurdles, foreign-funding caps, audits) curbing NGO operations.
- **Politicisation of aid:** Perception that some NGOs pursue donor-driven agendas rather than genuine local needs has fuelled skepticism about their neutrality.

Pakistan-Specific Context

- **Regulatory tightening:** The Economic Affairs Division's stringent NOC (No-Objection Certificate) regime for INGOs, and periodic scrutiny/expulsion of international NGOs, reflect state concern over security and sovereignty, particularly in Balochistan and the former FATA regions.
- **Security sensitivities:** Some NGOs working in conflict-affected border areas have faced access restrictions due to concerns about links to foreign intelligence or advocacy perceived as anti-state.
- **Public trust deficit:** Media reporting on alleged misuse of funds by a handful of organisations has coloured broader public perception, despite the majority of NGOs performing credible humanitarian and development work (e.g., during floods and earthquake relief).
- **Religious and cultural sensitivities:** NGOs working on gender, reproductive health, or minority rights sometimes face backlash from conservative segments of society, further narrowing operational space.

Way Forward

- Streamline and simplify regulatory frameworks while ensuring legitimate oversight against misuse of funds.
- Promote NGO self-regulation, financial transparency, and third-party social audits to rebuild public trust.
- Encourage genuine local ownership of development agendas rather than externally imposed priorities.
- Strengthen government-NGO coordination mechanisms, especially for disaster response, rather than blanket restrictions.

Conclusion: *The shrinking of NGO space reflects a legitimate tension between sovereignty/accountability concerns and the genuine humanitarian value NGOs provide. Pakistan needs a balanced regulatory approach that safeguards national interest without eliminating the vital service-delivery and advocacy role of the third sector.*

Q. No. 6**(20 Marks)**

“COP - the annual climate negotiation, Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is organized every year since 1995. What are the significant achievements of COPs in general and COP-30 in particular?”

Introduction

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC, convening annually since COP1 in Berlin (1995) to negotiate collective global action on climate change. Over three decades, COPs have produced landmark agreements while also facing criticism for slow, consensus-bound progress relative to the scale of the climate crisis.

Significant Achievements of COPs (General)

- **Kyoto Protocol (COP3, 1997):** First binding emissions-reduction targets for developed countries, establishing the principle of differentiated responsibility.
- **Paris Agreement (COP21, 2015):** Landmark accord committing nations to limit global warming to well below 2°C, pursuing 1.5°C, through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- **Loss and Damage Fund (COP27, 2022; operationalised COP28):** Historic breakthrough establishing a dedicated fund to compensate vulnerable developing countries — including Pakistan, post the 2022 floods — for climate-induced losses.
- **Global Stocktake (COP28, 2023):** First comprehensive assessment of collective progress under the Paris Agreement, alongside a call to “transition away from fossil fuels.”
- **Institutional achievements:** Creation of the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, and carbon-market mechanisms (Article 6) that channel climate finance and technology to developing nations.

COP-30 (Belém, Brazil, November 2025) — Specific Achievements

- Held in the Amazonian city of Belém, symbolically anchoring negotiations to forest conservation and biodiversity alongside emissions reduction, marking the tenth anniversary of the Paris Agreement.
- Advanced the “era of implementation,” shifting focus from target-setting to delivery of existing commitments, adaptation finance, and just-transition roadmaps.
- Progress on operationalising and scaling adaptation finance and the Loss and Damage Fund for climate-vulnerable states.
- Formal announcement of the COP31 host arrangement — Türkiye as host with Australia as President of Negotiations — reflecting continued (if contested) multilateral cooperation on future COP hosting.

Conclusion: *While COPs have delivered genuine institutional and normative breakthroughs — from Kyoto to Paris to the Loss and Damage Fund — the pace of actual emissions reduction remains behind the 1.5°C pathway. COP30's emphasis on implementation signals a needed shift from pledges to delivery, which is critical for climate-vulnerable states like Pakistan.*

Q. No. 7**(20 Marks)**

“Conduct a critical analysis of the prospects of resolution of the Palestinian conflict with special reference to the UN Security Council's recently approved U.S. drafted resolution for peace in Gaza. Can Pakistan play any role in this initiative?”

Introduction

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict entered a critical new phase following the devastating 2023–2025 Gaza war. The UN Security Council's approval of a US-drafted resolution endorsing a phased peace and stabilisation plan for Gaza — building on ceasefire arrangements and reconstruction commitments — marks a significant, though fragile, diplomatic milestone.

Critical Analysis of the UNSC Resolution's Prospects

- **Positive elements:** The resolution provides an internationally sanctioned framework for a ceasefire, phased Israeli withdrawal, humanitarian access, Gaza reconstruction, and eventual governance arrangements (potentially involving reformed Palestinian and international stabilisation mechanisms).
- **Structural challenges:** Longstanding core issues — borders, the status of Jerusalem, the right of return of Palestinian refugees, and the viability of a genuine two-state solution — remain largely unresolved within the resolution's scope.
- **Implementation risk:** Past ceasefires and roadmaps (Oslo Accords, Camp David, the 2020 Abraham Accords framework) demonstrate that resolutions without enforceable timelines and mutual trust-building often stall; the durability of any stabilisation force and governance transition in Gaza remains uncertain.
- **Regional dynamics:** Support/scepticism from regional actors (Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran) and the position of Hamas and other Palestinian factions will critically shape whether the plan translates into lasting peace or another interim arrangement.

Can Pakistan Play a Role?

- **Diplomatic voice:** As a leading voice in the OIC and a country with no formal diplomatic relations with Israel, Pakistan can use its moral standing to advocate for Palestinian statehood rights within multilateral forums (UN, OIC) while supporting an internationally guaranteed resolution.
- **Humanitarian and reconstruction support:** Pakistan can contribute medical missions, humanitarian aid, and potentially troops/police for any UN-mandated stabilisation or peacekeeping mission in Gaza, drawing on its extensive UN peacekeeping experience.
- **Coalition-building within OIC:** Pakistan can help build consensus among Muslim-majority states for a unified negotiating position that safeguards Palestinian rights while supporting reconstruction financing.
- **Constraint:** Pakistan's role remains primarily diplomatic and humanitarian rather than a central mediating one, given the limited leverage it holds over the principal parties (Israel, US) compared to regional Arab states.

Conclusion: *The UNSC resolution represents a meaningful but incomplete step toward resolving the Gaza crisis; genuine peace requires addressing the underlying political status issues. Pakistan can play a constructive supporting role — diplomatic advocacy, humanitarian assistance, and potential peacekeeping contribution — without being a primary architect of the settlement.*

Q. No. 8**(20 Marks)**

“Write short notes on any TWO of the following (10 marks each): (i) Pros and cons of food production through Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) (ii) Implications of depopulation (iii) Role of China in evolving world order”

All three short notes are covered below for complete practice — choose any two in the actual exam.

(i) Pros and Cons of Food Production through GMOs

- **Pros:** Higher crop yields and pest/drought resistance (e.g., Bt cotton in Pakistan), reduced pesticide use, enhanced nutritional content (e.g., Golden Rice fortified with Vitamin A), and greater food security potential amid climate stress and population growth.
- **Cons:** Concerns over long-term health effects, loss of biodiversity and traditional seed varieties, corporate monopolisation of seed markets (patent dependency on a few multinational agribusiness firms), and ecological risks such as gene flow to wild relatives.
- **Pakistan context:** Bt cotton adoption boosted yields but raised concerns over seed-price dependency and inconsistent regulatory oversight (National Biosafety Committee).

(ii) Implications of Depopulation

- **Economic implications:** Shrinking workforce, rising dependency ratio (fewer workers supporting more elderly), pressure on pension and healthcare systems — visible in Japan, South Korea, and much of Europe.
- **Social implications:** Ageing societies face labour shortages, reduced innovation dynamism, and declining domestic consumption/demand.
- **Geopolitical implications:** Countries facing depopulation may rely more heavily on immigration (raising political tensions) or automation/AI to sustain productivity, reshaping global migration and labour-market patterns.
- **Relevance to Pakistan:** Contrasts sharply with Pakistan's youth bulge, underscoring a global demographic divergence — an opportunity for Pakistan if it can equip its youth with skills for export of labour to ageing economies.

(iii) Role of China in Evolving World Order

- **Economic weight:** As the world's second-largest economy and largest trading nation, China anchors global supply chains and, through the Belt and Road Initiative, extends infrastructure connectivity and economic influence across Asia, Africa, and beyond (including CPEC in Pakistan).
- **Institutional influence:** China champions a multipolar order through platforms like BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, positioning itself as an alternative to Western-led institutions (IMF, World Bank).
- **Strategic competition:** Intensifying US-China rivalry over technology (semiconductors, AI), trade tariffs, and the Indo-Pacific/Taiwan question is a defining axis of the emerging world order.
- **Diplomatic role:** China increasingly positions itself as a mediator (e.g., Saudi-Iran rapprochement) and champion of the Global South, reshaping global governance norms around sovereignty and non-interference.

EXAM STRATEGY NOTE — scholareye.xyz

- **Part-I (MCQs):** Attempt all 20 — there is no negative marking, so never leave a blank. Eliminate obviously wrong options first, then choose the most specific and recent answer.
- **Part-II (Essays):** Attempt exactly FOUR questions. Choose questions where you can offer concrete, dated examples — examiners reward currency and specificity over generic statements.
- **Structure every answer:** Introduction → headed/sub-headed body with evidence → balanced critical evaluation → forward-looking conclusion/recommendations.
- **Time management:** With 80 marks across 4 questions in roughly 2.5 hours (after MCQs), allocate ~35–38 minutes per question, leaving time for review.
- **Currency is king:** Current Affairs answers must be anchored in the latest 12–18 months of developments — keep a running log of major global and Pakistan-specific events.

This solved paper has been fully compiled, fact-checked, and formatted by **scholareye.xyz** to support CSS & PMS aspirants with accurate, exam-ready explanations. Keep practising, keep revising — and best of luck for your Current Affairs paper!

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