

Q Write a Short Note on:

a) Guardian Council of Iran

b) Role of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in Pakistan

a) 1) Introduction: what is the Guardian Council

The Guardian Council is a powerful constitutional body in Iran which aims at keeping checks on Iranian parliament to ensure that all laws passed through the legislative body do not transcend the prescribed limits of Islamic teachings.

2) Composition of the Guardian Council

The Guardian Council constitutes of 12 members who are elected for a term of 6 years. Out of these 12 members, 6 are comprised of Islamic ~~faqih~~ faqih (Islamic law experts), who are conscious of the present needs and issues of the day. These members are directly selected by the supreme leader of Iran.

The remaining 6 members compose of



professionals specialising in different areas of law. They are elected by the parliament among themselves muslim jurists, nominated by the Head of the judicial power (who in turn, is also appointed by the supreme leader himself

### 3) Role of the Guardian Council in Iran:

Guardian Council is entrusted with multi farious yet significant duties.

#### 3.1) Interpreting the constitution:

The Guardian Council is responsible for interpreting the Iranian constitution. This is where there's a ambiguity present in the constitution. The Council's task is to provide guidance on the matter and ensure that the law implemented is within the prescribed ambits of Islamic teachings.

#### 3.2) The Guardian Council is to supervise elections:



The Guardian Council has an important function of supervising the elections. The council approves the candidates running for public office, ~~pr~~ i.e. presidency, parliament. It can vet the members on their adherence to Islamic principles and can even disqualify them on these grounds.

### 3.3) Keeping a check on the legislation:

The council has the jurisdiction to assess the legislations <sup>enacted</sup> passed by the parliament and if a ~~law~~ is not in adherence to the Islamic principles, the council can nullify it.

### 3.4) Evaluating International treaties and agreements:

The council has the responsibility to review all the agreements and treaties signed by the government. Their aim is to double-check and ensure that the agreements comply by Islamic law, and that ~~they~~ the sovereignty of Iran is not compromised.



### 3.5) Protecting the Islamic Republic's Ideals:

The Guardian Council upholds the Islamic Republic's principles and its revolutionary ideals. It ensures that the government's policies and actions align with these values.

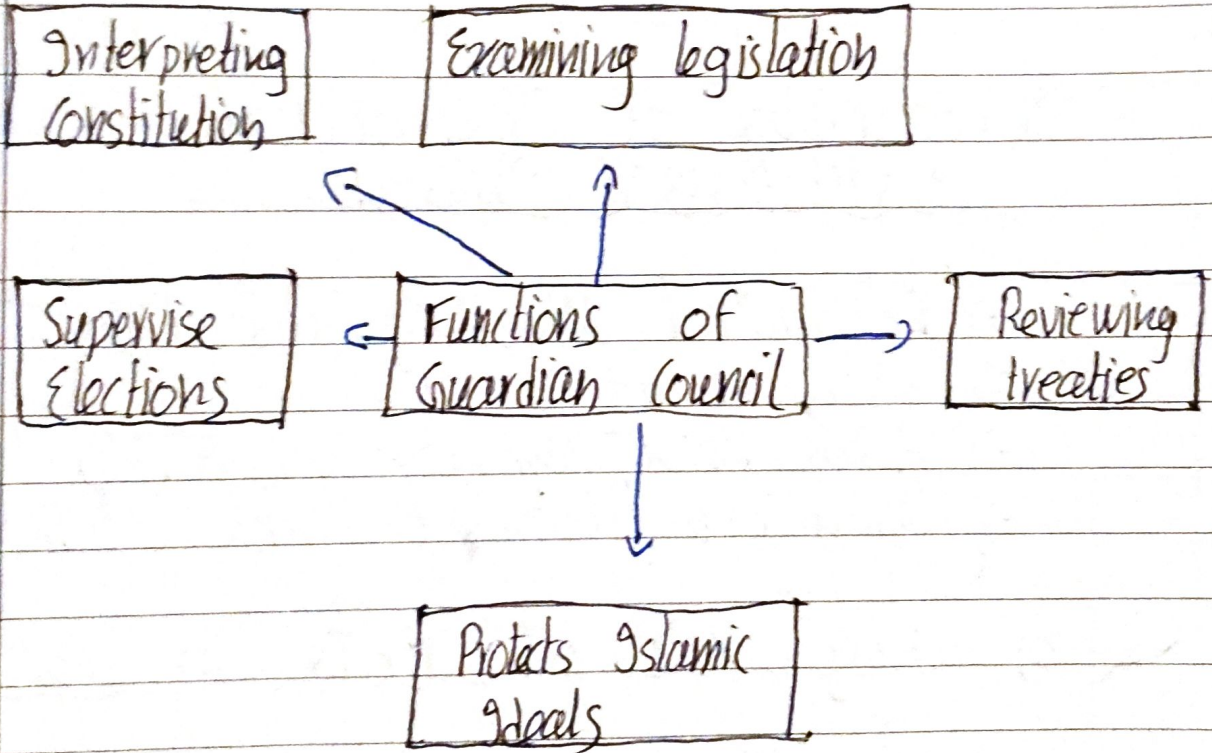


Fig 1: Functions of Guardian Council



b) 1) Introduction: What are International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

IFIs are organisations that provide financial and technical assistance to countries and regions around the world. They are established to promote economic development, poverty reduction and financial stability.

2) Examples of International Financial Institutions in Pakistan:

- > International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- > World Bank
- > Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- > Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

3) Key Role of IFIs in Pakistan

3.1) Provide Financial Assistance:

IFIs provide financial resources to the country, ~~where~~ to address the economic challenges, stabilize the economy and ~~and~~ development projects.



Example:

The IMF has approved funds of \$3bn to Pakistan in order to help stabilise the country's economy.

3.2) Project Financing:

They finance the development projects in key sectors, such as energy, healthcare etc, helping to improve the essential services of the country.

Example:

The World Bank, since 1950, ~~has~~ has provided Pakistan with over \$40 million ~~to~~ ~~in~~ for development in key sectors such as energy.

3.3) Economic Advice to the country:

IFIs also provide policy advises to the government in financial and economic contours. They assist the government in devising policies that can foster



economic growth.

### 3.4) Promotion of Good Governance:

IFIs often link their financial assistance to governance and transparency reforms. It encourages institutional reforms mainly in public sectors, financial system and regulatory environment with resolve to better handling of public funds.

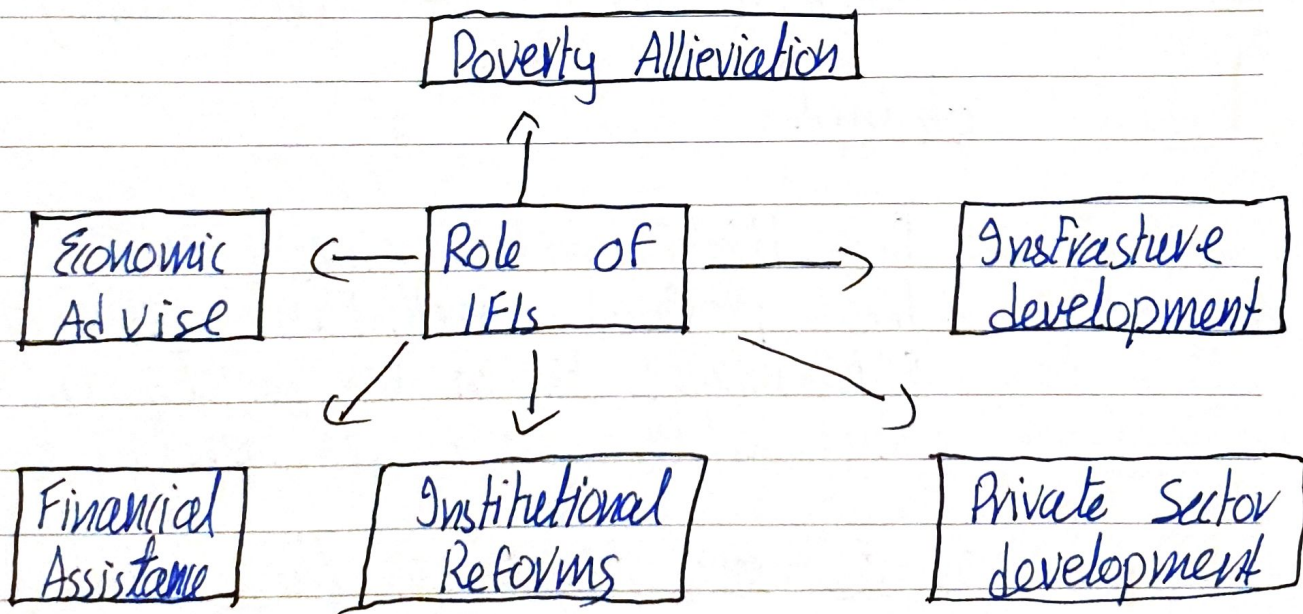


fig 2 Overview of IFI functions.