

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q: Analyze the obstacles to stability of democratic institutions in Pakistan, and also give your suggestions in this regard.

### Introduction:

Pakistan suffers from institutional failure. Pakistan is a <sup>democratic</sup> federation with democracy being supported by its three pillars: legislative, executive and judiciary. These pillars function with the help of various institutions for better governance.

Unfortunately, there are many obstacles to the stability of the states as these institutions lag in their efforts and support to provide good governance. The major hindrances include the interference of one institution in the domain of the other one, military intervention, bureaucratic hurdles, corruption and lack of transparency and non-state

- free and fair election  
- accountability  
- judicial activism  
- corruption



actors. <sup>if</sup> While the ~~prob~~ issues in these departments are resolved by bringing reforms in the political structure bringing political stability of the civilian governmental leaderships, strengthening the ~~so~~ mechanism of accountability, each institution to work within its own jurisdiction are some of the possible measures ~~to~~ for the effect effective and efficient working of democratic institutions in Pakistan.

## Obstacles to the stability of Democratic Institutions in Pakistan:

### i. Interference Among the Three Pillars of Democracy:

The greatest hurdle in the parliamentary democratic system of Pakistan is that all the three tiers: the legislature, judiciary and executive ~~are~~ ~~not~~ seem to interfere in ~~str~~ one another's domains. The legislature ~~of~~ or the law making body is not supported by executive, as it has to implement the laws.



Similarly, the judiciary; the body that interprets the law, often causes obstacles in the way of executive, or the executive, <sup>sometimes</sup> supersedes the legislature. For example: the supreme court of Pakistan intervened and declared the dismissal of a no-confidence motion against ex-Prime Minister (Imran Khan) unconstitutional, ordering the motion to proceed.

This led to the National Assembly holding the vote, resulting in Khan's removal from office, and illustrating significant interference among the executive, judiciary and legislature.

## ii. Military Intervention:

Since the independence of Pakistan, <sup>33</sup> <sup>leaders</sup> out of these 75 years ~~are~~ were military coups. This proved to be as a threat to democracy and the functioning of democratic institutions. They do not hold a democratic mandate, thus rule the state dictatorially without



at the consent of public. Thus, they are unaware of the grievances of public and the democratic activity is hindered. This intervention in politics disrupts democratic continuity and undermines civilian governance.

### iii. Bureaucratic Weaknesses and hurdles:

The bureaucratic weaknesses are also a leading obstacles to the stability of democratic institutions in Pakistan. Many bureaucratic personnels lack adequate training, <sup>suffer from</sup> outdated practices, lack of resources <sup>effective</sup> to which impedes their functioning. iii

Moreover, the hurdles caused by this sectors include their excessive centralization of the power of decision making which proves to be a barrier for local governance.

As this sector heavily influences the decision making and policy framing, so if this <sup>is</sup> draft flawed



policies or fail to implement them in any domain such as the Election Commission of Pakistan or Pakistan Telecommunication Authority; if they are ill-managed lead to chaos and turbulence in the country.

#### iv. Corruption and Lack of Transparency:

The democracy is at failure in Pakistan in Pakistan because of the corruption at various levels of government. It Corruption and lack of transparency erodes public trust in democratic institutions and hampers effective administration. The institutions such as National Accountability Bureau (NAB), when lags behind its actual purpose or is more involved in politicization / political engineering would ultimately foster lack of transparency in different cases, and the personal gains of the officials; when prioritised leads to alarming conditions.



## v. Non-state Actors:

The non-state actors in Pakistan are also a reason of instability of the democratic institutions. When the negative and violent non-state actors use their coercive powers against the state, or challenge the writ of state, the democratic institutions ~~weaken~~ to perform against them. They pose serious security challenges from terrorist activities/groups and religious extremism. In this way, such actors in Pakistan threaten its national stability and divert resources from governance to security, thus weakening the institutions nationally and globally...

### Suggestions / Measures to overcome the obstacles in the way of Stability of Democratic Institutions

- i. Restricting institutions to work within their own Jurisdiction:  
All the tiers of democracy whether



it is legislature, executive, judiciary or media should be restricted to work in their specified domains.

This would ultimately lead to a proper hierarchy in the management from policy making to implementation and the legal framework involved in the country.

This eventually strengthens the writ of the state.

## ii- Civilian governments/Leaderships:

The leaderships in a democratic states should be preferred to be civil civilian and choose with public mandate. This would strengthen the policy making and planning, synchronizing with public interest and catering their needs and demands. This would therefore combat the leadership crisis, and would ultimately bring political and socio-economic prosperity in the region.



### iii). Strengthening the mechanism of Accountability:

The menace of destabilization can be curbed by strengthening the mechanism of accountability. This can be done at every level from the upper tier to the lower ones, governmental and the non-governmental ones. Such efforts could induce responsiveness and a sense of reluctance towards any immoral conduct or criminal activities. The corrupt practices, when curtailed would definitely pave way for a democratic stability and effectiveness <sup>by the</sup> of institutions.

### iv. Policy continuation:

All the policy regarding the developmental projects, reformation campaign and projects should be subjected to policy maintenance and continuation despite regime changes. In Pakistan, this factor is largely missing from <sup>in</sup> the leadership.



as no government was ever able to complete its tenure. The regime change ultimately brings changes in the policies, foreign relations, developmental projects, which proves fatal for the democracies to thrive.

Thus, institutions can prosper only when policy continuation is ensured.

#### v. **Strengthening the Rule-of-Law:**

Strong and effective rule of law, the strong ~~and~~ laws should be made against those destroying the peace of nation. Different policies and plans, maintenance of rules and regulations to be setup for the actors and organizations aiming to spread violence, terror and extremism in the state. For example: the recent operation Azm-e-Istehkam launched by federal government against terrorism, can be effective if proper laws are enforced upon the lawbreakers in the region. This would strengthen democratic practices across the country.



## Conclusion:

Pakistan being a parliamentary democracy is run on the behalf of the democratic institutions ~~that~~ serving in the nation. Unfortunately, due to various obstacles ranging from interferences of <sup>other</sup> democratic pillars, militarization and lack of accountability, it faces a huge dismissals in its effective functioning. However, improving law and order situations and working on the internal threats, it <sup>Pakistan</sup> can be among the successful democracies in the world.