

Pakistan Affairs (2)

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Q. NO. 01

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Q. NO. 02

Introduction:

In the sub-continent both the Muslims and the Hindus used to live under the British Rule. Since its separation both the countries had come up with some immediate issues like the funds issue, Kashmir issue and water issue. Since the independence some of the issues are still present. These issues like Terrorism, Kashmir issue, Water issue are the major obstacles in better Pakistan-India relations. However certain steps need to be taken to avoid conflict between the two nuclear armed forces and to build peace in the region.

Current Obstacles in Better Pakistan India Relations:

1. Cross Border Terrorism:

Cross border terrorism carried out by India into Pakistan is a major obstacle in building good relations with India. India is involved in killing of police officials, people and armed personnel by funding to the TTP. Recent by terrorist caught from Balochistan have confessed that India is funding both the BLA and the terrorism. In addition to this India operates sleeper cells which is involved in killing of 10 people in Pakistan. So the Pakistan raised voices on international platform to address the issue but of no vain.

2. Kashmir Issue:

Kashmir is a long standing issue between the India and Pakistan. Since the independence till now, this is the zone of contention between two countries. Recently the situation exacerbated when the India revoked Article 370 and 35-A which give the autonomous status and no property rights to the non-Kashmiris. Pakistan protested and rejected this move and cut its relations on every front. Pakistan vowed it would not build relations until the issue would not resolved.

3. Water Issue:

India and Pakistan are still stirring for the water issue. India lies on upper riparian and major rivers flows from India to Pakistan. India started to build Kishanganga Dam and Rattle Dam on the Jhelum and Chenab River blocking the water. Pakistan took the issue to the arbitration council but India refused to accept the decision of the court. This is also the major issue between the two armed forces/countries.

4. Involvement in Internal Politics of Pakistan by Sabotaging Sovereignty:

India is continuously involved in the conspiracies spreading about the internal politics of Pakistan. India supports verbally to the some leaders of Pakistan and some not. India not congratulated former PM Khan but it congratulated Mr. Sharif government. Moreover, by spreading terrorism in the KPK province and attacking the Jalsa of a specific political party it conveyed the message and created internal rift among the political leaders in Pakistan.

5. Supporting Islamophobia:

India is reportedly involved in supporting Islamophobia and hurting the sentiments of the Pakistani people. Many incidents happened not only in free western countries but also in India.

India had not condemned these incidents. Even recently by founding a head of cow on the side of a home of Muslim. The local clergy vowed to destroy all the houses of Muslims and to kill all the Muslims. This brings a major rift between two rival countries. Inauguration of Ayodhya temple is recent example.

6. Violating Muslim Minority Rights in India:

India is involved in violating the minority rights of Indian Muslims. During recent elections some of the Muslim leaders were detained and not allowed to join the elections. In addition to this, the Indian local community is continuously involved in teasing the Muslims during prayers even demolished mosques. It also introduced law which allows the citizenship of India given to those Hindu people who are living in Muslim countries.

How the Good Relations With Nuclear Armed Neighbours will Benefit the Entire Region:

1. Bring Prosperity in the Region:
Pakistan and India are the nuclear states. Their foreign policy largely remained Indo-centric. Most of the budget of both the countries goes to defence related expenditures.

In the recent budget Pakistan has allocated 17% more funds for the defense. If there exists a peace then this amount would be used for the welfare of both the countries' people and the entire region also.

2. Spending More on Education and Health:

If there exists a peace between both the countries then they will turn their focus to the social well being of people. They will spend more on education and health other than defense. In this way not only the countries would prosper but also other neighbours like Afghanistan and Iran will prosper.

3. Encouraging Trade:

India is the biggest market of consumption of goods and Pakistan along with other neighbours Iran, China will also benefit. China is trying to build CPEC extension in India but because of rivalry between India and Pakistan, India refused to accept this offer. India also pulled out of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project on the request of USA. Therefore, having the potential of trade, there is not any economic activity is being carried out.

4. More Investment by the Western Countries:

Western countries are more reluctant to invest in the region because of terrorism. If this menace would be solved then India having the potential of a bigger market and cheap labour, Pakistan having the potential of resources. Like Iran. China is the most fast emerging economy. This potential of the neighbours would be harnessed if there is peace in the region.

5. Removing the Obstacles of Afghanistan's Development:

Afghanistan being the neighbour of both the countries and almost every world war has started from this region would come on the track of development by developing peace. India is involved in cross-border terrorism by using the Afghanistan's soil. Moreover being a land-locked country and under western sanctions due to the menace of terrorism. If there is peace among the both rivals there would come a development for Afghanistan by harnessing its potential of drugs.

Conclusion:

To conclude, if there would exist ^{trade} peace among the rivals and build a friendly relations, this would not only prosper both the countries, but also the entire region. So hope for the best.

Q. No. 04

Introduction:

Passing of 18th Amendment from the senate on April 15, 2020 and becoming an act of parliament was a significant move. It was a historic moment when a president devolves his own powers. However it was necessary in promoting federalism and provincial autonomy. After passing of almost 14 years the Amendment is now praised as well as criticised by different quarters of society.

Why it was Done?

1. Political Consensus was Built:

The amendment was the result of a consensus between the Pakistan's Peoples Party and other parties including Pakistan Muslim League (M) and NAD. A committee held discussions for almost a year then a consensus was built on it.

2. To strengthen Democracy:

The amendment was aimed to strengthen democracy in Pakistan. This was done by transferring powers from the President to the Prime Minister after abolishing article 58-2(B). Also the provincial autonomy was protected.

3. To Address Provincial Grievances:

The 18th amendment addressed the the provincial grievances. Because it was a long standing demand from the smaller provinces for greater autonomy and representation.

4. To Reverse the Musharraf's Changes:

Musharraf has done 17th amendment to the constitution to centralize power in the presidency. So the 18th amendment abolished the 17th amendment and the Musharraf's changes were reversed.

5. Strengthening Federalism:

The amendment aimed to strengthen federalism in Pakistan by giving more powers to the provinces and promoting a more balanced distribution of power between the federal and provincial governments.

Evolution of Provisions of 18th Amendment:

1. Bringing Back the Original Spirit of Federalism:

The 18th amendment has brought back the original spirit of federalism and parliamentary system as intended in the 1973 constitution.

2. Renaming Names of Provinces:

As part of the 18th amendment the former NWFP was renamed as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to acknowledge its ethnic identity. Also Sindh has been re-named as Sindh.

3. Strengthening Provincial Autonomy:

The 18th Amendment introduces significant changes to devolve authority and strengthen provincial autonomy. It eliminates the concurrent list transferring most of the powers to provinces. ECI will be represented both the provinces and federal representatives to make important decisions.

4. Introducing Fundamental Rights:

The number of fundamental rights in the constitution has been increased. These include the right to fair trial (Article 10A), the right to information (Article 19A) and the right to education (Article 25A).

5. Establishing Supremacy of Parliament:

The role of senate has been strengthened in several ways. The president is no longer allowed to issue an ordinance when the senate is in session. The PM and the cabinet are responsible in a term to the NA and senate. The number of seats in senate has been increased from 60 to 64. And president has no longer power to dissolve the NA.

6. Selecting Criteria of Qualification and Disqualification for Elections

Articles 62 and 63 was introduced which deal with the qualification and disqualification for elections to Parliament and P.A. A provision was removed dealing with the disqualification of a person with moral wrongdoing. Contrast to this lifetime ban was replaced by the five years.

7. Strengthening the Local Governments:

Article 146-A which deals with devolving power to local governments. has been retained and extended. It now states that the ECP will oversee the Local Government elections.

8. Appointing a caretaker setup:

According to the amendment, when the Assembly is dissolved the President will appoint a caretaker PM after consulting the outgoing PM. If they fails to do so the Chairman of ECP will appoint.

9. Annexing the Objectives Resolution:

The Objectives Resolution which was passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, is now an annex to the constitution. It has been clarified that minorities are free to practice their religion.

Critical Analysis:

As the 14 years have passed, now there lies a debate about the effectiveness of the amendment. Some praise the federalism, some appreciate the provincial autonomy, some praised the NEC award. Some criticize that the most of fiscal resources can go to the provinces. Practically, there happens some incidents showing the inability of the provinces to deal with like natural disasters. But owing to health and education some praise the performance of the provinces. So it has many merits and demerits.

Conclusion:

To conclude, there is always lies a debate on the 18th amendment about its effectiveness. No consensus would be said on its efficiency. But we should keep in mind it is the inherent demand of provinces to give them autonomy which was fulfilled by 18th amendment. We hope for the best in future.

PART-II

Attempt any TWO of the following Questions.

Q. No. 2	Analyze the current obstacles in better Pakistan India relations and explain how good relations with Nuclear Armed neighbors will benefit the entire region. (20 Marks)
Q. No. 3	Economic crisis in Pakistan is as old as Pakistan. Explain the current economic challenges faced by our country and how to overcome this crisis. (20 Marks)
Q. No. 4	Evaluate the 18th Amendment of Pakistan's constitution. Why it was done and what did it achieve. Also highlight the way forward in context if this amendment. (20 Marks)