

### 3- Political System of Pakistan:

2024 (1) Political Stability remains an elusive concept in Pakistan. Explore the factors contributing to the fractured nature of Pakistan's polity and discuss potential reforms to the constitutional and political structure that could foster stability.

## Introduction:

Political stability has been a persistent challenge in Pakistan since its inception in 1947. The country's polity has been marked by frequent changes in government, military interventions and conflict among political parties, preventing a stable democratic process. Several factors contribute to the fractured nature of Pakistan's political landscape, ranging from institutional weaknesses to socio-economic challenges. Addressing these issues through comprehensive reforms is critical to fostering long-term stability.

### → Factors Contributing to Political Instability:

#### ① Weak democratic Institutions:

Pakistan's democratic institutions, including the judiciary and parliament, have often been weak, lacking the capacity to function independently and efficiently. Frequently military interventions have disrupted the democratic

process, undermining public confidence in these institutions.

### ② Military Interventions:

Military coups in 1958, 1977 and 1999 have interrupted the democratic process, leading to instability and power struggles between civilians and military leadership. This recurring pattern weakens the political system.

### ③ Political Polarization:

Political Parties in Pakistan are deeply divided along ethnic, regional and ideological lines, making consensus building difficult. This polarization fosters an environment of confrontation rather than cooperation.

### ④ Economic Challenges:

Pakistan faces severe economic issues such as high inflation, unemployment and debt. Economic instability directly impacts political stability as the government often struggles to deliver services and meet the population's needs.

### ⑤ Corruption:

Corruption is rampant in Pakistan, and political leaders often accused of misusing public funds. This not only weakens governance but also reduces public trust in political system.

#### ⑥ Electoral Manipulations:

Allegations of rigged elections have been common in Pakistan, further eroding the legitimacy of elected governments and deepening public dissatisfaction with the political system.

#### ⑦ Civil-Military Imbalances:

The military has historically wielded significant influence in Pakistan's politics, overshadowing civilian authority. This imbalance creates tension and weakens civilian institutions.

#### ⑧ Lack of Accountability:

Successive governments have failed to establish mechanisms of accountability, allowing corrupt practices and inefficiency to persist. The lack of transparency hampers political progress and development.

## ⑨ Ethnic and Regional Divides

Pakistan is home to diverse ethnic groups and regional disparities in development have often led to feelings of marginalization. This has fueled political tensions and separatist movements.

## ⑩ Religious Extremism

Religious extremism and sectarian violence have destabilized the country. Political parties often exploit religious sentiments for short-term gains, further polarizing society. Other factors like lack of strong political leadership, poor education system, etc also are major hurdles in such circumstances.

## → Potential Reforms to Constitutional & Political Structures

### 1. Strengthening the rule of law:

A country becomes more stable when the law is applied equally to everyone, regardless of their position or power. For example, countries like Germany

have strong legal frameworks that ensure accountability and limit corruption.

ensuring - the courts are independent and free from political interference.

## 2. Decentralization of Powers

Instead of concentrating power in the central government, distributing powers to local or provincial governments can help regions feel more represented.

## 3. Promoting inclusive Governance:

Government should represent all people, not just - the wealthy or politically powerful. Reforms that ensure greater representation of women, minorities and marginalized groups can lead to more suitable societies.

## 4. Electoral Reforms:

Fair and transparent elections are key to political stability. Reforms to the electoral systems such as introducing proportional representation can ensure that all political voices are heard. This system is used in countries like Sweden.

## 5- Clear Separation of Powers

Separating powers b/w the executive, legislative and judicial branches ensures that no one part of the government becomes too powerful.

## Conclusion &

Pakistan's political instability is driven by factors like military intervention, weak political parties, ethnic divisions and corruption. By strengthening democratic institutions, decentralizing power, reforming elections, building stronger political parties and addressing corruption, Pakistan can move towards a more stable political structure. Ultimately, political stability requires a system that is inclusive, transparent and accountable to the people.