

The elusive political stability is Pakistan's real road block to growth. Discuss

## INTRODUCTION

Since its inception Pakistan is facing severe political instability due to constant external ~~inter~~ intervention in democratic affairs. India and Pakistan, both countries gained independence on same year but there is a visible change in both countries' economic performance. India is ~~now~~ now comes under top economies while Pakistan is still struggling with severe economic issues including, balance of payment crisis, fiscal deficit, current account deficit etc. The visible cause among both countries is political stability. India is far more stable in politics than Pakistan. No single government, democratically elected, has completed its tenure from the inception. The country is in need of dire structural reforms to stabilize the political arena

## POLITICAL INSTABILITY & ITS

## IMPACTS ON ECONOMY

The political stability has multiple impacts on

Pakistan's overall growth. Following are the impact that have hampered the country's growth.

### Rapid Changes In Governing Bodies Causing

#### Bad Governance:

The reports have shown that the average age of a ~~day~~ democratically elected government is about 3 years. Such short time period create difficulties in identifying the root cause of bad economic performance of the country. The elected governments cannot address the issues in short time frame nor they're able to build a strong economical framework for ~~country's~~ country's growth.

### Political Instability; Changing Fiscal Policies

Different governing bodies have different remedies to ~~face~~ tackle with economic challenges of the country. For instance, in one's view poor taxation is the main cause of the fiscal revenues & short-comings, while other thinks that low rate of industries' adaptability to the dynamic technologies is the main cause of Pakistan's bad economic performance. Governments set objectives on the advice of their ~~monitored~~ think tanks, but due to rapid change in government no policy remain long lasting in Pakistan's scenario.

Hurdles In Identifying Priority Sector To

Focus & Making It Grow

"According to the top notch economist in the world, Aftab Mian, Pakistan's exports are more diverse than India but India is still generating more value from exports than Pakistan." The main reason behind this is that India has settled its priority sector and making it grow according to the requirement of the global world. While Pakistan is still struggling in identifying because of changing fiscal policies hence changing governments.

Political Instability; Declining Public Trust

"According to the report of ISOS, 3 out of 4 Pakistani do not believe in political process of the country." This declining public trust is causing more civil unrest in the society. People do not believe in political process which also indicates that people are less aware of government's economic policies and major economic threats for the country. This huge communication gap makes impossible to align public and government on one page and working for better economic performance.

## MAIN FACTORS THAT CAN HELPS IN MAINTAINING POLITICAL INSTABILITY

There are various factors that can help Pakistan in stabilizing political arena of the country. Some of the main factors are following.

### Constitutional Reforms To Avoid External Interventions In Political Process:

External intervention is the top reason behind the political instability of the country. Although charter of Democracy and 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment have played a vital role in limiting external intervention but the country is need of more constitutional reforms for further limiting the external intervention in the political performance.

### Democratically Dealing With The Core

#### Economic Issues:

Instead of blaming one another for the country's current economic crisis, the mainstream political parties should align on one page at least for resolving the core economic issues of the country.

## Powers To Local Governments For Visible Change and Winning Public Trust

Government should work on power devolution for dividing authority with local government. This step will help in incurring visible change in the district, tehsils etc and will also help in gaining public trust in country's performance.

## WAY FORWARD

By working on above mentioned factors, country can pave its way towards the smooth growth and economic performance. Pakistan is rich country in terms of resources and it has significant value in global world due to its geo-strategic location. The only need of country in current circumstances is political stability. Political stability is the pre-requisite for the country's growth.

## CONCLUSION

Pakistan is a country with great potential in it whether in terms of resources or in terms of think tanks.

As Atif Mian said, "the governing body only need to build a competent team for each priority sector for witnessing positive results." But, that team also need political stability to stay focus for a

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long period of time. Hence it proves that political instability is the main cause that hampers country's growth and blocks the way towards prosperity.