

CSS 2024

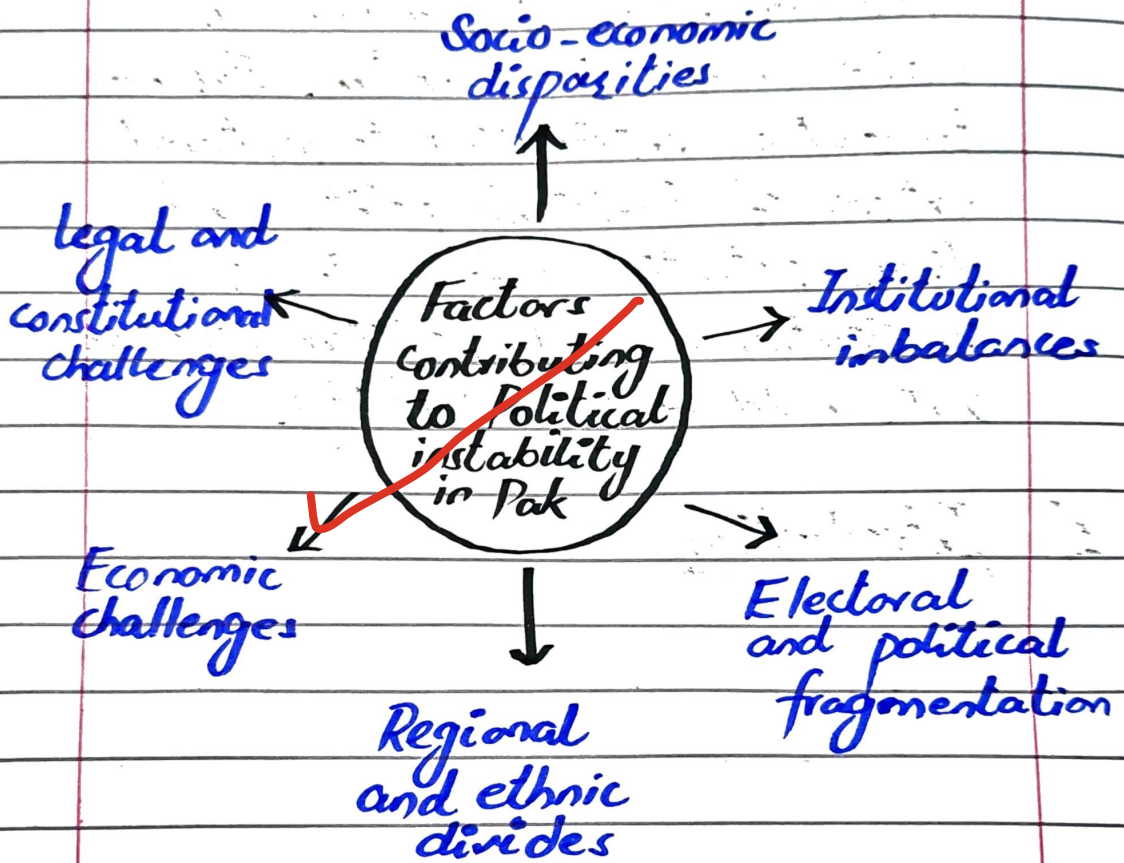
Question:

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

1/ Introduction

Political stability is essential for economic growth, social development and governance efficiency. However, in Pakistan, achieving sustained stability has been a challenge due to socio-economic, institutional and structural factors. These challenges can be addressed by fostering economic parities, institutional balance and national integration.

2/ Factors contributing to Political instability in Pakistan



(2A) Socio-economic disparities in Pakistan - a major cause of political instability

The unequal distribution of resources among the provinces, causes political

instability in the country. Moreover, high levels of unemployment and poverty lead to public dissatisfaction.

The poverty rate in Pakistan, stands at 39.4%.

Source: World Bank

(2B) Institutional imbalances leading to political unrest

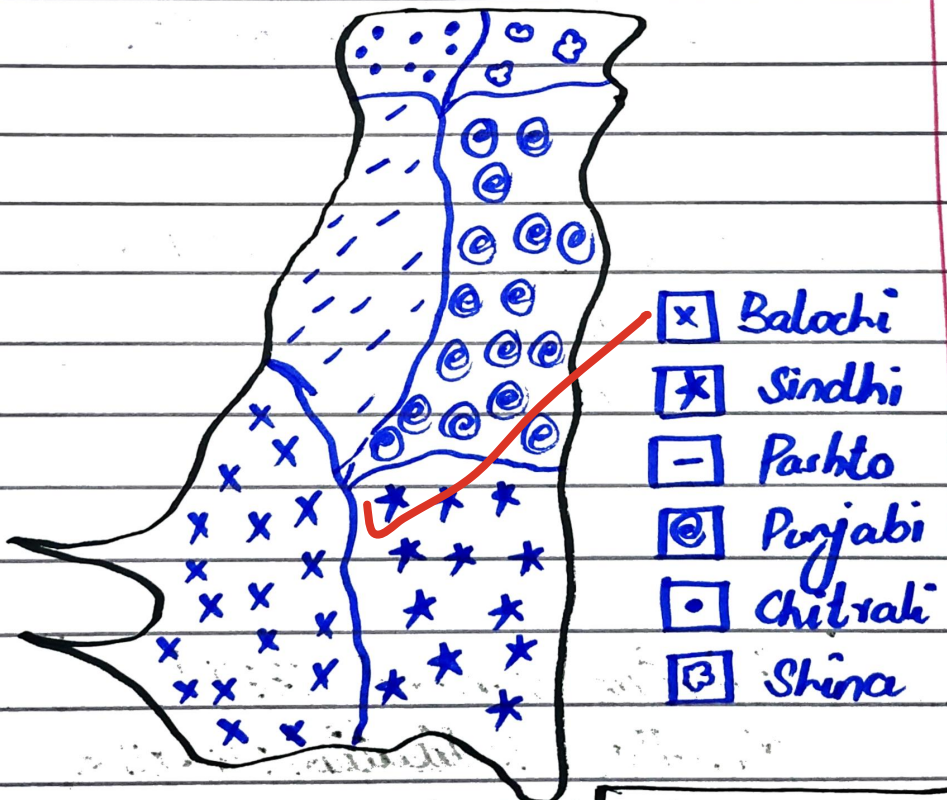
The overlap between legislative, executive and judiciary, weakens the governance. The frequent shifts in the policy due to administrative instability, undermine investor's confidence.

Pakistan ranked 133rd globally, in corruption perception index, indicating governance inefficiencies.

Transparency International

(20) Regional and ethnic divides causing political instability

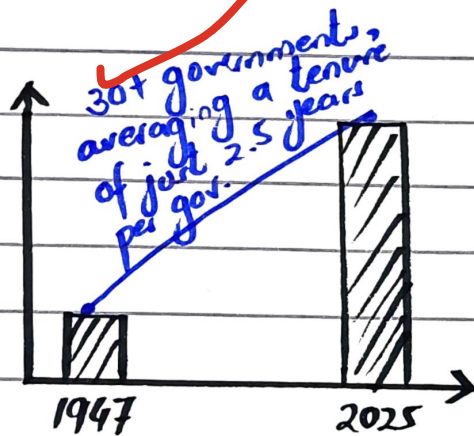
There are different cultural, regional and linguistic groups in Pakistan. The differences in these groups cause the political unrest in the country. Moreover, unequal provincial representation, also impacts national integration.



**Ethnic groups
in Pakistan**

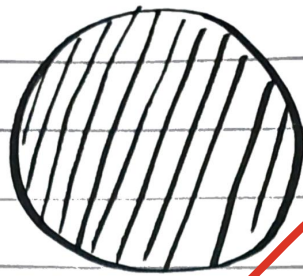
(20) Electoral and political fragmentation agitating political unrest

Pakistan has multi party system, leading to the coalition governments which are often unstable. Furthermore, the issues in electoral processes, leading to contested election results.



(2E) Economic Challenges and External dependencies

Pakistan highly relies on external aid which affects the policy independence. Trade deficits and inflationary pressure strain governance, contributing to political uncertainty.



Total external
debt of Pak

\$ 1266.1

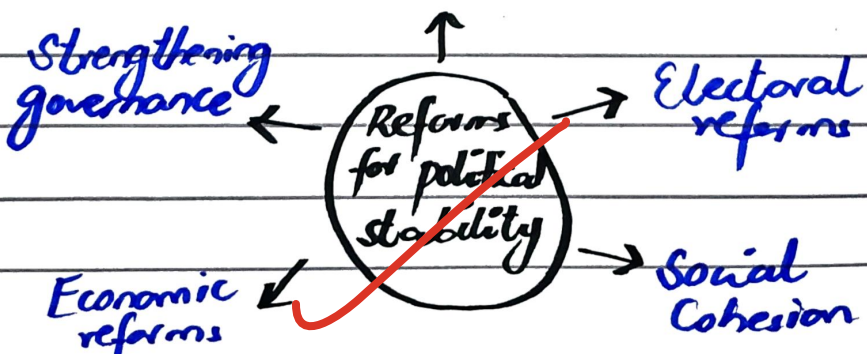
State Bank, 2024

(2F) Legal and Constitutional challenges

Gaps in constitutional interpretation cause institutional conflicts, leading to political instability. Moreover, delays in judicial processes weaken enforcement mechanisms, causing public distress.

3/ Potential Reforms for Political stability in Pakistan

Decentralization

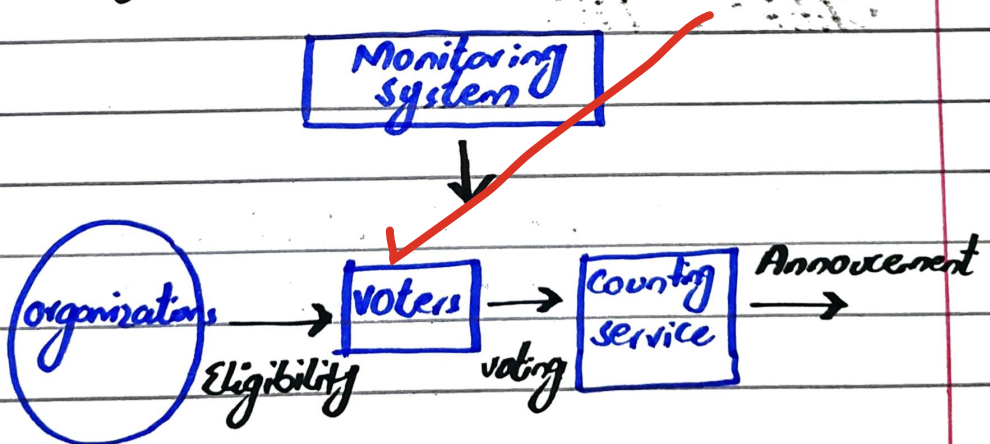


(3A) Strengthening Governance and Rule of Law

Pakistan can ensure Merit-based appointments to reduce political interference in institutions. Moreover, implementing Right to information laws can enhance transparency.

(3B) Electoral Reforms for sustainable democracy

The electoral transparency can be ensured by introducing Electronic voting machines (EVMs).



A Model of electronic voting system

(3c) Decentralization and provincial autonomy

Implementation of Article 140-A of constitution for effective local governance, can ensure political stability. Additionally, ensuring equitable resources allocation to all provinces, can also foster national integration

e specific with your headings.

(3d) Economic reforms

Diversifying exports beyond textile, investing in renewable energy and strengthening regional trade alliances **SAARC, CPEC**, can enhance economic resilience.

(3f) Social Cohesion and National integration

Civic education in schools should be promoted to instill national unity. Interfaith harmony and cultural exchange programs should be promoted.

4/

Conclusion

Pakistan's political stability is impacted by socio-economic disparities, regional and ethnic divides, economic challenges and electoral fragmentation. However, strengthening governance, decentralization and social cohesion can contribute to political stability in the country.

good attempt!!!!