

How to bring civil supremacy,
Way Forward.

Introduction.

- 1 Strengthening Democratic Institutions
- 2 Civil Military Balance through constitutional reforms
- 3 Independence of Judiciary
- 4 Transparency and Accountable Governance
- 5 Civil society empowerment and Political Awareness
- 6 Strengthening Political Parties
- 7 Civilian control of National Security Policy.
- 8 Electoral reforms.
- 9 Depoliticization of Bureaucracy
- 10 Kayani Doctrine

Conclusion:-

Introduction:

Reforming civil military relations is absolutely an important part of process of democratization in Pakistan. The central element of democratic system is the principle of civilian supremacy or the rule over the various institutions of the state by the ~~pop~~ people through their elected representatives to ensure that they will function in accordance with the will of the people. This principle ensures that

military power is subordinate to civilian control, preventing the military from dictating government policy or becoming a political force. Civil supremacy is a key aspect of separation of powers, which distinguishes between the role of civilian government and military.

Pakistan is going through the 5th democratic transition since the 2008 elections, the democratic transition is still in process and is unfinished business

KAYANI DOCTRINE:-

A new pattern in civil military relations has emerged, which may be termed 'the Kayani doctrine'. According to this doctrine, the civilian govt has every power under the constitution, except on defence and national security.

1. The ends of government policy are to be set by civilians, the military is limited to decisions about means
2. It is for the civilian leadership to decide where the line between

end and mean is to be drawn

Strengthening Democratic Institutions:

Strengthening Democratic Institutions has a directly role in bringing civilian supremacy because by bringing the leader of public choice and from common people will be better adapted to understand problems from civil lense. Civilian supremacy also limits the role of military in political interventions. For strengthening civil supremacy a legal framework which includes cleauntly of constitution and responsibilities of various government institutes which include proper check and balance of 3 pillars of state on each other. In democracy, the military is sub-ordinate to civilian govt and is responsible for national defence. By strengthening democratic institutions, the civilian government can effectively control the military and prevent it from becoming a political power.

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3 Civil Military Balance Through Constitutional Reforms :-

A democratic military serves its nation rather than leads it. Civilian control of the military ensures that defense and national security issues do not compromise the basic democratic values of majority rule, minority rights and freedom of speech. This is achieved by clearly delineating the roles and responsibilities of the military within constitution, establishing checks and balances to prevent military interference in civilian affairs, and enshrining principles of civilian control and accountability. This can be done by demarcating clear boundaries, accountability mechanism establishment for civilian oversight and review of military actions. By implementing these types of constitutional reforms, countries can build a stronger foundation for civil supremacy, ensuring that the military is accountable to the people and operates within the framework of democratic governance.

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Independence of Judiciary:-

An independent judiciary plays a crucial role in upholding constitutional principles, ensuring that the military does not perform beyond constitutional mandate because military has a role in protecting national interest and in defense. Judiciary is the organ of government which improves national sovereignty and promotes justice. An independent judiciary is crucial for civil supremacy as it ensures that laws are applied fairly and impartially, free from political or military influence. In Pak, the constitution provides for an independent judiciary, but in practice there have been instances where the judiciary's independence has been challenged or undermined.

Maintaining the independence of the judiciary is crucial for strengthening civil supremacy and ensuring a stable and just society.

5- Transparency and Accountable Governance :-

Transparency ensures that government actions are open to public scrutiny, while accountability holds officials responsible for their decisions and actions.

This combination helps to curb corruption, build public trust and prevent abuses of power, ultimately strengthening civilian control over the military and other state institutions. Transparency and accountability are essential for good governance and for the eradication of corruption.

Transparency and accountability are often enshrined in constitutions and laws. By fostering trust, curbing corruption, and ensuring that officials are held responsible for their actions, these principles contribute to a strong and stable democracy where civilian authority prevails over military or other powerful institutions.

Accountability makes it easier to detect and address any potential abuses of power or violation of law, leading to improved public trust.

7- Strengthening Political Parties:-

Strengthening political parties can contribute to civil supremacy by ensuring a robust democratic process where elected representatives are accountable to the people and can effectively represent their interests. A strong political party system can help to prevent the encroachment of other entities, like the military. When political parties have a strong mandate and merit base membership various issues like injustice and ~~lack of~~ ignorance toward civil ~~dev~~ development can be addressed. Political parties can encourage broader civic engagement by engaging members of party and public in various developmental opportunities. Strong political parties can help moderate political discourse and prevent extreme polarization, which can undermine democratic processes.

8- Civilian Control of National Security Policy:-

Civilian control of national security policy is a cornerstone of civil supremacy, ensuring that elected

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civilian leaders, not the military, hold ultimate decision making authority in matters of defense and national security. This principle is vital for preventing military overreach into political affairs and ensuring the government's actions reflect the will of people. Civilian control means the government is accountable to the public for its national security decisions, which is fundamental aspect of democratic governance. Civilian control strengthens the rule of law and democratic institutions by ensuring that the military operates under civilian direction. This helps prevent the erosion of democratic norms and values, which can lead to instability and political crisis. In taking civilian control every citizen shall be responsible peace, prosperity and democratic stability within the country. From past 5 decades civilian supremacy is being practiced to achieve national interest.

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9- Electoral Reforms:-

Electoral reforms play a crucial role in establishing and reinforcing civil supremacy.

By ensuring fair and transparent elections, these reforms can strengthen the legitimacy and accountability of elected representatives, preventing undue influence from non-civilian actors like military or powerful individual. In Pakistan various electoral reforms were introduced like

to BD members by Ayub Khan and governance at grass and root level by Gen Pervez Musharraf. The governance at grass and root level strengthen democratic institutes and enhance the trust of civilians on government institutes. By conducting free and fair and transparent elections civilians will be motivated in participating in elections by casting vote and by representing themselves as volunteers in public development programs

10- Depoliticization of Bureaucracy:-

Depoliticization in the context of bureaucracy refers to the process

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of reducing influence of political factors on the operations and decision making of govt agencies. It aims to create a system where civil servants are primarily focused on executing policies neutrally and efficiently rather than being swayed by political pressures or personal agendas. A depoliticized bureaucracy fosters public trust in government by demonstrating that policies are based on merit and expertise, not on political favoritism.

Public trust in government can erode when bureaucrats are perceived as being more powerful than elected officials.