

Q.5 18th Amendment has essentially altered the nature of Federation in Pakistan; where the strong center is facing the challenges from the autonomous provinces. This has become an enduring cause of political strain in Pakistan.

Discuss

1. Introduction:

18th amendment is a landmark constitutional venture in the history of Pakistan. It altered the nature of federation by removing concurrent legislative list from the constitution of 1973. As a result of it, provinces got more autonomy, however, it created governance gap in Pakistan. For instance, it deteriorated relations between the center and provinces which resulted in political strain in Pakistan. Therefore, it can be said that 18th amendment, though provided democratic values in the country, it has been subjected to criticism from various quarters such as it caused deadlock over ker reforms etc.

2. An Overview of the Changes brought by 18th Amendment:

18th Amendment to the constitution of 1973 brought tremendous

changes in governance structure of Pakistan. It weakened ~~an~~ federation by amending Article 162 - which removed concurrent list from the constitution. Moreover, under article 142 it empowered provinces to raise international loans on their own. As a result of it central government in Pakistan lost its control over provinces. In this context, center is facing significant challenges from autonomous provinces.

3. Impacts of 18th Amendment:

Although 18th Amendment was aimed at ensuring good governance by providing more autonomy to the provinces, it has been subjected to criticism from different quarters. Some of the negative and positive impacts of the amendment are discussed below:

4. Federation Loss Control over Provinces:

One of the negative impacts of 18th amendment is loss of control on provinces by center in Pakistan. The removal of concurrent list resulted in autonomy in following areas to provinces: Industrial sector, education, taxes or revenue collection,

health etc. Hence, on a huge level federal government has been made unable to work in key areas.

5. Strained Relation between Center and Provincial Government:

Another repercussion of 18th amendment is souring relation between the center and provincial government. Despite undertaking to meet annually on Council of Common Interest platform, its meetings are not being called. The reason behind it is strained relation. For instance, Sindh government has always been critical of center government in term of unequal distribution of NFC award etc. Hence, one of the repercussion of 18th amendment is sour relation between center and province.

6. Deadlock over key Reforms:

18th amendment provided autonomy to provinces which led to deadlock over key reforms in Pakistan. It has been since long that many of the proposals have been pending in parliament due to the lack of consensus from various parties or province. Some of the examples are discussed in following paragraphs.

7. Lack of Consensus over Electoral Reforms:

One of the repercussions of 18th amendment is absence of consensus over electoral reform. 18th amendment empowered opposition government by providing it seats in key core committees. As a result of it there has been hurdles in electoral reforms which were aimed at transparent elections digitally. Across the world, elections are being held digital. Similarly, the previous government tried to shift it into digital voting, however, Punjab government led by PMN strongly opposed it. Hence, lack of consensus over electoral reform is one of the impacts of 18th amendment.

8. How 18th Amendment is Cause of Political Strain?

18th Amendment provided financial and managerial autonomy to four provinces of Pakistan. Financially it decided 42% of Federal taxes given to province with NFC Award. This created gap in financial governance in Pakistan as in provinces like Baluchistan and Sindh there is a little transparency in distribution which created governance gap in Pakistan and

resulted political strain.

9. Mismanagement in Key Sectors created Governance Gap:

At provinces level, there were some subjects which could be better merged by center, however shifted to provinces. This resulted in governance gap which was visible in the same year when the amendment was passed.

10. Disaster Mismanagement and Drug Regulation Mismanagement:

These two examples in the history of Pakistan illustrate how provinces failed to achieve good governance goals which created political strain in Pakistan. In 2010, floods provinces were failed to manage it, as a result it was re-shifted to the center. Same in the case of drug regulatory authority which was handed over to provinces. However, due to mismanagement in it which caused hundreds of death in Lahore it was given back to the center.

11. Critical Analysis on How 18th Amendment caused Political Strain:

In spite of efforts taken

under 18th amendment to preserve democratic value in Pakistan, it is subjected to criticism as a cause of political strain in the country. The amendment caused political strains by creating governance gap in areas such as distribution of resources and management issues. Moreover, it resulted in loss of control over provinces by federal government which also widened governance gap such as poor education system in Sindh and Baluchistan and poor health care system in respective provinces.

12 Conclusion:

To sum it all up, it would be fair to state that 18th amendment challenged robust center in Pakistan. It provided more autonomy by empowering provinces to raise their internal loans and generating their revenue. As a result of it center go in the country has been weakened and lost its authority which is causing political strains in Pakistan. Therefore, 18th amendment has caused political crisis in the country.

Q. Pak-US relations are born out of transactional necessity but it is defined by irregular estrangement on account of geopolitical interests of the form and building economic sinews by the latter. Elucidate.

1. Introduction:

US and Pakistan have been close allies during 1950's, 1980's, 2000's etc. However, both remained non-aligned in 1960's, 1990's and presently the relations are also going cold. This picture shows that the relations between both countries born out of transactional necessity and defined by irregular estrangement. Pakistan strategically maintained relation with US to cater its economic needs. However, America used Pakistan for its geopolitical interests such as it successfully withdrew Soviet troops from Afghanistan during cold war period by using Pakistan etc.

2. Historical Outlook of Pakistan-US Relations:

Pakistan-US relations born out of transactional necessity. When Pakistan got independence in 1947, the world

was divided into two blocs: USSR and US. In this state of affairs, Pakistan had to choose either of the two superpowers. Out of economical necessity Pakistan chose America and its relations shaped in following ways.

3. Irregular Estrangement between US - Pakistan Relations:

Although, Pakistan chose capitalistic bloc led by America, it signed many defence pact, yet it was delude by the later in time of necessity. In the last quarter of the 20th century US has been either friendlier or opponent to Pakistan. It used Pakistan against its national interests. For instance, during Afghan invasion by soviet Union in 1979 it meteralized Pakistan to serve its own national interests.

4. The First Phase of US - Pakistan Relations 1950s - Complete Alliance:

In this period, Pakistan maintained diplomatic relations with America against USSR. Various agreements were signed for example SEATO and CENTO defence agreements which aimed at provision of security to

its member states.

5. 2nd Phase - Non-Alignment-1960's:

During this period, Pakistan fought war with India in 1965.

Despite defence treaties signed by Pakistan it did not get any favour by America its able ally.

US did not support Pakistan which marked beginning of irregular estrangement between the relationship of both countries.

6. Complete Alliance during 1970's Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

When USSR invaded Afghanistan in 1979, it paved the way for restoration of US-Pakistan relations.

America with the help of Pakistan successfully defeated Soviet troops in Afghanistan by preparing Mujahideen for war in Afghanistan.

US send military and economic aid to Pakistan in billions of dollars and relations remain friendly.

7. US Isolated Pakistan in 1990's:

During this decade, following withdrawal of Afghan troops from Soviet

Afghanistan in 1989, US again

throw Pakistan away like a tissue paper after their work is done by Pakistan in Afghanistan. In this decade, US passed President Accords which were aimed at sanctioning Pakistan for its nuclear test conducted in 1998. Hence, due to geopolitical interests US again betrayed Pakistan and the latter faced huge economic challenges.

8. Extensive Support and Reapproachment in Post 9/11 period - 2000s:

In the aftermath of 9/11 attacks, US was forced to extend its hand to Pakistan due to geo-economic interests. The Bush president began war on Terror through its pre-emptive strike. For this purpose, Pakistan was geostrategically important country for US.

9. Reasons of Pakistan's Participation in War on Terror:

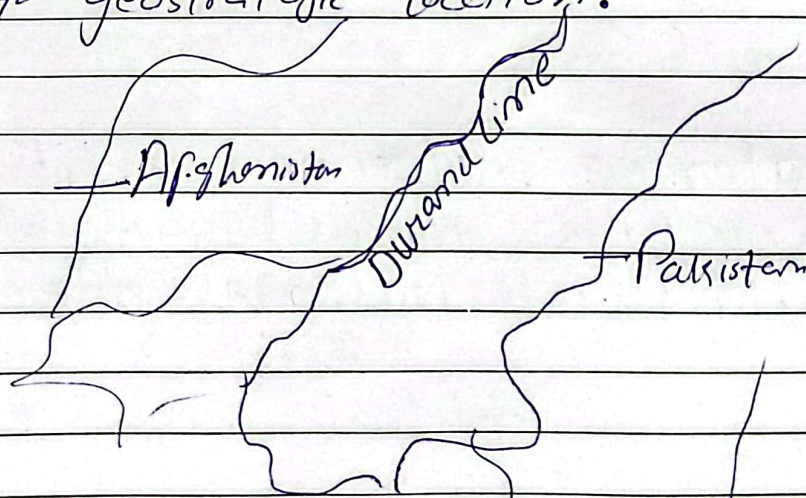
Accordingly to Pervez Musharraf, he had left with no other choice than to ally with America (Musharraf, In the Fire of Line of Fire, 2011).

- Economically Pakistan was stagnant

- Militarily it was suffering weak training and capacity building
- Geostatically it was faced with border-stirring with India and Afghanistan
- Internationally it was isolated due to nuclear program

10 American Geopolitical Interests in Alignment with Pakistan:

US operations in Afghanistan to end terrorism were impossible without the help of Pakistan due to geostrategic location.



Pakistan shares a long border with Afghanistan. Therefore, it has become a key player in war of US against militancy. It facilitated US by providing military access to Afghanistan and intelligence

shoring etc.

11. Moderate Relations in 2010s

Although Pakistan bear loss of thousands of deaths and billions of dollars in war on terrorism, yet America as usual left Pakistan in late 2010s war decade. During this period Pakistan tilted towards China - an emerging superpower by signing BRI in 2013. US openly opposed it by criticizing & P E C. As a result, US remain critical of Pakistan due to its increasing interest in multilateralism.

12. Balance Relations with America would serve Pakistan's National Interest

Despite, irregular estrangement in US-Pakistan's relations, it would be in the favour of Pakistan to maintain balance in relations with these two powerful states: China and America. US is largest trading partner of Pakistan. Moreover, it provide military and economic support, therefore, it would be pertinent to craft

Friendlier foreign policy towards America to survive in this globalized world.

18. Conclusion:

To sum it all up, it is fair to state that US and Pakistan's relations has been through thin and thick characterized by many ups and downs.

Although, US left Pakistan in the time of need at the mercy of time, yet it is geostrategically and geoeconomically crucial for Pakistan due to multiple reasons. Therefore, it is imperative to manage strategic balance in ~~its~~ relations with US.

Q.3 Since the emergence of Pakistan:

Population growth has been not addressed
Underscore its effects on the
country's socio-economic climate.

1. Introduction:

Pakistan is the
5th largest country in terms
of population. This shocking
ranking is due to the negligence
of Pakistani government to
the rapid population growth
in the country. As a result
of it the country has been
facing various socio-economic
challenges. For example, widespread
poverty, unemployment,
child labour, illiteracy etc. Hence,
population growth has not
been addressed properly
which resulted in economic
meltdown and many
more socio-economic issues
in the country.

2. A Comprehensive Guide of Population Growth in Pakistan:

Pakistan was a developing
country - at the time of independence
the country's population was around
70 million. However, it
increased at a double pace in
late 1970s due to improved
health and infrastructure. In

present era, the country population has reached at 22.242,421,138 according to the recent digital census. It is alarming for Pakistan to manage such a huge population. This shows that population growth in Pakistan is fastest, which is a ticking bomb for the country.

3. Population Growth an Unaddressed Issue:

Since the emergence of Pakistan the question of population growth had not been addressed effectively. Although, PPP government during 1993 and 1996 had introduced population control mechanisms, it had not been able to bring any concrete reform. Unlike, neighbouring countries like China - which imposed 2-child policy, Pakistan could not take any measure to address the issue. Hence population growth in Pakistan has been enormous.

4. Repercussions of Population Growth on Socio-Economic Climate:

Population growth has negatively impact Pakistan socio-economic climate in following ways

5. Widespread Poverty:

According to World Bank report 2023, 95 millions are living below the poverty line. This massive poverty is due to the rapid population growth in the country.

6. Unemployment:

Another effect of population growth is horrible rate of unemployment. In Pakistan, 65% of its population is youth. However, unemployment rate in the country is approximately 62%. Millions of younger well graduated classes are unemployed.

7. Burden on Economy:

These unemployed people are burden on Economy of Pakistan. In a family where only one male is earning and four others are dependent on his income the burden is at large shifted on overall economy of the state.

8. Child-labour and Illiteracy:

In Pakistan, despite constitutional provisions, illiteracy rate is around 40%. Moreover,

START FROM HERE

child-labour is also prevailing. The reason behind it population growth. In rural areas among peasants the birth rate is higher which forced them to make their children either beg or work instead of school-going.

9. Critical Analysis :

Pakistan since its inception has not worked seriously to address rapid population growth. As a result of it the country is undergoing many socio-economic issues ranging from poverty to child-labour etc. The governance gap in handling so many people has been widened which resulted in massive poverty and illiteracy despite Article 25A which promise access of all Pakistanis to education. This shows the population bulge is burden on the resources of Pakistan.

10. Conclusions:

To encapsulate this argument it would be pertinent to say that lack of attention to population growth has paved the way for numerous socio-economic issues in Pakistan. Bulging population in Pakistan is decreasing chances of employment; it increases poverty and illiteracy in the country. Therefore, due to lack of any ~~form~~ population plan, Pakistan is negatively impacted by socio-economic evils.

Q.7 Pakistan's sustainable economic recovery is not linked with foreign aid but with its political stability. Discuss.

1. Introduction:

The economy of Pakistan is undergoing severe setbacks and the parades lies in political calm. Although, Pakistan borrowed money from IMF many times, yet it has not help in achieving sustainable recovery. This indicates that the sustainable recovery is linked with political stability. For example, political stability can boost tourism sector of the country, it has the ability to attract foreign direct investments and it can reduces corruption and poor rule of law etc. Hence, sustainable economic recovery can be achieved by maintaining political stability.

2. A Comprehensive Guide to Economic Issues in Pakistan:

Since its inception in 1947 Pakistan has been going through economic crisis. The reason behind it was undue distribution of economic resources between India and Pakistan. Moreover, deficiency of effective leadership after the death of Quaid-Azam Jinnah exacerbated

economic situation. The country went to IMF for the first time during dictatorial period of Ayub Khan - since then it has been for twenty three times that we have sought aid from international donors. This indicates that Pakistan has been the largest borrower due to economic crisis in the country.

3. A Glance at Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023:

Presently, the country is faced with numerous economic challenges. Following are some of the key indicators of past economic performance:

- Lowest GDP growth rate: 0.29%
- Inflation has crossed 30%
- Fiscal deficit is widening approximately 4.7% of the total GDP.

Moreover, the recent floods in 2022 has deteriorated the economic performance severely. Reportedly, due to floods, the country has lost 3 trillion worth ~~of~~ damage. And the rehabilitation requires 3.5 trillion (Economic survey, report 2023).

4. Link between Sustainable Recovery and Political Stability:

There are many reasons behind economic downturn in Pakistan. However, one of the major reasons is political instability. Both political stability and sustainable recovery are closely linked together. For instance, when a country undergoes political instability, foreign aid declines tremendously. Therefore, when political crisis persists in Pakistan - which are persisting - sustainable recovery seems not possible to achieve.

5. Political Instability triggers Deteriorating Law and Order:

In Pakistan due to political crisis there has been a poor law and order situation. It ranked at 129 out of 140 countries fallen to the level of Sudan in rule of law index. In this state of affairs, foreign aid has declined significantly. This illustrates that Pakistan's sustainable economic recovery is being impeded by political instability.

6. IMF Loans have not Helped Pakistan's Economy in Long-Run:

Although the country has knocked out IMF more than 20 times and got a significant amount of loan, yet it has not helped Pakistan's economy to achieve sustainable recovery. The reason behind it is IMF structural reforms which discourage expenditure of government on social projects etc. As a result of it, in accordance with IMF conditions compliance, the country spend less in period of PTI government and witnessed shut down of many business.

7. How Political stability will Ensure Sustainable Recovery:

Political stability is a prerequisite of sustainable recovery of mangled economy. It helps country in achieving long-term goals in following ways:

8. It attracts travellers around the world:

Tourism is one of the potential sectors in Pakistan due to the presence of multiple

religious, cultural, adventures sites. If political stability is achieved, Pakistan can make billions of rupees from this industry without any debt etc. Therefore, sustainable economic recovery is linked not with foreign aid but political instability.

9. It reduces Corruption by ensuring good Governance:

A country with stable political climate is always able to work effectively. When there is political calm, the country public sectors automatically perform well. This results in transparency. Pakistan ranks 140 out of 180 countries on corruption index. However, if there is political stability, Pakistan's economical recovery would be possible.

10 Political Stability will lead to Rule of Law:

By rule of law it means economic development through massive foreign direct investment. Presently, CPEC projects have been dormant due to absence of rule of law in Baluchistan province. However, with political inststa stability rule

of law improves. Therefore, it can be stated that Pakistan's sustainable economic recovery is linked with political stability not foreign aid.

11. Critical Analysis:

Pakistan is a country facing with multiple economic challenges. Historically, it went for foreign aid multiple times, however, it has not helped Pakistan with sustainable economic recovery. For this purpose Pakistan has to ensure Pakistan's Political-Calm in the country in order to breath fresh air of economic development.

12. Conclusion:

To sum it all up it would be fair to say that sustainable economic recovery for Pakistan lies within rather than outward: foreign aid. Hence, it is well said that cure the roots the tree will be flourished automatically. Instead of going for foreign aid Pakistan needs to bring political calm in order to achieve sustainable economic recovery in the country.