

Date: _____

Day: _____

Name: Syeda Sunda S Fakhir
Batch no: 66
Subject: Current affairs

Q. NO 4:

A complex political situation has emerged in Pakistan where opposition, coalition government, military and judiciary are increasingly confronting each other. Critically evaluate the situation and give workable solutions.

Current situation:-

Pakistan is experiencing a complex political crisis marked by escalating tensions between various key players: the opposition, the coalition government, the military and the judiciary. Each of these entities is engaged in its own struggle for power and influence, creating a highly unstable environment.

Opposition vs. Coalition Government :-

The opposition parties are increasingly challenging the ruling coalition government, accusing it of ineffective governance, corruption and mismanagement of national resources. This political friction often manifests in public protests, strikes and other forms of civil unrest.

The opposition's frequent critiques and attempts to undermine the government contribute to a climate of political uncertainty and hinder the effective functioning of the government.

Example:

The opposition parties Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) have been vocal critics of the coalition government led by Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM).

The opposition accuses the PDM of failing to address Pakistan's economic crises, which includes high inflation

and a depreciating currency.

Military vs. Civilian Institutions:-

Historically, the military has wielded substantial influence in Pakistan's political sphere. Conflicts arise when the military's actions/statements appear to encroach on the authority of civilian governments or interfere with democratic processes. Such conflict can destabilize political institutions and create an environment of distrust and power struggles between military civilian leadership. Military's involvement in political matters has been evident in various ways.

For instance, the military's role in handling internal security issues and its influence over key political decisions, such as the appointment of Chief of Army Staff, have been sources of tension. The friction became particularly pronounced during the tenure of former Prime

Date: _____

Day: _____

Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, who had frequent public disputes with the military over issues such as foreign policy and domestic governance.

Judiciary vs Other institutions:-

The judiciary sometimes finds itself at odds with both the executive (government) and the military. Judicial rulings that challenge the decisions or authority of these institutions can lead to tensions and conflicts. These judicial confrontations often highlight the challenges in maintaining a balance of power and ensuring that each branch of government operates within its constitutional limits. The Judiciary's independence has been a point of contention, particularly in high-profile cases.

An illustrative case is the Supreme Court's involvement in the dismissal of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

in 2017 following the Panama Papers scandal. The judiciary is ruling in this case led to significant political upheaval and controversy, with accusations of judicial overreach and political bias from various quarters.

More recently, judicial decisions affecting the status of political figures and electoral processes continue to stir debates about the balance of power among the branches of government.

Solutions:-

1 Strengthening Democratic Institutions:-

To address the political crises, it is crucial to strengthen democratic institutions and ensure they operate effectively and independently. Facilitating open and constructive dialogues between the opposition, government, military and judiciary. Establishing a

neutral mediation body, such as National Reconciliation Commission could provide a platform for resolving conflicts and improving collaboration among these key players. Additionally, implementing reforms to enhance the transparency and accountability of government institutions can help restore public confidence and reduce political friction.

a) Improving Governance :-

Improving governance involves focusing on effective economic management and policy implementation. The government should prioritize economic stability by addressing pressing issues such as inflation, unemployment, and fiscal deficits. By demonstrating competence in managing economic affairs, the government can build public trust and reduce political tension. Increasing transparency in decision

making processes and engaging the public in policy decisions can also help mitigate discontent and foster a more cooperative political environment.

Example:-

Countries facing economic challenges have implemented austerity measures and economic stimulus plans to stabilize the economies.

3. Reducing Military Influence:

To mitigate the conflicts between the military and civilian institutions, it is essential to establish clearer boundaries between their roles. Strengthening democratic controls and ensuring that military actions are aligned with civilian leadership and constitutional norms can help reduce tension. The civilian government should

work to enhance its capacity to manage national affairs independently from military influence. Promoting respect for democratic principles and the rule of law can help balance power and prevent military overreach.

4. Judicial Independence:-

Supporting judicial independence is vital for maintaining the rule of law and resolving conflicts between the judiciary and other institutions. Reforms should focus on protecting judicial autonomy and ensuring that the judiciary can operate without undue pressure or interference. Addressing conflicts through legal and constitutional channels, rather than through confrontational means, can help maintain stability and uphold democratic principles.

5) Fostering National Unity:-

Promoting national unity is essential for addressing the political crises and achieving long-term stability. Initiating a national dialogue that includes various stakeholders, such as civil society, organizations, can help build a shared vision for the country's future.

Implementing conflict resolution mechanisms to address political disagreements and prevent escalation is also crucial.

By fostering a sense of national cohesion and collective purpose, Pakistan can work towards overcoming its current challenges and achieving more stable government.

Conclusion :-

The complex political situation in Pakistan requires a comprehensive approach

Date: _____

Day: _____

to resolve. Strengthening democratic institutions, improving governance, reducing military influence, supporting judicial independence and fostering national unity are key strategies for addressing the crisis. Through constructive dialogue and systemic reforms, Pakistan can work towards stabilizing its political environment and ensuring effective governance for the future.

Q. NO 2:-

Increasing capacity payments to IPPs has made electricity hyper expensive. Critically evaluate the statement and give recommendations.

Increasing capacity payments to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) has led to higher electricity prices.

1. Capacity Payments Explained:

Capacity payments are financial incentives given to IPPs to ensure they are available to generate electricity when required. These payments are intended to compensate IPPs for maintaining operational readiness, even if they are not actively producing power. The idea is to guarantee a stable and reliable power supply, particularly during peak demand times. However, when these payments are too high, they can significantly increase the overall cost of electricity, as these expenses are typically passed on to consumers in the form of higher electricity rates.

2. Factors Leading to High Costs:-

Increasing capacity payments to IPPs can lead to higher electricity

costs for several reasons. Firstly, if capacity payments are set too high, they can create financial pressures on the electricity market, leading to increased costs that are transferred to consumers. This situation can occur if there is an over-reliance on expensive IPPs or if the payment structure is not efficiently managed. Additionally, high capacity payments can distort market dynamics by reducing competition among power producers. When IPPs receive large payments, they may not have the same incentive to improve efficiency or reduce cost, further exacerbating high electricity prices.

3. Consumer Impact:-

The impact on consumers can be significant. Higher capacity payments translate

into increased electricity bills, placing a financial burden on household and businesses. For consumer, this means higher costs for everyday energy use, which can strain household budgets and affects overall economic well-being.

For businesses, increased energy cost can lead to higher operational expenses, potentially resulting in higher prices for goods and services. This can be particularly challenging in regions where there is limited competition and few alternative energy options.

Recommendations:-

1) Review Payment Structures:

To address the issue of high electricity costs, it is crucial to review and potentially adjust the capacity payment structures. This involves

assessing whether the current payment levels are justified and making adjustments to ensure they align with actual costs and market conditions.

Payment structure should be designed to balance the need for reliability with cost-effectiveness.

Implementing a performance-based approach, where payments are linked to the actual availability and efficiency of the power produced, could help manage cost better.

2) Diversify Energy Sources:

Diversifying energy resources can help reduce reliance on expensive IPPs and lower overall electricity costs. Increasing competition by incorporating a mix of energy sources including renewable energy such as solar, wind and hydro, can provide more

cost effective options and improve market dynamics. Investing in renewable energy can also help stabilizing long term energy prices, as renewables typically have lower operational cost compared to fossil fuels. Promoting a diverse energy portfolio can also enhance energy security and reduce vulnerability to price fluctuations in global energy markets.

3. Improve Market Efficiency:-

Enhancing market efficiency is essential for controlling electricity costs. This can be achieved through regulatory reforms that promote competition among power producers to improve transparency in pricing. Supplementing measures to streamline market operations, reduce barriers to entry for new players;

and encourage innovations can lead to more competitive and cost-effective energy markets. Strengthening regulatory oversight to ensure fair pricing and prevent market manipulation is also crucial for maintaining a balanced and efficient energy market.

4) Enhance Energy Efficiency:

Investing in energy efficiency and demand response programs can help manage and reduce overall energy consumption. By promoting energy-saving technologies and practices, both consumers and businesses can lower their energy use, which can lead to reduce demand and lower costs. Implementing smart grid technologies and energy management systems can further enhance efficiency by optimizing energy distribution and consumption.

Date: _____

Day: _____

In summary, while capacity payments are necessary for ensuring a reliable power supply, excessively high payments can drive up electricity costs. To mitigate this issue, it is important to review payment structures, diversify energy sources, improve market efficiency and enhance energy efficiency. These measures can help manage costs and ensure a more balanced and sustainable approach to electricity pricing.