

Pakistan Studies:

Mock: Part: II:

Q2.

Critically evaluate how the twenty-sixth amendment to the constitution of Pakistan will affect the balance of power between the various pillars of state.

Introduction:

Pakistan has majorly been through constitutional crisis from its inception.

The first constitution, took 9 long years to be proposed and implemented. There have been several abrogations and multiple amendments that have been shifting the power unevenly and unequally all the times. In contemporary 1973 constitution there have been 26 amendments, as of december 2024. Most of the amendments reflect Pakistan's evolving political landscape, addressing the

the ~~power~~

critical aspect that is, "Balance of Power" between different branches of government. The political instability in the country has been negatively impacting the separation of powers efficiently. Same is the dilemma of 26th amendment to the constitution.

26th Amendment:

October, 21st, 2024, President Asif Ali Zardari signed an ordinance that became the 26th amendment to the constitution. The amendment introduced a new article 9A, that grants every citizen the right to clean and healthy environment and further emphasises environmental stability.

Moreover, it induced changes to 175A that revises the process for judicial appointments, involving a parliamentary committee with proportional political representation. A performance evaluation

system for judges is also introduced.

Moreover, The chief justice of Pakistan will now be selected from the three most senior judges by parliamentary committee rather than automatic

seniority. On top of that the tenure is capped at 3 years. The last amendment also amends article

38(f) with the aim to eliminate riba from Pakistan's economy by 2028, aligning with Islamic financial Principles.

Balance of Power:-

The balance of power in a democracy among three main pillars of the government is important to run the democracy in an efficient way. The executive, legislature and judiciary all should have the authority necessary so that the powers are exercised legally and accountability is transparent.

However, analysing the situation of Pakistan there are a number of flaws and inefficiencies that need to be addressed. Analysing the 26th amendment to the constitution there are several issues, that are complex and severe in nature, have been emerged and if unaddressed, these would further worsen the dynamics in future.

i. Control over Judiciary:

The 26th amendment to constitution has fundamentally disturbed the balance of power by granting legislative a strong hold over judiciary. The parliamentary committee for the appointment of judges has a controversial ratio of the members. The committee with a total number of 12 members, would constitute of 8 MNAs and 4 senators.

handing over the power solely to the legislative.

Moreover, Judicial commission will deal with matters that are the domain of judiciary. Therefore, the courts and the judicial system would be solely under the influence of parliament, diminishing the independence of judiciary. This will result in compromised accountability of the other institutions of state that could already be seen in several cases for example the controversial cases of high-profile individuals from the parliament like fake bank accounts case of Asif Ali Zardari. In addition to this the law will be compromised for the civil society of Pakistan, it would only remain a play of the powerful.

Weakening of the Pillars:

When it comes to concentration of unprecedented powers, it could be referred to the phrase that, "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely". Same would be the case with the judiciary and the parliament. Judiciary will be affected by this the most as the appointment of judges will be a race among the top judges in which the one most loyal to the party ^{in government} would be selected to be the next Chief Justice of Pakistan. This could be seen in the case of current chief Justice's selection, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah was the senior most judge however, Justice Yahya Afzali was appointed as the CJP which clearly shows the government's own connections to him. Thus, this has created a

"Game of Thrones" in which the judges would now be polarised and the Judiciary would not function properly.

On the other hand, with power of appointing the judges in the hands of certain parliamentarians will create another inequality. Some people of the parliament would be more influential and would have an edge over the party chairmans and whole parliament.

The ammendment has also received criticism internationally. As following the ammendment, "The International Commission of Jurists" (ICJ) stated that;

"26th ammendment is a blow to judicial independence, the rule of law and human rights".

Q3.

New wave of terrorism exposes ———
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Introduction:

Terrorism has been a persistent challenge for Pakistan, undermining its stability, security and economic growth. Despite several military operations, policy initiatives, and international co-operation, a new wave of terrorism has exposed significant policy failures. Militant groups including Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Baloch separatist organisations and sectarian factions, have intensified their activities in recent years, resulting in devastating consequences for national security. This resurgence raises critical questions about Pakistan's counter-terrorism policies, governance gaps, and regional diplomatic strategies.

2. Resurgence of Terrorism; A grim reality;

• Recent Incidents:

• In 2023, the TTP conducted numerous attacks, including the devastating Peshawar Police Lines mosque bombing, killing over 100 individuals. In 2024, Baloch separatists targeted military convoys in Balochistan, and attacks on Chinese nationals highlighted vulnerabilities in safeguarding foreign investments under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). These incidents reveal not only operational lapses but also the growing audacity of militant groups.

2. Policy Failures in Combating Terrorism:

lack of a comprehensive National Acting plan (NAP) implementation.

- Introduced in 2014 after the Army Public School (APS) attack, the NAP outlined 20 points to counter terrorism, including madrasa reforms, banning hate speech, and strengthening the judicial system.

◦ Failures:

- 1- Madrasa reforms remain incomplete:

- 2- Hate speech and sectarian propaganda are not effectively countered.

- 3- Weak prosecution leads to low conviction rates for terrorists.

b- Inadequate Border Management:

Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, despite fencing efforts, remains porous, enabling the infiltration of militants. The 2021 Taliban takeover of Afghanistan emboldened groups like the TTP, which found sanctuaries in Afghan territory. The absence of robust diplomatic engagement with Kabul has further aggravated the situation.

c- Overreliance on Military Operations:

Operations such as Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fassad successfully dismantled militant networks but lacked follow-up efforts to consolidate gains. The failure to strengthen

civilian law enforcement and governance in former tribal areas created a vacuum, allowing militancy to resurface.

D- Weak Counter-Narratives:

- The ideological battle against extremism remains underdeveloped. Efforts to promote tolerance and counter radicalization through education and media have been sporadic and inconsistent.

3. Consequences of policy Failures:

A- Rising Casualties and Economic Losses:

- Frequent attacks on security forces and civilians have caused

civilian law enforcement and governance in former tribal areas created a vacuum, allowing militancy to resurf ace.

D- Weak Counter-Narratives

• The ideological battle against extremism remains underdeveloped. Efforts to promote tolerance and counter radicalization through education and media have been sporadic and inconsistent.

3. Consequences of policy Failures:

A- Rising Casualties and Economic Losses:

• Frequent attacks on security forces and civilians have caused

immense human suffering. The cost of terrorism to Pakistan's economy is estimated at over \$126 billion since 2001, deterring foreign investment and slowing economic recovery.

B- Erosion of Public Trust:

• The inability to protect citizens and key infrastructure has shaken public confidence in state institutions. Communities in affected areas feel abandoned, further alienating them from the state.

C- International Repercussions:

• Pakistan faces accusations of harboring militant proxies,

tarnishing its global image. Strained relations with Afghanistan and India exacerbate security challenges, isolating Pakistan diplomatically.

4. Constructive Recommendations:

A- Revitalize the National Action Plans:

- Strengthen Implementation: Establish a dedicated monitoring body to oversee progress on NAP's objectives.

Judicial Reforms: Expedite terrorism cases by increasing the capacity of anti-terror courts and ensuring protection for witnesses and judges.

B- Enhance Border Security:

- Invest in advanced surveillance

technologies, such as drones and biometric system, to monitor border crossings. Engage diplomatically with the Afghan government to address cross-border terrorism through joint mechanisms.

C- Strengthen Civilian Institutions:

- Empower civilian law enforcement agencies through better training, resources, and coordination with intelligence services. Focus on development in former tribal areas to address grievances and reduce the appeal of militancy.

D- Promote Counter-Narratives:

- Develop educational curricula

that emphasize tolerance, pluralism, and critical thinking. Collaborating with religious scholars to delegitimize extremist ideologies.

E-Regional and International Cooperation:

- Enhance intelligence sharing with neighboring countries and international allies. Advocate for a collective regional strategy to address terrorism, leveraging platforms like SAARC and the OIC.

Conclusion:

The resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan underscores critical policy failures in addressing this multifaceted menace. While military operations have

disrupted militant networks, the absence of sustained governance, ideological countermeasures, and effective border management has allowed terrorism to resurface. To combat this challenge, Pakistan must adopt a holistic and proactive approach that strengthens institutions, promotes developments and builds regional alliances. Only through coordinated efforts can Pakistan ensure lasting peace and security for its citizens and reclaim its position as a stable and progressive state.

Q.6

Pakistan's inability --- ?

Introduction:

• Pakistan's economic

development has been hindered by its inability to formulate and implement coherent long-term economic policies. Instead, the country has relied on ad hoc, short-term measures driven by political expediency, resulting in sporadic and muddled goals that lack strategic direction. This reactive approach has exacerbated structural weaknesses in the economy, such as low productivity, unsustainable debt, and insufficient industrial growth. The consequences of these policy failures are evident in various sectors of the economy, with examples highlighting the urgent need for a strategic shift.

-Frequent Policy Changes and lack of continuity:

The country's economic policies have frequently changed with shifts in government, prioritizing short-term political gains over national interests. For instance, the inconsistent approach to privatization and nationalization of industries has created uncertainty for investors. Similarly, projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which have the potential to transform Pakistan's economy, have faced delays and inefficiencies due to inconsistent planning and policy focus. This lack of continuity has hindered progress and eroded investor

confidence.

High Debt Dependency and Fiscal Mismanagement

One of the most significant consequences of these short-term policies in Pakistan's high dependency on external debt. The government often resorts to borrowing from institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to address immediate fiscal deficits, neglecting the need for structural reforms. As a result, Pakistan's debt-to-GDP ratio has exceeded 80%, creating a cycle of dependency without addressing underlying issues like low tax revenue and fiscal mismanagement.

Neglect of Key Sectors and Human Capital Development:

Key economic sectors such as agriculture and industry have also suffered from inconsistent support.

For example, Pakistan's textile industry, a critical driver of exports, faces fluctuating subsidies and inconsistent energy policies, undermining its global competitiveness. Similarly, the country's inadequate investment in education and healthcare has left it with a poorly skilled workforce, further limiting productivity and economic growth.

The way Forward: Structural Reforms and

Policy Continuity

To overcome these challenges, Pakistan must prioritize long-term structural reforms. Tax reforms are essential to broaden the revenue base and reduce reliance on external borrowing. Strengthening institutions like the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) can enhance efficiency and combat corruption.

Additionally, promoting export-oriented growth by diversifying beyond textiles into sectors like technology and pharmaceuticals can reduce economic vulnerabilities.

Investments in human capital is equally crucial;

Increasing education and health care spending will not only improve work force productivity but also contribute to sustainable economic growth. Allocating at least 4% of GDP to education and vocational training can help build a skilled labour force capable of driving innovation and competitiveness.

Policy Consensus for Sustainable Growth

Another critical step in ensuring policy continuity through bipartisan consensus on key economic strategies. Countries like Bangladesh have demonstrated the benefits of maintaining stable policy

frameworks across governments, resulting in sustained economic growth. Pakistan can learn from such examples to establish a long-term vision that transcends political changes and ensures consistent progress.

Conclusions

Pakistan's economic instability is rooted in its failure to adopt a strategic, long-term approach to policy making. The reliance on ad hoc measures has resulted in unsustainable debt, underperforming industries, and insufficient human capital development. To address these issues, the country must

shift its focus to structural reforms, export diversification, and investments in education and health care. By fostering policy continuity and prioritizing national interests over political gains, Pakistan can lay the foundation for sustainable economic growth and resilience in the face of future challenges.

Q: Q:

Characterized --- ?

Introduction:

Pakistan's foreign policy has often been criticized for its lack of direction, coherence, and adaptability in responding to regional and global.

developments.

Characterized by a reactive rather than proactive approach, Pakistan has struggled to navigate complex regional tensions, shifting global alliances, and pressing international challenges. This drift in foreign policy has weakened its global standing and diminished its ability to pursue its national interests effectively.

Lack of Strategic Vision and Regional Challenges:

Pakistan's foreign policy appears fragmented in its dealings with immediate neighbors.

Relations with India remains hostile, marked by unresolved

issues like Kashmir and border skirmishes. Despite several diplomatic attempts, Pakistan has failed to project a coherent roadmap for resolving disputes or countering India's growing influence globally. Similarly, ties with Afghanistan remain inconsistent. The 2021 Taliban takeover highlighted Pakistan's inability to balance support for the Taliban while addressing international concerns regarding terrorism emanating from Afghan soil. This has strained its relations with Western allies and jeopardized border security.

Missed opportunities for Global Engagement:

On the international stage, Pakistan's foreign policy lacks a proactive approach to leveraging global economic opportunities. For example, while India strengthened its partnerships with the US and Gulf countries, Pakistan has remained overly reliant on China and Saudi Arabia. Its failure to diversify alliances has limited its options, particularly in the face of economic crises and increasing global isolation.

The need for charity and conferences

To address these issues, Pakistan must adopt a consistent and forward-looking foreign policy. It must

strengthen regional cooperations, especially through platforms like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Diversifying alliances beyond traditional partners is crucial to adopting to the fast-changing global image. Building economic ties with emerging economics and improving its global image through soft diplomacy are vital for long-term stability.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's foreign policy must move from a position of drift to one of strategic coherence. By addressing regional challenges