

Pakistan Affairs

Q.No.1

Critically evaluate the 26th amendment...?

Amendment has happened in the environment of political confrontation and contestation. Pakistan has been in continuous crisis since 2017. This political tussle led to the politicization of judiciary. After Feb 2024 elections, judiciary was accused on partisan lines. The allegations got the peak when judges favoured parties in their decisions that might be lawful but their time frame raised concerns. This amendment was an attempt on the part of current government to rebalance the institutions in Pakistan. The aim of the amendment is to put a check on the extreme powers (i.e. Judicial activism). These amendments were long due in Pakistan. Political parties had failed to understand that the real conflict is not between

institutions. Few critics argue that this amendment ~~will~~ has increased the politicisation of judiciary rather than reducing it.

The amendment's impact on the power dynamics between the executive, legislature, and judiciary will be far-reaching, with potential consequences for the system of checks and balances and federal-provincial relations.

Constitutional Benches:

Powers of Supreme Court are divided now. From now on, the constitutional cases will be dealt by constitutional benches rather than supreme court. This bench will hear cases involving challenges to executive and legislative actions as well as matters of public importance concerning the enforcement of fundamental rights. President will now seek advice from constitutional benches rather than Supreme Court. Some motto jurisdictions previously granted to Supreme Court under Art 184 will now

be exercised by constitutional benches.

Decisions of the benches will be nominated by judicial commission of Pakistan from time to time.

Checks and Balances:

The 26th amendment to the constitution of Pakistan may have a profound impact on the system of checks and balances. The amendment may reduce the power of judiciary to review executive actions, potentially undermining the checks and balances mechanism. This could enable the executive to exercise greater control over the governance of the country, potentially leading to authoritarian style of governance. The amendment may also impact the judiciary's ability to hold executive accountable for its actions, which could erode the rule of law and undermine the principles of democracy.

Consequences of Federal provincial relations:

The 26th amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan may have ~~pro~~ profound outcomes for federal-provincial relations, potentially: altering the balance of power between the federal government and the provinces. One of the primary effects of the amendment is potential devolution of more powers to the provinces, which could reduce the federal government authority and influence over provincial matters. This could lead the more decentralized system of governance, where provinces have greater autonomy to manage their own affairs and make decisions that are in their best interests. This amendment may also impact the distribution of resources and revenue between the federal government and the provinces, leading to disputes and tensions over issues such as funding for provincial projects and programs.

Conclusion:

26th amendment to Pakistan's constitution will significantly impact the balance of power between state institutions. It also poses risks, including concentration of power and erosion of checks and balances. Ideally, it is a good amendment but in Pakistan's context its possibility of being negative is high. One hopes that this recalibration of powers will serve the wide interests of Pakistan and its democratic institutions.

Q.No.2

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

Introduction:

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was one of the towering personalities of South Asia. He was endowed with the qualities of head and heart, pen and mind. He was a versatile

like, a great muslim educationalists, scholar, social reformer and a political leader who rendered invaluable services for the regeneration of Muslims of sub continent. He was born in 1817, and died in 1898. His primary objective was to reconcile modern scientific thought with Islamic values to promote education among Muslims.

Reconciling Modern Scientific Thought with Religion:

Sir Syed believed that Islam was compatible with modern scientific thought. He argued that the Quran encouraged Muslims to seek knowledge and to think critically. He was a devout Muslim. He tried to bring Muslim unity through religious unity and harmony. He wrote famous book, "Khutbat-e-Ahmadia". He believed that there was no contradiction between the 'word of God' and 'work of God'. By 'Word of God' he meant Quran.

and by 'work of God' he pointed to application of Quranic laws in the universe.

Promoting Education:

Sir Syed was a strong advocate for modern education. He believed that education was the key to progress and development of Muslim Community.

Sir Syed founded MAO College in Aligarh, which later became Aligarh Muslim University.

Patronizing Muslims towards Modern Education:

Sir Syed believed that if the Muslims did not get modern education they would lose social prestige and advancement. In the beginning, Sir Syed was in favour of vernacular education but in later years, he believed that all the Muslims would receive English and western education.

Foundation of Muhammedan Educational Conference:

This Conference was established in 1886 to extend the scope of Aligarh's activities. As Sir Syed said that only education could not be sufficient for the needs of Muslims. This conference proved to be a national platform for Muslims of India and acted as a fore runner of Muslim League. Also, Scientific Society was a tool and agency of education for Indian Muslims. More than 800 books on different subjects were translated by this society in Urdu.

Focus on Character Building:

Sir Syed placed immense emphasis on character building as an integral part of education. He believed that to shape the character and moral fiber of individuals. He said, Character building was essential for the development of a

person's personality, and it played a crucial role in shaping their thoughts, actions and behavior. He also emphasized the importance of moral education. He encouraged students to develop a strong sense of morality and ethics, which could guide them in making decisions and taking actions throughout their lives.

Impact of Sir Syed's efforts:

Sir Syed's efforts had a significant impact on the Muslim community in India.

Political impacts:

Sir Syed was first person to demand separate electorate for Muslims and also defended the causes of Urdu language. Aligarh movement was also produced a generation of Muslim leaders who rendered invaluable contribution for regeneration of Muslim Society.

Educational impacts:

Aligarh movement laid institutional basis for Muslim advancement.

Aligarh brought about educational renaissance for the Muslims.

Religious impacts:

Due to Aligarh movement, Sir Syed tried to present Islam in response to the challenges of the modern times. The rationalistic interpretation of Islam was a mean towards restoration of Islam.

Social Impacts:

Through 'Tehzeeb-ul-Ikhlas' and 'Aligarh Institute Gazette', Sir Syed was able to reform the Muslim Society. He wrote articles in favour of women. Aligarh transformed Muslim outlook towards British.