

General Knowledge-II

Pakistan Affairs

Part-II

Q.No.2 Critically evaluate how the Twenty-Sixth amendment to the constitution.....

The 26th Amendment in constitution makes significant institutional changes in the structure and functioning of Pakistan's judicial system, particularly with respect to Supreme Court and High Courts.

The Secretary of International Court of Justice, Santiago Canton said,

"These changes bring an extra-ordinary level of political influence over the process of appointment and the judiciary's own administration"

"The erode the judiciary's capacity to independently and effectively function as a check against excesses by other branches of the state and protect human rights."

Key Provisions:

1. Judicial Appointments:

- The executive has now a greater role in appointment of judges to higher courts.

2. Curb on Judicial Activism

Limiting the judiciary's ability to take suo moto action or intervene in executive and legislative matters.

3. Strengthening Executive Powers:

Enhancing the prime Minister's role in selection of the chief Justice and other key judicial figures.

Impact on Balance of Powers

1. Judiciary :-

• weakened independence, as it curtails the judicial activism by increasing executive influence over judicial appointment.

• Reduced Activism: as started by C.J.C. Iftikhar in 2007 against the issues of public concern such as issue of missing persons, Baluchistan issue and privatization of national Steels Mill, went on for more than a decade is now officially ended with the withdrawal of suo moto powers of judiciary.

2. Executive :-

• Concentration of Powers:- enhanced role of PM in judicial appointments consolidates executive power, which may undermine doctrine of separation of powers.

• Potential Risk:- increased executive control over judiciary raises concerns about political influence over judicial decisions.

3. Legislative :-

- Legislative oversight :- reduces judiciary's ability to review or challenge legislative actions, weakening judicial checks on unconstitutional or unethical legislative practices.

- Increased Autonomy: Critiques also see this as an increased legislative autonomy without fear of judicial invalidation.

Recommendations:

Judicial appointments should involve a balanced representation of all branches of government to minimize political influence. Clear guidelines on Supreme Court actions can prevent judicial overreach while retaining judiciary's ability to address issues of public interest.

Efforts should be put to focus on strengthening all institutions to function independently. Citizens must be educated about the implications of constitutional amendments to foster informed public opinion.

Q.No.4 Sir Syed was an ardent reformer.....

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was a visionary modern reformer of the 19th Century who aimed to bridge the gap between the modern Science and Islamic traditions. Observing the decline of Muslims in 1857 War of Independence, he identified the Muslim's ignorance, resistance to change and lack of modern education because Muslims had a negative attitude everything modern and western after the British take over the region. To address this issue, Sir Syed embarked on a mission to reform Muslim society, emphasizing the compatibility of Islam with reason, logic and modern scientific advancements.

Efforts for Modern Education:

He believed that the education was the key to progress and prosperity. To this end, started his educational movement.

Aligarh movement:

Sir Syed founded Muhammadan Anglo-oriental college later known as Aligarh Muslim University. This institution was modeled on western educational system aim to impart modern education while instilling Islamic values.

→ Through this movement he opened Schools, Scientific Society at Ghazipur Muhammadian Educational Conference where modern educational techniques were discussed, Anjuman e Taraqie Musalmanan e Hind, to impart modern knowledge to Muslims and foundation of Aligarh Muslim University

→ Through his writing, such as journal "Tehzeeb ul Akhlaq", Sir Syed sought to reform orthodox beliefs and dispel misconception about Islam's compatibility with modernity. He emphasized the rational to religion, as encouraged by the Quran itself. He sought to reconcile Faith with modern scientific thought.

About Sir Syed, Dr. Maulvi Abdul Haq said

"People says he set up a college, Nay, he set up a Nation."

Sir Syed's dedication to reconcile modern Science with religion and the educational empowerment of the Muslims of Sub-continent led to political awakening of the Muslims ultimately to the creation of Pakistan.

Q.No.8

characterized by drift, Pakistan's Foreign Policy appears to be

Pakistan's Foreign Policy :-

'Foreign policy is defined as the strategies to guide government in international arena & actions that leaders take to protect national interest in given situation.'

Formulation of Foreign Policy:

① Assessment of International and Regional Systems. The three basic elements to assess are threats, challenges and prospects (the opportunities).

Pakistan is at a critical point in history.

It has been faced with various threats from the regional political dynamics.

On the western side, Pakistan borders with Afghanistan, the recent developments in Afghanistan and the control of Taliban impose a political challenge

in terms of its relationship with the TTP, the issue of Afghan refugees etc. Similarly

on the eastern side, we are facing a hostile ^{neighbour} border with India that is

potentially involved in jeopardize our internal as well external security by funding non-state actors like the BLA etc.

Similarly the relationship with Iran and China's cold war with west is causing a spillover effect in Pakistan.

② Goal setting: to secure our borders we must establish good relationships of cooperation with neighbours to

avoid spill over effect like that with the Taliban's government in Afghanistan and with China through CPEC, that is the biggest investor and like so.

Similarly with India, establishing Trade relations, the potential of \$218, could help shifting the hostilities between the two neighbours. The

current trade between the two countries stand at a mere \$2-3 Billion only.

③ Determining the policy options

- Pakistan should engage with Afghanistan government that Pakistan was the first to recognise their government and there is a need for establishing a good bilateral ties.

- with India we also need to build trust and diplomatic ties, bringing foreign players like US, UN and Saudi Arabia to resolve and discuss the key issue like Kashmir issue etc.

④ Formal decision making:

Pakistan needs a rigorous foreign policy decision making by involving all stakeholders.

Historically Pakistan foreign policy's was based on two main concerns i.e Security and economic. But these options weaken the political stand of Pakistan, it got involved in the US-USSR Cold war, Afghan war etc which weakened Pakistan both internally and externally.

⑤ Implementing the Foreign Policy

Options:

Pakistan needs to implement its foreign policy options by engaging in diplomatic ties with regional actors like Iran, India, Afghanistan as well as China and foreign global players like US, Russia and Europe.

Pakistan could effectively utilize its geostrategic and political leverage by drawing the right foreign policy options not only based on security and economy but those discussed above.

Q.No.7 "The world is....."

The world is evolving at an unprecedented pace, driven by advancement in technology, innovation and knowledge economics. Education is the cornerstone of progress equipping societies to adopt, compete and thrive in a dynamic global environment. Pakistan's education system has struggled to meet the demands of the 21st century. Plagued by systematic challenges that hinder the development and impede national progress.

Key Issues and Problems in Pakistan's Educational System:

a. Lack of Access and Enrollment

- low enrollment rates: The gross enrollment ratio for middle and higher school is $\frac{43}{27}$ and $\frac{27}{27}$.
- Gender disparity: In 2022-23, 21 million girls were enrolled as compared to 25 million boys.
- Infrastructure deficiencies: over 313,000 schools are awfully inadequate to accommodate the growing population.

b. Poor Quality of Education:

- outdated curriculum: 40% of the Pakistani graduates are unemployed due to lack of skills and practical.
- untrained teachers: A report by Institute of education shows only 62% of the primary school teachers are qualified.
- language barriers: The dual system of English-Urdu medium schools creates disparities in learning process.

c. Insufficient funding and allocation

- low Budgetary Allocation: only ~~misman~~ 6.7% of the GDP is allocated for education, falling short of international standards.
- mismanagement and corruption: funds allocated: Pakistan ranks 140th least corrupt nation on list of 180 countries in education.

d. Inequity in Education

→ Rural Urban divide

Pakistan, in 2005 data had 62.4% schools in urban areas as compared to only 37.6% in rural areas.

→ Privatization of Education: created a parallel system of education, creating inequalities between socio-economic classes.

+ Socio-Economic Barriers

→ child labour

According to UNICEF, 3.3 Million are trapped in child labor.

→ cultural attitudes

Conservative cultures in remote areas of Pakistan is another reason where most girls education are limited.

Solution to Address the Challenges:

a. Increasing Access and Enrollment

→ Free education for all

Implementing Article 25-A of the Constitution to provide free education for all children between ages of 5-16 years.

→ Infrastructure development:

Building more schools in remote areas of all provinces like the tribal belt and less privileged areas like the parkar in Sindh.

→ Incentivizing enrollments:

Introducing stipends, scholarships and merit based incentives to encourage parents to school.

b. Improving Quality of Education

→ Curriculum Reforms

→ Teachers Training programs

→ Language policy to ensure inclusivity.

c. Enhancing Funding

→ Increased budget allocation, at least 4% of the GDP as recommended by UNESCO. The current allocation

→ ensuring transparent resource management to prevent corruption

d. Reducing Inequality

→ Rural development, investment in rural education and teacher deployment to bridge the gaps.

→ Regulating private schools to ensure quality standards as well as the affordability to all classes of society.

e. Addressing Socio-cultural Barriers

→ community awareness campaigns, educating communities about importance of education especially for girls.

→ child labor policies: strict laws against child labor and providing financial support to families to reduce economic pressures.