

Pakistan Affairs [Mock]

Question no (2)

The recent twenty-sixth amendment to the constitution of Pakistan has changed the balance of power between various pillars of the state, especially judiciary and the government.

Following are the few areas where balance of power ^{has} ~~have~~ changed.

① Addition of more members into "Judicial Commission of Pakistan"

Previously, the JCI comprised of eight members [Chief Justice of Pakistan, three senior most judges, one retired judge, Attorney General of Pakistan, Law Minister and a member of Pakistan Bar Council]. However after the 26th amendment, five more members have been added into JCI i.e. [two members from the government bench, two from the opposition benches and one member to be appointed by the speaker]. Therefore, a shift in balance of power can be observed.

Shift in balance of power

Before the 26th amendment, Supreme Court was all powerful in the Judicial Commission of Pakistan while the government had only two representatives [a law minister and the Attorney General]. But now, the balance of power has been shifted in favour of the government with the inclusion of seven members of the parliament. Moreover, the government ^{also} has an influence on the Pakistan Bar Council. Therefore, the Supreme Court

(Judiciary) has secondary importance in JCP.

② JCP's power to review performance of judges

The Judicial Commission of Pakistan can now not only constitute/form the constitutional benches but can also review the performance of the judges of the Supreme Court and High Court. The government (dominated) JCP can also make recommendations to Supreme judicial council to file cases against a particular ^{or} judges well

Shift of balance of power

This particular amendment gives an edge to the JCP (which is government in shirt) and enables it to curtail the powers of judges (which in short will hinder the decision-making of judges in various cases).

③ Exclusive 'Suo Moto' powers abolished

The exclusive suo moto powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan and Chief Justices of High Courts was abolished. As a result, Judges can no longer question the government over various matters.

Shift of Balance of power

Yes again, the balance of power has shifted towards the government.

④ Formation of the Constitutional Court

Under the 26th amendment, a Constitutional court comprising a minimum of 5 judges will be formed. These five judges will be selected by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan.

Mon	Wed	Fri	Sun
Tue	Thu	Sat	

Date: _____

Shift of balance of power

This constitutional bench will not be formulated by the CJ, CJP, Supreme Court or High Court. Rather, it will be formulated by the JCP (whose judges are outnumbered by the government-led parliamentarians). Furthermore, analysis re-forming it as a ~~const~~ court within a court where the CJ and the senior most judges are not necessarily the part of the constitutional bench. Hence, the balance is yet again shifted towards the government rather than judiciary.

⑤ Appointment of CJP

Previously, the senior most judges of the Supreme Court (by age) were appointed by the President of Pakistan. However, after the 26th amendment, a parliamentary committee would recommend the name of a judge from the top three judges while the prime minister will also advise the president on the appointment of CJP.

Shift in the balance of power

This amendment gives another edge to the government, as they will always have a majority in the parliamentary committee & and will be able to influence the decisions.



① Question no. ③

The new wave of Terrorism in Pakistan exposes its policy failures to combat the menace. Following are the areas where Pakistan went wrong.

① Misguided government efforts to rehabilitate militants

When Taliban returned in Afghanistan, their arrival was celebrated hoping that it would prove to be beneficial for Pakistan. However, it was a mistake to think that Taliban would not shelter TTP (whom they consider business) and would help Pakistan curb their existence. (The Guardian). Meanwhile, misguided efforts in the prior government to bring TTP fighters back into Pakistan from Afghanistan to be rehabilitated and resettled in the tribal areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The programme failed after the ceasefire negotiations broke down and there was lack of funding to resettle the fighters, leaving Pakistan with more TTP fighters freely roaming on home soil. (The Guardian). As a result, the uncontrolled resurgence of TTP began in Pakistan.

② Pakistan's lack of understanding that there is no good or bad Taliban.

Since the Taliban regained their power, Pakistan has been stuck in defining good and bad Taliban referring Afghan Taliban as the good ones and TTP as the bad ones. However, Pakistan fails to understand that these two factions have a relationship of brotherhood between them and that Afghanistan has turned a blind eye towards the activities of TTP by allowing them a safe haven on the land of Afghanistan.

③ Border Mismanagement

The Durand line has remained a point of conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan since decades, but its significance has increased in the recent years. Pakistan has been unable to efficiently manage its border and therefore Afghan Taliban / TTP easily enters Pakistan through the porous areas of the border.

④ The Inability to strengthen the policing system in Pakistan

Despite successful military operations against terrorists in Pakistan, the TTP resurgence could not be stopped. Even after operations like Zarb-e-Azb, Rad-ul-Fasad, Rah-e-Rast etc., these victories could not be translated into strategic wins because after these operations when the army handed down the areas to the local police to bring back the displaced and secure the place, the weak policing of Pakistan failed to do so. They lack training, equipment and power to make a difference. As a result, terrorists activities were fueled.

⑤ Failure to formulate and implement a long term proactive strategy

Short-term strategies are not the solution to deal with insurgency & terrorism in Pakistan. Although, previous operations eliminated several militant hideouts and leaders but they failed to dismantle the underlying networks and ideologies driving extremism and terrorism. Therefore, it is important to address root causes of terrorism through socioeconomic development.

robust legal framework, political stability and effective community engagement.

Conclusion

Pakistan's current strategy against terrorism needs a paradigm shift from reactive to proactive. Agencies/Institutions like NACTA should conduct national level research based on primary data and develop & disseminate a robust counter-narrative in local languages to deter the rise of radicalisation and recruitment into terrorist organisations. Similarly, priority should be given to tribal and remote areas of Pakistan (especially Balochistan and KP) for socioeconomic development, development of infrastructure, provision of basic necessities and foremost, education and awareness to change the narrative and put an end to the discrimination that leads people getting recruited into such terrorist organisations. Moreover, local communities should be engaged in counter-terrorism efforts, leveraging their knowledge and support to prevent the spread of extremist ideologies. Meanwhile, it is also important to maintain a transparent communication and keeping public informed about the progress and challenges in counterterrorism efforts.



Question no. (7)

"Issues in the education system of Pakistan"

The constitution of Pakistan mandates the government

to provide free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of 5-16 years old. However, there has been little change / update in the education system of Pakistan since 2010 [IPRI]. Problems of equal access to male and female, quality of books and teaching methods, infrastructure, inequality of opportunity etc. remains an endemic across the country. Following are the major issues of our education system.

① Lack of proper planning

Although Pakistan is a signatory to Millennium Development Goals and Education for All (EFA) goals, it is unable to achieve its commitments due to lack of planning, financial mismanagement and other constraints.

② Social constraints

It is important to realize that the issue of not sending children to school is deeply rooted in the social and cultural orientation of people. Unless, people change their attitude and get proper awareness, achieving education for all is difficult.

③ Gender gap in schools

There is a huge gender gap when it comes to enrollments in schools. Issue like poverty, cultural constraints, illiteracy of parents and concerns about the safety and mobility of their daughters hinder the enrolment rates of girls. As a result, progress has been slow and it is estimated that around 22.8 million children aged 5-16 years are out-of-school in Pakistan (UNICEF).

④ Cost of education

Over time, the cost of education in private schools is increasing and can only be afforded by the wealthy people. While, the poor people only have the option of government schools but due to lack of quality of education and basic facilities, many parents hesitate. Similarly, inefficient attention has been paid to the technical and vocational education in Pakistan.

⑤ Low education budget

Education budget in Pakistan has traditionally been lower than the ones in developed nations since the times of history. According to **UNESCO, 2019**, Pakistan's permanent contribution to education was only 2.6 percent of its GDP, which is lower than the advisable 4-6 percent of a developing country.

⑥ Outdated curriculum

The issue of an outdated curriculum is perhaps the most crucial problems for the development of a country. This has resulted into lack of integrated thinking skills and problem solving in children.

⑦ Lack of quality teachers

A good teacher is the backbone of an education system. Unfortunately, the quality of teachers in Pakistan is of low quality (UNESCO). The situation is even worse in remote areas of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan where there are no qualified teachers available. Research

has found that teachers in Pakistan do not use new teaching methods and strategies of learning, most of them do not know about lesson planning and even encourages cramming of the materials by students.

Solutions to improve 'Education system' of Pakistan

① Sufficient budgetary allocation

Sufficient funding will enable the government schools to invest in updated infrastructure and resources such as computers and furniture in the schools. Similarly, budget could be allocated to update the curriculum in the schools.

② Ending gender-parity in schools

It is important to ensure that families send their daughters to school. For this purpose, the awareness of parents is necessary.

③ Investing in the trainings of teachers

Investing in the training of teachers is essential to make them stay updated with the latest teaching methods and creative learning methodology.

Similarly case studies of countries like Turkey should be studied where they require a specific 4-year degree and extensive training of an individual to be able to become a teacher.

④ Affordable education

In a country like Pakistan, education needs to be affordable so that people from all classes can send their children to schools without worrying about the economic cost/burden on them.

⑤ Foster Academia - industry linkage

Developing plans that connect academic institutions with leading industries is vital to make education more practical and to enhance students' job market readiness.



Question no. ④

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was an ardent reformer who wanted to reconcile with the modern scientific thoughts and promote new education. He was of the view that the position of Muslims in India could only improve if they set aside their differences and take up on foreign education and jobs to be able to do something for their people and community. In this regard, he took several measures.

① Recognizing the importance of English education.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan wanted to address the socioeconomic backwardness of Muslims and recognized the importance of English education for securing

government jobs. He encouraged Muslims to embrace modern education via writing and speeches. He also called upon Muslims to set aside their differences with the British and cooperate with them for their own betterment.

② Forming the Anglo-oriental College

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan established schools in Muradabad and Ghazipur and even founded the^a Scientific Society in Aligarh. This society held annual conferences, disbursed funds for educational causes and regularly published a journal on scientific subjects in both English and Urdu. He established Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental school in Aligarh which later evolved as the 'Aligarh Muslim University' and gave way to the 'Aligarh Movement'. This was a revolutionary step towards providing modern education, combining both western and Islamic knowledge.

③ Sir Syed's Literary contribution

Sir Syed's role as a journalist and a reformer led him to founding "Tehzeeb ul Aqlaq" that exemplified his commitment to intellectual discourse and social uplift of the Muslims in the subcontinent. This magazine played a vital role in giving back the Muslim identity.

④ Two-nation concept

Sir Syed believed that India was inhabited by a vast population of different races and creeds; among them

Mon		Wed		Fri		Sun
	Tue		Thu		Sat	

Date: _____

were Hindus and Muslims who were two different nations on the basis of nationality, religion, customs, cultures and historical traditions. He is regarded as the first person to lay the foundation stone of a separate country for Muslims.

←