

20/12/24

Question 2:

Critically evaluate how the Twenty-Sixth Amendment will affect the balance of power between the various pillars of the state.

I. Introduction

The Twenty-Sixth Amendment brought significant changes in the dynamics of Pakistan's polity and constitutional framework. The balance of power saw changes and separation of powers experienced alterations. The role of executive and legislature in judiciary was introduced, the undue powers of judiciary was taken away, judiciary ^{now is} ~~was~~ to supervise. Moreover, parliamentary supremacy was invoked, climate politics adopted and the religious element paid heed. The Twenty-Sixth Amendment changes the gauge of power to every organ of the state, however, what matters is that the parliamentary spirit ^{is} sustained.

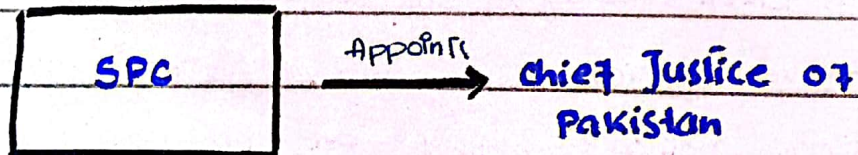
II. The Twenty-Sixth Amendment And its Implications on the Balance of Power Between the pillars of the state

On 21 October 2024, the National

Assembly of Pakistan gave the final assent to the constitutional package with 225 votes. The amendment, which changed about 25 articles, changed the power dynamics among the pillars of the state.

A. The Role of Parliament in Appointment of the Chief Justice of Pakistan

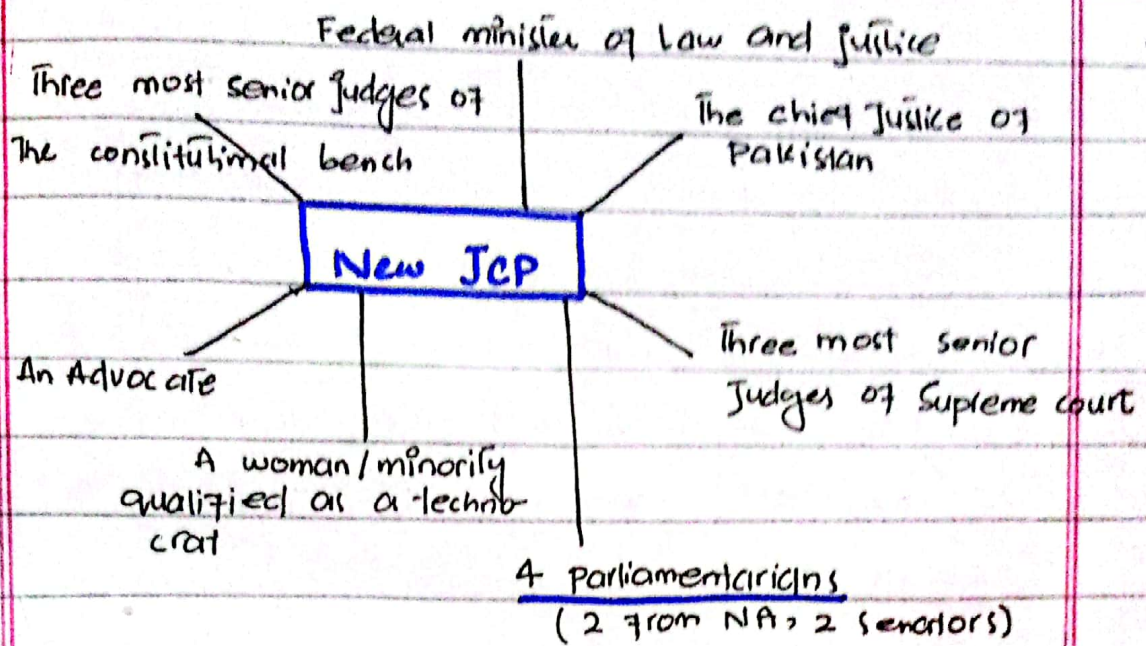
Prior to the amendment, the most senior judge was appointed as the Supreme court chief. Now, a Special Parliamentary Committee selects from among three most senior judges as mentioned in Article 175 (A).



- 8 National Assembly members
- 4 Senators

B. Judicial Commission of Pakistan: The Hybrid Selection of Judges

Now, the judicial commission of Pakistan involves the members of parliament to appoint judges. This commission, thus, involves the parliament in the judiciary.



C. Introducing Constitutional Benches:

Increasing powers of parliament and
Decreasing Domain of Judiciary

The role of parliament is increased by the fact that the ~~jud~~ constitutional bench will be appointed by the judicial commission of Pakistan that involves the members of parliament. The judiciary's power are limited by the fact that an additional bench would judge on matters related to the constitution.

D. Parliamentary Supremacy

Established

From separation of powers to

Parliamentary supremacy, the twenty-sixth amendment brings the parliament in the forefront. Contentious as it may be, Pakistan being a parliamentary system requires such a set-up. The changes in constitution do not not at all undermine judiciary as it does empower the parliament.

E. Changes Brought in Religious Clauses Strengthening State Religion

Article 2 of the constitution of Pakistan states that "Islam to be the state religion." Thus, the new amendment strengthens the Federal Shariat Court by making its judge qualified for Supreme court. Additionally, the clause in Article 38 (3), ensures "The elimination of riba by January 1 2028" instead of "as soon as possible." This strengthens the religious element of the country.

F. Introduction of Climate politics:

A New Element

prior to the amendment, climate

related policies were introduced. Now, it is an integral part of constitution. Article 9A states:

"Every person shall be entitled to clean, healthy and sustainable environment."

This makes a clean environment the legal right of Pakistani citizens empowering popular reach.

G. Reduced Judicial Activism

The long-debated suo motu powers of the supreme court have now been limited. A proviso in Article 184 says,

"provided that the supreme court shall not make an order or give direction or make a declaration on its own or in nature of suo motu ..."

Now, such an action needs prior approval from parliament.

III. Critical Analysis

The Twenty-sixth amendment altered many equilibriums in the balance of power of various organs. It established parliamentary supremacy over judicial independence. The parliament is now the strongest entity of state. However, the form of government allows the country to have that authority. What must any way matter is public welfare.

IV. Conclusion

The new amendment affected the reach of every pillar of the state. It brought forth parliamentary supremacy by increasing the power of parliament and adjusting the role of judiciary. The changes had implications on the attributed powers of each organ.

Question 3:

New wave of terrorism exposes Pakistan's policy failures to combat the menace. Evaluate

I. Introduction

According to Pakistan Institute of Conflict and Security Studies, the year 2024 saw the highest number of terrorist attacks since 2014.

The year when the Army Public School was attacked, terrorism was vowed to be uprooted. However, not only has terrorism increased, but also the trends have changed. Multiple secessionist, sectarian, and extremist groups continue to wreak havoc in the country. Although efforts have been made through the National Action Plan (NAP) and multiple counter terrorism ^{actions} ~~attacks~~, certain loopholes in Pakistan's policy made terrorism a persisting issue.

II. What is the new wave of terrorism

Pakistan is engulfed in a terrorism muddle affecting both the civilians and the security personnels. However, the new wave has targetted security personnels specifically, causing harm to the state's peace guarantors.

A. Tehrik e Taliban Pakistan (TTP): the Religious Extremists

Operating along the Pakis-tan-Afghanis-tan border, the umbrella organization of various militant groups attacks Pakistani army and politicians to destabilize the country. However, its exacerbated attacks since 2021 has harmed the country.

UN called it "the largest terrorist group in Afghanistan" that conducts cross-border attacks.

B. Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA): Rising Insurgency and Separatism

Another deadly organization is the emboldened BLA especially its suicide wing, the Majeed Brigade. In a turn of new events, this new wing conducts suicide attacks on security personnel and Chinese nationals. Killing security officers wounds the nation, however, killing international citizens mars the national image.

C. Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKAP)

Terrorism From Afar

As a splinter of ISIS, the ISKP operates in Pakistan by the name of religion. The attacks by the deadly group have caused instability in the region. An example of attacks by the group is the 2023 Mastung blast that killed dozens and wounded much more.

III. How the New Wave Exposes Pakistan's Policy Failures to Combat Terrorism

The counterterrorism strategy in Pakistan appears to be in a limbo. Although concerned entities claim of ending the wave, the practical realities tell another tale.

A. Failure in Enacting All Provisions of National Action Plan

The National Action Plan established in 2014 following the deadly Peshawar school attack was done limited to curb terrorism. Following issues persist:

- continued formation of militias.
- religious extremism continues
- elements involved in sectarian violence
pe. continue to escape the national
scrutiny
- madrassas are not regularized
- banned outfits continue to operate
under different names.

B. Inapt policies for many regions

Not every region can be dealt in a similar fashion. The same policies involved to curb terrorism in Punjab cannot be implemented in Balochistan. The people are different, their grievances differ. The people of, for instance, sparsely populated areas are prone to negotiations. Resistance causes them to rebel. Thus, every region must be dealt accordingly since the federal state of Pakistan has multiple nations.

IV. Conclusion

In conclusion, terrorism is on rise in Pakistan. The country needs better policies to deal with the changing security dynamics.

Question 5:

Pakistan's international relevance depends on its domestic repositioning and the choices made at home to strengthen the democracy, establish durable political stability, provide competent governance and address the trust deficits between state and the people.

I. Introduction

"You are what you eat," goes the axiom. Similarly, Pakistan's international image will not change unless its internal issues are resolved. Democratic integrity, persisting political stability, good governance and popular acceptance are a key to the success of any state. Pakistan must first address these issues that plague the country's relevance in international forum. All of these have existed in different instances of history but never simultaneously. If resolved, the global standing of Pakistan will improve to a great extent.

II. Steps to Strengthen Pakistan's Democracy

The democracy of the country must be strengthened.

A. Fair Elections

B. Right to Fair Trial and Dissent

C. Uncensored Press

11. Initiatives To Establish Sustained Political Stability

The following initiatives must be taken for this regard:

A. Reduced External Interference

B. Opposition To Dissent Without Suppression

C. Allowing Completion of Terms

IV. Policies to Implement Good Governance

A. Active Political Engagement

B. Bureaucratic Efficiency

C. Accountability of the Officials

vi. Strategies to Establish Trust Between people and the state

A. Reducing Media Curses

B. Swift Justice provision

C. Transparency in State Instruments

vi. Conclusion

The international relations of Pakistan will not improve unless it focuses on the internal issues.

Better democratic conditions, political stability, good governance and popular trust will win Pakistan a positive image and relevance in the world.

Question 6:

Pakistan's inability for many years to frame long-term economic policy led to ad hoc, spasmodic and muddled goals that lacks any strategic direction for long-term economic considerations. Discuss.

I. Introduction

Most of the woes of the country are directly or indirectly related to the economy. However, the debilitating economy lacks proper direction for long-term. Decisions are often taken at ad hoc basis, only to solve issues at hand. However, a consideration for long-term goals will not ^{only} alleviate the state from its economic ailment but also ensure that the issues do not re-emerge in future.

II. Decisions that Led to a Debilitating Economy

Various steps in the past and recent times led to a dwindling economy. It was a mix of actions by policy-makers and executive as well as private sectors leading

To the current fiasco.

A. Focusing on Debt

The country has resorted to the IMF for over 20 times since its independence. This leads to a persistent debt trap.

B. Not Investing on Productive Projects

Investing on developmental projects only to win public support during elections or a flawed policy.

C. Retaining Loss-making State-owned Enterprises

SOEs such as the Pakistan steel mills and DIA have been in loss for decades now.

D. Failed Negotiations with Bretton Woods System

The IMF, for instance, imposes harsh conditionalities

in Pakistan. Pakistan must negotiate on easier terms.

E. Defective Tax Net

The net taxes excludes the real estate and agriculture as of now. Given the fact that both have a GDP share.

F. Neither Industrial Nor Agricultural

The country's economy is neither agricultural nor industrial. It was once agrarian, now it is none.

G. Role of few private Giants

Few private entities have undue influence on government policies making the laws compliant to their needs.

H. Political Instability

A stable polity remedies all other problems. Pakistan political instability is contentious in its economic growth.

III. Way forward : Reviving Pakistan's Economy

The government needs to focus on long-term goals instead of short-term ad hoc objectives.

A. Increasing Export

Increasing export would increase the Bop, putting the economy in surplus.

B. Extending Tax Net

The tax-to-GDP ratio must increase from 6% towards the global average of 15%.

C. Privatizing some SOEs

Loss-making SOEs must be privatized.

D. Skill-based Education

Education goes a long way. Only graduates are not sufficient, they must also be skilled.

IV. Conclusion

Conclusively, the economic woes of Pakistan are a result of unaddressed issues. There are short-term, emergency based plans. The policies must shift to include long-term plans for a sustainable economy.