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Q NO 3:

± POLITICAL STABILITY
OR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY:
WHAT PAKISTAN NEEDS TO
BE ENAMORED WITH? ±

Introduction:

Pakistan is in hot waters, especially in political and economic conditions. This has resulted in various problems which are major hurdles for the country to move towards progress and prosperity. To overcome these obstacles, Pakistan requires effective policies, aiming at politico-economic reforms. It has been well-noted by many international organizations that by blending political and economic reforms, Pakistan can strive towards stability, sustainable growth and fruitful democracy. Hence political stability is a sine qua non to improve the economic growth of Pakistan. So, a combination of both is necessary for Pakistan.

"Good government is one of the most important factors in economic growth and social wellbeing."

~ Joe Lonsdale.

Understanding the relationship between political stability and economic growth and prosperity.

Political stability is a condition where countries' political systems continue without any interruption from other actors. For instance, there is regular holding of elections, strengthening of legislature, executive and judiciary, and the non-interference of non-political actors in the administrative machinery of state.

On the other hand, economic prosperity implies the improvement in the economic conditions of the people, their living standards and jobs. In fact, a country with a strong and stable political structure can experience stable economic growth. According to IMF report, data from 113 countries

from 1950 to 1982 shows that GDP growth is significantly lower in countries and periods with a high propensity of government collapse. Thus, there is an obvious link between political stability and the economic stability of the country where former is the precondition for the latter.

“Without political stability there can be no economic prosperity (...), that's the bottom line.”

~ Ray Janovich

Persistent Situation of political instability in Pakistan and its impacts on economy.

Pakistan has been experiencing fluctuation in growth rate since 1970, when a great political turmoil resulted in the war, due to which Pakistan had to face a great loss of men and money. As Pakistan recovered from the aftershocks of war, the growth rate became sustainable. However, it started to diminish again

at the end of 1990s, strictly due to political unrest and inconsistent policies. Even today, the weak political institutions and administration have left various loopholes in the country's political system. It is also discussed by D Akbar S-Zaidi in his book - Issues in Pakistan's economy.

Additionally, there is a meagre check and balance among three state's pillars, with each pillar trying to increase its power at the expense of others. Furthermore, non-state actors like religious and political organizations such as Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan, exploit the Islamic character of the constitution to create violent protests. These protests affect the country's law and order, increasing extremism. These things resulted in political instability, impacting Pakistan's economic growth.

How is political stability mandatory for economic prosperity in Pakistan?

Political instability has caused multiple problems for Pakistan, including a lack of foreign direct investment, vulnerable law and order situation, rampant corruption and nepotism, and interference of military elites in the country's political system. All of these issues have wreaked havoc on the country's economic development, increasing inflation and poverty and decreasing people's living standards. According to finance division, the economic survey gave a comparison of the key economic indicators as:

Year	GDP growth	Exports	FDI	CPI Inflation
2022	6.1%	\$28.83bn	\$1.4bn	11%
2023	0.29%	\$21.2bn	\$1.0bn	28.2%

Government has missed all key indicators in financial year 2022-2023 putting economy in a nosedive. All this has the roots in the political chaos, public unrest and unstable policies.

Following are the reasons for political stability necessity of economic development in Pakistan.

- (i) **The smooth running of the state with proper implementation of policies.**

Economic growth cannot be achieved if the country's policies are not executed religiously; the gap in theory and ~~room~~ practice creates room for uncertainty.

"developing policies with a lack of implementation is like planting a tree that does not produce a fruit."

- (ii) **Increase productivity and employment opportunities.**

The political stability can uplift economy through increased productivity of industrial units and the creation of employment opportunities. According to a report, Pakistan has 55%.

youth population having productive minds, but 8 million people left country due to unemployment. In this way, Pakistan is left with economic destabilization due to this flawed system favouring nepotism over talent.

(iii) Monitoring of institutional efficiencies.

One of the most important aspects of political stability in Pakistan would be efficient monitoring of institutions which can help its economy.

(iv) Making efficient and long term policies.

Political stability implies the efficient handling of a country's natural resources due to government's long term policies.

According to a report, the GDP growth rate in Ayub's era is 6%. and in fact country prosper during military rule. One of the reasons for this is long term policies.

(v) Creating an environment lucrative for investment.

The political stability in Pakistan attracts foreign

investment, paving the way for economic development. In Pakistan, the lack of political stability and worsened law and order situation has resulted in low FDI throughout the history.

Thus political stability is the need of hours to enhance the chances of investment in country. As a result, country will get the required boost and flow.

How can political stability be attained in Pakistan?

As evident from the above reasons, political stability in Pakistan would lead to economic prosperity, so it is pertinent for Pakistan to take pragmatic steps to attain political stability. First, the independence of judiciary needs to be maintained. Second, for attaining the political stability, the national interest need to be above the personal and vested interests of political and military elites of the country. Third,

There is a need of effective monitoring system. Fourth, the law and order situation in the country needs to be managed well to deter the notorious elements in the society such as chaos, extremism etc. If these steps are followed religiously, the menace of political instability will be managed in Pakistan.

Critical Analysis :

In critical diagnosis, various elements in the country have remained responsible for the worsened political scenario of the country. First and foremost is the role of military leadership in interfering in the country's political affairs. Moreover, the powerplay between the opposition party and the government has largely impacted the country's political system. The main objective to gain power and seat^{has} blinded them to the country's national interests. Therefore, this has negatively

impacted the political stability of Pakistan, hindering economic growth.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, political stability is a prerequisite for the economic prosperity of a country. In contrast, political instability shortens the policymakers' horizons leading to substantial short-term macroeconomic policies. Unluckily, the political instability in Pakistan has badly damaged its economy. Despite its enormous economic resources, the economy has remained in dark shadows. Thus, there is no choice to choose between political stability or economic growth, instead both go hand in hand with each other for the well-being and progress of the country.

Q NOS:

EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL SYSTEM AND DEMOCRACY AT MERCY OF FACTORS SINCE INCEPTION

Introduction:

Pakistan, a country that gained independence in 1947, has struggled with the evolution of its democratic system since its inception. Despite more than seven decades of existence, democracy in Pakistan has been marked by a continuous dilemma and has failed to establish firm roots. The enunciation of events initially faced by Pakistan such as riots & refugees, wars, weak institutions, assets issues will delve into factors and challenges that are faced during the journey of evolution of political system. Moreover, the role of political parties, military interventions,

weak institutions, socio-economic factors, external influences, and the role of civil society and media have impeded the growth of democracy in Pakistan.

Pakistan's political system and democracy at a glance.

Pakistan adopted a democratic system of governance upon independence in 1947. The country's constitution, formulated in 1956, after a straggling journey of 9 years. Pakistan's political and democratic journey has been tumultuous, characterized by initial challenges, military interventions, political instability. The ongoing dilemma surrounding the evolution of Pakistan's political system and democracy witnessed:

(i) Challenges right after the independence

Pakistan got independence in 1947, but right after the inception, it was thrown into

a grave of issues such a flood of riots and refugees, which has to settled. Then, there is unequal division of assets followed by Kashmir war in 1948. Following this was the issue of Indus water dispute. So, Pakistan entangled in many issues which made its political journey very difficult.

(ii) Military Interventions

Despite the initial challenges, Pakistan managed to develop its political system and framed constitution of 1956, but that was abrogated just after two years. The military has wielded significant influence over the political landscape, often interrupting democratic processes and governance. Prominent examples include the coups in 1958, 1977, 1999, which had long-lasting effects on political and democratic institutions.

(iii) Dysfunctional institutions

Pakistan's democratic institutions have grappled with corruption,

inefficiency, and a lack of accountability. The judiciary, bureaucracy, and electoral bodies have faced criticism for their inability to deliver justice, provide efficient public services and conduct fair and transparent elections. In every election either of 2013, 2018, there is a huge chaos over rigging and it leads to political unrest.

(iv) Electoral Challenges

Pakistan has faced challenges in conducting free and fair elections. The elections of 1970, the very first election remain alleged of rigging and ultimately leads to separation of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.

These issues have raised concerns about the legitimacy and transparency of the electoral system, undermining public confidence in democratic institutions.

(v) Socioeconomic Factors:

Pakistan's socioeconomic factors characterized by widespread poverty, lack

of education, unequal economic divide, and regional disparities poses challenges to democratic development.

Socioeconomic grievances often fuel political unrest and ethnic tensions, which can destabilize the democratic process and hinder inclusive governance.

(vi) Geostrategic influences:

Pakistan's political system has also been influenced by external factors.

Foreign powers have at times exerted their influence on Pakistani politics, impacting the country's democratic trajectory. International aid and conditionalities attached to it have shaped policy decisions, sometimes limiting the autonomy of democratic process.

What factors have tangled the political evolution and democracy in Pakistan.

Multiple challenges have been pivotal in weak political system and degeneration of democracy in Pakistan:

- Role of political parties and dynastic politics.
- Military interventions
- Corruption legacy
- Civil Society and media
- External influence

Prospects for Political and Democratic Consolidation.

Pakistan has seen some positive developments, including peaceful transitions of power through elections. Constitutional reforms are crucial to strengthen democratic institutions, ensure the separation of power, and protect human rights. Reforms should focus on enhancing the independence

and efficiency of the institutions such as judiciary and electoral bodies. There is a dire need to improve the education standard, awareness about the political set-up. Most of all, there is a need of social reforms, need to change the attitude of people so that they are aware of their political participation, their role in the process.

• Critical Analysis: Ups and Downs in the democratic and political journey.

To articulate critically, democracy and politics in Pakistan exclaims the Marxism conflict embedded in the political culture of Pakistan where a dummy system at the local level is orchestrated to serve the objectives of elite class encapsulating the military elite, the feudalists, the political elite, the media elite and

the religious elite. There is a need for constitutional reforms, effective governance and civic awareness to tackle the challenges and find the potential solutions for democratic consolidation in Pakistan.

Conclusion:

The idea of the substance is that the evolution of the democratic and political system in Pakistan has plagued by persistent challenges and dilemmas, preventing it from firmly establishing its roots even after more than seven decades of existence. The road to democratic and political consolidation may be long and arduous, there is a hope for stronger political system in future. Hence, with concerted efforts from all stakeholders, including political leaders, civil society, media, and citizens, Pakistan can overcome its historical challenges and bring a sustainable political and democratic culture that upholds the principles of inclusivity, accountability, and good governance.