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Political Science

Q. 1

Local Govt. System: Democracy's Nursery

Introduction:

John Locke calls democracy the best form of government. Francis Fukuyama says in his essay "The end of History" that democracy will be the last standing principle in the world. Democracy, in fact, the system which provides the greatest autonomy to citizens. However, it is the local govt. system that actually lays the foundation of true democracy. As Rousseau said that the community should be ruled by itself, in local govt, the citizens rule themselves. Local govt. is the primary tier of governance. It is based on the principle that the solution of the problem should be originated from the place where the

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Problem aised. from local govt. is the breeding ground of politicians. It is the bedrock of democracy. Following are some essential principles of this system.

1- Transfer of power to local communities:

There are two basic models of governance.

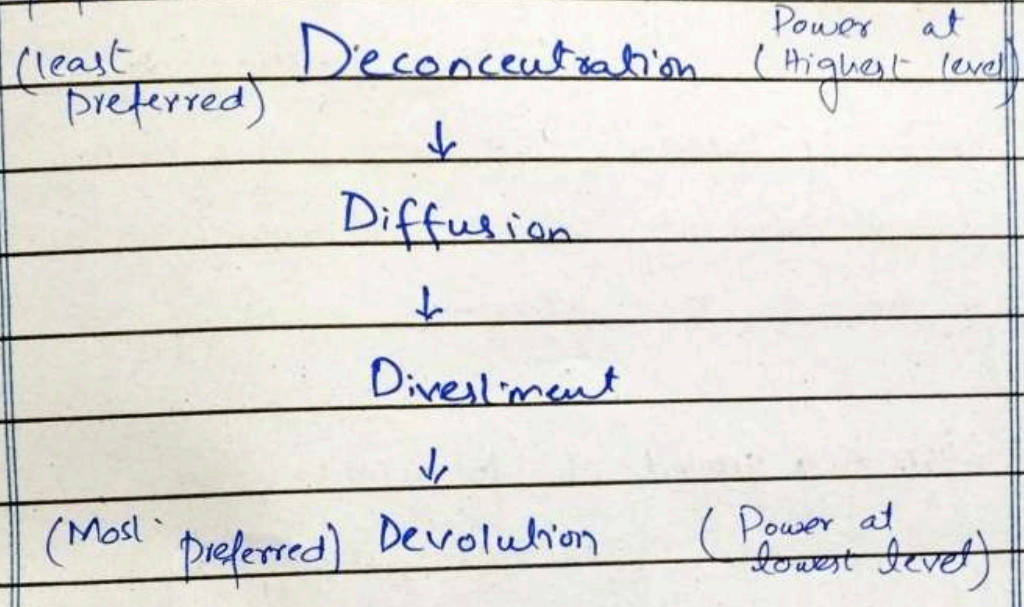
i) Top down Approach

ii) Bottom up Approach

Local govt. ensures the bottom up approach of governance. Local executive take up the responsibility of their area. All important issues like Healthcare, education, law and order, revenue collection etc are managed by locally elected executives. In the top down approach, policies are made up at the highest level of authority and are implemented at lower level. In local govt, the bottom up approach is

followed where all decisions and policies are made at community levels.

There are various levels of devolution of power



2. Community Engagement:

citizens actively take part in planning and policy formulation. This is essential for the growth and development of a country. When people themselves create rules and regulations for themselves, they follow it voluntarily. Hence, there is continuation of policies even if the central govt. changes after sometime. **Ishtat Hussain**

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writes in "Governing the Ungovernable" that those policies never succeed which are made without the consensus of people.

Contemporary Relevance:

"Citizen Policing or community Policing". In the Police order 2002, community Policing was encouraged as a tool of crime deterrence.

3. Breeding ground of politicians:

True democracy

can only exist if politicians are polished from the lowest level.

In Pakistan, almost all political parties follow either personality politics or dynastic politics. People vote on the basis of their allegiance to a specific person, rather than on the basis of performance. Hence, leaders are made from the top 1-2% of the country's population. All great leaders of the

would started their political career from their own towns and communities. Local govt. enables politicians to learn from the smallest level. They make mistakes and learn so that they don't make such errors at the top level

4. Accountability and Transparency:

Local govt. system ensure accountability. When politicians go door to door for their campaign, they meet with public. However, after the elections end, they don't come back to their constituencies again. With local govt. system, the local executive live in the community. Urban council, tehsil council and mayor's office is located within the same area. The councillors, nazims and mayors can be easily approached by people. In World Bank's governance indicators, Voice and Accountability is given 1st rank as a measure of good governance

5. Kerala model : The success story of local govt. system

Kerala local govt. system is one of the most effective local govt. system in the world. More than 52% of its members are women. Schools, colleges, district hospitals, all are managed by local govt. Local govt. is funded by the central and provincial govt., but it also generates its own revenue as well. Kerala is now one of the most developed states in southern India.

6. Conclusion:

Democracy is the govt. by the people for the people. The true meaning of democracy is the empowerment of local govt. system. It ensures the devolution of power to the lowest level and secures the best of all citizens in state's policies.

Section B.

B.No.4

Necessity of strong political system for a strong Economy, Do you think democracy cant function without Capitalism. Explain.

Introduction:

Joe Studwell writes in his book "How Asia works" that stable economy is required for a country's prosperity; however, stable political conditions are required for a sustainable economy. Economy doesn't depend on labour, capital or resources, it depends on the management of resources. Only a strong political system can effectively govern a state. Effectiveness of government goes hand in hand with the efficiency of economy. Firstly, a strong political system ensures consistency in

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policies. If policies are continued without interruption, it improves the trust of investors. Stable political situation also ensure the safety, security and growth of markets without any external intervention or manipulation. Therefore, it can be said that a strong political system is necessary for a very strong economy.

Nexus of economy and politics: characteristics

1- Continuation of Policies:

In the second half of twentieth century, Ronald Reagan of USA and Margaret Thatcher of UK decided to move away from the policy of protectionism. Western world collectively adopted the Washington Consensus. Neoliberalism became the new method of governance and business. Since then, the global north has stuck to its decisions. They made a policy and have continued it till now. The reason is that

political systems of the western world are really strong. There have been no martial laws, regime changes or toppling of governments. Today, almost 84% of the world's wealth is concentrated in the hands of top 15% of the states. The reason is simple: continuation and consistency.

2. Investor's trust:

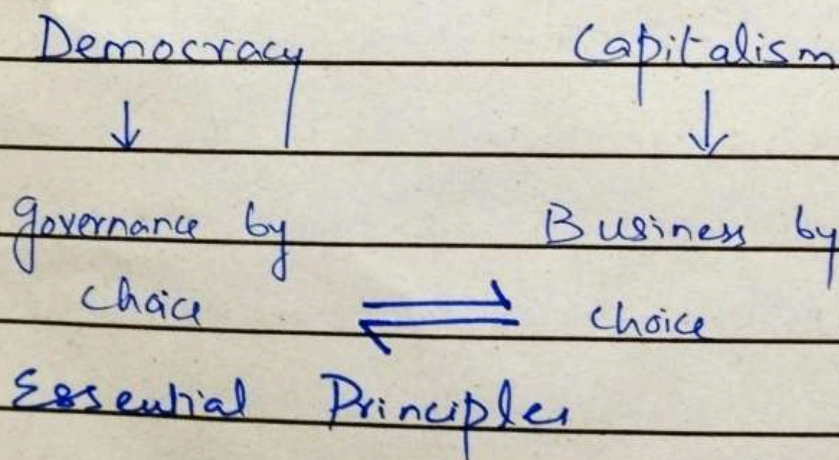
Nobody wants to put their money in place of political unrest. One example is the arab states like Iraq, Libya, Syria, Lebanon etc where chaos and anarchy has been rampant for decades. The result is that these countries are at the verge of economic fallout. Today, it is the era of globalization. Without foreign investment and trade, a country cannot make concrete progress. Political instability erodes the trust of investors as there is high likelihood of failure.

Stability and Security of markets:

Markets need

a stable and secure environment for business transactions. A politically weak system cannot provide effective security to markets. There are two types of stability: on ground and fiscal. On ground stability means rule of law. Fiscal stability means the stability of a currency's net worth over a period of time. Both types require stable political conditions.

Democracy and Capitalism:



Both democracy and capitalism have the same fundamental

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Principles. The basic idea of both is Freedom of choice. If one has the right to elect the president of the country, one should also have the liberation of means of earning. In Capitalism, a person is allowed to build his business. He makes a product that he owns. He builds his assets by using his earnings. The profits multiply over time. Given the chances, capital and autonomy, any person can make tons of money. The markets are free. Government, which is selected by the people, follow the will of people. As Rousseau said "The general will is my will", the general will is accepted and followed.

The idea that all individuals are free is deeply rooted in democracy as well as capitalism. One cannot ethically exist without the other.

Contemporary Examples:

USA and Capitalism.

US is one of the largest democracy in the world. The president, senators and representatives are directly elected by a free and fair election. USA is also the largest capitalist market in the world. Where the freedom of choosing electables was given, the freedom of business was also given.

China and Communism:

China follows a single party political system. People don't have the choice to choose from various political parties. Similarly, China doesn't follow a capitalist economic system. Although markets are given sufficient freedom, they are kept under check of the government.

Conclusion:

Economy doesn't work independent of a country's political system. In fact, it follows the politics of a country. If political situation is stable, economy is stable. If politics is done with freedom, business is done with the similar freedom. A state's economy is a direct reflection of state's politics.

Q No. 5.

Discuss major issues of balance of power and devaluation of power in Pakistan.

Introduction:

Montesquieu gave the philosophy of separation of powers. Earlier, Aristotle had also opined that all powers should not be invested in one absolute ruler. The concept of balance of power lies on the

divisions of three pillars of state -

Executive

Legislature

Judiciary

Each pillar has a separate role and separate powers. All institutions are

autonomous; however, there is some

check and balance on each by the

other. This ensures smooth running of

the govt. The constitution of Pakistan

which is currently in force, was promulgated

on 14th August, 1973. According to that,

Pakistan is a democratic country with

President as its head of state, PM as the

chief executive, a bicameral legislature

and an independent judiciary. However,

the power tussles between the three

pillars of state has greatly hampered

Pakistan's growth and development

Balance of Power: Challenges in Pakistan

1. Judicial Activism.

Black's law dictionary

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defines Judicial activism as "a philosophy of lawmaking whereby judges allow their personal opinion among with other legal factors to influence decision making in the court of law". In 1803, in the *Marbury v. Madison* case, the U.S Supreme Court's chief justice John Marshall established that SC can overrule any decision of the parliament that is in contradiction with fundamental human rights. The right of judicial review has been wrongly used in Pakistan's history quite a few times. In the 60's, courts gave the verdict on the basis of doctrine of necessity. Many wrongdoing were justified by the judiciary under the umbrella of this doctrine. Only in the past twenty years, four prime ministers have been sentenced or disqualified by courts.

Article 184(3) of The

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constitution gave this power to judiciary. Under article 204, judiciary can hold people accountable on contempt of court. The principle of judicial review is often criticised by Analysts as the violation of parliament's sovereignty.

2. Hybrid democracy:

Pakistan stands on 104th position of democracy index in the entire world. According to Transparency International, the type of democracy in Pakistan falls in the hybrid zone. Political parties are dismantled every few years. Executives are dismissed and elections are rigged. As the results, the people who come to sit on the treasury benches of parliament don't have sovereign power for decision

making.

c. Institutional Weakness:

Mr. Acemoglu wrote in the book "Why Nations fail" that it is not the geography or wealth of a country that makes it prosperous, it is actually the institutions of a state which make it powerful.

Institutions are the backbone of a govt. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, there are very few functional institutions.

In constitution, judiciary is independent but Pakistan ranks on the 129th number in "rule of law index". Parliament is supreme but not a single prime minister has ever completed his term. Constitution is a written document that has provided governing principles of the state. But these principles have not been translated into reality due to which power tussles continue in the country.

Devolution of power: unfulfilled dream

Article 140A and article 32 of the constitution of Pakistan provide the basis for a local govt system and the devolution of power to the lowest level. Unfortunately, the process of devolution is far from completion due to a variety of factors

a. Provincial overpowering

Under the 18th amendment, power was devoluted to the province from the centre and from the province to the local govt. Provinces have enough power of decision making; however, the local govt. are devoid of powers and responsibility. An example is that the chief officer of a province can suspend the

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head of local govt. within a
tehsil of a province

2. Lack of funds and capacity:

Even those functions which were transferred to local govt could not be carried out effectively. The reason is that local govt lack the apparatus, finances and capacity to carry out the tasks that they are made responsible for. Consequently, power devolutions remain incomplete and doesn't serve its goal objective.

Conclusion:

Since 1947, Pakistan has been grappling with the problems of governance. The solution of these problems is institutional growth and human development.

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Q: No 7

Foreign Policy of Pakistan: National Interest

Pakistan's foreign Policy has been through many phases. As the governments changed through the years, there were changes observed in the country's foreign policy. International relations are based on the convergence and divergence of mutual interests. Where the interest of the two countries align, there is deepening of strategic ties. Pakistan is located in a hostile neighborhood. Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India, all share a mutual disliking for Pakistan. Throughout the years, the country has made various decisions about foreign policy and international relations, which may not seem consistent over time. But, they were always for the protection

of national sovereignty and national interests.

It is true that Pakistanis are an emotional nation, and these emotions do sometimes reflect in Islamabad's policies; however, emotions are not the guiding principles of policymaking. Following are some of the examples:

1- US as a defense ally:

In 1948, Pakistan fought its first war with India over Kashmir. Since then, the country realized that it needed a strong outside partner. When the opportunity presented, Pakistan took it. In the 1960's, when Pakistan was a member of SEATO and CENTO, it received billions of dollar military and non-military aid from US. Similarly, in the early 2000s, Pakistan-US ties once again strengthened. This time, along with financial support, Pakistan joined US against Afghan and Pakistan Taliban.

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2. Relations with Afghan:

Pak-Afghan relations have often been criticised by policy experts. Pakistan decided to support US in the 1980's because of its own survival. It was a matter of strategic depth for the country. If Russia had conquered Afghanistan, its next goal would be set on Pakistan. Pakistan's decision to support NATO was based only on strategic interests.

3. Indo-Pak hostility:

In the past two years, Pakistan has called for a bi-lateral dialogue with India almost 3-4 times. It is the hostility across border which prevents any reconciliation. Delhi's obsession with Mumbai attacks is the reason of the cold Indo-Pak relations. Pakistan has repeatedly asked for peace talks but India's

Stubborn attitude hinders the path of stability between two nuclear weapon states.

~~Conclusion~~ CHINA - Pak friendship.

One of the biggest success stories of Pakistan's foreign relations in Pak-China relations. Sweeter than honey and taller than Himalayas, their friendship has stood the test of time. CPEC, the G2 B & Project, is the living proof of Pakistan's dynamic foreign policy.

Middle East and Pakistan:

Pakistan has always had good relations with middle eastern countries. In 2017, Pakistan refused to join Saudi Arabia in Yemen war. Although Pakistan has a religious as well as economic interdependence with Saudi, the decision was taken to protect the interests of the state.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's problems are not due to its foreign policy. These are mostly economic and political in nature. Currently, the country has very few friends on the global stage due to internal instability and fiscal crisis. Foreign policy although changed over time, but that is the very essence of a policy, as Joe Studwell said: "Even good policies that do not change over time become bad ones".