

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS

Question no. 2

The twenty-sixth amendment was in process for a long time and was recently passed in October. The amendment consisted of 22 clauses with the main focus on the branches of Judiciary. It mainly addressed the appointment of Chief Justice of Pakistan, establishment of constitutional bench and abolition of interest by January 1st, 2028.

1) Main Changes in Twenty-sixth Amendment

The amendment was mainly focused on curbing the powers of judiciary branch which brought into question the trichotomy of power and independence of judiciary. Following are the main changes brought through the twenty-sixth amendment.

a) Appointment of Chief Justice of Pakistan

Before the Amendment, the Chief Justice of Pakistan was appointed on seniority basis. The most senior Justice used to be selected as the Chief Justice. Now according to the twenty-sixth amendment,

Chief Justice will be selected from among the three senior most Judges by committee comprising of Prime Minister, parliamentary members, senate, etc. Due to which the ruling party would have an upperhand and a strong hold over Judiciary branch.

b) Constitutional benches

Before the amendment, all cases regarding constitutional matters, civil and criminal nature were dealt under local courts, high courts and the supreme court. Now according to the latest amendment, constitutional bench would be formed within the courts to deal with the constitutional cases. This bench would comprise of multiple judges whose head need not be the Chief Justice.

c) Removal of CJP and suo moto powers

Before the amendment, CJP was appointed for a tenure of three years. After the amendment, the removal of CJP has been made easy. Prime Minister can remove the CJP on no specific basis. The amendment has left the removal procedure very vague. The Judges no longer have the power to use suo moto which has significantly dipped their hold.

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d) Abolition of Interest

The amendment has announced abolition of interest by January 1st, 2028 across Pakistan. This is a step towards forming a true Islamic state.

2) Effects on Political System

The twenty-sixth amendment would have significant impact on the Political System of Pakistan. While the effects are yet to be seen, some probable consequences can be analyzed.

a) Trichotomy of Power

Since the amendment has significantly clipped the powers of judiciary, the trichotomy of Power is in question. The parliament will have a strong influence over judiciary due to which the judicial branch will no longer be independent.

b) Encroachment of Judiciary into Executive

There ~~are~~ ^{were} multiple instances where the Judiciary ~~int~~ interfered into executive matters using suo moto powers. Now since the amendment has taken the suo moto powers from judges, they no longer would be able to encroach the

Executive branch. This is a step towards controlling the unhealthy influence of Judiciary giving room to Executive to flourish.

c) Supremacy of Parliament

In many developed countries, parliament has the supreme hold. The twenty-sixth amendment ensure supremacy of Parliament which is a great step towards advancement for the country.

d) Imbalance of Power between ruling party and opposition

One of the drawbacks of this amendment is that it will give unnecessary powers to the ruling party. The ruling party would have a strong hold over executive as well as the Judicial branch leaving no room for opposition. In truly democratic countries, both ruling and opposition parties have equal hold which ensures proper balance. As it is said, "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." In this case the ruling party would somehow have absolute powers.

2) **Power of Executive Branch**
The Executive branch would become extremely powerful and will have strong hold over government leaving no room for external forces.

1) **More freedom for democracy**
The amendment has empowered the executive branch which will help it gain strong hold over government. The encroachment of Judiciary into executive would no longer be possible giving freedom to executive and democracy in the country.

3) **Conclusion**
The amendment would surely prove fruitful for the nation. The change in appointment procedure of the Chief Justice might give unnecessary powers to the ruling party but the abolition of *suo moto* is a positive step since it has been exploited by multiple judges to encroach ~~it~~ into executive affairs. This amendment is a step towards freedom of democracy.

Question no. 3

For establishing a functioning and robust democracy, it is very essential to have a sane followership and a moral and educated leader.

1) Establishment of Robust Democracy

Throughout the world where democracy has been successful, we will find certain qualities and traits among leaders as well as followers which play the key role. In the following paragraphs we will discuss the steps towards establishing functioning and robust democracy.

a) Healthy Followership

It refers to people who have sound body and mind which will help them distinguish between ~~the~~ right and wrong. They will be able to make correct decisions for themselves. Healthy Followership would ensure that a good leader is appointed. In this way corrupt people in politics would be sidelined and only sincere ones would rise.

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b) Educated Followership

Education helps people determine between ~~is~~ right and wrong. An educated person is more aware about politics and s/he is able to make better decisions for her/himself. When the followers are educated, they will be able to select good leaders. They will not fall prey to illegal practices by corrupt politicians.

c) Participatory Followership

When people are allowed to actively participate in politics, they are able to convey their demands to the leaders. They are able to ensure that their problems are addressed. A leader who is unaware of the problems of the public would never be able to solve them. Therefore, it is essential that the followers are allowed to participate and they show active participation.

d) Educated Leadership

Through education, a person becomes more aware about the problems. S/he becomes more mature and capable of handling

different situations. Therefore, it is essential that a standard is set for all those in leadership. There should be a minimum level of education that the people need to attain before they join politics. Moreover, there should be educational programs for the leaderships for them to stay updated.

e) Morally ground leadership

It is said, "Actions speak louder than words". People would be more satisfied by a moral leader and would be compelled to follow him/her. Therefore, it is essential for a leader to be a good person before s/he preaches others.

2) Conclusion:

For establishing a robust democracy, education is the key. Not just the leader but ~~the~~ also the followers need to be ~~education~~ educated so they are able to make wise decisions for themselves. Moreover, education is also essential for establishing a good image of a country for the world to see. Additionally, the gap between leaders and followers should be reduced so that the problems of the public

are properly addressed.

Question no. 7

Pakistan is facing numerous challenges today including high unemployment, inflation, weak law and order, influx in crime rate, etc. All these problems arise mainly from the weak economic state of the country. Today we are drowning in problems but the elites are not ready to address the root causes. Rather it is busy in seeking short term solutions which ultimately create greater issues for the country in the long run.

1) Economic Condition of Pakistan

For a long time, Pakistan has been facing economic difficulties and they never seem to end. Harvard Business School published a report title, "When will this nazuk-mar end?" in which it discussed the history of Pakistan and how it never seems to get rid of its difficulties.

2) Myopic Approach of Elites

The main reason behind the crippling economy of Pakistan is the myopic approach of elites. The elites of are always after seeking loans and bail outs from International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB). They do not work towards self-sustenance of the country. They always look for short term solutions and the public especially the poor pay the price.

a) Heavy Taxes

The elites impose heavy taxes by raising the cry of "Pakistan in danger". Mostly the poor and salaried class bear the brunt of it all while the big business tycoon evade taxes through corrupt practices.

b) Foreign loans

The elites look for easy way out and seek foreign loans to provide temporary relief to the citizens of the country. But that relief does not last for long and the government has to ask for more loans. This creates a vicious cycle of loans and debt which seems impossible to break. Today,

every citizen of Pakistan is heavily indebted to International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB).

3) Long-Term Solutions

It is high time that we now look for long-term solutions that provide permanent relief to citizens of Pakistan instead of relying on IMF and WB.

Following steps should be taken to provide solution to problems prevalent in our society:

a) Economic Self-reliance

Today huge amount of budget is spent on imports and very few products are exported creating a huge trade deficit. The imports of essential items should be reduced and their local production should be encouraged. Proper checks should be imposed to ensure quality so that trust is built among consumers for local products.

b) Promotion of Business

A healthy environment should be created ensuring growth of businesses. Moreover, free trade policies should be imposed to encourage people to invest in Pakistan.

c) Facilitating Industries

Industries should be facilitated to promote local production of products. This will help reduce dependency on imports and ultimately will give rise to local products.

d) Investment in Research and Development

Investment in R&D is essential to compete with the modern world. Only through R&D, we will be able to invent new products which will help ~~us~~ in turning our economy from trade deficit to trade surplus.

4) Conclusion:

To seek permanent solution to our problems, it is essential that we address the root causes and work on economic self-reliance, promotion of businesses, facilitating industries, investing in Research and Development, etc instead of relying on loans and bailouts from International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Only through these steps can we ensure a secure future for the country.

Question no. 8

1) Major Components of National Integration

There are multiple components of National Integration such as rule of law, equality among all, ~~writ~~ writ of state, etc. By ensuring these components, national integration can be guaranteed.

a) Rule of law

For integration and cohesion within a society, it is essential that there is rule of law. All citizens are treated equally in the eyes of law. Every person is held accountable for his actions and no violator runs free. Rule of law is essential for creating harmony in society and ensuring trust in government.

b) Equality among all

When there is no discrimination on the basis of caste, color or creed and all citizens of state are treated with equality, harmony prevails. It gives rise to national integration.

1) Writ of State

When the writ of state is strong, it helps to control any propaganda or conflict that may arise by the influence of enemy states. It ensures peace in society.

2) Issues that Hamper National Integration

Multiple factors including, unjust distribution of resources, weak law and order, hybrid warfare, etc bring chaos to society and hamper national integration. Some of these factors will be discussed below:

a) Unjust distribution of Resources

When there is unjust distribution of resources among citizens of a state, feeling of deprivation and hatred arises. It also gives rise to crime as people resort to illegal means to acquire their due share.

Resultantly, society falls prey to disorder which hampers its national integration.

People also lose trust in government and become disappointed giving rise to protests and separatist movements in a state.

b) Weak law and Order

When there is weak law and order in a country, the government is unable to curb any disturbance that may arise due to various reasons. The disturbance may turn into larger conflict disrupting peace of a society.

c) Hybrid warfare

The enemy states exploit the weak law and order situation of a country and ~~resort~~ resorts to hybrid warfare. Hybrid warfare refers to funding propaganda, separatists movements, terrorists groups, etc, in another country for the purpose of disrupting its peace - when the ~~constituent~~ ~~of~~ ~~state~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~strong~~ and ~~then~~ there is weak law and order, hybrid warfare becomes successful which negatively impacts the national integration and ~~gives~~ gives rise to polarization in a society.

3) Conclusion

National integration is crucial and plays a vital role in success and development of a nation. It is said, "United we

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stand, divided we fall". It holds
good for countries as well. As
long as the people of a nation
stay united, no outside force
can bring them down.