

"PAKISTAN AFFAIRS"

* NOA-MOCK 5 *

Name: Muhammad Amin

Batch: 006-MOC25-NOA-IsBI

LMS ID: 37118

Email: maminbaloch022@gmail.com

Phone: 0312-5382277

Date: 30/10/24

* PART-II *

Question # 2

I. Introduction

The 26th amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan, enacted in 2024, also known as constitutional package. The main changes made in the amendment are numerous. It includes revision to the judicial appointment process, the induction of a right to clean environment, and measures to eliminate riba (interest), among others. However, the amendment is likely to have notable effects on the political system of the country. It encompasses political stability, economic implications, environmental governance, and others.

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II. Historical Background of the Constitutional Amendments in Pakistan: 1973

8th Amend
(1985)

This amendment validate the martial law and expanded Presidential Powers

13th Amend
(1997)

It removes president powers to dissolve assembly.

17th Amend
(2003)

Reinstated presidential powers. It affected judiciary powers due to concentration.

18th Amend
(2010)

It reformed the process for judicial appointments, creating judicial commission.

26th Amend
(2024)

It is designed to address various governance issues, promote judicial independence, enhance citizen rights, and responsive political system.

III. The Main Changes Made in the Constitution of Pakistan through 26th Amendment:

The amendment introduces several changes in the 1973 constitution of Pakistan. Here are the main changes:

1. Judicial Appointments Procedure:

Article 175A

⇒ i. Change in the composition of the judicial commission responsible for appointing SC judges.

- A Special Parliamentary Committee will now appoint the chief justice of Pakistan from among the top three judges.

Article
177

→ - A person must have served as a High Court judge for at least five years.

- OR, Practice of 15 years in the High Court and the Supreme Court to qualify as judge of Supreme Court.

- It also introduces a performance evaluation system for the judges of ~~Supreme~~^{High} Courts.

2. Environment Rights Inserted:

Article
9A

⇒ Granting every citizen the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

3. Elimination of Riba (Interest)

Article 38(f) → Amendment to this article mandates the complete elimination of Riba (interest) by 1 January, 2028.

4. Increase in the representation in Balochistan Assembly

The 26th amendment increased the number of seats in the provincial assembly of Balochistan.

65 → 81 Seats

5. Changing in the Appointment Procedure of Chief Election Commissioner

- Amendment to Article 215

- It proposes that chief election commissioner will hold office until a successor appointed, even the former's term ended.

- The CEC can be reappointed for an other term through a resolution in Parliament.

IV What Effects 26th Amendment have on the Political System of Pakistan:-

The amendment is likely to have several notable effects on the political system that are outlined below:-

i. Political Stability

The amendment can have a positive effect in the form of political stability. It will hamper the ways of judicial encroachment

in the matters of executive.
It will strengthen parliament
that always faces
judicial ~~cases~~ activism.

2. Reduction in Regional Disparities

The 26th amendment has increased the number of seats in the Balochistan Assembly. It will enhance political representation of the deprived people of the province. The amendment has increased the 16 more representative of the province.

Increase in the Provincial Seats of Balochistan

3. Increase in The Role of Parliament

According to the Amendment, the parliament any committee will now

appoint Chief Justice of Pakistan from top three judges. Moreover, the performance of High Court judges will be evaluated by the Parliamentary Committee.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan will be appointed by Parliamentary Committee.

Hence, this indicates the increased role of Parliament,

4. The Advice Given to the President by the Cabinet or Prime Minister will not be challenged in any Court or Tribunal

According to the amended Article 48(4) in 26th amendment, the advice shielded.

V.

Conclusion

It is suffice to say that 26th amendment has left left vast changes in the Constitution of 1973. Resultantly, it is likely to have greater effects on political system of Pakistan in many ways. It includes promotion of political stability, increase in the role of parliament, and reduction in the regional disparities.

Question # 08

I. Introduction

It is true that national integration is one of the pivotal elements of country's stability and prosperity. The major components of national integrations are numerous. It ranges from equitable infrastructure development to equal resource sharing and political representation. The issues that hamper the national integration are profound. In which, unequal distribution of resources, exclusivity from political system and the deprivation from the basic rights that create the sense of alienation.

II. Historical Background of National Integration in Pakistan:

Since the inception, the country is grappling with challenges of economic integration. The different contours are outlined below:

- One Unit Scheme → 1955

- Operation Searchlight in East Pakistan
- 1971

- Operation Kohlu by the then PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

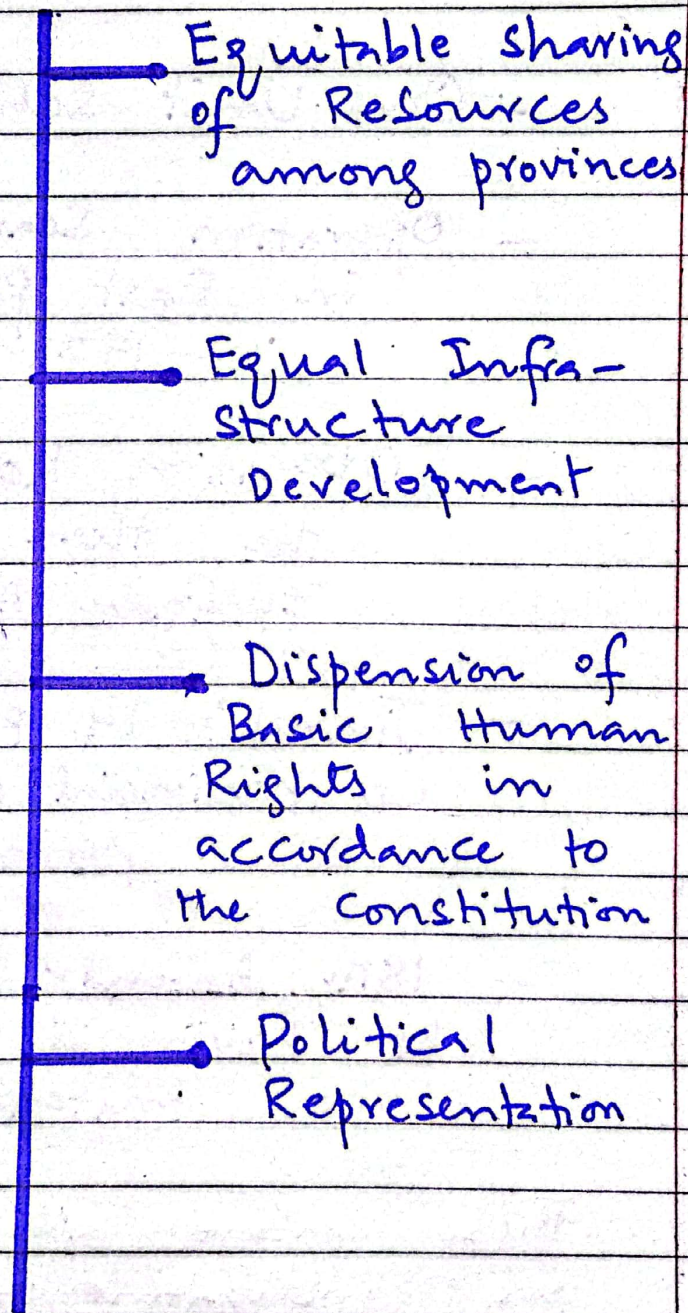
- Jinnah's 14 points:
↳ Provincial Autonomy Promise

- 18th Amendment
↳ Provincial Autonomy materialised

These above all references are indicating the struggle of Govt of Pakistan to maintain national integration by offering provincial autonomy.

III. The Major Components of National Integration:

The major components are depicted below:



i. The Sharing of Resources on the Basic of Equality

This is one of the major component that creates rifts among the provinces. It creates sense of deprivation. The larger provinces take the significant portion of resources and trivial left for smaller provinces.

- Sui Gas is scarce in Balochistan's larger areas, despite a indigenous resource.

- Sindh province Grievances of unequal distribution of water.

↳ Water Apportionment Agreement 1991 violation

Hence, the equal distribution of resources is the key to the integration.

ii. Equitable Infrastructure Development

All the provinces needs equitable infrastructure development. It includes roads, schools, hospitals, and economic zones.

The smaller provinces grievances of larger CPEC Infrastructure Development projects are in Punjab.

iii Dispensation of Basic Human Rights

This is also one of the major components. All the provinces needs the dispensation of basic human rights in accordance to constitution to maintain integration.

Article 19

⇒ Freedom of speech

Article 25A

⇒ Right to Education

Article 25

⇒ Equality of citizens

IV. The Issues that Can Hamper National Integration :

The key important
issues are outlined
below :

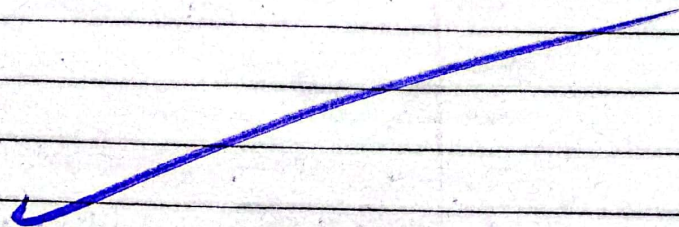
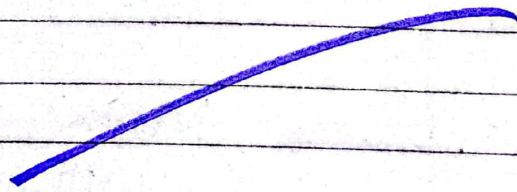
- Unequal distribution of Resources
- Curtailment of Provincial Autonomy
- Mega Project without consensus
- Kalabagh Dam
- Political Vested Interests
- Unequitable Development

V

Conclusion

There is no doubt that national integration is based on Equal Sharing of resources, political inclusion, and equitable developments.

The factors that penetrate integration are political vested interests, Mega projects without consensus, and the curtailment of provincial autonomy.



(Question #05)

I. Introduction

It is true that Afghanistan leaders want to pursue a more independent foreign policy. They do not want to be client of the regional players. This can be observed from the visits of Afghanistan's foreign minister to different countries, particularly Russia and Qatar with the aim to develop its independent diplomatic ties. Moreover, its ambitions to join the SCO and the BRICS organisation to diversify its foreign policy from the regional powers.

II. Afghanistan's Independent Foreign Policy:

The important argument that discuss Afghanistan's ambition of

of independent foreign policy are given below:

i. Economic Independence

By seeking foreign investments and partnerships, Afghanistan aims to develop its economy independently. As it will lead its independent foreign policy.

Afghanistan's
trade Agreements
with China

ii. Diplomatic Engagements

The Taliban has engaged in diplomatic talks with various countries to reinforce its stance on an independent foreign policy.

Afghan FM, Amir Muttazi
visits of Russia and
Qatar in 2024.

iii. Taliban's Interests to Engage with BRIC and SCO

The Afghan Taliban wants to explore countries that align with its national interests.

Resultantly, it will help them to pursue independent foreign policy.

iv. International Recognition Pursual

A critical aspect of Afghanistan's foreign policy is its pursuit of international recognition. The Taliban wants to demonstrate that they can govern effectively.

III

Conclusion

It is aimless to say that Afghanistan leaders do not want to pursue independent foreign policy. They want to showcase the world that they can govern Afghanistan. This can be seen in various Taliban's diplomatic engagements and pursuit of organisations memberships.

