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SECTION - A

Q NO. 2

System of Checks
and Balances in
US Constitution:
Lessons for Pakistan

Introduction

US Constitution is based on separation of powers and system of checks and balances. Powers are distributed among three branches of the government and they also check each other's power.

Pakistan is a parliamentary democracy where legislative and executive organs work in close harmony. However, Pakistan can draw many

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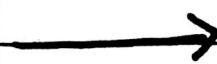
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Lesson from US. System of Checks and Balances.

System of Checks and Balances in US Constitution

System of Checks and Balances was designed with principle of Separation of Power. Executive, Legislative and Judicial Power were entrusted to separate Organs. To ensure coherent working and harmony, System of Checks and Balances was introduced.

Congress
Article 1



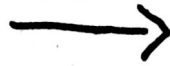
Legislature

President
Article 2



~~President~~
Executive

Supreme
Court
Article 3



Judiciary
(Judicial powers)

Congress → Responsible for
law-making.

Executive → Responsible for
executing laws

Supreme Court → Responsible for
interpreting laws.

System of Checks & Balances

Check by
Congress on
President
& Judiciary



Check
by President
on Congress
and Judiciary



Check by
Judiciary
on President
and Congress



Check by Congress

Congress

Checks the powers of President and judiciary.

A) On President

Congress

Checks the power of President by:

- 1) Ratifying high-level appointments of executive
- 2) Ratifying foreign treaties and agreements.
- 3) Declaring war.
- 4) Court of impeachment for President

B) On judiciary

Congress

Checks the power of judiciary by:

- 1) Court of impeachment for higher judiciary, impeached judges of Supreme Court
- 2) Organisation of courts

and creation of inferior courts.

Check by President

President checks the power of Congress and judiciary

A) on Congress

President checks Congress by:

- 1) Vetoing legislations passed by Congress
- 2) Calling extra-ordinary sessions of Congress
- 3) Sending messages to Congress

B) on judiciary

President checks on judiciary by:

- 1) Nominating and appointing judges to higher courts and Supreme Court

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2) Presidential Pardon

Check by Judiciary

Judiciary
Checks power of President
and Congress.

A) on President

Judiciary checks
the power of President by:

- 1) Declaring executive actions and policies unlawful.
- 2) Reviewing every executive order and judging their constitutionality.
- 3) Chief Justice of Supreme Court sits as a chair for impeaching President in Senate.

B) on Congress

Judiciary
Checks Congress by:

- 1) Declaring unconstitutional any Act of Congress

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How effective is it in
preventing abuse of
power.

System of checks and
balances is a remarkable
feature of US political
system. Due to this, there
is no arbitrary exercise
of power in US. Congress
checks the powers of
President and Judiciary where
it seems excessive. Similarly,
absolute choice in selecting
highest official is conditional
with Congressional approval.

Judiciary ensures that
executive and Congress don't
jeopardise liberty and freedom
of citizens. With power of
Judicial review, it judges
the constitutionality of actions
of executive and
Congress.

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Lessons for Pakistan

Pakistan is a Parliamentary democracy. In Parliamentary democracy, executive owes its creation to legislature. They work in close harmony to ensure effective governance. The system of checks and balances as envisaged in US Constitution is not possible to emulate completely in Pakistan because US political system is Presidential which operates on principle of separation of powers. However, in some respect it can be emulated. Pakistan can learn the following lessons

A) Executive accountability

Executive is accountable to legislature and Supreme Court. Many institutions

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of Accountability have been established by an Acts of Parliament

For example, FIA, NAB, SECP, Anti-corruption departments.

They need to be strengthened to ensure executive accountability.

B) judicial independent

Judiciary is Independent and Separated from executive under Article 175.

Judiciary checks power of legislative and executive by judicial Review.

For example, PMs Nawaz Sharif, Yusuf Raza Gillani were dismissed by judiciary. Many acts of Parliament ~~are~~ are declared unconstitutional.

Conclusion:

System of checks and balances is a ~~very~~ ^{key} feature of US political system. Three branches of government check each other's power which help in curbing excesses and abuse. Pakistan can also draw many lessons from this system.

Q No 4

Structure, powers and functions of Lok Sabha

Introduction

Lok Sabha is lower and popular chamber of Indian Parliament. It performs legislative, executive,

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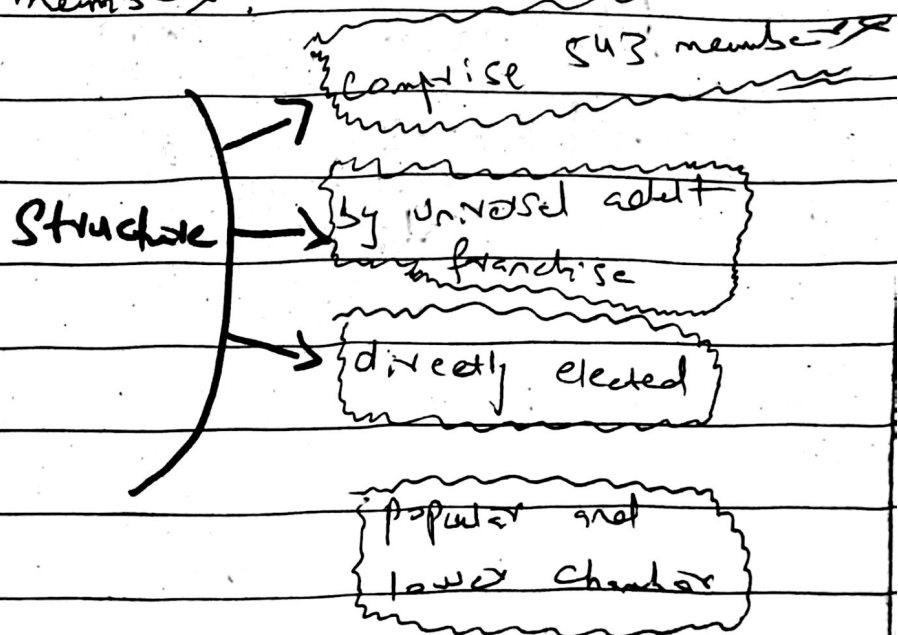
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judicial, electoral, financial
functional. Recently, its secular
character has been facing
many challenges due to
rise of religious politics.

Structure of Lok Sabha

Lok Sabha is a lower
and popular chamber of
Indian Parliament. Its members
are directly elected by
universal adult franchise.

It consists of 543
members.

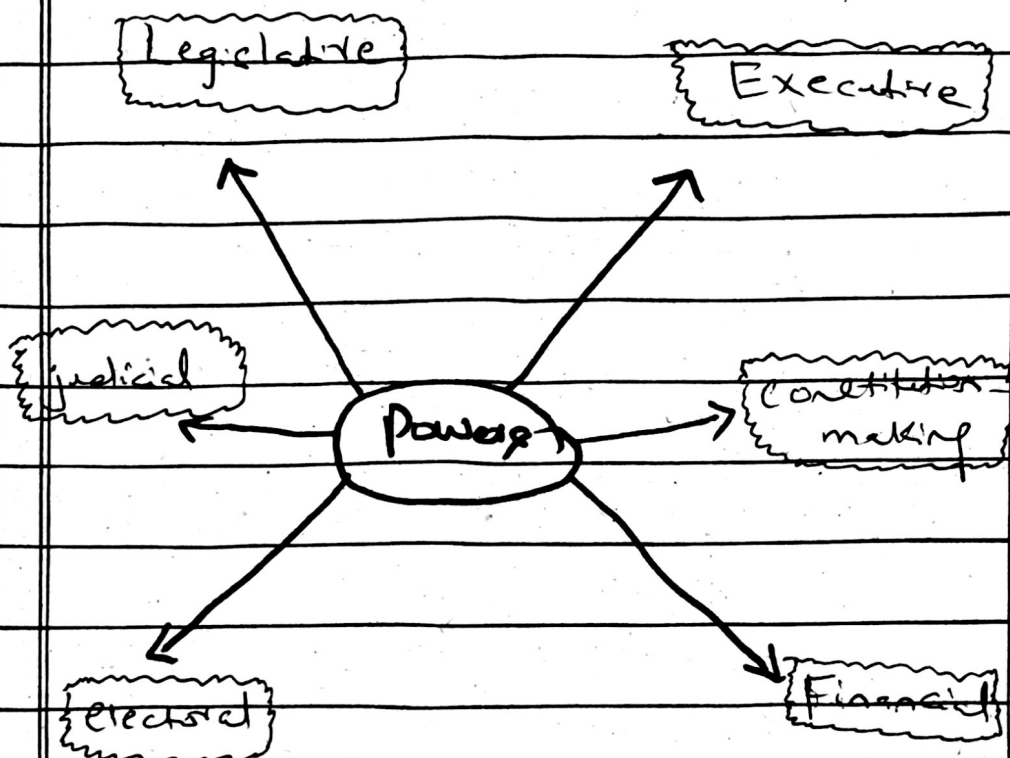


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Power and functions of Lok Sabha

Following are the powers ~~of~~ and functions of Lok Sabha:



A) Legislative Power Lok Sabha

is a popular chamber and exercises vast law-making power. It can make, repeal,

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erect, amend any law. It has monopoly of law-making power. India is a strong federation and residuary powers are vested with centre. So Lok Sabha can make law on more than 140 ~~list~~ subjects. During emergency time, it can legislate on State List too.

For example, Revocation of Article 370 and 35-A

B) Executive Power

India is a

Parliamentary democracy. Executive owes its birth to Lok Sabha and is fully answerable and accountable to it. It confirms the choice of Prime Minister regarding his Cabinet Ministers conduct. It can dissolve Cabinet, ministers and government

servants. It controls executive through its various committees.

C) Financial Powers

Lok Sabha has the sole authority regarding Finance. Budget can be only presented in Lok Sabha first. Without its approval, not a single money can be spent nor tax levied.

D) Electoral Powers

The most important function of Lok Sabha is the election of President, Vice President and Prime Minister of India. Prime Minister is the leader of the House of Lok Sabha. He serves at the pleasure of Lok Sabha. After losing confidence of the house, PM and cabinet must resign.

e) Constitution-making power

Lok Sabha has vast Constitution-making power. It can amend Constitution in three ways:

- 1) by simple majority
- 2) by special majority of total membership of house

3) Some provisions also to be ratified by 1/2nd of the states.

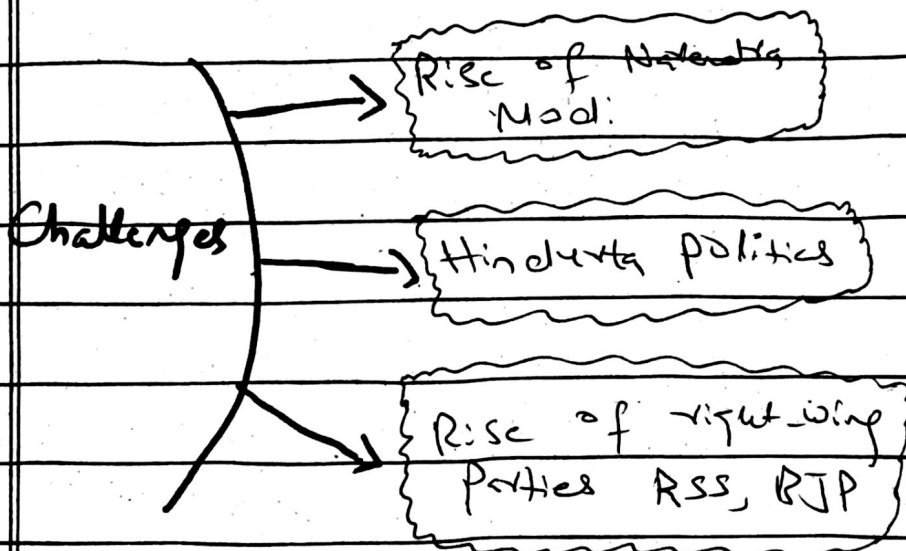
f) judicial power

It shared with

Rajya Sabha. The power of removing judges of Supreme Court by 2/3rd majority of Parliament. It can also increase the number of judges in High Courts and Supreme Court.

Challenges Posed by Religious Politics and decline of Secular principles

Following are the challenges posed by religious politics and decline of secular principles:



A) Rise of Modi:

Rise of Narendra

Modi has posed a serious challenge to secular character of Indian politics. He is revisionist, reactionary, bigot and anti-Muslim. His anti-Muslim policies have tarnished

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India's reputation as a secular democracy.

For example, Gujarat Pogrom in 2002, when he was CM.

B) Hindutva Politics

With the rise of Modi, Hindutva politics has seeped in Indian society. Only the caste of Hindus are propagated. Muslims are persecuted and treated as Fifth Columnists.

c) Rise of right-wing parties

The rise of right-wing parties such as BJP has resulted in bifurcation of India. RSS and BJP share same ideological roots.

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Both are extremist, intolerant and anti-Mullins. Due to their violent credentials, violence against Mullins has been increased manifold.

For example: Demolition of Babri Mosque and its subsequent validation by India's Supreme Court.

Conclusion:

Lok Sabha is a lower and popular chamber of India's parliament. It enjoys full legislative, judicial, executive and financial powers. Currently, due to rise of right-wing parties and Hinduist politics under Modi has challenged the secular credentials of India's democracy.

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Q NO 5

Pakistan's foreign policy towards Afghanistan

Introduction:

Pakistan's western border has been continuous source of nuisance and terrorism for the security of Pakistan. Afghanistan's resetting of ties with India has compounded the issue for Pakistan. Pakistan is re-calibrating its strategy towards Afghanistan to secure its western frontiers.

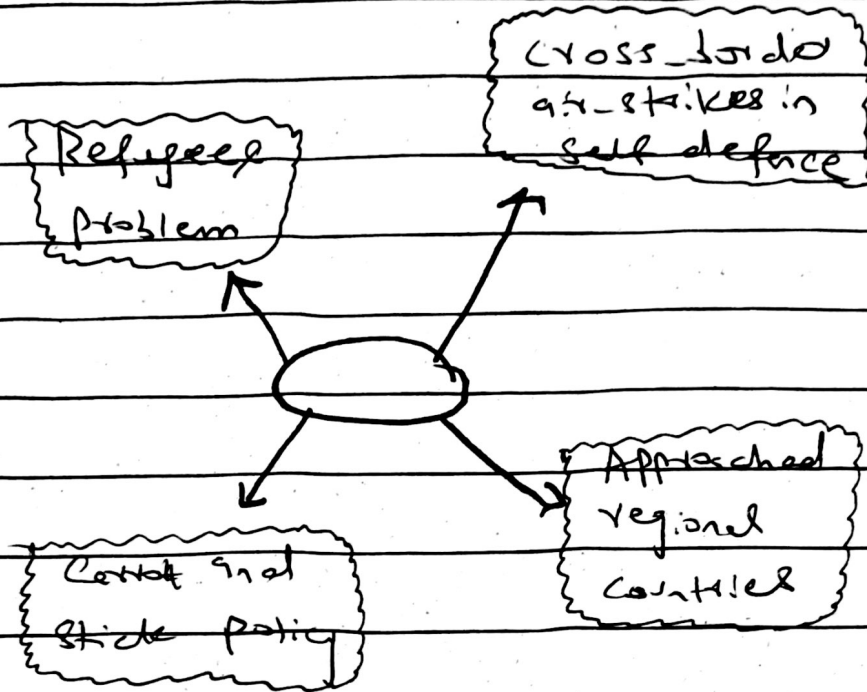
Pakistan's foreign policy
vis-a-vis-Afghanistan after
resetting ties with India

Pakistan has re-calibrated

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its foreign policy towards
Afghanistan, following its rapprochement
with India



A) Carrot and stick policy

Pakistan is
currently pursuing the policy
of carrot and stick
with regards to Afghanistan.
Islamabad has never shied
away from dialogue and
consistently supported table-
talk, dialogue and

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negotiations.

For example, Pakistan participated in Doha talks, Istanbul talks.

But Afghanistan is not paying heed to Pakistan's repeated requests. That's why Pakistan had to opt for Kinetic means.

**B) Cross-border
a.i.r. strikes in
Self-defence**

After repeatedly Pakistan's request to Afghanistan to act against TTP, Pakistan had to do cross-border a.i.r. strikes on militants' hideouts in Afghanistan. Islamabad targets those militants which are involved in terrorism in Pakistan.

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For example, PAF's air-
strikes on militant sanctuaries
in Nuristan, Paktika and
Badakhshan areas of
Afghanistan.

C) Refugee's problems

Pakistan has expedited
Refugee's repatriation according
to Repatriation Plan. Pakistan
has to expel illegal
Afghan immigrants because more
than 90% of terrorist
attacks in KP have been
orchestrated by Afghan Nationals.
Pakistan has expelled more
than 1.5 million Afghan
refugees to Afghanistan.

1) Approach regional countries:

Pakistan has

approached regional countries such as China, Russia, CARs, Iran and KSA to pressure Afghan Taliban to renounce TIP and prevent their soil from exporting terrorism to neighboring countries ~~such~~ according to Doha Agreement.

For example, Trilateral Co-ordinating Group (Pakistan-Afghanistan), Moscow Format (TCG + Russia), SCO

Conclusion:

Return of Afghan Taliban has considerably worsened security environment of Pakistan. Moreover, their re-betting of ties with Pakistan's rich enemy India has compounded the issue. Pakistan needs to adopt holistic approach in dealing with

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Affix issue.

Q NO 7

Current Economic Situation and Way forward

Introduction:

Pakistan nearly defaulted on its sovereign debt few months ago.

Following successful negotiations with IMF, Pakistan entered into 25th IMF programme and averted default. The

economy is currently stabilised.

Partially but not recovered fully. Inclusive policies and

structural reforms are

needed to lasting economic

stability. otherwise, country will be caught in boom-

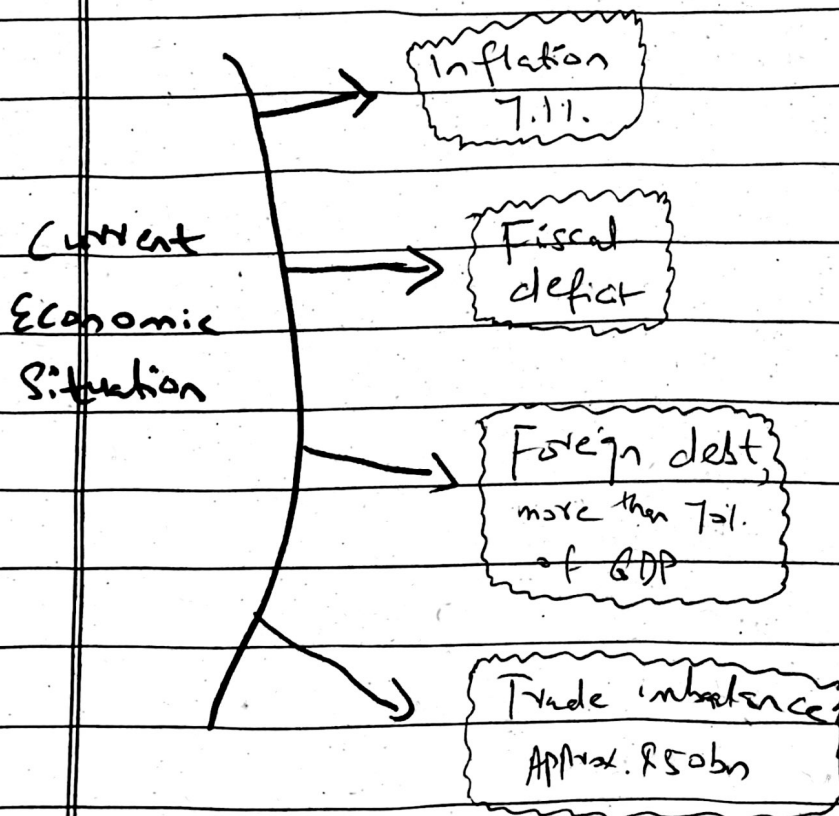
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and - bust cycle.

Current Economic Situation of Pakistan

The current economic situation is fragile and will be ~~judged~~ judged on the parameters of inflation, fiscal deficit, foreign debt, trade imbalance.



A) Inflation

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months ago, Pakistan's inflation was touching 40%. It has now reduced to single digit, i.e. 7.1%. But, the fruits of this single digit inflation has not reached common people.

For example, Prices of essential commodities is still high.

B) Fiscal deficit

Due to tight control on imports and on expenditure, Pakistan arrested the growth of fiscal deficit to manageable level. It turned into surplus for few times but went into deficit

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again recently. It has resulted into low economic growth.

C) Foreign debt

Debt is a

significant issue of Pakistan's economy. Its total debt

(domestic + foreign) is more than 70% of its GDP. Foreign

debt, which is to be paid to debtor, continues to pose

challenges to Pakistan's economic team.

1) Trade Imbalance

Pakistan exports

less and imports more. It results in trade imbalance. Pakistan

doesn't have globally -

competitive industries. Pakistan

is a consumer-oriented

economy instead of export -

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oriented economy. our FDI to GDP is just 13.7%.

Recommendations:

Following policy measures should be taken to improve Pakistan's economic conditions.

Recommendations

- Increase tax collection (direct taxation)
- Increase exports
- Austerity measures
- Document and digitise economy
- Support indigenous industries
- Curb corruption and elite capture