

PART II

Q4

The 27th Amendment, passed in November 2025, is one of the most significant changes in the Pakistan's Constitution in recent decades.

It reorganised the judiciary and military structure, giving more powers to the ^{executive} judiciary and military, while weakening checks and balances. This has directly affected the trichotomy of powers - the balance between legislature, executive and judiciary.

Key Changes Introduced by the 27th Amendment:

(1) Federal Constitutional Court (FCC)

A new top court was created to handle constitutional issues, reducing the Supreme Court's role.

(2) Judge Transfer and Retirement Rules:

High Court judges can now be transferred between provinces without consent. If a judge refuses transfer, they may be forced to retire.

(3) Military Command Restructuring:

The Army Chief now heads all armed forces under the new post of Chief of Defence Forces (CDF). The old post of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) was removed.

(4) Immunity for Top Officials:

President and top military officials now have immunity from legal action against them.

(5) Judicial Commission Charges:

Judicial appointments and transfers are now more influenced by the executive rather than being fully controlled by the judges.

Impact on Each Pillar of Power:

(1) Judiciary:

a) Reduced Independence:

Judges may hesitate to act freely because they can be transferred or retired if they disagree with the executive.

b) Supreme Court Weakened:

The new FCC now handles key constitutional matters, reducing the Supreme Court's authority.

c) Risk to the Rule of Law:

Since judges are more dependent on the executive for appointments and transfers, courts may be less able to check government or military misuse of power.

(2) Executive and Military:

a) Military Power Increased:

The Army Chief, now CDF,

controls all three forces, giving the military more constitutional power.

(b) Executive Dominance:

Executive (Civil + Military) now has more control over judiciary and security decisions.

(c) Immunity:

Top officials are protected from legal accountability, limiting checks on their actions thus prompting misuse of power and undermining democratic values.

In short, executive especially the military becomes more powerful and less accountable.

(3) Legislature

Formally, parliament passed the amendment, so legislative supremacy is maintained on paper. But in reality, legislature's ability to control or check

the executive and military is reduced because courts can no longer act independently.

In short, legislature's practical influence is weakened.

Overall Effect on Trichotomy of Power

Judiciary has become weakened and more dependant.

While Executive and Military has become stronger and more dominant. Legislature is formally strong but practically weakened.

The balance between the three branches of power or government is tilted towards the executive or military, undermining the principle of separation of powers.

Conclusion:

The 27th Amendment has reshaped Pakistan's power structure. It weakens judicial independence

and limits court's ability to act as a check on the executive. It strengthens military and executive authority, granting them constitutional supremacy and immunity. Legislature retains formal power but has reduced practical control. Overall, the amendment shifts Pakistan away from a balanced trichotomy of powers towards a system where executive and military dominance is legally embedded, posing a grave threat to democracy and rule of law.

Q6

Pakistan has often debated administrative reforms to improve governance. Some argue for the creation of new provinces to address regional disparities, while others emphasize strengthening local government to enhance service delivery, accountability and citizen participation.

I firmly believe that effective local government is more important than creating a new province because it delivers immediate benefits, strengthens democracy and addresses development gaps at the grassroots level.

Arguments in Support of Effective Local Government:

- 1) Brings Governance Closer to the People:
Local governments operate

at district, tehsil and union levels allowing citizens to directly access services such as health, education, sanitation and water supply.

A new province may create administrative layers but does not guarantee better service delivery for ordinary citizens.

2) Enhances Accountability and Transparency:

Local representatives are elected directly by the people making them accountable to the constituents.

Pakistan's experience and history shows that centralised provincial administrations often remain distant and unresponsive, while empowered local governments encourage citizens to participate and reduce corruption.

(3) Cost Effectiveness:

Creating a new province requires huge financial resources, setting up secretariats, staff, judiciary and infrastructure. Pakistan is already suffering at the hands of financial crisis and lack of stability.

Strengthening local governments is far cheaper and can improve governance immediately without constitutional and administrative hurdles.

(4) Promotes grassroots Development and Equity

Local governments can identify area-specific needs, prioritize development projects and allocate resources more efficiently.

A new province may only shift administrative boundaries without guaranteeing equitable development for neglected areas.

(5) Strengthens Democracy and Political Stability

Pakistan's political history shows that weak local governments often lead to centralized power, elite domination and instability.

On the other hand, empowered local governments train future leaders, deepen democracy and reduce provincial level tensions.

Need for a New Province.

Proponents argue that new provinces e.g. in South Punjab, Hazara or Balochistan, address identity, language and resource disparities.

While partially true, creating a province does not automatically improve governance. Many newly created administrative units in South Asia have faced delays, higher costs and

political disputes without tangible improvements in citizens' lives.

Conclusion:

While the creation of new provinces may address long-term political and identity concerns, Pakistan urgently needs effective local government to improve governance, accountability and service delivery at the grassroots.

Thus, strengthening local government is more practical, cost-effective and impactful than creating new provinces.

Q3

The idea of Muslim nationalism in the Indian subcontinent did not emerge suddenly in the 19th or 20th century; its intellectual roots can be traced back to Islamic revivalist movements in the medieval and early modern period. Two prominent figures who played a crucial role in reviving Islamic ideology were Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi and Shah Waliullah Dehlawi. Their work not only strengthened religious identity but also indirectly laid the ideological foundations for Muslim political consciousness in the subcontinent.

(1) **Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi:**

(a) **Revival of Islamic Ideology**

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi is known as the "Mujaddid Alf Sani" (Reviver of the Second Millennium of Islam).

He strongly opposed the syncretic and unorthodox practices encouraged under the Mughal Emperor Akbar, particularly Din-i-Ilahi, which attempted to blend Islamic, Hindu and other religious elements. He emphasized pure monotheism i.e. Tauheed and strict adherence to Shariah, reinforcing the distinct identity of Muslims.

(b) Contributing to Muslim Identity By emphasizing a distinct Islamic way of life, Shah Ahmed reasserted the separateness of Muslim identity within a multi-religious Indian society. This cultural and religious revival sowed seeds for communal consciousness which later contributed to Muslim political awareness.

(2) Shah Waliullah Dehlawi:

Shah Waliullah lived during a period of political decline

and moral decay among Indian Muslims after the Mughal Empire weakened.

(a) Revival of Islamic Knowledge:

Shah Waliullah translated the Quran into Persian to make it accessible to a wider audience, emphasizing the practical application of Islamic law in social, economic and political life. He promoted the study of Hadith, Fiqh and Tasawwuf to revive moral and spiritual discipline among Muslims.

(b) Social and Political Reforms:

He stressed unity among Muslims and condemned divisions based on tribal, sectarian or regional differences. Shah Waliullah encouraged Muslims to develop self-reliance, economic stability and political awareness to protect their identity in a

declining Muslim state.

His teachings inspired later Muslim leaders and reformers including Syed Ahmed Shaheed, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and Allama Iqbal who actively participated in shaping Muslim political consciousness.

Foundation of Muslim Nationalism

(a) Distinct Religious Identity

Both Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi and Shah Waliullah emphasized the distinctiveness of Islam, creating a sense of shared religious identity among Muslims.

By promoting religious revival, they indirectly encouraged the idea that Muslims were a separate socio-political community.

(b) Cultural and Political Awareness

Their teachings highlighted the link between faith, law

and governance, a Muslim society should be guided by Islamic principles. This created an early ideological framework that later justified demands for political autonomy or separate representation for Muslims in India.

Together, they strengthened Muslim consciousness, fostering a sense of religious and cultural unity that later became the foundation of Muslim nationalism, ~~ult~~ culminating in movements leading to the creation of Pakistan.