

Political Sciences

SECTION-B

Q No #08: 26th and 27th

Amendments

Introduction

On October 2024, 26th Amendment and 27th Constitutional Amendment (November) were passed. These constitutional Amendments represents a dramatic and consecutive restructuring of Pakistan's Constitutional and institutional landscape. The 26th Amendment focused on curtailing the power of the supreme court and politicizing judicial appointments, the 27th Constitutional Amendment built upon the foundation by instituting military domains, and creating a parallel, controlled constitutional court.

The 26th Amendment

The 26th constitutional Amendment was the initial and decisive blow against

the institutional autonomy of Pakistan's superior judiciary - Supreme Court.

CJP Amendment Norm

The Chief Justice of Pakistan is no longer appointed automatically by seniority. Instead a special parliamentary committee nominates the CJP from three top most senior judges.

This move destroys the established seniority convention.

CJP Tenure

This Amendment capped the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan to three years, regardless of retirement age.

A fixed, faster and shorter term creates speedy rotation of CJP office, which can be expoliate by the executive to time appointment and create pressure on the CJP to conform.

Supreme Judicial Council

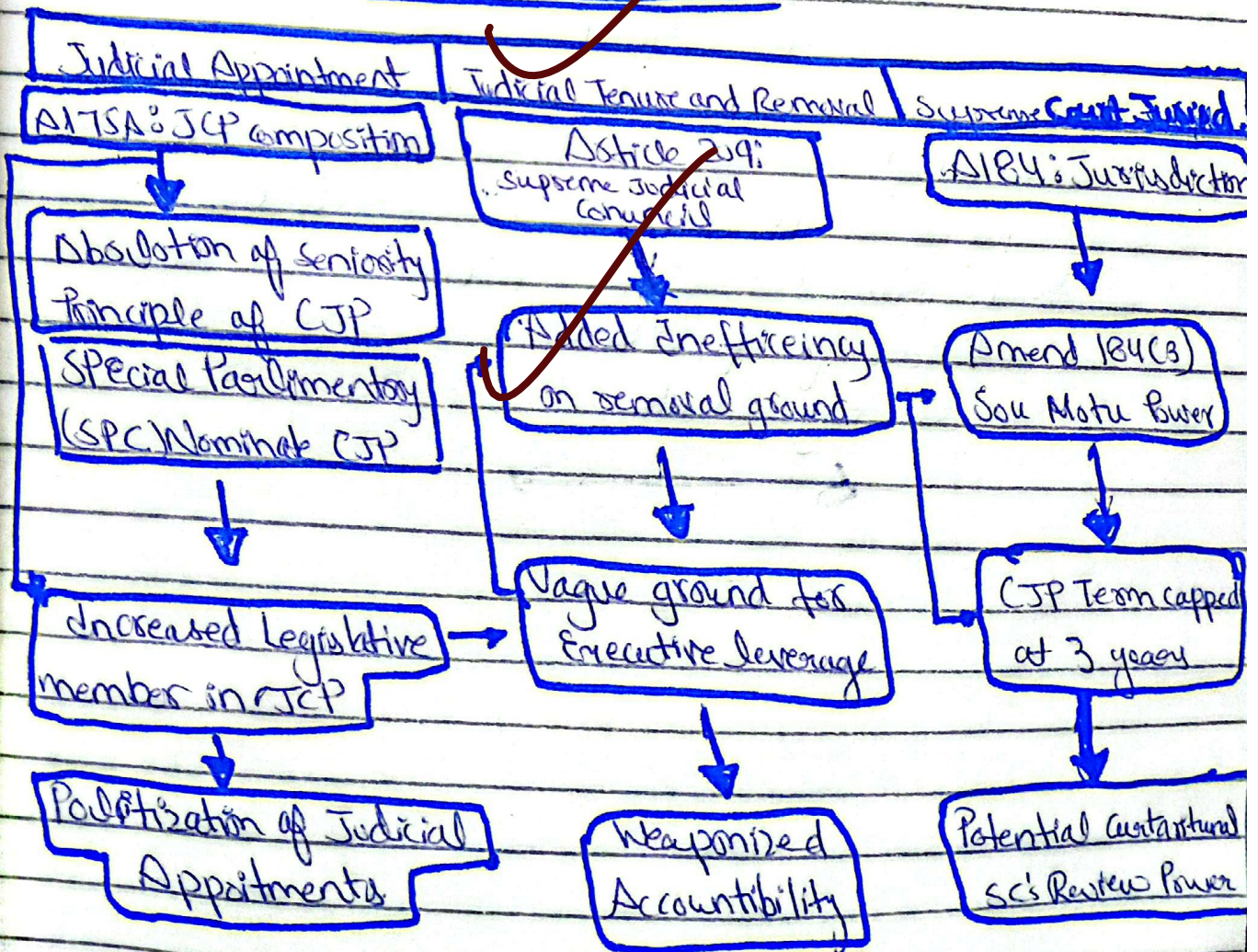
This added "inefficiency in the performance of duties", as a ground for judges's removal.

- Inefficiency is a vague term. It can be used as political tool by the Executive to initiate disciplinary proceedings against judges who deliver judgment unfavorable to the government.

Judicial Commission of Pakistan

It changed the composition to increase the number of legislature (National assembly and senate members) in the JCP reducing the majority control held by judges by judges.

26 Amendment



27th Amendment

Introduction

The 27th Amendment, passed into law in 2023, has really changed the face of Pakistan's constitutional framework.

This has created a dilemma regarding the concept of trichotomy of power, which involves the division of powers among the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the state. ~~In the previous comparison~~

It has changed the trichotomy of power.

Background

The 27th Amendment was brought in for various reasons, which include judicial reforms and check and balance system between different institutions. This amendment has amended Articles 175A, 179, 193, 200, 204, 205, 210 and 212 of the constitution 1973, and repealed the Article 08 of the

act, namely (The constitution (25th) Amendment) Act 2018. The changes by the Amendment have evoked discussion relating to their very consequences on the governance structure in Pakistan.

27th Amendment



Amends

(Articles 175, 179, 193,
200, 204, 209, 210, 212A,
243)

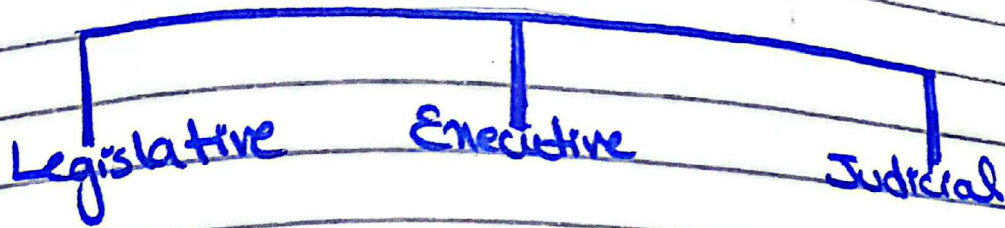


Repeals Article B
of 25 Amendment Act
2018

The Trichotomy of Power in Pakistan

The trichotomy of power refers to the separation of powers among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. In Pakistan, the trichotomy of power is designed to ensure that no one branch

of government has too much
each power branch checks power and
balance the others and



- **Legislative Branch:** The Legislative branch is composed of the National Assembly and the senate, is responsible for making law.
- **Executive Branch:** The executive branch, headed by Prime Minister, is responsible for enforcing laws.
- **Judicial Branch:** The judicial branch composed of the Supreme court and High courts, responsible for interpreting law.

Key Proposals in the 27th Constitutional Amendment

The 27th Amendment is described as a sweeping restructuring of Pakistan's judicial, financial and administrative systems. It includes a series of constitutional changes that altered the balance of federation and the provinces.

27th Amendment

- Strengthens Executive

- Legislative oversight
 - Affects accountability

- Judicial reforms
 - Appointment
 - tenure

2) Establishment of Federal Constitutional Court

- A new court could be created at the federal level to handle the constitutional matters.

It would limit the Supreme Court power and can create jurisdictional overlap.

2) Revival of Executive Magistracy

- The Amendment seeks to bring back the system of executive magistrates effectively giving administrative officers judicial powers that were previously abolished.

3) Transfer of High Court Judges

- The federal government would gain authority to transfer judges of High Courts.

4) Changes to Article (243)

Appointment of Service Chiefs

- The Amendment proposes to

adjustment to how the chiefs of armed forces would appointed

Impact of 27th Amendment

The 27th Amendment has affected the trichotomy of power of the Prime Minister and the executive branch. The proposed Amendment is far-reaching package designed to enact profound structural changes across Pakistan's judiciary, financial distribution model.

• Removal of NFC Award Protection

The government repeatedly seeks to remove the constitutional protection given to the provisional share in the National Finance Award (NFC).

The provision, which guarantees provinces a minimum share of federal revenues, is a cornerstone of provisional autonomy established under previous amendments.

• Reversal of 18 Amendment (Schedule II, III).

The draft seeks to revert the subjects of education and population planning back to the federal government's control.

• Authority over Armed forces (A243)

Amendments are proposed to Article 243, which places the command of the Armed forces under the authority of the federal (civilian) government.

• Chief Election Commission Appointment

The Amendment modifies the Article 213 to revise the process for the appointment of the Chief Election Commission aiming to resolve persistent appointment deadlock.

• Judicial Restructuring and Constitutional Court (Article 191A and New Article).

The Amendment calls for the abolition of Article 191A and the introduction of new Article to establish a constitutional court.

This would change the judicial landscape.

• Amendment to COA also include changes regarding transfer of judges.

Conclusion

The 26th^{and 27th} Amendments, when assessed critically and together, represent a constitutional coup carried out by combined executive military-legislative bloc against the judiciary.

The acts: Erosion of Judicial norms, Institutional Autonomy, tilting the balance of powers, resulting in system is one where judiciary is structurally constrained from performing its fundamental duty: checking the power of other two branches.

The overall effect is a significant acceleration toward authoritarian constitutionalism, where the constitutional framework itself is manipulated to legitimize and institutionalize the control of political and military elite.

Pakistan's role in the 2025 SCO summit

Introduction to SCO

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a large international group focused on security, politics and economic cooperation across the Eurasian (Asia + Europe region).

Foundation and significance

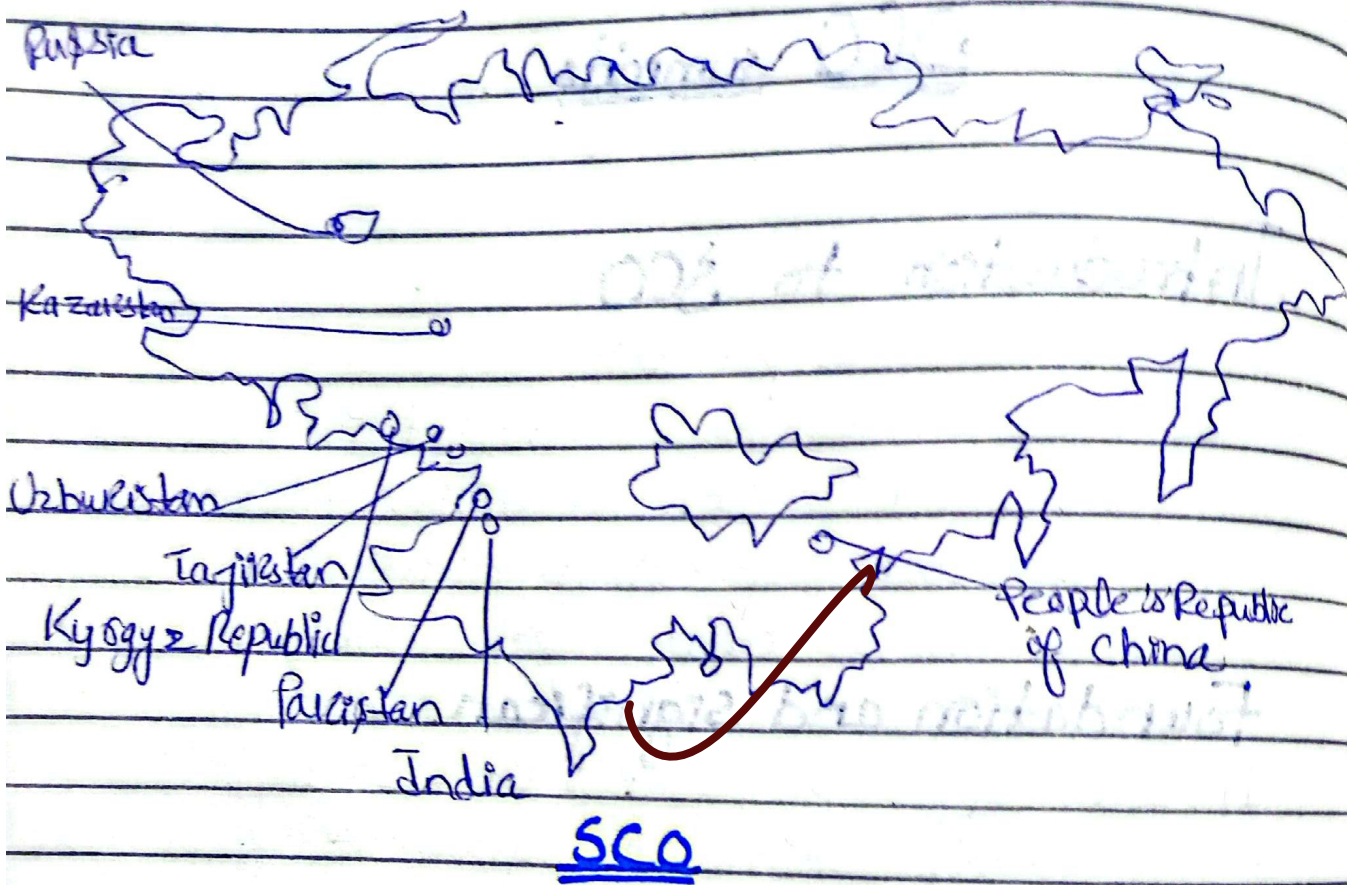
It was officially founded in 2001 in Shanghai, China. It grew out of an earlier group called (Shanghai five).

Its main goals are to increase trust among its members, promote regional stability and boost trade and economic. It is the largest regional organization in the world in terms of land area and population. It represents 42% of the world's population.

When did Pakistan joined SCO

Pakistan first became observer state with the SCO in 2005

Pakistan became full Member of Shanghai Cooperation organization
In June 2017, India also became member
at the same time.



Members States

- 1) China
- 2) Russia
- 3) Pakistan
- 4) Kazakhstan
- 5) Tajikistan
- 6) Uzbekistan
- 7) India
- 8) Iran (joined 2023)
- 9) Kyrgyzstan
- 10) Belarus (joined 2024)

Pakistan Role in 2025 SCO

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization 2025 summit — particularly the head of states council held in Tianjin, China (Aug/Sept 2025). Pakistan used these forums to heavily pushed the geo-economic vision, increasing regional connectivity and seek support on security issues.

Meeting of Head of state Summit

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif promoted CPEC as the central project for linking central Asia to the Arabian sea (CPEC.20). He also welcomed new funds and loans from the china, reducing reliance on Western institutions like World Bank, IMF.

Foreigner's Minister Meeting

In this meeting, focus was on the need for comprehensive dialogue for peace in South Asia and unequivocally condemned the situation in Gaza.

Advocate for the peaceful settlement of disputes and strengthen diplomatic alignments with China and Russia on issues of global governance

3) Implications for Regional Stability, Trade and Counterterrorism

A. Regional stability

Pakistan push for the integration of CPEC with SCO and economic goals promote stability by increasing all members economic stake in Pakistan's security. It also uses the SCO - Afghanistan Contact Group to push for a stable, terror-free Afghanistan.

Challenge

The presence of both India and Pakistan in the SCO means internal dispute (Kashmir) often prevent the organization achieving deeper and long lasting benefits.

Recent May's Pakistan, India war also trigger the situation

B. Trade and Connectivity

The SCO platform is vital for advancing Pakistan's geoeconomic ambition to become a regional trade and transit hub.

It promotes the expansion of CPEC (2.0) into new areas like agriculture and smart cities, connecting Central Asian landlocked SCO states directly to the Arabian Sea ports - Gwadar, Karachi.

Discussions on new transport linkages, energy corridor - TAPI pipeline, and digital collaboration open new trade and investment opportunity for Pakistan.

C. Counterterrorism

The SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist structure (RATS) is the main platform for security cooperation. Pakistan's forthcoming term as the rotating RATS Chairman (2025-2026) is critical.

This provides a formal mechanism for intelligence

sharing and joint efforts to
counter three evils

- Terrorism
- Separatism
- Extremism

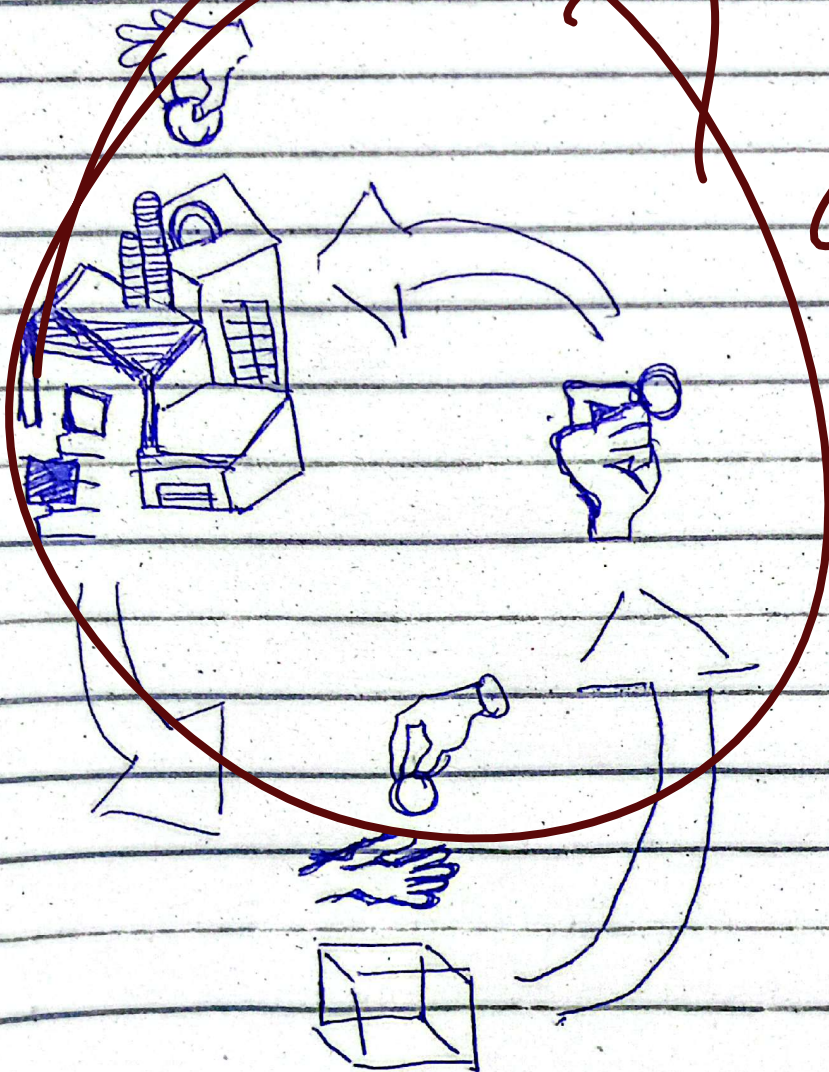
Challenges

- Pakistan's success is getting
SCO declaration to condemn
specific - terror attacks on its
soil strengthens its
international case regarding the
sources of regional terrorism
but getting resistance from internal disputes
- The lack of fully unified
stance - sponsored terrorism
particularly between India
and Pakistan, remains an
obstacle to full-counter
terrorism effectiveness
- Terrorist from Iran and
Afghanistan also disturbing
the peace of Balochistan
and IPR

QNo#07 Economic challenges of Pakistan

Economy:

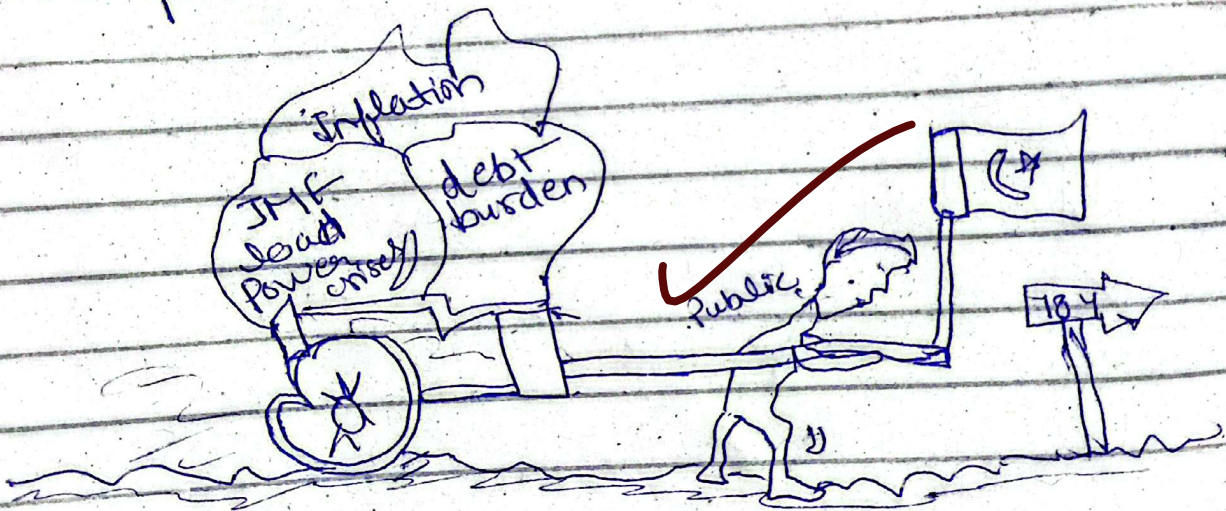
A economy is a complex system of consumers, business, and governments that produce, consume and distribute goods, and services, combining to fulfill the needs of those living and operating within it.



e.g. Economy

Current Economy Situation

Pakistan's macroeconomic indicators point a picture of structural weakness and over dependence on external support. Despite a modest agriculture ~~sector~~ land, Industrial and service sectors remain underperforming due to energy crises and poor governance. The inflationary trend driven by currency depreciation and imported inputs, continue to erode purchasing power.



As late of 2025, Pakistan's economy presents a picture of stabilization and persistent structural stress, the country continues to grapple with the widening trade deficit in the new fiscal year and an

accumulating debt mountain that consumes a vast portion of the federal budget

Challenges and structural flaws

1- Trade Deficit

After a period of import compression in FY24, the trade deficit has begun to widen again in the first half of the fiscal year (2026)

Pakistan's trade deficit has been increasing driven by significant rise in imports while exports have declined. Pakistan trade deficit stood at \$3.34 billion, a 46% increase from the previous period

2- Debt Burden

Debt burden is the weight of a country's total debt obligations, both domestic and external.

Pakistan has large growing debt burden. Public debt was 80.6 trillion PKR, a 13% increase from the previous fiscal year.

3- Inflation

26% in FY24, projected 12-16% food inflation 50% in 2023 crushed household budget with wheat and sugar prices doubling. Core inflation remains sticky due to high energy prices and supply chain disruption.

Root Causes of Crisis

Pakistan's crisis is deeply embedded in structural inefficiencies across revenue collection, energy pricing, export and institutional stability.

(i) Fiscal Imbalance

Low tax compliance and a narrow tax base force that put government to rely heavily on indirect taxation, deepening inequality.

- Tax to GDP ratio (9.5%) is among the world's lowest due to evasion and untaxed sector.

- only 2.3 million tax filers in a population of 240 million
- Indirect taxes (60%) disproportionately burden the poor

(ii) Debt Trap

Pakistan's rising debt servicing eats up most of its revenues, leaving little room for social and infrastructure development without debt restructuring the country risks spiraling into a sovereign default.

- Debt servicing (\$9.8 Trillion) consuming 75% of tax revenue
- CPEC obligation (\$30 B) add to repayment pressure.

(iii) Export Stagnation

While regional peers like Bangladesh have expanded export, while Pakistan stuck due to over reliance on textiles and investment value added sectors. The ban on capital goods imports in 2022 slowed industrial productivity unblocking IT and mineral exports could diversify the economy and reduce the trade deficit.

(iv) Environmental Cost

Neglect of environmental governance is leading to massive economic losses, especially in tourism and fisheries. With no national waste policy, plastic pollution continues to damage marine ecosystem and coastal economies.

- Karachi beaches lose \$17.5M annually in cleanup efforts.

Sustainable Recovery Plan

A focused multi-sector recovery strategy can reverse the decline if implemented with political will and accountability. Tax reforms must target untaxed sectors and end elite privileges.

Tax Reforms

Expanding the tax net to include agriculture and real estate can significantly boost revenue.

- Tax, agriculture, real estate and retailers potential: PKR 4T/year.

Energy overhaul

Expanding renewable energy ~~total~~ sources will lower generation cost and reduce dependency on imported fuels. A restructured pricing model is needed to reform the sector and promote affordability.

Debt Restructuring

Pakistan ~~must~~ must negotiate bilateral ~~loans~~ ~~one~~ loans like CPEC and seek major extension on eurobonds to ease repayment pressure without restructuring, rising debt repayments will crowd out all development spending.

Monetary stability

A unified exchange rate and incentive for remittances can help stabilize the rupee and reduce the black market premium.

Transparent monetary policy can restore investor confidence. ~~among~~ stability is vital for inflation control and trade competitiveness.

Human Capital

Scaling up vocational training will equip the youth with employable skills and reduce unemployment. Aligning academic programs with market demands will ensure the graduates contribute productively to the economy. Human capital can lead to grow economy.

Human Capital is the backbone of sustainable economy

Conclusion

The country's economic crisis is the multifaceted challenge requiring immediate ~~inter~~ attention. Policy consistency and visionary leadership must form the backbone of reforms. It ensures fiscal discipline, monetary stability and long term economic planning. Empowering human capital through

education and healthcare while addressing environmental vulnerabilities will not only eradicate poverty and inequality will also secure a future of resilience and growth. The state stands at pivotal moment where comprehensive and well managed strategies can transform the current crises and overcome the challenges like debt burden, inflation and trade deficit.

