

## PAKISTAN AFFAIRS:-

### PART II

keep the description of a single argument brief

Q What Pakistan needs the most; new provinces or effective local governance? Take a stance and explain your answer through arguments.

INTRODUCTION: Pakistan, a federation marked by ethnic diversity and regional disparities, faces persistent challenges in governance, service, delivery and citizen participation. Debates over administrative restructuring, particularly the creation of new provinces versus strengthening local governance, have been central to political discourse. While the idea of a new province is often proposed to address regional grievances and enhance representation, the pressing need for Pakistan lies in effective local governance. This solution not only ensures equitable development but also strengthens democracy, promotes accountability, and maintains national cohesion.

### HISTORICAL AND STRUCTURAL CONTEXT:-

Since its inception, Pakistan's provincial framework has remained largely unchanged,



with the 1971 administrative configuration persisting except for minor adjustments. Large provinces, such as Punjab and Sindh, encompass diverse populations and regions, many of which feel politically marginalized. Weak local governance has exacerbated these disparities, resulting in inefficient service delivery, underdeveloped infrastructure, and poor urban management. Historical attempts at developing power, including local government reforms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, demonstrated that empowered local institutions could enhance service delivery, increase public participation, and promote accountability.

## ARGUMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNANCE:

- 1) **IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY:** - Decentralization allows local governments to directly address citizen needs in sectors such as health, education, sanitation and infrastructure. For instance, reforms in KP in the early 2000s improved access to primary education and local health facilities. Reports from UNDP and the World Bank highlight that robust



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local governance systems reduce bureaucratic delays and improve administrative efficiency.

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## 2. COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

**CENCY:-** Establishing a new province involves creating an entire administrative apparatus, including legislatures, bureaucracies and infrastructure, which is financially and politically burdensome. In contrast, strengthening local governance leverages existing structures to provide immediate improvements in citizen welfare without the need for large-scale restructuring.

## 3. STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

**LOCAL GOVERNANCE** empowers citizens by enabling them to elect representatives at the municipal and district levels. This participatory approach enhances accountability, reduces corruption, and fosters civic responsibility. The principle of subsidiarity—decisions made closest to the citizens ensures policies are better aligned with local needs.

## 4. MITIGATION OF POLITICAL FRAGMENTATION AND ETHNIC TENSIONS

**THE CREATION OF NEW PROVINCES**—The creation of new provinces, while potentially addressing



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regional grievances, risks reigniting separatist movements and ethnic tensions. Effective local governance accommodates the aspirations of marginalized regions within existing provincial boundaries, ensuring equitable resource distribution while maintaining national unity.

## COUNTER ARGUMENTS AND REBUTTALS

**NEED FOR NEW PROVINCES**— Proponents of new provinces argue that regions like Southern Punjab and the Hazara Division have long-standing grievances regarding political underrepresentation, underdevelopment, and administrative neglect. A new province, they contend, would enhance governance, provide regional identity, and ensure better resource allocation.

**REBUTTAL**:- Even with the creation of new provinces, without effective local governance, these regions would continue to face challenges in service delivery, accountability, and citizen participation. Administrative restructuring alone cannot guarantee development. Governance structures and institutional capacity are the decisive factors in achieving



equitable and sustainable program-

## WAY FORWARD:-

- 1) Strengthen local government institutions across all provinces with clearly defined functions and powers.
- 2) Implement fiscal decentralization to provide municipalities with adequate resources for effective service delivery.
- 3) Establish accountability mechanisms, citizen feedback systems, and performance-based monitoring.
- 4) Gradually address legitimate regional grievances through enhanced local governance rather than immediately creating new provinces.

**CONCLUSION:-** While the idea of new provinces may appear attractive for resolving regional grievances, Pakistan's immediate priority is effective local governance. Empowered and accountable local institutions ensure better service delivery, promote citizen participation, reduce inequality, and preserve national cohesion. New provinces can be considered as a long-term solution, but without strong local governance, any



add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments and be on 7-9 pages.

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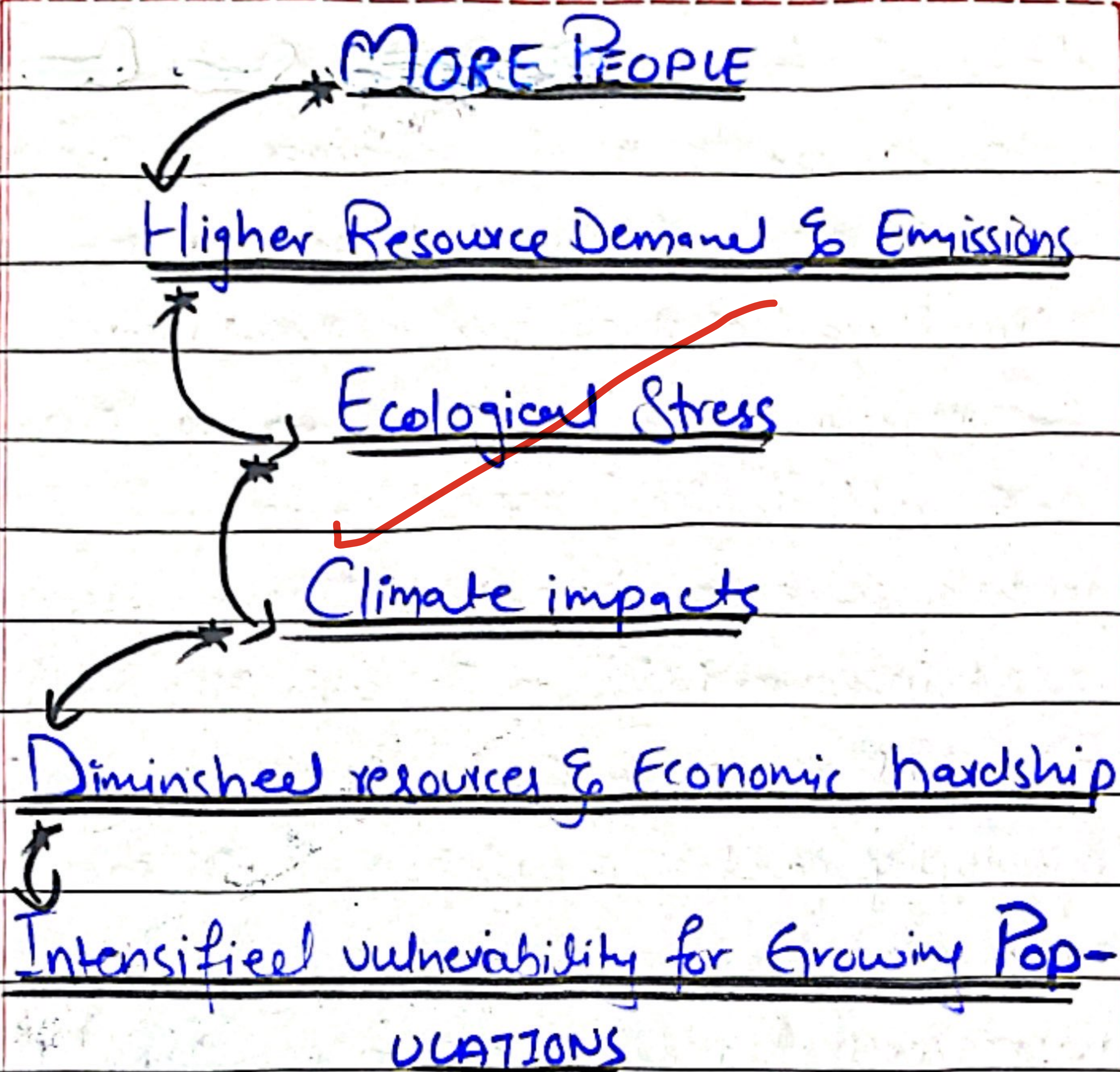
trative restructuring would likely fail to address citizens' needs or improve development outcomes. Strengthening local governance now lays the foundation for sustainable, inclusive and equitable progress across the country.

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Q Population growth and climate change are deeply linked; more people increase resource demands, driving emissions and straining adaptation, while climate change impacts resources and livelihoods generating a vicious cycle. Elucidate.

**INTRODUCTION:-** Population growth and climate change constitute two of the greatest global challenges of our age. Their interaction is not merely additive but it is synergistic, meaning that rising population amplifies environmental degradation and climate stress, while climate change in turn aggravates resource scarcity, undermines livelihoods and destabilises societies, which can spur further demographic pressures. The result is a vicious cycle.





Pakistan is ranked among the most-climate vulnerable countries and rapid population growth coupled with intensifying climate threats presents a pressing crisis for human development, resource security, environmental sustainability, and social stability.

## POPULATION GROWTH AS A MULTIPLIER OF CLIMATE STRESS:-

- i) INCREASED RESOURCE DEMAND AND EMISSIONS:- Rapid population growth intensifies



demand for food, energy, housing, transportation, water and consumer goods. This surge in demand drives expansion of agriculture, industrial production, energy consumption, and urbanization which are all indeed major sources of greenhouse gases. Each additional person adds incrementally to the cumulative emissions.

Empirical research shows that in many developing countries, population growth correlates with rising carbon dioxide emissions, owing to increased reliance on fossil fuels to meet energy needs for cooking, heating, transportation, and industrial activity.

Moreover, to feed a growing population, expanded agricultural activity often involves deforestation, land clearing, and intensive farming methods, and all of these leads to habitat loss, reduced carbon sequestration capacity, land degradation, soil erosion, and biodiversity loss, exacerbating climate change.

Waste generation also rises with population.

Larger populations produce more solid waste and wastewater, mismanagement of waste



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(e.g., open dumping, uncontrolled landfills) creates methane and other greenhouse gases, further contributing to climate change.

### STRAIN ON WATER AND FOOD SECURITY:-

Pakistan's growing population intensifies pressure on limited water resources.

Per capita water availability has declined dramatically over the past decades; making agriculture extremely vulnerable. Climate change compounds this stress: glaciers feeding major rivers are retreating, rainfall patterns are erratic and the frequency of droughts and floods is rising. As a result, population growth and climate change jointly threaten food security, raising the risk of malnutrition, famine, and social instability, particularly in rural and low-income areas.

### URBANIZATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE STRESS

Population growth drives urban expansion, often in unplanned ways. Pakistani cities, including Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, face chronic overcrowding, inadequate housing, traffic congestion, and



pollution. Rising temperature and extreme weather events, intensified by climate change, place additional stress on infrastructure, including energy grids, water supply, and sanitation systems. Poorly planned urban growth in floodplains or low-lying areas amplifies vulnerability to climate disasters, creating a feedback loop: climate shocks exacerbate urban hardships, which in turn worsen living conditions for a growing population.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AS A DRIVER OF POPULATION VULNERABILITY:-

Climate change affects population dynamics. Droughts, floods, and crop failure reduce livelihoods, trigger rural-urban migration, and increase pressure on urban centers. Health risks from heat waves, waterborne diseases, and air pollution disproportionately affect densely populated areas. Vulnerable populations experience higher mortality, lower productivity, and weakened social



resilience, feeding into the cycle of poverty and rapid population growth.

## BREAKING THE CYCLE: POLICY IMPERATIVES:-

Addressing the population-climate nexus requires integrated strategies. Firstly, promoting family planning and education, especially for women, can stabilize population growth and reduce future pressures on resources. Secondly, climate-resilient agriculture, efficient water management, reforestation and renewable energy adoption can mitigate environmental impacts. Urban planning should prioritize sustainable infrastructure, disaster preparedness, and resilient housing. Thirdly, social protection mechanisms are vital to shield vulnerable populations from climate shocks, while public awareness campaigns can encourage sustainable consumption and resource use.

## CONCLUSION:-

Population growth and climate change are mutually reinforcing



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challenges in Pakistan. Rapid demographic expansion amplifies resource demand, emissions, and ecological stress, while climate change exacerbates resource scarcity, disrupts livelihoods and heightens social vulnerability. Breaking this vicious cycle requires coordinated policies addressing both population stabilization & climate adaptation. By promoting family planning, environmental stewardship, resilient infrastructure and equitable resource management, Pakistan can mitigate the compounded risks and move toward sustainable development. The interlinkages of population and climate cannot be ignored; proactive, integrated action is essential for safeguarding Pakistan's future.

Q How 27<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment affected the trichotomy of power in Pakistan? Discuss.

**27<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT AND THE TRICHOTOMY OF POWER IN PAKISTAN :-**



The 27<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan represents one of the most significant legal and institutional changes in the country's recent history. It primarily focuses on the establishment of the Federal Court of Pakistan (FCC), redefinition of judicial appointments, transfer of judges, and restructuring of executive oversight over defence institutions. While the amendment was presented as a reform to streamline judicial functions and strengthen governance, it has profound implications for the trichotomy of powers, the separation of legislative, executive and judicial authorities in Pakistan.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL COURT OF PAK:

Historically, the Supreme Court of Pakistan held all encompassing jurisdiction over constitutional, civil, and criminal cases. The 27<sup>th</sup> amendment establishes the Federal Court of Pakistan, assigning it exclusive jurisdiction over constitutional matters while leaving civil and criminal cases with the Supreme Court. The idea of a constitutional court is not novel; countries such as Germany,



South Africa, Poland, and South Korea have adopted similar structures to delineate constitutional review from other judicial functions. In Pakistan, however, this division has curtailed the SCP's traditional powers and created an imbalance by positioning the FCC as the ultimate authority on fundamental rights and constitutional interpretation. Consequently, the judiciary's apex has been bifurcated, potentially weakening the SCP's oversight role and fragmenting judicial authority.

**IMPACT ON JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS & EXECUTIVE INFLUENCE** - The 27<sup>th</sup> amendment introduces significant changes in the appointment of judges to the FCC. The PM now advises the President to appoint the Chief Justice of the FCC, while other judges are appointed by the PM in consultation with the FCC Chief Justice. This grants the executive greater leverage over judicial appointments, raising concerns about the independence of the judiciary. The fear is that the judges may



be selected based on political alignment rather than merit, undermining impartial adjudication. This shift diminishes the judicial branch's autonomy and enhances executive influence, challenging the fundamental principle of the separation of powers.

### TRANSFERS OF JUDGES & CURTAILMENT OF JUDICIAL AUTONOMY:-

Under the amendment, the process of the transfer and elevation of judges has been modified. Previously, the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), comprising senior judges, oversaw transfers and elevations, often requiring the consent of the concerned judges. Post-amendment these powers are vested in the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), usually headed by the Chief Justice of the FCC.

Judges' consent is no longer required; refusal to transfer is interpreted as voluntary retirement. This centralisation of authority allows the executive, through its influence over the JCP, to manipulate judicial postings, potentially using transfers as instruments of compliance or punishment.



such practices erode judicial independence and compromise the checks and balances mechanism fundamental to the trichotomy of power.

## SHIFT OF JUDICIAL POWERS:- ARTICLE 184(3) AND JUDICIAL REVIEW

Another critical consequence is the transfer of powers under Article 184(3), which authorizes suo motu action on matters of public interest. Previously exercised by the SCP, this power now vests with the FCC. Additionally, the FCC becomes the final arbiter on constitutional matters, including challenges against legislation and executive actions. This effectively concentrates constitutional review in a newly created body, while reducing the SCP to the adjudication of civil and criminal cases. By altering the traditional hierarchy, the amendment undermines the judicial branch's capacity to act as an independent check on the executive and legislature.



## IMPACT ON THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES:-

While the executive gains substantial influence over judicial appointments and transfers, the legislative branch retains limited formal checks on this process. This consolidation of executive power disrupts the balance intended by the constitution, weakening the judiciary's role as an autonomous institution capable of moderating legislative and executive excesses.

## DEFENCE RESTRUCTURING AND EXECUTIVE CONTROL:-

The 27th amendment also addresses the defence hierarchy by abolishing the joint Chiefs of Staff (JCOS) and establishing the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), a post exclusively held by the army chief. While this mirrors models in other countries, critics argue that it increases executive influence over defence operations and diminishes inter-service coordination, further centralizing power within



The executive's ambit.

**CONCLUSION:-** In conclusion, the 27<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment has significantly affected the trichotomy of power in Pakistan. By establishing the FCC, centralizing judicial appointments and transfers under executive influence, and shifting constitutional review away from the SCP, the amendment has weakened judicial independence and altered the balance among the three branches of government. While proponents argue it streamlines constitutional adjudication, the amendment raises serious concerns about the potential politicization of the judiciary and the erosion of checks and balances. For Pakistan, maintaining a robust separation of powers is essential to safeguard democracy, uphold the rule of law, and ensure that neither the Executive nor the Legislature dominates the judiciary.



- Q It was Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi and Shah Wali Ullah who revive the Islamic ideology and established the foundations of Muslim Nationalism. Explain.

### INTRODUCTION:-

The decline of the Mughal Empire from the late sixteenth century onwards weakened political authority, created sectarian confusion, and threatened the distinct religious identity of the Muslims of India. In this environment, the revivalist missions of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi (1564-1624) and Shah Wali Ullah Dehlvi (1703-1762) became turning points in Islamic intellectual and political history. Their contributions not only restored the original Islamic worldview but also shaped the consciousness that later transformed into Muslim nationalism, culminating in the Pakistan Movement. Their reform movements were rooted in Islamic scholarship, moral reconstruction, resistance to religious syncretism, and the reorganisation of Muslim socio-political life.



## REVIVAL OF ISLAMIC IDEOLOGY BY SHEIKH AHMED SIRHINDI:

Sheikh Ahmeel Sirhindei, known as Mufi delid Alf-e-Sani, emerged during Akbar's policy of Sulh-i-Kul, which blurred the religious boundaries between Islam and Hinduism. Sirhindei confronted this ideological crisis by defending Tawhid, Shariah, and the distinctiveness of Islamic civilisation. His most significant contribution was-

### i) REJECTION OF UN-ISLAMIC SYNCRETISM

He openly opposed Din-i-Ilahi and other syncretic practices introduced by Akbar's court. Through his Maktubat, he re-asserted that Islam is a complete code of life, and Muslims must preserve their spiritual and cultural identity.

ii) REFORM OF SUFISMS:- Sirhindei purified Sufism from heterodox elements and reconciled Shariah with Tasawwuf. By redefining concepts such as Wahdat-ul-Shuhud, he protected Islamic theology from philosophical distortions.



### iii) MORAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM:

He encouraged Muslim nobles, administrators, and scholars to resist Un-Islamic innovations. His influence on the Mughal court later shaped the religious policies of Emperor Jahangir and Shah Jahan, restoring Islamic values at the state level.

Collectively, Sirhindi re-awakened the Muslim community to its religious identity, laying the earliest intellectual base for a separate Muslim consciousness in India.

I.H. Qureshi describes him as "the first thinker to assert the separateness of Muslim nationhood in India."

### SHAH WALIULLAH: CONSOLIDATION OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT AND SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION

A century later, when the Mughal Empire had weakened further and Muslim society suffered intellectual and political disintegration, Shah Waliullah revived Islamic thought in a deeper and more



systematic manner. His reforms strengthened the ideological foundations laid by Sirhindi.

### i) TRANSLATION AND REFORMULATION OF ISLAMIC KNOWLEDGE:-

By translating the Quran into Persian, Shah Waliullah democratized religious knowledge and made Islamic teachings accessible by and to the scholarly elite. His works, particularly Hujjatullah-al-Baligha, reconnected Muslims with the ethical, economic, and political dimensions of Islam.

### ii) SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORM:

He analysed the causes of Muslim decline by highlighting class conflict, moral corruption, and administrative decay. His call for justice, accountability, and economic reforms restored confidence in Islamic governance principles.

### iii) UNIFICATION OF MUSLIM SECTS:-

At a time of intense sectarian conflict, he emphasized the unity of Muslims and



revived the concept of the Ummah as a cohesive body. His students and successors further carried this programme across India.

#### iv) STRUGGLE FOR POLITICAL REVIVAL:-

Unlike Strickland, Shah Waliullah also took an organised political stance. Realising the military threat posed by Marathas, he invited Ahmed Shah Abdali to intervene, arguing that Muslim political power was essential for the protection of Islamic civilisation in India. Historians such as J. Burton see this as an early expression of Muslim political solidarity.

#### FOUNDATION OF MUSLIM NATIONALISM

Both reformers did not speak of nationalism in the modern territorial sense. However, their ideas laid the essential building blocks of Muslim nationalism, later articulated by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Allama Iqbal, and the leaders of the Pakistan



## Movement

Their contribution to Muslim nationalism can be summarised as follows:-

### i) PRESERVATION OF MUSLIM IDENTITY:-

By protecting Islamic ideology from dilution they strengthened the idea that Muslims were a distinct community with separate cultural, ethical, and spiritual foundations.

### ii) EMPHASIS ON SHARIAH AND ISLAMIC POLITICAL THOUGHT:-

Both scholars revived the concept of Islamic governance, justice, and moral authority. It was their ideas that later formed the Two-Nation Theory and the demand for a separate Muslim homeland.

### iii) INTELLECTUAL CONTINUITY: Shah Waliullah's

intellectual school influenced reformers such as Shah Abdul Aziz, Syed Ahmad Khan, and later the leaders of Deoband, who shaped political consciousness before and during the colonial period.

### iv) IMPACT ON MODERN MUSLIM THINKERS:-

Allama Iqbal openly acknowledged Sirhind and Shah Waliullah as the architects of



Muslim spiritual renaissance". Their emphasis on self-purification, collective identity, and Islamic sovereignty became intellectual pillars of Pakistan's ideological narrative.

CONCLUSION:- Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi and Shah Waliullah were not merely religious scholars; they were architects of an intellectual revolution that preserved Islamic identity during political decline and socio-religious chaos. By defending Tawhid, purifying Sufism, reorganising society, promoting unity, and reviving Islamic governance, they laid the philosophical foundations upon which Muslim nationalism later developed. Their revivalist contributions ensured that the Muslims of India remained a distinct community; ultimately shaping the ideological trajectory that led to the creation of Pakistan.



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