

# Pakistan Affairs

## PART - II

### QUESTION NO. 4

#### 1. Introduction

Climate change indeed poses a severe threat to Pakistan's environment and economic security. Climate change and global warming are daunting issues faced by almost each country around the globe. Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate-induced disasters such as floods, droughts, heatwaves and glacier melting due to its geographical location. These natural disasters have already costed Pakistan a lot in terms of economic losses, social instability, and environmental degradation. Without proper strategies to mitigate the effects, Pakistan would be facing more dire conditions.

#### 2. Effects of Climate Changes

##### i) Environmental degradation

Pakistan in the recent years has been facing extreme weather conditions in summer and in winter. Rising temperatures, deforestation, and increased water stress have led to biodiversity loss and desertification. Moreover, rapid melting of glaciers in the Himalayas increase the risk of glacial lake outburst flood. Loss of forest cover worsens carbon emissions and reduces biodiversity.



## (ii) Economic losses

Pakistan loses billions of dollars annually due to damages from climate-related disasters. The floods of 2022 alone caused over \$30 billion damages

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### (a) Agriculture losses

As largely an agrarian economy, unpredictable weather patterns result in reduced crop yields and food insecurity

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### (b) Infrastructure Damage

Floods and storms destroy homes, roads, bridges and even wipe off whole villages, requiring costly reconstruction efforts which put a financial strain on the economic costs.

i)

### (c) Health costs

Climate-Related illnesses, such as heatstroke and waterborne diseases, which ultimately burden the health care system.

ii)

## iii) Population Pressure

Overpopulation intensifies the issue of lack of resources such as water, food and energy and in turn increases social issues like food insecurity. It also gives rise to urbanization issues due to rapid and unplanned urban growth which exacerbates environmental degradation and reduces resilience to disasters.

a)



#### iv) Inadequate Mitigation Strategies

Pakistan has inadequate mitigation strategies developed to deal with the pressing issue of climate change. Insufficient climate policies and weak enforcement mechanisms hinder progress. A lack of financial resources limits the implementation of mitigation projects.

### 3. Way Forward

#### i) Population Planning

Family training programs will help promote awareness of family planning through educational campaigns and improved access to healthcare. Financial incentives for families adopting population control measures would really motivate people to strictly follow the guided measures.

#### ii) Strengthen Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

Pakistan should focus on climate mitigation and adaptation measures like:

##### a) Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

Disaster Resilient Infrastructure which include constructing flood defenses, improving urban drainage system, and develop drought resilient crops. This would help protect the infrastructure from any climate-induced damages or losses.

(b) Transition to Renewable Energy

Pakistan should focus on adopting Renewable energy usage by investing in wind, solar and hydropower projects to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions.

(c) Efficient water Management

Pakistan should also manage its limited water resources by building reservoirs, implementing rainwater harvesting and modernizing irrigation techniques. These techniques would help save water resources and promote their efficient use.

(iii) Environmental Conservation

a) Aforestation

Pakistan must invest in Aforestation programs to re-grow its lost forest/green cover.

It should expand on programs like "10 Billion Tree Tsunami" and ensure sustainable forest management.

b) Sustainable Farming

Promote climate-smart agriculture, including crop rotation and organic fertilizers which will have a lesser impact on environment degradation.

(iv) Community and Institutional Development

a) Grassroot Engagement



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We should focus on training communities in disaster preparedness and involve them in climate action initiatives and this is a responsibility of the whole community to work towards climate protection.

(b) Institutional Reforms.

Strengthen the capacity of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and local governments.

v) International Cooperation

Pakistan should engage the international community for cooperation as it contributes merely 0.9% carbon emissions but is still the most climate vulnerable country.

(a) Funding and Technology Transfer

Pakistan should seek global climate finance and advanced technologies to support adaptation measures.

(b) Collaboration with Neighboring Countries

Partnering up with neighboring countries to manage shared resources like rivers and ecosystems would really help mitigate the issue of resources.

vi) Education and Public Awareness

Climate Education and introducing climate



change topics in school curriculum ~~to~~  
will help foster awareness among  
youth

1.

#### b) Media Campaigns

Working on media campaigns by using digital platforms and traditional media to educate the public on reducing their carbon footprint will help mitigate the issue on a bigger scale.

#### 4. Conclusion

Climate change is a multi-faceted challenge that demands immediate and sustained action. For Pakistan, the path forward involves addressing population pressures, strengthening institutional frameworks and implementing effective mitigation and adaptation strategies. By investing in renewable energy, sustainable development, and community engagement, Pakistan can build resilience against climate-induced disasters. Additionally, international cooperation and long-term planning will be crucial in ensuring a sustainable and secure future for both the environment and the economy.

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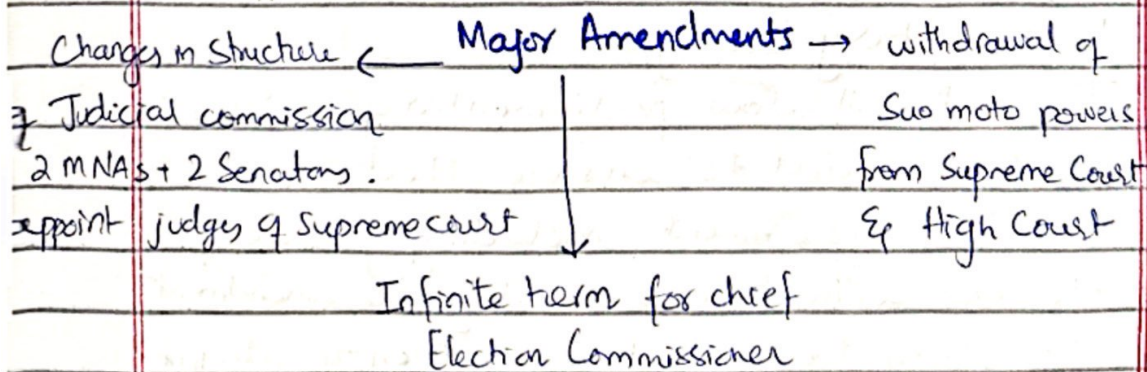
## QUESTION NO. 8

### 1. Introduction

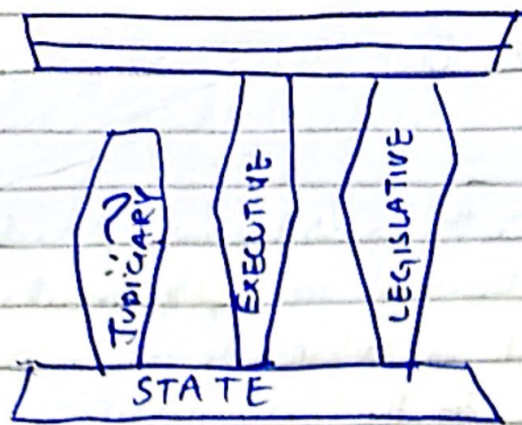
The passage of 26<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment by Pakistan's parliament in 2024 marks an unprecedented shift in balance of power, posing a potent threat to the independence of judiciary which is a fundamental pillar of any democratic society. The amendment is not merely a legal adjustment, rather it has far reaching implications that strikes at the very heart of judicial autonomy. By stripping the Supreme Court of its Swo moto powers, and giving Prime minister the prerogative to appoint Chief Justice, the amendment systematically dismantles judiciary's ability to act as an independent check on executive and legislative over reaches.

### 2. 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment - What has changed?

Formation of Special Parliamentary  
Committee to appoint Chief Justice - 8 MNAs & 4 Senators  
↑







### 3. Evaluation of 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment on Constitutional Principles

#### i) Judicial Independence

The amendment potentially increases parliamentary control over judicial appointments or actions, which could compromise the judiciary's impartiality. By changing the structure of Judicial Commission, to appoint Supreme Court judges and formation of Special Parliamentary Committee to recommend the best candidate, the incumbent government has also politicized judiciary. This will pressure the judges and Chief Justice to align with the government interests.

#### ii) Parliamentary Oversight

This act will allow parliamentary oversight which is crucial to ensure that no branch of government, including judiciary operates without accountability. The amendment strengthens the legislature's authority, aligning



with the principle of parliamentary sovereignty. However, unchecked oversight risks politicizing the judiciary, potentially turning judicial matters into political contests.

### 8. Separation of Powers

The separation of powers ensures that the legislative, executive and judicial branches function independently to prevent authoritarianism. The amendment could ~~blur~~ blur the lines between government branches. The overlap may weaken institutional effectiveness and compromise the judiciary's role as a check on legislative and executive powers.

### 4) Fundamental Rights and Rule of Law

### 3. Way Forward

- i) Ensuring Judicial Independence
- ii) Strengthen Parliamentary Oversight
- iii) Promoting Dialogue Between Institutions
- iv) Constitutional Safeguards

### 4. Conclusion.