

Pakistan Affairs

Question 6

(A) Introduction

Pakistan has been facing economic challenges for several decades now which raises multiple questions on its approach for dealing with the economic plight. Over-reliance of the government on loans and bail-outs while persistently neglecting the root causes has been the common practice. This has led to plethora of further challenges for the country.

(B) Pakistan's Approach in dealing with Economic Plight

1) IMF Bailouts

Pakistan has now entered its 25th term of IMF loan. The inability of the country to function without loans is depicting a bleak picture. It is a testament to the failure of institutions to provide for the country. It also demands serious structural reforms in all sectors including agriculture, industrial, service, energy, etc. of the state.

2) Over-reliance on loans

Pakistan has been overly dependent on both internal and external loans for a long time. In the last few years the situation became even worse as the country came at the brink of going default.

3) Short-term solutions

All the consecutive governments of Pakistan have been focused on short-term solutions for the country without addressing the root causes of the problem. This has exacerbated the challenges and today, as Malecha Lodhi quotes in ~~her~~ her article in Dawn Newspaper, Pakistan is in a "poly crisis" state.

4) Heavy Income Taxes

The government has imposed heavy income taxes on the salaried class, which already paid taxes before. The government has not taken any measures to hunt down those who evade taxes including the giant businessmen. This has reduced the purchasing power parity of the salaried class, leading to their increased dissatisfaction. It is also due to this reason, the salaried class is now looking for

for opportunities to move abroad,
resulting into brain drain.

5) Over-reliance on Indirect Taxes

Instead of taking measures to stop tax evasion, the government has imposed multiple indirect taxes such as GST. This has led to increased inflation in the country and decreased purchasing power parity.

6) Negligence of Root Causes

Reliance on short term solutions has led to negligence of root causes. As a result, the problems have exacerbated leading to massive instability in the country.

(B) PESTEL Analysis on Implications of Current Approach

POLITICAL

- Public Dissatisfaction
- Growing Polarization
- Giving rise to Insurgencies
- Increasing instability
- International Isolation
- Tarnishing Reputation of Country.

ECONOMIC

- Decreasing Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)
- Inflation
- Increasing Unemployment
- Stagflation
- Increasing Poverty

STRATEGIC

- Growing Insurgencies
- Revival of terrorism
- Growing crime rate
- Terror financing
- Non-traditional security threats

TECHNOLOGICAL

- Reduced focus on technological innovation
- Increased reliance on imported products
- Inability to compete in international market

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Reduced focus on addressing climate change
- Resource scarcity
- Environment degradation
- Health problems

LEGAL

- Delayed cases
- Overburdened courts
- human rights violation
- International law violation

(C) RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) Structural Reforms

Serious attention should be paid on structural reforms in all sectors.

Industrial infrastructure should be improved to increase production.

Techniques such as Direct Air Capture (DAC) and carbon mineralization

should be implemented to decrease carbon footprint. Agriculture sector

should be modernized by using latest techniques and genetically

engineered seeds to address food scarcity.

(2) Focus on value Addition

Instead of exporting raw material, focus should be paid on value addition. This would lead to increased exports for the country, reducing the tax deficit.

(3) Tax Reforms

Special measures should be taken to catch tax evaders. Strict punishments should be imposed to create deterrence. More focus should be paid on direct taxes instead of indirect taxing.

(4) Educational Reforms

The educational sector of Pakistan demand special attention. Lack of quality books and teachers is producing incapable youth. Educational budget should be increased. Training camps should be introduced for teachers. Quality of books should be ensured.

(5) Reducing Dependence on Loans

Instead of depending on foreign loans and bail-outs, the institutions of the country should be transformed

and strengthened to make them self-sufficient.

(D) CONCLUSION

The country should shift from depending on foreign loans and immediate solutions towards making itself more capable and self-sufficient. This would ensure long-term stability of the country.

Question 4

(A) INTRODUCTION

Climate change has become one of the most pressing challenges of twenty-first century. It has disproportionately affected the already vulnerable nations, including Pakistan, exacerbating the existing inequalities. In Pakistan it has adversely affected all sectors including agriculture, business, industrial etc, costing huge economic loss for the country. It has given rise to massive inflation, food scarcity and health problems.

(B) Climate Change Threatening Economic Security

1) Increased Intensity and Frequency of Natural Disasters

Climate change has led to global warming, increasing the global temperature. The increased temperature has resulted into plethora of problems including increasing frequency and intensifying of natural disasters. Recently, the fires in forests of Murree resulted due to climate change. Moreover, the floods in 2022 - exacerbated by climate change - submerged one-third of the country. According to World Bank (WB), the flood of 2022 in Pakistan costed an economic loss of 30 billion dollars.

(2) Health Problems

Natural disasters destroy infrastructures, forcing people to move to camps. The displaced people are forced to live in unsanitary conditions giving rise to diseases such as cholera, dengue, malaria, etc. Moreover, the heatwaves and cold waves - intensified by climate change - lead to increased cases of heatstroke, hypothermia,

and respiratory diseases. Consequently, all these health issues resulting due to climate change cause huge economic strains on the country.

(3) Agriculture Damage

According to multiple studies, increase of 1°C in temperature, decreases the yield of some crops by 10%, giving rise to food insecurity. Similarly, natural disasters cause massive crop damage. For example, the flood of 2011 in Pakistan caused huge damage to crops and livestock, giving rise to ~~economic~~ food scarcity in the country. As a result, Pakistan had to import massive amounts of wheat from Ukraine to meet its basic needs, straining the economy of the country.

(4) Rise in Inflation

The reduced quantity of food causes inflation in the market. The purchasing power parity of citizens reduce. The country becomes increasingly dependent on foreign loans to meet its needs and help its people. This further leads to devaluation of currency. The similar situation was faced by Pakistan, as the prices of

food skyrocketed after the floods of 2022.

(C) WAY FORWARD

1) Population Planning

Pakistan is the 6th most populated country in the world but in terms of its economy, it stands nowhere.

The country needs to pay special attention towards controlling its population as it is causing excessive strain on the already poor resources of the country.

(a) Overburdened Healthcare

Climate change is causing excessive health issues. On top of that, the overpopulation of the country is further burdening the healthcare sector.

(b) Increased Pollution

Overpopulation results into increased pollution which further leads to climate change.

(c) Increased Urbanization

Overpopulation in Pakistan is causing excessive urbanization in the country. For which, massive forests are being cut down.

As forests are massive carbon sinks, deforestation is further leading to climate change.

2) Mitigation Measures

(a) Renewable Energy Resources

Burning of fossil fuels release massive amounts of carbon dioxide, resulting into global warming. Hence, government should take measures to transition towards renewable energy resources.

(b) Imposing Carbon Taxes

The government should impose carbon taxes to discourage the use of fossil fuels.

(c) Green Infrastructure

The government should incentivise the construction of green infrastructure. Projects such as the sponge city project by China, should be adopted.

(d) Reforestation and Afforestation

Plantation campaigns should be organized to increase forest cover of the country.

(e) Adopting Sustainable Practices

Sustainable practices should be adopted in all sectors of the country. For example, in the industrial sector, techniques such

as Direct Air Capture (DAC) and carbon mineralization should be adopted to reduce carbon emission. Moreover in the Agriculture sector, techniques such as vertical farming and precision farming should be introduced to ensure optimal use of resources and ~~use~~ fertilizers.

(D) CONCLUSION

Anatol Liven in his book, "Pakistan: A Hard Country" describe Pakistan as a resilient nation with no threat to its existence but one: climate change. Therefore, the government should consider it a real threat and take adequate adaptation and mitigation measures to ensure safe future for the country.

Question no. 3

(A) INTRODUCTION

Muslims had rule the sub-continent for several ~~do~~ centuries. The arrival of British caused massive shock for the Muslim community and they refused to accept their rule. This resistance caused massive

problems for them. At that time, Sir Syed rose to help Muslims regain their lost glory.

(B) ALIGARH MOVEMENT

1) Scientific Education

Sir Syed encouraged Muslims to acquire scientific education along with religious education.

(2) MAO College

Sir Syed constructed Muhammadan Anglo Oriental College in 1875 which later became a university.

(3) Journal and Magazines

Sir Syed introduced multiple journals and magazines which translated the latest works into local languages to help Muslims stay up to date. He also laid foundation for the Scientific Society.

(4) Learning English Language

Sir Syed encouraged Muslims to learn English language which helped them get better jobs and improve their living conditions.

Before Aligarh movement, Muslims had completely refused to learn the language of colonizers in the form of protest. But

this decision was harming the Muslim community itself.

(C) Implications of Aligarh Movement

(1) Achievement of Better Jobs

Muslims were able to secure better jobs as a result of educating themselves. Previously, only the Hindus were given higher positions.

(2) Better Status in Society

Muslims were able to achieve better status in society. They were able to improve their living conditions.

(3) Platform to voice their concerns

Muslims got a platform to unite and voice their concerns. As a result, their demands were better addressed.

(4) Better Relations with Britishers

As a result of Aligarh movement, Muslims were able to accept the change and embrace the rule of British. This led to better relations between the Muslims and the Britishers.

(5) Creation of Muslim League

As the Muslims became more united and aware of their problems, they were able to form All India Muslim League to help them voice their concerns to the Britishers.

(6) Demand of Pakistan

As the Muslims realized that living with Hindus was becoming increasingly impossible, they raised a demand for a separate nation (Pakistan). Through the platform of All India Muslim League, the leaders especially Muhammad Ali Jinnah were able to convince the Britishers for a separate homeland.

(D) CONCLUSION

The Aligarh Movement by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan played a pivotal role in educating the Muslims and helping them unite through a platform. It played an important role in demanding a separate homeland and creation of Pakistan.

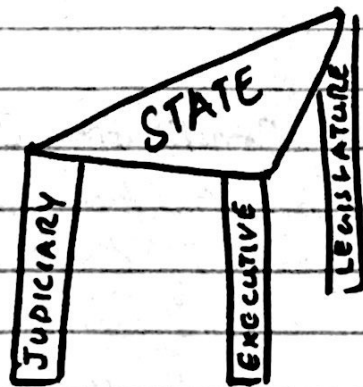
Question no. 8

(A) INTRODUCTION

The 26th Amendment to the Constitution of 1973 was passed in October, 2024. It was an extensive amendment, consisting of 47 articles. Majority of the reforms have been made in the Article 175 (A) which deals with the Judiciary. The critics have argued that it is compromising Judicial independence, threatening the trichotomy of power.

(B) CONSTITUTION PRINCIPLES

(1) Three Pillars of State



According to the Constitution of Pakistan, there are three pillars of a state: Judiciary, Executive, Legislature. All these institutions should work in their own domain and jurisdiction.

(2) Rule of law

Nobody should be above the law.
All citizens should be held accountable for their actions irrespective of their status.

(4) Implications of 26th Amendment

(1) Threat to Judicial Independence

(a) Appointment of CJP

Before the amendment, the Chief Justice of Pakistan was appointed on seniority basis. Now, a special parliamentary committee (SPC) is given the responsibility to select CJP from among the three senior most judges of Supreme Court.

(b) Formation of Constitutional Bench

26th Amendment has resulted into formation of Constitutional Benches in the Supreme and High Courts. These would include members of Parliament. All cases related to constitutional matters could be addressed here.

(c) Removal of CJP

CJP could be removed at any time. The condition for removal is vague.

(d) Removal of *Suo Motu* Powers

The *suo motu* powers of the supreme court have been clipped. This step is taken to discourage judicial activism. But some critics agree that it would reduce judicial independence.

(2) Chances of Parliamentary Oversight

(a) Empowerment of Parliamentary

The 26th Amendment has significantly empowered the Parliamentary which has increased the chances of parliamentary oversight in the other branches.

(b) Power to appoint CJP

Now the parliamentary is empowered to appoint the new CJP which can threaten the meritocracy.

(D) Reevaluation of Amendment

It is important to reevaluate the 26th amendment according to the constitutional principles in order to maintain the trichotomy of power. This would ensure the judicial independence and prevent parliamentary oversight. It is said:

"Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Therefore, it is essential to ~~ensure~~ maintain balance for smooth running of the country.