

Pakistan Affairs

PART - II

QUES: NO: 2:

Pakistan's Political System:-

Since General Pervez Musharraf's coup of 12 October 1999 Pakistan's political system has been shaped by a tug of war between executive/military influence and repeated efforts to restore constitutionalism, constitutional changes from the Legal Framework Order (2002) through the 17th, 18th and later amendments and very recent alterations to judicial appointment rules have alternately concentrated and dispersed power, producing unstable democratic continuity and mixed governance outcomes.

Evolution:-

- 1) 1999 - 2003:- coup, Legal Framework Order (LFO) and Legitimation

The 1999 coup led to the LFO (2002) which expanded presidential and executive prerogatives (including influence over assemblies, governors and security appointments. Parliament later ratified much of the LFO via the 17th Amendment (2003) thereby constitutionalising many extra-constitutional innovations and embedding

stronger presidential/exec levers in the constitutional text. This shifted the system away from parliamentary democracy toward presidential control.

2) 2007 - 2009: Lawyer's Movement and Judicial Revival:

When Musharraf suspended judges in 2007, the Lawyers Movement began. It restored the judiciary and made the courts stronger. The judiciary then became active in checking the government's power, but sometimes got too involved in politics, creating new tensions between institutions.

3) 2010: The 18th Amendment - Strengthening Democracy:

The 18th Amendment (2010) was a turning point. It ended the President's power to dissolve Parliament, restored parliamentary democracy, and gave more power to the provinces. It promoted federalism and reduced the chance of dictatorship.

However, the provinces still lacked money and capacity to manage new responsibilities, so governance problems remained.

4) 2015: Security Challenges and the 21st Amendment

After the APS Peshawar attack, the 21st Amendment allowed military courts for terrorism cases. Although it helped control

terrorism, it weakened civilian courts and human rights protections. This again showed how security premises can reduce democratic strength.

5) 2018 - 2024 : Political Instability and the 26th Amendment :

From 2018 onwards political fights between parties (PTI, PDM, and others) created more institutional clashes. In 2024 the 26th Amendment changed the way judges are appointed giving parliament more say in choosing the Chief Justice. Many critics believe it weakens judicial independence and could reduce checks on political power.

Impact on Democracy and Governance :

- **Democratic continuity** : Pakistan has managed regular elections since 2008, but power struggles and constitutional changes have made democracy fragile.
- **Governance** : Reforms like the 18th Amendment improved representation, but weak institutions, corruption, and central provincial mistrust hurt governance.
- **Judiciary and civil military imbalance** : The Judiciary became more powerful after 2009 but also more political. The military still plays a hidden role in

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.

decision making.

- Rule of law: Frequent changes to the constitution for short term goals damaged long-term institutional stability.

add more arguments.

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

Conclusion:

Since 1999, Pakistan's political and constitutional journey has been a mix of progress and setbacks. The 18th Amendment strengthened democracy, but later changes like the 21st and 26th showed the return of centralised and politicised control. For true democratic continuity, Pakistan must protect judicial independence, respect provincial autonomy, and stop using constitutional amendments for political. Only then can governance become stable and democratic culture truly take root.

improve the references and the paper presentation part.

Ques #4:

Pakistan - Afghanistan Relations

Brief Trajectory:

After August 2021 Pakistan initially pursued guarded engagement with the Taliban government pragmatic dealings over trade, transit and border management, mixed with persistent security worries about militant groups (TTP) operating from Afghan soil. Over time the relationship shifted from cautious cooperation to frequent friction - especially as cross-border incidents, the refugee situation, and competing regional influences intensified.

give the main heading first and relate your headings to the qs statement

1) Border security - from porous coexistence to repeated clashes:

- The Durand line border remained highly contested and operationally porous: farmers, traders and kin across both sides continued informal movement while states tried to formalize crossings. Pakistan accelerated fencing, checkpoints and outposts after 2021 to stop illicit movement and militant infiltration.
- These measures repeatedly triggered local stand-offs. Major crossings such as Torkham and Chaman have been closed at times after exchanges of fire or disputes over outposts and visa/driver rules - disrupting trade and local life. Periodic

skirmishes and temporary closures (2023-2025) show that border incidents can escalate quickly and become national diplomatic crises.

Implications: Border securitisation reduced some cross-border militancy but increased flashpoints and economic costs.

2) **Refugee issues - humanitarian burden forced returns and political pressure:**

- Pakistan already hosted long-standing Afghan refugee populations. After 2021 there were new arrivals, Pakistan and UN agencies report over a million registered refugees and hundreds of thousands of more affected by documentation and regularization gaps.

- Since 2023-2025, Islamabad has stepped up crackdowns on undocumented Afghans, including large scale deportations and expiration of PoR cards - creating humanitarian outcry and UN concern.

Implication The refugee issue became a political and emotional dispute instead of humanitarian cooperation.

3) Regional Realignment:

China, Iran, and Russia have increased engagement with Afghanistan. Pakistan is now working with these countries through regional dialogues on peace and security. But the Taliban's growing ties with India and Iran have reduced Pakistan's influence in Kabul. Pakistan's main goal remains to stop cross-border terrorism and maintain trade routes through Afghanistan to Central Asia.

Implication: Regional politics have forced Pakistan to depend more on collective diplomacy rather than bilateral influence.

4) Impact on Bilateral Ties:

Relations have shifted from hope to mistrust. Border and refugee tensions hurt trade and cooperation. The absence of a recognized border and Taliban's limited control over militants threaten regional stability. Still, both countries need each other for trade transit, and regional peace.

Conclusion:

Pakistan and Afghanistan relations after 2021 show interdependence and distrust. Security fears, refugee pressures, and shifting alliances have weakened mutual confidence. Only through trust and coordination they can ensure stable borders and shared prosperity.

07

Q# 7:

Climate Change in Pakistan:

Pakistan is among the world's top 10 countries most affected by climate change and is also part of the vulnerable 20 (V20) group of climate threatened economies. While global warming is a major cause, Pakistan's ~~own unstable~~ development model, poor urban planning, deforestation, and unregulated industrialization has worsened its vulnerability. The problem is therefore both external and internal.

1) Role of Global Climate Change:

Rising global temperatures have led to glacier melt, floods and heatwaves. The 2022 floods submerged one-third of Pakistan, displacing millions and causing damage worth over \$30 billion. Despite contributing less than ~~1%~~ of global emission Pakistan suffers heavily due to its geography and dependence on agriculture. Result: Global climate change sets the background for Pakistan's disasters.

2) Role of Pakistan's Hazardous Development Model:-

• Unplanned urbanization:

Concrete expansion blocks natural drainage, causing urban flooding.

minimum description under a heading should be 5 lines.

Deforestation: Forest cover below 5% increase soil erosion and landslides.

Inefficient energy use: Dependence on imported fossil fuels increases pollution and fiscal stress.

Poor water management: Over extraction and waste of irrigation water worsen drought and floods.

Result: These local actions magnify the effects of climate change and push Pakistan higher on the V-20 list

3) Argument:

While climate change is a global driver, Pakistan's development choices amplify its exposure. The disasters of 2010 and 2022 were natural in cause but human in scale - weak governance, poor planning and lack of resilience planning turned hazards into crises. Thus Pakistan's own policies share equal responsibility.

4) Strategy for Mitigation and Resilience:

1 **Green development:** Shift to renewable energy (solar, wind, hydropower)

2 **Reforestation and ecosystem restoration:**

Expand projects like 10 Billion Tree Tsunami

3 **Climate resilient infrastructure.**

Improve drainage, dams, and flood-control systems.

4 Early-warning and disaster management systems.

5 Water conservation. Promote drip irrigation and water pricing reforms.

6 International climate finance.

Seek debt swaps and green investments from global partners.

Conclusion:-

Pakistan's position among the V20 results from both climate change and its risky development model.

While the world must cut emissions,

Pakistan must reform its own practices, build climate-resilient infrastructure, protect natural resources and adopt sustainable growth.

Q#5

Pakistan-US Relations:

Pakistan-US relations have always swung between close partnership and deep mistrust. After the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan (2021) and new governments in both countries - Biden Administration in Washington and coalition

governments in Islamabad - the ties entered a new, cautious phase. Global power shifts toward China, Russia, and the Indo-Pacific have further redefined this relationship from strategic depth to limited cooperation.

1) Changing Global and Regional Context..

- The US "Pivot to Asia" policy focuses on containing China and strengthening India as a key partner.
- Pakistan, on the other hand, has deepened its ties with China through CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative.
- After the U.S. exit from Afghanistan, Washington's regional interests have narrowed to counterterrorism and nuclear stability.
- These global shifts have reduced Pakistan's strategic importance compared to the Cold War and War on Terror eras.

2) Political and Diplomatic Relations (2021 - 2025)

- Relations became strained during Imran Khan's tenure, especially after his visit to Moscow during the Ukraine crisis.

• With the new coalition governments, Pakistan is trying to rebuild ties through economic diplomacy and counterterrorism cooperation.

• The U.S. supports Pakistan in climate recovery (after 2022 floods) and energy sector reforms but avoids deep strategic commitments.

• The dialogue today focuses more on trade, technology and education than on military alliances.

3) Nature of Relationship: Strategic or Transactional?

• The partnership now is mostly transactional - issue-based and limited.

• The U.S. seeks Pakistan's help for regional security and counterterrorism while Pakistan looks for economic and military aid.

• No long-term joint vision or mutual trust exists like in the 1980s or early 2000s.

• Strategic alignment is weak because both countries' core interests - U.S. with India and Indo Pacific, Pakistan with China - are diverging.

4) Future Prospects and Challenges:

- Areas of cooperation: climate action, education, health, trade, and renewable energy.
- Challenges: Pakistan's China partnership, political instability and U.S pressure on democracy and human rights
- Pakistan's best path is to balance relations maintain close economic ties with the U.S while keeping strategic cooperation with China.

Conclusion:-

Pakistan-US relations after 2021 are pragmatic but limited. The era of strategic partnership has faded. What remains is transactional cooperation driven by short-term security and economic needs.

To make it meaningful, Pakistan must strengthen internal stability, diversify trade, and present itself as a responsible regional actor rather than a security dependent state.