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Political Science

Paper - II

Part - II

Question no: 02

The US president is often described as the most powerful elected executive in the world, yet constitutionally constrained.

I- Introduction:

The president of United States is often described as the most powerful elected executive in the world. This is because the office combines significant formal powers. However, these powers are not absolute; they are limited by constitutional mechanisms designed to maintain a balance of power and prevent abuse. The US system

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is both a model of both strong executive authority and checks and balances, ensuring that president's influence is substantial yet accountable.

II: Why the US president is considered most powerful:

1) Directly elected:

The president is elected by the people through electoral college.

President comes directly from the people not from parliament.

2) No vote of no confidence:

The parliament in US cannot pass a vote of no confidence motion against president.

3) Power of appointment:

The president has the authority to appoint cabinet members

Federal judges or heads of federal agencies.

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These appointments allow president to influence policy implementation and judiciary.

4) Power of Foreign policy:

As commander-in-chief and chief diplomat, the president leads the country's international relations and can negotiate treaties and declare war.

5) Power of Veto:

The president can reject legislation passed by congress, providing a critical check over the legislative branch.

III- Why the president is constitutionally constrained:

1) Separation of power:

The US constitution divides authority among three branches.

Executive

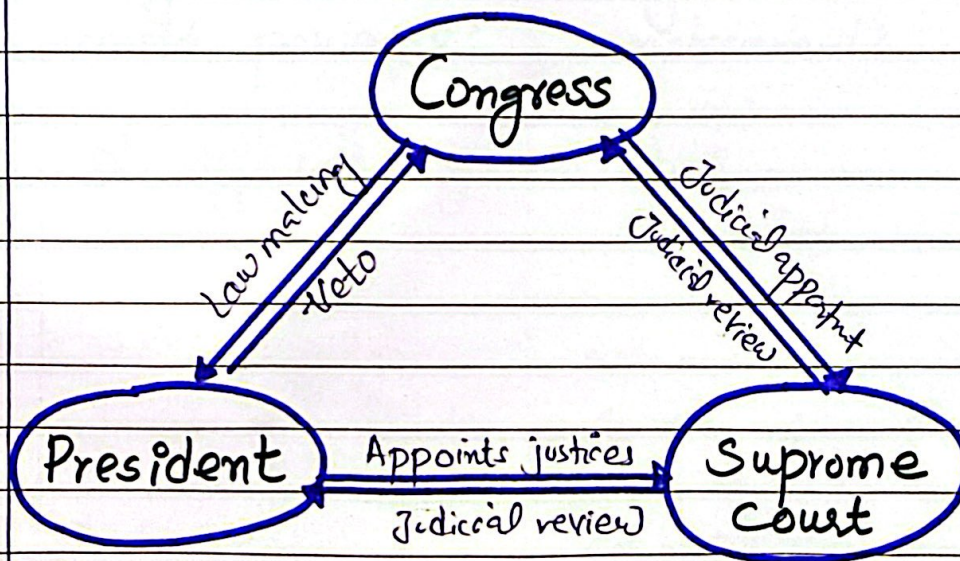
Legislative

Judicial

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This ensures that no branch becomes dominant, and that each can check the others

"The president cannot unilaterally make laws or control courts."



2) Judicial oversight over executive:

Courts have the power of judicial review. They can review presidential actions and declare them unconstitutional.

3) Legislative oversight on executive:

Congress can control budget, conduct investigation, and

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even impeach the president in case of gross misconduct and corruption.

IV- The US President: Powerful yet constitutionally constrained

Why is US President most powerful?

Why constitutionally constrained?

1) Directly elected by people

Short term
04 years

2) appoints judges, heads of institutes

appointment requires senate approval

3) Veto power

Congress can override with 2/3rd majority

4) treaties and war declaration

Senate ratifies

5) Judicial appointment

Judicial review

Checks and balances prevent abuse of power and maintain accountability.

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V- Conclusion:

The US president holds significant authority through elections, appointments, vetoes, and foreign policy leadership, making the office highly influential. However, constitutional mechanism like senate approval, congressional oversight, and judicial review ensure that this power remains balanced and accountable, illustrating the careful design of the American system of checks and balances.

Section - B

Question no: 06

BRICS serve as a challenge to UN and IMF? Explain with reference to various initiatives by BRICS.

I- Introduction:

The rise of global south has introduced new actors into global governance. Among them, BRICS (Brazil, Russia,

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India, China, and South Africa) has emerged as a major block representing developing and emerging economies.

As criticism grows over western dominance in institutions like the

United Nations (UN) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

BRICS is increasingly viewed as a platform that challenges the existing global order through alternative mechanism and reform oriented initiatives

II- BRICS, the UN and the IMF:

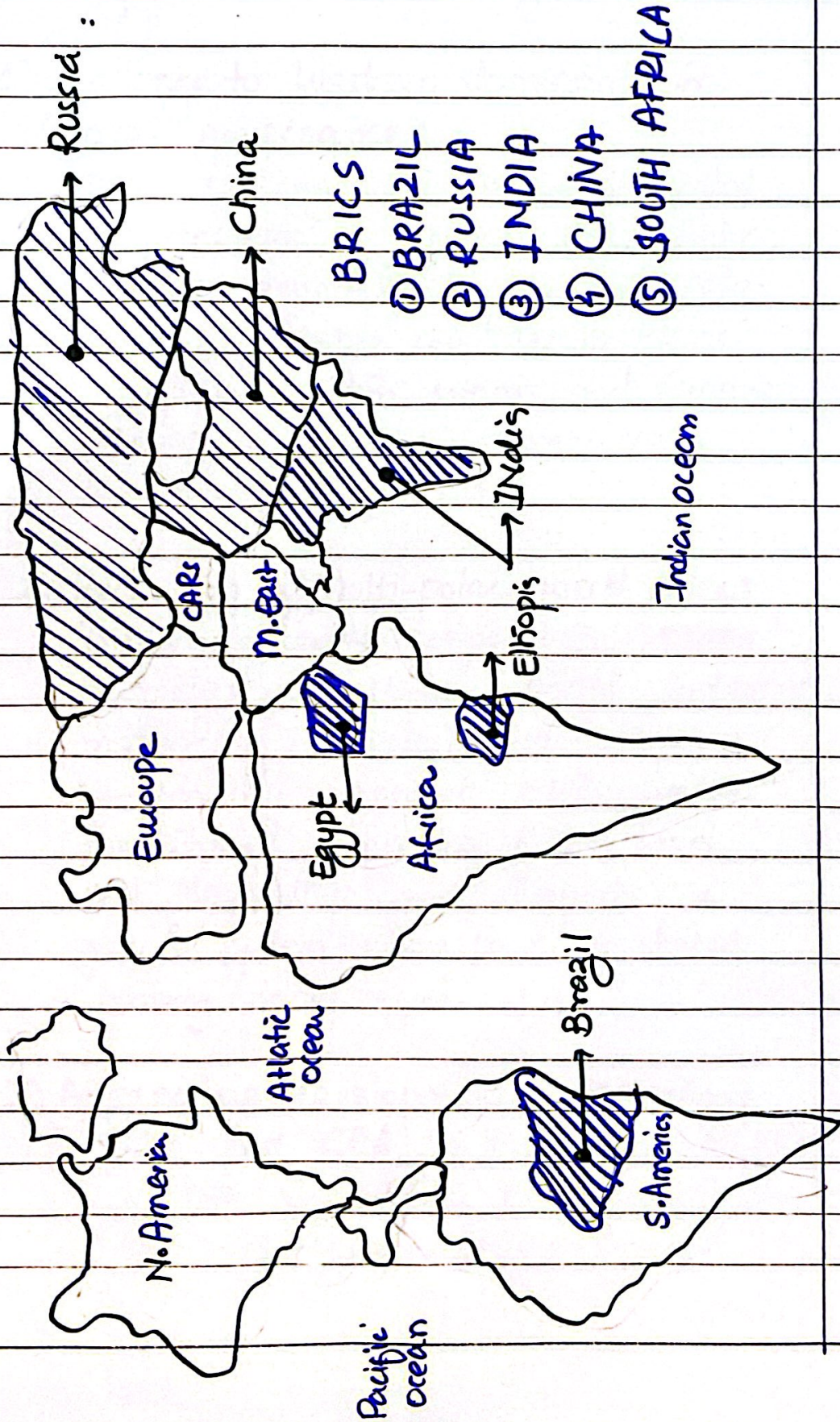
The UN and IMF are key institutions of Post WWII, yet their structures reflect historical power imbalances favouring developed states. For instance, the G7 controls over 40% of IMF voting power, while BRICS holds only 13-15% despite 40-45% of world's population. This disparities have driven BRICS to demand reforms.

III- Initiatives by BRICS:

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- BRICS
by
Initiatives
- ① New development Bank
 - Alternate to World bank
 - Provides structural adjustment programs
 - ② Contingent Reserve Agreement (CRA)
 - Value = 400 b\$
 - A financial safety net for member states facing balance of payment crisis
 - Alternate to IMF
 - ③ Currency swap agreement
 - De-dollarization
 - Promotes bilateral trade in local currencies
 - ④ Development loans and Financial assistance
 - provides loans and development assistance
 - Replacing IMF and WB
 - ⑤ Economic and political coordination
 - BRICS summits demand
 - IMF reforms
 - climate financing and trade governance

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BRICS

① BRAZIL

② RUSSIA

③ INDIA

④ CHINA

⑤ SOUTH AFRICA

IV: Challenges to UN and IMF by BRICS:

1) Challenge to Western dominance in Global governance:

BRICS challenges the western-dominated power structure of UN and IMF, developed countries, especially the United States and G7 member countries. It BRICS declares the system unfair and demands reforms to give a stronger voice to developing countries.

2) Promotion of Multi-polar world order:

Through collective cooperation, BRICS promotes a multipolar world order instead of Western-led unipolar system. This approach challenges the traditional dominance of UN and IMF leadership and supports a global system where power is shared among many regions.

3) Alternative development financing:

NDB and CRA reduces dominance of IMF and WB as the main source of financial assistance.

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Unlike, IMF loans, BRICS financing usually comes with fewer economic conditions.

4) Erosion of Dollar-centric financial system:

BRICS promotes trade in local currencies and encourages currency swap agreements among member states. These efforts reduce reliance on US dollar.

5) Influence as an emerging loan provider:

BRICS has increased its role in providing development loans, and investment support to developing countries. These alternatives give Global South states more choices beyond IMF and WB.

6) Normative challenge to global governance model:

BRICS promotes governance principles based on national sovereignty, non-interference and development focused policies. This challenges the liberal governance model supported by UN and IMF.

V- Conclusion:

In conclusion BRICS does not seek to dismantle the UN or IMF but clearly challenges their traditional dominance by advocating fairer representation and building parallel financial institutions. Its initiative reflects the growing influence of global south and a gradual shift towards a more inclusive and multipolar global governance system.

Question no: 07

Critically examine 26th, 27th amendments highlighting impacts on parliamentary powers and democratic consolidation.

I- Introduction:

Constitutional amendments in Pakistan have historically reshaped the balance of power between the executive, legislature, and judiciary. The 26th and 27th amendments address key governance issues such as

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Judicial appointments, executive authority and institutional immunity. These amendments impact parliamentary powers and democratic consolidation, influencing transparency, accountability and stability of Palestine's democratic system.

II- Key Features of 26th Amendment:

Article
175A

① Judicial appointment

aimed to formalize judicial appointment and reduced arbitrary executive discretion

② Process of appointment

Introduced parliamentary consultative mechanism.

to appoint or appoint to Supreme Court and High courts.

	Change	Articles	Details
1)	Removal of suo motu	(184)3	Supreme court no longer can initiate cases on its own motion. Limits Judicial activism
2)	Tenure of CJP	(180)1	defined a 15 year year term for CJP
3)	Appoint ments	(177)	Special parliamentary committee (SPC) nominates CJP from top three senior judges.
4)	changes to Judicial Commission	(175-A)	Legislature gains greater role in appointment of Judges.

III- Key Features of 27th constitutional amendments:

	Change	Article	Details
1)	CDF	243 245 248	chief of defense forces: holds primacy over

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			Army, navy and Air force chiefs. Grants life time immunity to senior military officers.
2)	Presidential immunity	248	Extends life time immunity from criminal / civil proceeding to president.
3)	FCC	176-189	Establishes federal constitutional court to review constitutional matters. Introduces rules for judge transfers.

IV- Impacts of Amendments on parliamentary powers and democratic consolidation

1) Parliamentary oversight of judicial appointments:

26th amendment introduced parliamentary involvement in the appointment of judges.

2) Limitation of Judicial Activism:

The amendments curtailed the Supreme court's *Suo Moto* powers and established Federal constitution court to handle constitutional matters.

3) Balance of Power between institutions:

Together they clarify roles of parliament, executive and judiciary.

Eg. Parliament's ^{role} in appointment of Judges.

4) Limits and concerns for Parliamentary authority:

While parliamentary powers increased in judicial matters, the 27th amendment centralized executive, military authority and granted immunities to the president and CAA's.

V- Conclusion:

The 26th and 27th amendments are significant steps in Pakistan's democratic development. The 26th strengthened parliamentary powers and transparency in judicial

appointments, while 97th focused on executive-military stability by centralizing power and granting immunities.

Question no : 08

Analyze Pakistan's economic conditions, with reference to growth, inflation, debt management and role of foreign assistance, - implications.

I- Introduction:

Pakistan's economy is facing multiple challenges, including slow growth, rising inflation, heavy debt burdens, and dependency on foreign assistance.

These economic issues are closely linked with political instability, as financial crises often constrain government policies and fuel public dissatisfaction. Understanding the interplay between economic indicators and political consequences is crucial in designing the policies.

II- Economic Growth:

Pakistan's economic growth has been slow and volatile. In recent years. According to State Bank of Pakistan (2025) GDP growth increased around 3-4%.

Constraints:

- 1) Energy shortages
- 2) Weak exports
- 3) Sectoral inefficiencies
 - Agriculture
 - Industry
 - IT

Political implications:

Slow growth fuels public discontent. It increases pressure on policy makers to deliver quick results.

III- Inflation:

Inflation has surged over 20% in 2025, with food energy prices driving most of increase.

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Contributing factors:

Currency depreciation
High global commodity price
Expensive production

Political Implications:

Rising inflation increases income inequality
Badly affects the poor
leads in protests, strikes and declining public trust.

IV- Debt management:

Pakistan public debt increases 90% of GDP. with a growing share devoted to debt servicing.

Key challenges:

- 1) IMF loans (7.4b\$ in 2024)
- 2) Fiscal deficits.

Political implications:

constraints government autonomy.
Failure to manage debt sustainability.

V- Role of foreign assistance:

Along with foreign aids and loans, particularly from the IMF, and WB, friendly nations like China and Saudi-Arabia, play a critical role in stabilizing Pakistan's economy. These include;

1) IMF standby programs tied to SAPs.

2) Chinese investments in CPEC projects

3) Balance of payment support from Gulf states

Political Implications:

While foreign assistance provides temporary relief. It can also generate political criticism for perceived loss and dependence on external actors.

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VI- Conclusion:

Pakistan's current economic conditions is characterized by slow growth, high inflation, heavy debt and reliance on foreign assistance with profound political implications. Economic fragility limits policy choices, fuels public dissatisfaction and increases vulnerability to political instability. Sustainable growth requires structural reform, debt management, inflation control, and a balance to foreign assistance for long-term national prosperity.

The End