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Pakistan Affair  
Final mock

QNo:3

Future of democracy in Pakistan  
by examining opportunities and  
challenges

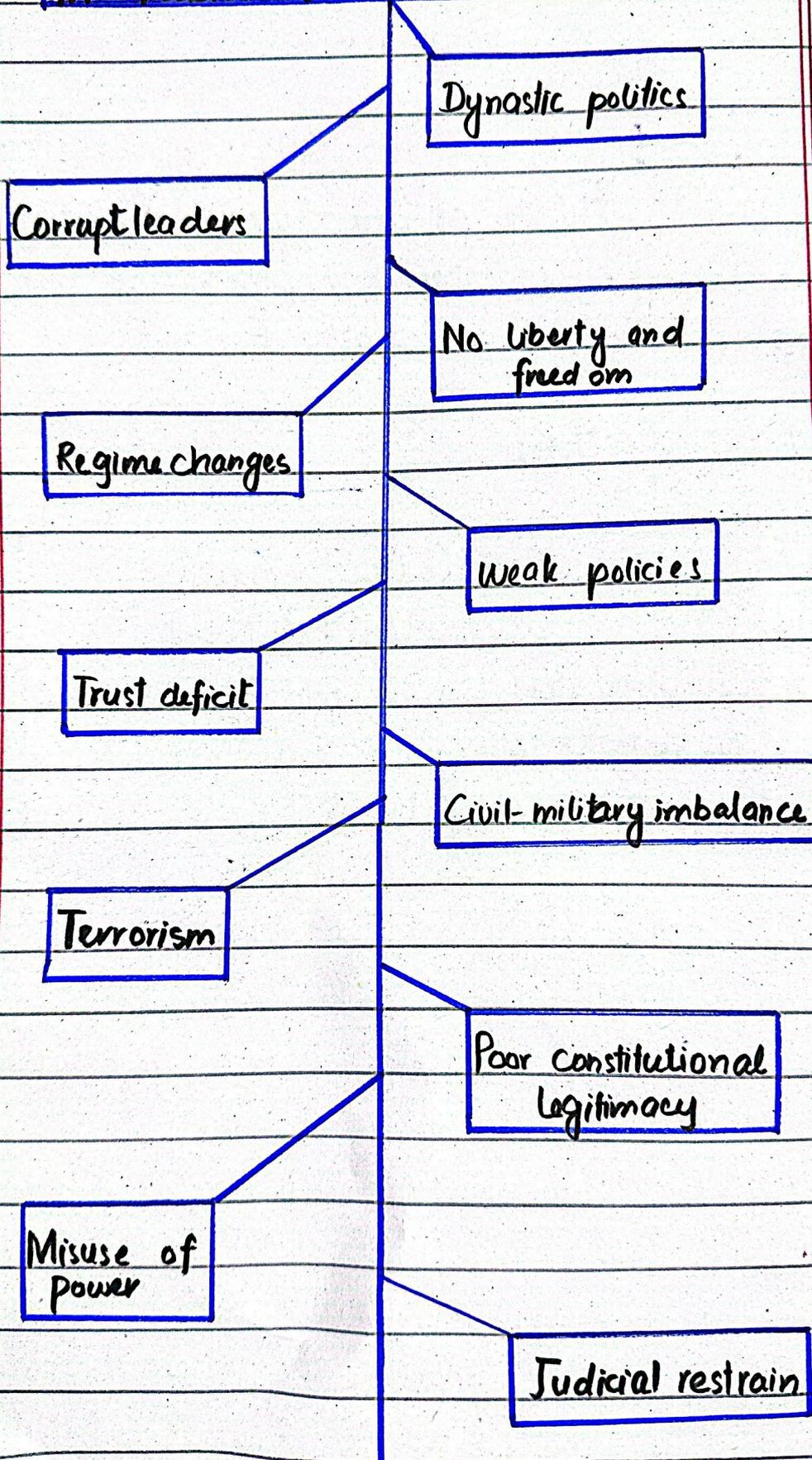
1. Introduction;

ستاروں سے آگے جہاں اور بھی ہیں  
ابھی عشق کے امتحان اور بھی ہیں

Beyond the stars, Lies the worlds still undiscovered  
The tests of love are yet to be arrived.  
Dr. Allama Iqbal

The above stated poetic verse by Allama Iqbal relates to the democratic challenges and struggles of Pakistan Pakistan as a state and its people are undergoing authoritarianism in the veil of democracy. But it still Pakistan holds the space for democratic reforms and policies that will repair the deteriorated democratic fabric of the state.

## 2. The current snapshot of democracy in Pakistan;



### 3. Future of democracy in Pakistan;

Although the current scenario of democracy in Pakistan is unstable but as Faiz Ahmad Faiz used to say,

دل نا افسردہ نہیں نا کام ہی تو ہے  
بکھی ہے غم کی شام مگر شام ہی تو ہے

Heart is not hopeless but momentarily defeated

The night of sorrow is long but it is just a night

### 4. Opportunities for bright democratic future;

With few structural and institutional reforms Pakistan can achieve democratic legitimacy in the state. Keeping in view the ills in the democratic system of Pakistan, state has following opportunities to uplift the democracy in the state:

- constitutional legitimacy
- Incorporating balance of power
- Practicing rule of law
- Prioritizing liberty and freedom
- Restricting recurrent regime changes

## (a) Uplifting constitutional legitimacy in the state;

To repair the deteriorated democratic fibre, Pakistan has an opportunity in its constitution. The key provisions of constitution of Pakistan is based on true democratic norms. By maintaining constitutional legitimacy in the state Pakistan can have a bright democratic future.

## (b) Incorporating balance of power among institutions;

The imbalance of power among state institutions is destabilizing democratic balance in the state. By maintaining balance of power among institutions like NAB, FBR, FCP, executive and legislative bodies, Pakistan achieve a democratic future for the state and people.

## (c) Practicing rule of law;

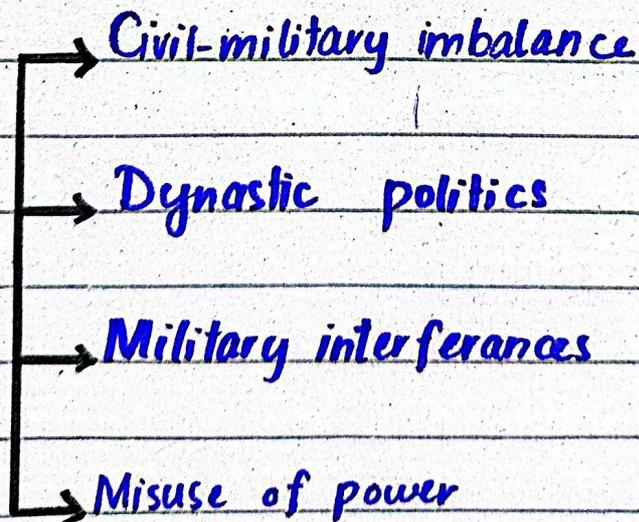
The democracy of Pakistan can be maintained by implementing rule of law equally

on all levels instead of rule by law. The rule by law culture has disrupted the democratic structure in Pakistan.

#### (d) Prioritizing liberty and democratic freedom;

Media censorship and ban on political leaders has hindered the democratic liberty in the state. The state need to introduce policy reforms for the freedom and protection of journalist and media.

#### 5. Challenges hindering the democratic balance in the state;



### (a) Civil-military imbalance;

The civil-military imbalance in Pakistan is hindering the democratic progress in the state. The civilians have resentment over budget division among civilians and military as 80% of state's budget is designated for military.

### (b) Dynastic politics;

The dynastic politics of Bhutto and Sharif family in Pakistan has hindered the democratic progress in the state for years now.

### (c) Military interferences;

The recurrent military interferences and martial laws in the state has affected the efficiency of government making Pakistan to struggle with its democracy.

### (d) Misuse of power;

Misuse of power by ruling elites continue to hinder democratic progress of the state. Without restricting misuse of power structural reforms alone cannot uplift the democracy in the state.

## 6. Conclusion;

Thus, the future of democracy in Pakistan is bright if the persisting misuse of power is restricted, rule by law is replaced by rule of law, limiting the military interference and dynastic politics is replaced by competent leaders. Having a bright democratic future is not an elusive dream for Pakistan to achieve. As stated by Vaclav Havel;

Democracy is a never-ending process, it is a constant negotiation between liberty and independence.

Q No: 4

## Pakistan's national security

### 1. Introduction;

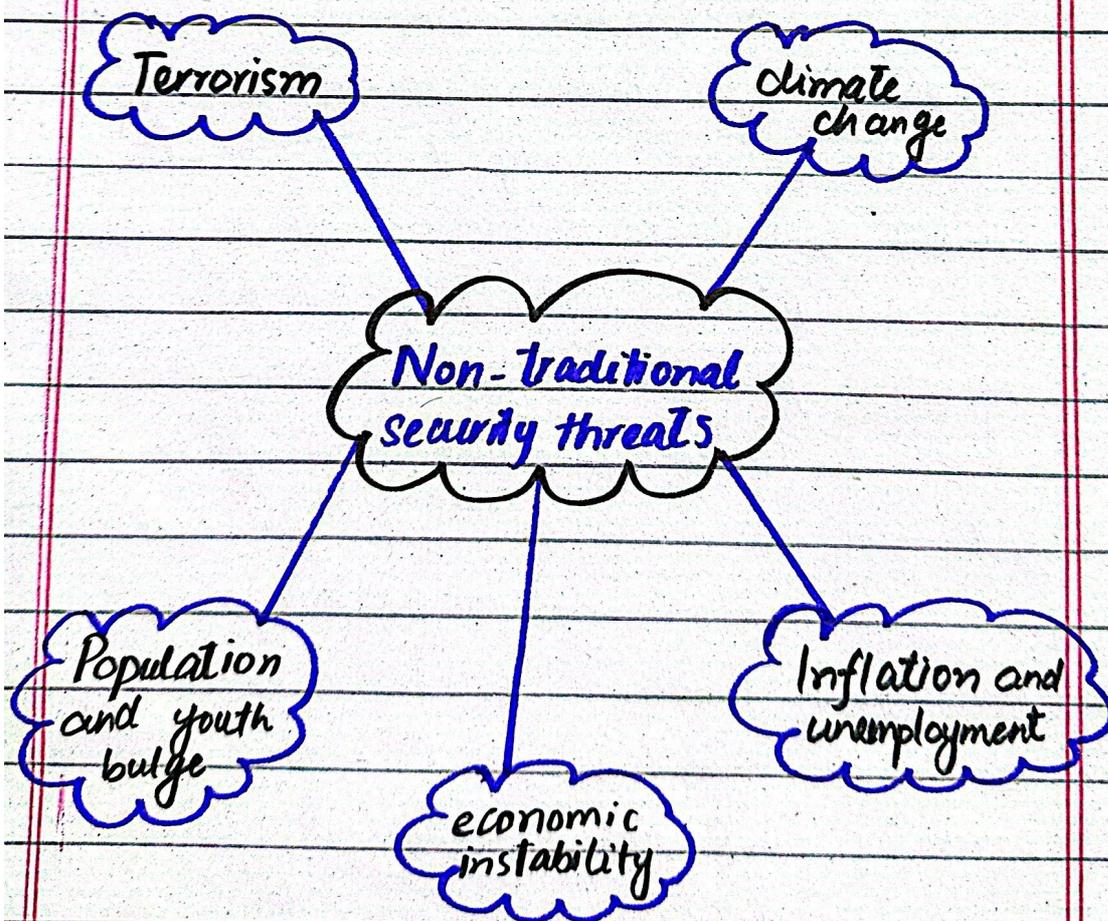
The military power of Pakistan is strong enough to tackle any traditional misadventure at its eastern and western borders. In contemporary times, the foremost security threats that Pakistan needs to usher in first place are non-traditional ones. The non-traditional security threats like terrorism, climate change, inflation, population and youth bulge and economic instability are more threatening for the national security of Pakistan in geo-economic world of 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### 2. Traditional threats for national security of Pakistan at its eastern and western borders;

Pakistan is sandwiched between two rival states i.e Afghanistan and India on its western and eastern borders. But irrespective of these

rivals on borders of Pakistan, the military of Pakistan is credible enough to counter and deter any threat from eastern or western border. Operation Bunnan-un-marsoos is the prime example of the military power of Pakistan. Whereas to tackle non-traditional security threats is quite difficult for Pakistan and government.

### 3. Non-traditional security threats to Pakistan;



## (a) Climate change and its repercussions on Pakistan;

Climate change and its extreme repercussions in the form of floods and extreme weather changes are threatening the national security of Pakistan. Pakistan need to combat climate change in 1<sup>st</sup> place because floods of 2022 and 2025 has caused a set back of \$33 million to the economy of Pakistan.

## (b) Population explosion and youth bulge: a time ticking bomb;

The ever increasing population of Pakistan has become a looming threat for the national security of Pakistan. To combat few soldiers at borders might be an easy task for Pakistani military but to support a population of 241.5 million with an increase of 6 million people every year is a quite hard nut to crack for the government of Pakistan. Increasing population with unemployed youth has become a white elephant for state to support and a looming non-traditional security threat for Pakistan.

(a) Terrorism as a non-traditional security threat to national security of Pakistan;

Pakistan is witnessing a new wave of terrorism and re-emergence of proxies at its western areas in the post-covid times.

Pakistan ranks at 2<sup>nd</sup> position out of 193 countries on global terrorism index with 517% increase in terrorist attacks from 2023-24 and 1000 deaths

In short, there is an urgent need to combat terrorism as a threat to national security of Pakistan before Pakistan shifts back to grey list of FATF.

(d) An unstable economy sustaining on IMF loans;

Economic instability is yet another blow to national security of Pakistan. A state whose economy is unstable and sustaining on IMF loans and bailout programs cannot survive in a long. With

strict institutional reforms, Pakistan is in an urgency to stabilize its oscillating economy.

### (f) Inflation and unemployment as a security threat for Pakistan;

With current inflation rates of 7.5% in Pakistan, the extremist and locals are extremely dis-satisfied with the government over the resource division and progress resulting in mass protest, mob violence and instability in the state. These violent protests have threatened the national security of Pakistan.

### 4. Critical analysis;

Though in the light of recent skirmishes, Pakistan's eastern and western borders are undergoing instability. But due to prociency of Pakistan's military, the security risks at eastern and western borders can be tackled. But the internal and non-traditional security threats like terrorism, climate change, unemployment, population explosion are quite difficult to be tackled. Thus, non-traditional security threats are greater threat for national security of Pakistan and needs to be addressed at first place.