

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS — PART-II

Q.2. Conduct a comprehensive appraisal of the similarities and differences between Iqbal's philosophical ideas and Jinnah's political interpretation of the Pakistan ideology.

1. Introduction

2. Iqbal developed the philosophical foundations of Muslim political identity in the subcontinent

- 2.1 Iqbal regarded Islam as a complete code of individual and collective life.
- 2.2 The concept of **Khudi** sought to develop Muslim selfhood and confidence.
- 2.3 Iqbal rejected Western territorial nationalism as the basis of Muslim unity.
- 2.4 He presented the **Ummah** as a spiritual and political community.
- 2.5 His Allahabad Address of **1930** provided a political direction for Muslim-majority regions.
- 2.6 Iqbal connected political freedom with moral and spiritual reconstruction.

3. Jinnah translated the ideological vision into a constitutional and political struggle

- 3.1 Jinnah initially pursued constitutional safeguards for Muslims within India.
- 3.2 The failure of power-sharing arrangements strengthened his demand for Muslim autonomy.
- 3.3 The **Lahore Resolution 1940** gave political expression to Muslim aspirations.
- 3.4 Jinnah organised Muslims under the platform of the All-India Muslim League.
- 3.5 His political interpretation emphasised constitutionalism, democracy and representative government.
- 3.6 His speeches linked Pakistan with justice, equality, religious freedom and rule of law.

4. Iqbal and Jinnah shared fundamental ideological objectives despite differences in emphasis

- 4.1 Both recognised the distinct political identity of Indian Muslims.

- 4.2 Both considered Islam central to the collective life of Muslims.
- 4.3 Both opposed the permanent political domination of Muslims by a majority.
- 4.4 Iqbal emphasised philosophical reconstruction, while Jinnah emphasised political organisation.
- 4.5 Iqbal provided intellectual direction, while Jinnah converted it into mass politics.
- 4.6 Their correspondence demonstrates Iqbal's influence on Jinnah's political thinking.

5. The Iqbal-Jinnah synthesis provides an important framework for understanding Pakistan's ideological basis

- 5.1 Iqbal supplied the intellectual and philosophical vision.
- 5.2 Jinnah supplied the constitutional and political mechanism.
- 5.3 Pakistan's ideological foundation combines Muslim identity with democratic governance.
- 5.4 The challenge remains translating these principles into institutional practice.

6. Conclusion

Q.3. "The instability in Afghanistan continues to influence Pakistan's internal security, regional diplomacy, and counter-terrorism strategy." Critically examine and suggest policy measures.

1. Introduction

2. Instability in Afghanistan has historically remained closely connected with Pakistan's internal security

- 2.1 The prolonged Afghan conflict produced cross-border security repercussions for Pakistan.
- 2.2 The rise of the **TTP** has created a major internal security challenge.
- 2.3 Safe havens and militant networks across the border complicate counter-terrorism efforts.
- 2.4 Border management remains difficult because of the long and rugged frontier.
- 2.5 Refugee flows have created additional administrative and security pressures.
- 2.6 Drug trafficking, smuggling and illegal movement further complicate border security.

3. Developments in Afghanistan directly affect Pakistan's regional diplomacy

- 3.1 Pakistan has to maintain working relations with the Taliban government.
- 3.2 TTP-related concerns frequently create tensions between Islamabad and Kabul.
- 3.3 India's engagement in Afghanistan adds a strategic dimension to Pakistan's policy.
- 3.4 China, Iran, Russia and Central Asian states have growing interests in Afghanistan.
- 3.5 Afghan stability remains important for Pakistan's trade and regional connectivity.
- 3.6 Peace in Afghanistan can strengthen projects linking Pakistan with Central Asia.

4. Pakistan's counter-terrorism strategy requires both security and diplomatic instruments

- 4.1 Intelligence-based operations should target militant networks and facilitators.
- 4.2 Border fencing, surveillance and biometric management should be strengthened.
- 4.3 Pakistan should demand verifiable action against anti-Pakistan militant groups.
- 4.4 Bilateral security mechanisms with Kabul should be institutionalised.
- 4.5 Regional cooperation should be expanded through China, Iran, Central Asia and other stakeholders.
- 4.6 Counter-extremism and socioeconomic development should complement kinetic measures.

5. Pakistan should pursue a pragmatic Afghan policy based on security, engagement and regional integration

- 5.1 Diplomatic engagement with Kabul should remain active despite disagreements.
- 5.2 A predictable and regulated refugee policy should balance security with humanitarian obligations.
- 5.3 Trade and transit arrangements should create mutual economic interests.
- 5.4 Pakistan should avoid excessive dependence on any single Afghan faction.
- 5.5 A stable Afghanistan should be treated as a shared regional interest rather than merely a security concern.

6. Conclusion

Q.4. To what extent does the 27th Constitutional Amendment strengthen or weaken constitutionalism and rule of law in Pakistan?

1. Introduction

2. The 27th Amendment must be assessed within Pakistan's continuing struggle over institutional balance

- 2.1 Pakistan's constitutional history reflects repeated tensions among Parliament, executive, judiciary and military institutions.
- 2.2 Constitutional amendments can strengthen governance when they improve institutional clarity.
- 2.3 Constitutionalism requires supremacy of the Constitution over all state institutions.
- 2.4 Rule of law requires equality before law and independent constitutional adjudication.

3. The Amendment contains arguments in favour of greater institutional clarity and constitutional efficiency

- 3.1 A specialised constitutional judicial structure can facilitate constitutional adjudication.
- 3.2 Clearer jurisdiction can potentially reduce institutional conflicts.
- 3.3 Defined constitutional procedures may improve judicial efficiency.
- 3.4 Parliamentary authority to amend the Constitution is itself constitutionally recognised.
- 3.5 Institutional restructuring can strengthen governance if accompanied by independence and accountability.

4. The Amendment raises concerns regarding separation of powers and judicial independence

- 4.1 Changes in the judicial structure can affect the balance between state institutions.
- 4.2 Excessive concentration of authority can weaken constitutional checks and balances.
- 4.3 Greater influence of the executive or military over constitutional institutions raises concerns about civilian supremacy.
- 4.4 Judicial independence is essential for effective enforcement of fundamental rights.
- 4.5 Constitutional amendments cannot be evaluated merely by their formal legality.
- 4.6 Their practical effect on institutional autonomy determines the strength of constitutionalism.

5. Rule of law requires institutional safeguards beyond constitutional amendments

- 5.1 Judicial independence should remain constitutionally protected.
- 5.2 Parliament should exercise effective legislative and oversight functions.
- 5.3 The executive must remain accountable to constitutional institutions.
- 5.4 Fundamental rights must remain judicially enforceable.
- 5.5 Civil-military relations should remain within constitutional boundaries.
- 5.6 Institutional reforms should strengthen accountability rather than concentrate power.

6. Conclusion

Q.5. Critically assess how youth perspectives, digital activism, and civil society movements are influencing civil-military relations.

1. Introduction

2. Pakistan's changing youth outlook is reshaping perceptions of civil-military relations

- 2.1 Pakistan's large youth population has increased the political significance of young citizens.
- 2.2 Educated youth increasingly engage with questions of governance and accountability.
- 2.3 Economic pressures have intensified political awareness among young Pakistanis.
- 2.4 Younger generations increasingly consume political information through digital platforms.
- 2.5 Youth perspectives have challenged traditional political narratives.

3. Digital activism has transformed the public discourse surrounding civil-military relations

- 3.1 Social media has reduced dependence on traditional information channels.
- 3.2 Digital platforms enable rapid political mobilisation and opinion formation.
- 3.3 Citizens can question institutional narratives through alternative digital spaces.
- 3.4 Hashtags, livestreams and online campaigns can amplify political grievances.
- 3.5 Digital activism has internationalised domestic political debates.
- 3.6 Misinformation, polarisation and echo chambers can simultaneously weaken constructive discourse.

4. Civil society movements are increasing demands for constitutionalism and civilian accountability

- 4.1 Lawyers and rights organisations have historically defended constitutional governance.
- 4.2 Journalists contribute to scrutiny of state institutions.
- 4.3 Academics and intellectuals shape debates over democratic governance.
- 4.4 Youth-led movements increasingly demand transparency and institutional accountability.
- 4.5 Civil society provides a link between citizens and formal political institutions.

5. These developments can strengthen democracy but may also intensify institutional polarisation

- 5.1 Greater public awareness can strengthen democratic accountability.
- 5.2 Digital mobilisation can broaden political participation.
- 5.3 Highly polarised activism can deepen confrontation between institutions and society.
- 5.4 Sustainable civil-military balance requires constitutional rather than confrontational politics.
- 5.5 Political parties must provide institutional channels for youth participation.
- 5.6 Media and digital platforms need greater emphasis on responsible political communication.

6. Conclusion

Q.6. Concisely assess Pakistan's key economic challenges and explain how IMF conditions can shape economic stabilisation and long-term sustainability.

1. Introduction

2. Pakistan's economy faces interconnected fiscal, external and structural challenges

- 2.1 Persistent fiscal deficits increase dependence on borrowing.
- 2.2 High public debt creates substantial debt-servicing obligations.
- 2.3 Low tax mobilisation limits fiscal space.
- 2.4 A narrow export base creates recurring external-sector pressures.
- 2.5 Energy-sector inefficiencies contribute to circular debt.
- 2.6 Inflation reduces real incomes and purchasing power.
- 2.7 Low productivity and weak investment constrain sustainable growth.

3. IMF programmes provide macroeconomic stabilisation through conditional reforms

- 3.1 Fiscal consolidation seeks to reduce budgetary imbalances.
- 3.2 Revenue mobilisation aims to strengthen the tax base.
- 3.3 Energy reforms seek to control losses and circular debt.
- 3.4 Monetary discipline aims to contain inflationary pressures.

- 3.5 Exchange-rate reforms address external-sector imbalances.
- 3.6 Structural reforms can improve investor and lender confidence.

4. IMF conditionality can also create short-term economic and social pressures

- 4.1 Higher energy prices can increase the cost of living.
- 4.2 Fiscal austerity can reduce economic activity in the short run.
- 4.3 Higher taxation can burden already documented sectors.
- 4.4 Exchange-rate adjustments can increase import costs.
- 4.5 Reduced subsidies can disproportionately affect vulnerable households.

5. Pakistan must convert IMF stabilisation into long-term structural transformation

- 5.1 Tax reform should broaden the tax base and improve compliance.
- 5.2 Export diversification should reduce dependence on a narrow range of products.
- 5.3 Energy-sector reform should address the roots of circular debt.
- 5.4 State-owned enterprises require meaningful restructuring.
- 5.5 Human capital and productivity should remain central to economic policy.
- 5.6 Political continuity is necessary for implementing difficult structural reforms.

6. Conclusion

Q.7. “The unresolved Kashmir issue exposes the inherent weakness in United Nations Security Council’s architecture.” Critically examine the role of UNSC in resolving Kashmir.

1. Introduction

2. The Kashmir dispute became an international issue before the United Nations Security Council

- 2.1 The 1947 conflict between India and Pakistan brought Kashmir before the UN.
- 2.2 The Security Council adopted resolutions concerning the dispute.
- 2.3 The UN framework envisaged conditions leading towards a plebiscite.

- 2.4 The dispute nevertheless remained unresolved because of disagreement over implementation.
- 2.5 Kashmir subsequently became a recurring source of India-Pakistan tensions.

3. The UNSC has played an important role in internationalising and managing the Kashmir dispute

- 3.1 UNSC resolutions established an international framework for the dispute.
- 3.2 The United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan monitors developments along the Line of Control.
- 3.3 The Council has periodically called for restraint between India and Pakistan.
- 3.4 The Kashmir issue has remained part of the UN's international diplomatic record.
- 3.5 UN involvement has helped prevent the dispute from becoming solely a bilateral historical narrative.

4. The UNSC has failed to achieve a durable settlement because of political and structural limitations

- 4.1 Security Council decisions are influenced by the interests of permanent members.
- 4.2 The veto system reflects unequal distribution of international power.
- 4.3 Enforcement mechanisms remain weak when powerful states resist implementation.
- 4.4 Geopolitical interests often overshadow principles of collective security.
- 4.5 India and Pakistan continue to disagree over the implementation and interpretation of UN resolutions.
- 4.6 The gap between international resolutions and enforcement exposes a major institutional weakness.

5. Reforming the UN system can improve the prospects for credible conflict resolution

- 5.1 UNSC representation should become more reflective of contemporary global realities.
- 5.2 Greater transparency in the use of veto power is required.
- 5.3 International mechanisms for implementing Council decisions need strengthening.
- 5.4 Human rights concerns should receive consistent international attention.
- 5.5 Sustainable resolution ultimately requires political willingness and peaceful engagement between the parties.

6. Conclusion

Q.8. Critically assess the performance of health and education sectors after devolution

under the 18th Amendment and suggest a way forward.

1. Introduction

2. The 18th Amendment fundamentally transformed the governance of health and education

- 2.1 The Concurrent Legislative List was abolished through the 18th Amendment.
- 2.2 Major service-delivery responsibilities shifted towards the provinces.
- 2.3 Article 25-A established the right to free and compulsory education for children.
- 2.4 Provincial governments gained greater policy and administrative space.
- 2.5 Devolution aimed to make public services more responsive to local needs.

3. Devolution created opportunities for provincial innovation in the health sector

- 3.1 Provinces gained greater control over healthcare planning and implementation.
- 3.2 Provincial governments could design programmes according to local health needs.
- 3.3 Some provinces introduced innovative health insurance and primary-care initiatives.
- 3.4 Greater provincial ownership improved the potential for accountability.
- 3.5 However, health outcomes remain uneven across provinces and districts.
- 3.6 Rural healthcare continues to suffer from shortages of facilities and qualified personnel.
- 3.7 Weak coordination has created challenges in developing coherent national health responses.

4. Education devolution increased provincial ownership but failed to overcome structural weaknesses

- 4.1 Provinces gained greater authority over education policy and administration.
- 4.2 Local priorities could be incorporated into provincial education planning.
- 4.3 Enrolment expansion has not always translated into improved learning outcomes.
- 4.4 Out-of-school children remain a major national challenge.
- 4.5 Teacher quality and school infrastructure remain uneven.
- 4.6 Provincial disparities continue to affect educational opportunities.
- 4.7 Differences in curricula and standards raise concerns about national coherence.

5. Pakistan needs coordinated devolution rather than fragmented service delivery

- 5.1 Provinces should retain constitutional responsibility for service delivery.
- 5.2 The federation should establish minimum national standards for health and education.

- 5.3 Interprovincial coordination through constitutional institutions should be strengthened.
- 5.4 Reliable data systems should enable comparison of provincial performance.
- 5.5 Primary healthcare and foundational education should receive greater investment.
- 5.6 Teacher training and healthcare workforce development should be prioritised.
- 5.7 Federal-provincial coordination should ensure that devolution improves outcomes rather than merely transferring authority.

6. Conclusion

