# Political Instability in Pakistan

## What is the issue?

The political crisis in Pakistan continued as opposition leaders raged against the blocking of a no confidence motion and the subsequent dissolution of the parliament.

## What is the cause of the no confidence motion?

- The opposition is challenging the latest moves by Khan, who came to power in 2018, contending that they are the plans of him to stay in power.
- The opposition has also accused him of economic mismanagement.
- Khan's ally and Pakistan's deputy parliament speaker dismissed the motion to sidestep a no-confidence vote that Khan appeared certain to lose.
- Clause (1) of Article 5 was quoted to argue that the no-confidence motion submitted to the Speaker went against the provisions of the Article.
- Imran Khan advised the President to dissolve the National Assembly and the provincial assemblies and call fresh elections.
- Until then, a caretaker government under him would be in charge.
- The opposition claims the deputy speaker had no constitutional authority to throw out the no-confidence vote.
- The developments marked the latest in an escalating dispute between Khan and the opposition.

## What is Article 5 of Pakistan's Constitution?

- Article 5 titled 'Loyalty to the State and Obedience to the Constitution' has two clauses.
- Clause (1) states that loyalty to the State is the basic duty of every citizen.
- Clause 2 states that obedience to the Constitution and law is the inviolable obligation of every citizen wherever he may be and every other person for the time being within Pakistan.
- It was said that the no-confidence motion was a conspiracy hatched by a "powerful country" that did not want Pakistan to have an independent foreign policy.
- During another address to the nation, Khan had named the United States as the country behind the conspiracy.

## What was the different opinions regarding the recent developments in Pakistan ?

- **Opposition**- The decision to cancel the no-confidence vote angered opposition parties and they have appealed the decision in court.
- **Army**- Pakistan Army countered Imran Khan's allegations of a "foreign conspiracy" involving the US.
- The Army has said that a wrong impression was given about the military leadership endorsing the view of the government.

- **Election commission**- Pakistan's election commission has expressed its inability to hold general elections within three months due to legal, constitutional and logistical challenges.
- **UN Secretary-General**- Antonio Guterres underscores the utmost importance of respecting democratic processes and resolving differences in accordance with the Constitution of Pakistan.
- **Pakistan Chief Justice-** He held that the speaker cannot reject the no-confidence motion even if he refers to Article 5 of the constitution.
- The Supreme Court of Pakistan however is yet to deliver a verdict.

**References**


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