

28/10/2024  
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Monday

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## Pakistan Affairs (CSS-2022)

short note (10 marks)

Q: Write down short note on the following:

Federal Structure of 1973 Constitution  
after 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment:

The Federal Structure of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan is significant changes after 18 Amendment which was passed in 2010. The amendment aimed to enhanced provincial autonomy and reshape the balance of power between the federal and provincial governments.

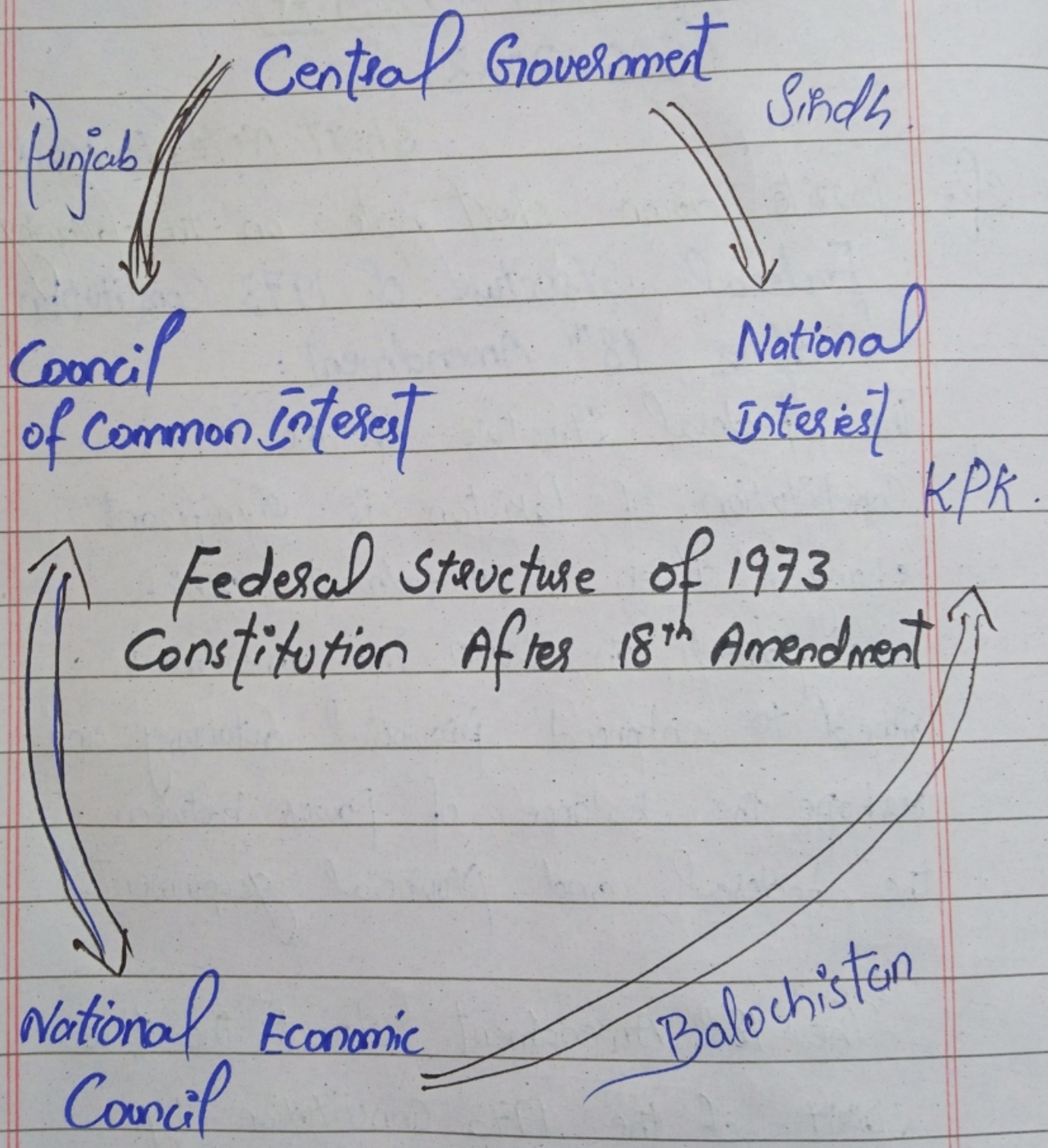
"The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment restored the true spirit of the 1973 Constitution by transferring power from the center to the federating units. It ensured the provinces' rights to self-governance and decision-making."

(Senator Roza Rabbani)

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# I. Key Features of Federal Structure after 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment:

## 1. Devolution of Power:

The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment devolved many subjects from the federal government to the provinces. It abolished the Concurrent Legislative List, transferring 47 subjects like health, education and local governance to provincial control, thus provincial autonomy.

"The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment shifted Pakistan from a highly centralized to a more decentralized federal system"

## 2. Restructuring of the Council of Common Interest (CCI):

The amendment empowered the CCI by making it the main platform for resolving disputes between the federal and provincial governments. It mandated that the CCI must meet at least once every 90 days to ensure better coordination.

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### 3. Role of the National Economic Council (NEC):

The amendment enhanced the role of the NEC by giving it the responsibility to oversee the development plans of the provinces. This ensured that the economic policies of the provinces were aligned with national interest.

“The NEC ensures balanced economic development across all provinces”  
(Economic Analyst)

### 4. Financial Autonomy:

Provinces were given greater control over their finances. The amendment allowed provinces to collect sales tax on services, which increased their revenue sources and reduced dependency on federal grants.

5. Provincial Role in Legislation:

The amendment increased the legislative powers of the provincial assemblies by granting them authority over subjects that were previously managed by the federal government.

"Empowering provinces in legislation has strengthened Pakistan's federalism"  
(Senator Raza Rabbani)

6. Federal Powers Redefined:

While developing powers, the amendment redefined the role of the federal government to focus on matters like defense, foreign policy, currency and federal communication to ensuring a clearer distinction between federal and provincial responsibilities.

"The 18th Amendment clarified federal powers, focusing on defense, foreign policy and currency"  
(Constitutional Expert)

7. Changes the Senate:

The amendment strengthened the role of the Senate, the upper house of Parliament which represents the provinces to protect provincial interests and provide a check on the National Assembly.

"A more empowered Senate promotes federal harmony by addressing regional concerns at the national level"  
(Dr. Moen Cheema)

The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment marked a significant shift in the federal structure by promoting decentralized and strengthening provincial autonomy. It was step towards a more balanced federal system, reflecting the diverse needs of Pakistan's provinces.



THE END