

Q. # 1:

Major const amendments?

Answer:

### INTRODUCTION

History of Pakistan has been shaped by constitutional amendments. Despite having over twenty-five of them, some constitutional amendments carry more weight than others. While some of those amendments sowed the seeds of democracy in Pakistan, others have moved the country to the verge of authoritarianism. Together these strong amendments have decided the contours of country's political and legal system in a way that is distinct from anything else.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF MAJOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS IN PAKISTAN

(i) 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Deciding the Nature of political system of the country.

8<sup>th</sup> amendment in the constitution of Pakistan gave

President the Power to dissolve elected assembly. It was use of this power which allowed military dictator General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq to dissolve national assemblies, dismiss Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo and assume powers as country's Chief Executive.

(ii) **13<sup>th</sup> Amendment: A hope for democracy in an era of autocracy**

13<sup>th</sup> amendment in the constitution of Pakistan was a breath of fresh air in country's legal history. It took back the powers of country's president to dismiss prime minister. In fact, this amendment has brought stability in Pakistan's political ecosystem although for not long. It tried to establish an embryonic democracy.

(iii) **17<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Changing Country's Systematic Contours**

17<sup>th</sup> amendment in the constitution of Pakistan has changed country's political contours.

It has once again established the hope for a democratic government and assigned the supreme executive power to one person, the president of Pakistan. Pervez Musharraf used this power to put the country under military rule for the fourth time.

#### (iv) 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment: An amendment that shaped country's current political system

Often called a Constitution in itself, 18<sup>th</sup> amendment is credited for the arrival of complete democracy in country. It introduced Parliamentary system in Pakistan. It was the 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendment that brought parliamentary system, devolved powers to grass-root level, established separate responsibilities for different level of governments, and many other.

#### (v) 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Redefining country's geographical map

25<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment is responsible for

the merger of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is considered a major development as it resolved the disputes that have been causing tensions at the bordering areas of both entities.

### 3- HOW COUNTRY'S POLITICAL AND LEGAL IS FRAMED BY THE DISCUSSED POLITICAL AMENDMENTS

#### (i) Concluding the discussion of Parliamentary versus Presidential System

Country has been caught into the discussion of political versus parliamentary political system since its inception. However, constitutional amendments and the progression of political system with experimentation based principles has cleared the choices. Nowadays, country enjoys a parliamentary political system with legislative power resting in house of elected representatives.

#### (ii) Deciding among the federal and central form of government

Constitutional amendments have also made the choice

Clear between central form of government and Federal-Diversity among the population of country allows a federal government only in which the major power rest in federating units rather than strong centre. In this way these amendments have shaped the political framework of country.

(ii) **Devolution of power to grass-root level: Key aim of a democratic country**

A country's commitment to the democracy entails the devolution of power to lowest level. This has been done by amending the constitution and assigning the powers to Union, Tehsil, and District councils.

(iv) **Contributing to Political Stability of the country:**

Perhaps, the most important thing that these constitutional amendments have done is to stabilize the country politically. When viewed in 20<sup>th</sup> century, country has faced 11 military dictators in alternating decades. However, country's 21<sup>st</sup> century

Political System shows positive signs by comparatively stronger civilian and elected government although there is still room for improvement.

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## CONCLUSION

All of the constitutional amendments have contributed something to the country's political and legal framework. However, some of the amendments have a lasting impact on country's system. They shaped country's political system, legal contours, economic system, and geographical boundaries. Although there is still a room for betterment, country's <sup>constitutional</sup> amendments have made country a resilient state, a democratic nation, and definitely a nation that stands and competes in the race of developing nations to success.

# Question # 3

Trajectory of democratic system

## INTRODUCTION

Democracy in Pakistan was aimed at in the Constitution of 1973. Since then, the path of democracy has never been easy - Despite various laws and rights, it has reached to a comparatively better point in time - This is evident from the positive evolution that has been observed in country's democratic institutions. In fact, it is the political culture of Pakistan that has made the country what it is today and continues to shape country's political framework.

## TRAJECTORY OF DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN AFTER 1971

- (i) **Fall of Dhaka as an eye-opener: Challenge of getting up after a shock**  
Fall of Dhaka has left country with various reservation

regarding the past decisions. It made country to stand up and and define new viable system for governance.

(vi) **Framing the Constitution of 1973:** A decision awaited since the birth of nation

Major development of the 1970's decade include the framing of 1973 Constitution. Constitution declared the country as a parliamentary democracy.

~~(iii) Abrogation of constitution~~

(iii) **Stabbing the democracy in back:** 8<sup>th</sup> amendment

After the already delayed establishment of democracy in country, it was taken back by the 8<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment established by military dictator Zia-ul-Haq, this amendment shifted the country from being a political parliamentary democracy to presidential military-rule.

iv) **Re-emergence of democracy in 1990's and the decade of elections:**



In the 1990s, country has witnessed an embryonic democracy that, no matter how weak, was still better than authoritarian rule. Hence, the era marked as the decade of elected, although unstable government -

#### (v) Military rule Resurgence: Democracy still struggling

Although hope was born of the democratic system, it faded quickly after the resurgence of military rule by General Pervez Musharraf taking the role of country's Chief Executive. The beginning of new Century for the country was gloomy -

#### (vi) 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment: A sign for hope to not fade yet

After the ~~vacant~~ traditional decade of military rule, country regained its democratic spirit by 18<sup>th</sup> amendment. It promised a democratic parliamentary federal government with powers devolved to the grass-root level to ensure that democracy seeps

(vii) Political Instability of 2010s and 2020s: Conflict yet a democratic one

Credited to 18<sup>th</sup> amendment, Pakistan has witnessed regular elections, establishment of democratic governments, and healthy political conflicts. Although the country's democracy is still far from perfect at a detailed look, it stays a democracy in a bigger picture.

### 3- DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS OF COUNTRY GETTING EVOLVED AND SHAPED IN POLITICAL CULTURE OF PAKISTAN

(i) Political Parties: From random groups to organised political entities

Political parties of Pakistan once were a major set of ideas and popular political leaders were the only charming aspect and incentive for the voters.

However, <sup>political</sup> parties of country Pakistan has shown great developments. ~~By~~

(ii) Developments of Local  
Government system

Local Government

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Rest of Outline :

- (iii) Development of legislature
- (iv) Strengthening of Lobbies and Pressure groups
- (v) Involvement of civil ~~societies~~ Society and Market in Government

4- CONCLUSION