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Q No-3

The formation of new provinces is a recurring discourse in Pakistan. Critically evaluate the hurdles and give recommendation.

Introduction

The question of creating new provinces in Pakistan is considered an part and parcel in almost every discussion of national level. Over the years several governments and political parties raised demands for reorganisation of the federal structure, division of Punjab and Sindh. The recent media discourses and political commentary suggest a revived interest, which some voices calling for as many 12 provinces. The debate has

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important implications. At stake is not only political stability but also administrative efficiency, national unity and economic sustainability. It assesses the sudden reemergence of the debate, analyses the need and associated risks, examines lessons for international case studies, compares the alternatives available, and finally put forward recommendations that balance reform with national stability.

Recent outburst ~ Scenario Analysis

Historically, the movements for new provinces arose out of long-standing grievances.

For example.

i- Saraiki belt in South Punjab

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2- The Hazara Division in
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

3- Urban Sindh

The scenario analysis highlights
two possible trajectories.

Hasty political push

If the issue is politicised,
parties may seek to gain
electoral advantage by promoting
new provinces. This could result
in parliamentary deadlock, street
agitation, and further polarisation.

Hurdles in the formation of new provinces

The risk associated with creating
new provinces are considerable:

Economic cost

Establishing new assemblies,
high courts, secretariats, and

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ministries require billion of rupees for annual expenditure. For an economy already struggling with fiscal deficits, such cost could worsen financial instability.

Political Gridlock.

Constitutionally, the creation of new provinces requires approval by two-thirds of the concerned provincial assembly and both houses of parliament. Securing such consensus is difficult and risk deepening inter-party hostility.

Administrative Disruption

Division of assets, allocation of civil servants, delimitations of constituencies, and legal disputes over boundaries could paralyse governance for years.

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Ethnic Tensions

Drawing new boundaries is a sensitive issue in a diverse society. Perceived injustices could spark ethnic mobilisation, protests and even violence.

Business and Tax Complications

Companies operating nationwide would face additional compliance burdens under multiple provincial jurisdictions, raising costs and reducing efficiency.

Inter-Regional Inequalities

New provinces may empower dominant groups within each region, leaving minorities within the new provinces still marginalised. For example, creating a South Punjab province may empower Saraiki speakers.

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but not address the grievances of other minorities

Governance vs. Identity

A core debate exists: should new provinces be purely administrative (for better service delivery) or based on ethnic identity, with many fearing the latter could destabilize the nation.

Recommendations

Strengthen Local Government

No doubt, the formation of new provinces could ease several things for example in India, Nigeria the both countries increased their provinces for better administration, but on the other hand Turkey and

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United Kingdom have strengthened their local self government system. In Pakistan, Article 140-A to give LGs constitutional protection, financial autonomy, and defined responsibilities.

Fiscal Decentralisation

Ensure 30-40% of provincial revenue is allocated to LGs through transparent provincial Finance Commissions.

Phased Approach

Pilot stronger LGs and metropolitan models in selected regions, evaluate outcomes and only then consider new provinces if proven necessary.

attacks. Resultantly, Pakistan finds security

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Stakeholder Dialogue.

Initiate inclusive debate involving Parliament, civil society, academia and local communities to ensure legitimacy.

Avoid Hasty Reforms

Prioritise economic recovery and stability first; pursue structural reforms once conditions allow.

Conclusion

The idea of creating new provinces in Pakistan reflects genuine concerns over governance, equity, and representation. For Pakistan, the most practical and cost-effective route lies in empowering local governments, ensuring fiscal decentralisation, and experimenting with metropolitan governance. New provinces should remain a long-term possibility, but not an immediate priority.

Q No-4

There is dangerous revival of militancy in KP and Balochistan. Critically evaluate the reasons and give recommendations.

Introduction.

Among all the challenges threatening Pakistan's national well-being, the revival of terrorism is the most pressing existential threat confronting the State. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is among the militant groups causing major national security concerns primarily along Pak - Afghan border. This makes the merged districts and other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan susceptible to attacks. Resultantly, Pakistan finds itself in a tricky security environment, where the

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Quest for peace entails a dual challenge.

Key Reasons for militancy in KPK

Militancy in Pakistan is directly linked with the militancy in KPK.

1- Political and Governance Issues

In the merged districts, which were previously a part of the Federally Administered Tribal Area, the twin districts of Waziristan, Khyber, Mohmand, Bajaur, Bannu and Lakki Marwat are particularly vulnerable to terrorist attacks. There is an ineffective local governance, outdated legal system (like the old Jirga system) and lack of accountability for elected officials.

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political instability

Confrontational federal-provincial relations hinder coordinated counter terrorism efforts.

injustice and marginalization

It is famous saying that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". Perceived lack of justice for the poor and abuse of legal system fuel radicalization.

2. Socio - Economic Factors

poverty and unemployment

High unemployment and poor economic opportunities push youth to join militant groups for livelihoods or illicit gains.

underdevelopment

Lack of infrastructure, resource mismanagement and underdeveloped agriculture add fuel to resource.

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3 Geological and Social Drivers

Religious Extremism

Intolerance, sectarianism, and a desire for established Islamic rule (Shariah) motivates militias to disturb the nation.

Breakdown of Traditional order

Atomization of society and loss of traditional social structures.

Grievances

Sense of marginalization, discrimination, and victimization by violence.

4- Regional and External Influences

Afghan conflict

The US withdrawal from Afghanistan reignited terrorism in Pakistan, with groups like the **TTP**, finding renewed strength.

Cross-Border Issues

Accusation of safe havens for militants in Afghanistan and Pakistan fuel regional tensions and instability.

Reasons of ~~of~~ militancy in Balochistan.

Militancy in Balochistan stems from a mix of deep-seated grievances:

Core Grievances

Resource Exploitation

Balochistan's vast natural resources are seen as enriching others while the local population remains impoverished, fueling resentment.

Economic Marginalization Despite

resource wealth, the province suffers

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from underdevelopment with limited infrastructure and jobs for locals.

political Disenfranchisement

A history of perceived rigged elections and a feeling that Islamabad ignores Baloch concerns undermines faith in the system, leading to calls for separation.

Federal Overreach

The central government's heavy military presence and security agency dominance over governance is seen as undermining provincial autonomy and democratic processes.

Contributing Factors

Baloch Nationalism A distinct identity and historical desire for greater autonomy or independence drives separatist movements.

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GeoPolitics and External Influence

Some argue that external forces exploit these grievances to destabilize Pakistan and hinders projects like CPEC.

Weak Governance

Ineffective local governance and lack of accountability further alienate the populace.

Policy Recommendation

To resolve the insurgency and address the underlying causes of discontent, Pakistan must adopt a multi faceted approach that includes political, economic, and social reforms.

Here are several potential

Solutions:

Intelligence Based military operations (IBOS)

There is neither a need

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nor acceptability for major military operations. Therefore IBOS is a preferred option for the state deal with the terrorist groups. These operations must be participated by Police, Para military and military personnel keep Police and Frontier Corps on the front and military at the back.

Educational and Social Reforms

The government should boost the literacy rate, and the educational infrastructure in KPK and Balochistan. An economic survey and census of 2023 reflects the plight of educational institutions of these regions. Education is the only tool which can transform the mindset

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of nations. By addressing basic human needs, the government should reduce the grievances that fuel the unrest. Also, the government should promote cultural exchange and recognition of Baloch traditions and value within national fabric, reducing the sense of marginalization and promoting unity in diversity.

Political and Autonomy Reforms

Grant Balochistan more control over its resources, governance, and decision making. This includes devolving powers to the provincial government, allowing Baloch and Pakhtoon leaders to manage local affairs without undue interference from Islamabad.

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Economic Development and Resource Sharing

Balochistan is rich in resources, including natural gas, minerals, and oil, but the province sees little benefit from them. A fair distribution of the revenue generated from these resources is crucial. Prioritize investments in infrastructure: roads, hospitals, schools, and electricity. This would improve the quality of life and counter claims of neglect. Focus on local employment opportunity through government-backed projects, especially in key sectors like mining, energy, and construction, which are central to the province's economy.

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Dialogue and Peace Process

While security is essential, Pakistan must scale back military operations in Balochistan against BLA (Baluch Liberation Army) and TTP (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan), but a peaceful approach focused on political solutions and community engagement.

The government should engage with Baluch nationalist groups and insurgent factions in meaningful, unconditional talks and should involve respected neutral mediators to help broker negotiations ensuring all stakeholders have a seat at the table, including political leaders, tribal chiefs, and insurgent groups. Provide pathways for militants to lay down their arms and reintegrate into society through amnesty programs, and rehabilitation.

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Address External Influence

The government should decrease the external influence of India in heightening the tensions among the Baloch insurgent groups, TTP and the central government. The govt should seek support of international platform and requests for international bodies like UN and BRICS to use their influence in limiting the role of India and Afghanistan in the country.

Conclusion.

The insurgencies in KPK and Balochistan are from the time of independence and escalated in different eras. To resolve the insurgency, Pakistan needs a combination of political concessions, economic reforms, respect for human rights and meaningful dialogue with Baloch and KPK militants.