

# Baluchistan Crisis.

## Fast Facts about Baloch Crisis:-

- ⇒ According to Asian Human Rights Commission more than 1239 individuals died till the end of 2004 in Balochistan
- ⇒ June 2012 23 individuals died
- ⇒ Killing of Baloch leader Nawab Akbar Bugti
- ⇒ Missing person case
- ⇒ More than 1000 baloch Nationalist political workers captured.

Attempt and upload proper questions for evaluation..... not notes.....

## Games in Baluchistan:-

- ⇒ According to Director General Frontier Crops, more than 21 intelligence agencies of different countries involve in Balochistan.
- ⇒ Corporate companies of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates are actively involved to minimize the shia influence in Balochistan, that is a step against Iran.
- ⇒ The businessman and entrepreneurs of the west involved in Balochistan as in Afghanistan for the quest of energy resources.

## Causes of Balochistan Instability:-

Instability in Balochistan is driven by a complex interplay of factors including economic inequality, underdevelopment, political marginalization and a history of military interventions. These are further compounded by resources exploitation, ethnic tensions and a perceived lack of representation and autonomy for the Baloch people.

### 1. Economic Disparities and Underdevelopment

Balochistan is the poorest province in Pakistan with high rates of infant and maternal mortality, poverty, low literacy rates.

## Resource Exploitation:-

The province is rich in nature resources like gas and minerals, but Balochistan receives little benefit from their extraction. The disparity fuels resentment and a feeling of being exploited. The Province have smallest number of educational institutes. The resources wealth and development projects have never benefited the people of Balochistan. Gawader is a classic example of development project that has suffocated in the clutches of land-grab mafia of Pakistan. The Baloch nationalists claim that it would ultimately favor the Punjabis and not Balochis. no need to include full paras in notes.

## Unequal Distribution of Wealth.-

where powerful tribal leaders (Sardars) control land and resources, contributes to economic inequality and limit opportunities for the general population. The example of Natural Gas city of Sui. Huge royalties are paid to Sardars of Sui, but the money fail to reach the general public of the province.

## Government's Neglect:-

The central government has failed to identify and tackle Balochistan problems for a long time. Balochistan's elected representatives have not represented the true interests of the people and have acted apolitically and undemocratically. Instead of helping the people, representatives have allegedly supported criminal activities in the region. Pakistani central governments have focused on centralization ignoring basic development needs and regional peculiarities. The state has historically dialogue to handle grievances in Balochistan. Military harassment and lack of tangible benefits have increased public support for insurgents.

also add references/examples against these arguments.

The government is seen as marginalizing the Baloch people, reducing them to second-class citizens in their own land-

## Religious Extremism:-

The poor socio-economic conditions have made the people of Balochistan vulnerable. This vulnerability has led to the growth of religious extremism in the province. A major factor contributing to this problem is lack of proper education and public awareness. Both internal and external extremist groups have taken advantage of the situation to carry out terrorist activities. Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, a former parliamentary leader, alleged that the government itself supports extremist activities in Balochistan.

## Insurgency and Energy Politics:-

Balochistan holds key energy resources - particularly natural gas. Around 50% of Pakistan's natural gas production comes from Balochistan. Pakistan faces rising demand for energy, especially gas, while two-thirds of its reserves are in Balochistan. Securing this energy supply is vital due to Pakistan's energy consumption rise. The insurgency challenges the safety and stability of gas pipelines and proposed energy routes.

- ⇒ Long-standing grievances of Baloch nationalists over resource exploitation.
- ⇒ Strategic location for energy transport to Pakistan and potentially India.
- ⇒ Gwadar's role as a key port adds the stakes.

## Insurgent Groups in Balochistan:-

According to government sources, presently there are five militant outfits operating in Balochistan.

1. **Baloch Liberation Army (BLA)** most prominent amongst them that seeks separation of Balochistan from Pakistan.
2. **Baloch Liberation Front (BLF)**
3. **Balochistan Republic Army (BRA)**
4. **Lashkar-e-Balochistan**
5. **Baloch Tigers.**

These groups have claimed the responsibility of various sporadic attacks on gas pipelines, power lines, security checkposts, oil tankers and Railway and other infrastructure in Balochistan.

## External Factors and Geo-Politics:-

While Balochistan's backwardness is a factor, it does not fully explain the insurgency - Geo-politics interests also play a role - Foreign support for separatism of Balochistan - British intelligence allegedly supports Baloch separatists - CIA and Mossad are also reported to have provided backing - RAW giving funding to the BLA for the instability of Balochistan - Balochistan holds a critical location near the strait of Hormuz key for oil routes and global trade - It's rich in natural gas, oil and minerals - Gwadar is a major point for shipping and energy trade linking the Middle East, Central Asia and China - The US and other powers view it through a strategic lens, fearing from China's influence and Pakistan's control - Iran feels sidelined due to Gwadar's development and wants Chabahar's port to be more prominent -