

Q.1. The formation of New provinces is a recurring discourse in Pakistan. Critically evaluate the hurdles and give recommendations.

Answer.

## 1. Introduction

Pakistan is a federal state where powers are constitutionally shared between the federation and the provinces. However, despite the federal structure, governance challenges, regional disparities, the demand for and uneven development continue to persist. With rapid population growth and administrative overstretch, the demand for smaller and more manageable federal units have intensified. Consequently, the formation of new provinces has emerged as a recurring discourse in Pakistan's political landscape. Various regions demand provincial status due to deprivation, identity concerns, and governance failures. Nevertheless, the creation of new provinces faces constitutional, political, economic, and ethnic hurdles. Therefore, while the idea holds potential benefits, it requires careful handling along with pragmatic and consensus-based recommendation.

## 2. Formation of new Provinces As a Reckoning Discourse in Pakistan

Demand for Hazara Province from KPK

- Renaming of NWFP as K Pk (18<sup>th</sup> Amendment)
- Ethnic connotation of the name
- Violent protests in Hazara Division
- Demand for separate Hazara Province

Socio-economic deprivation in South Punjab  
Administrative inefficiency due to large size of Punjab

Demand for South Punjab

Demand for South Punjab Province on administrative grounds

Demand for Bahawalpur province

- Status abolished during One Unit
- Large area and significant population
- Renewed demand for Bahawalpur province

Linguistic and political mobilization

Demand for Karachi province Sindh

Demand for separate Urdu-Speaking Province

Strong resistance due to ethnic sensitivity

### 3. Hurdles in the formation of New Provinces in Pakistan

#### 3.1 - The formation of new provinces requires constitutional amendments

The creation of new provinces demands amendments under Article 239 of the Constitution, requiring a two-third majority in both houses of Parliament along with approval of the concerned provincial assembly. Achieving such consensus is extremely difficult, particularly in coalition governments.

#### 3.2 - Conflicts on the distribution of resources complicate provincial reorganization.

Resource distribution has historically been contentious in Pakistan, particularly regarding NFC Awards and water allocation. The creation of new provinces may intensify disputes over revenue sharing, development funds, and natural resources between old and new units.

#### 3.3 - The generation of ethnic movements is inevitable if provinces are created on linguistic lines.

If provinces are formed on ethnolinguistic grounds rather than administrative considerations, it may fuel ethnic nationalism and threaten national integration. Such divisions can encourage further demands for segregation,

weakening the sense of nationhood.

3.4 - Administrative issues pose serious hurdle to the creation of new provinces

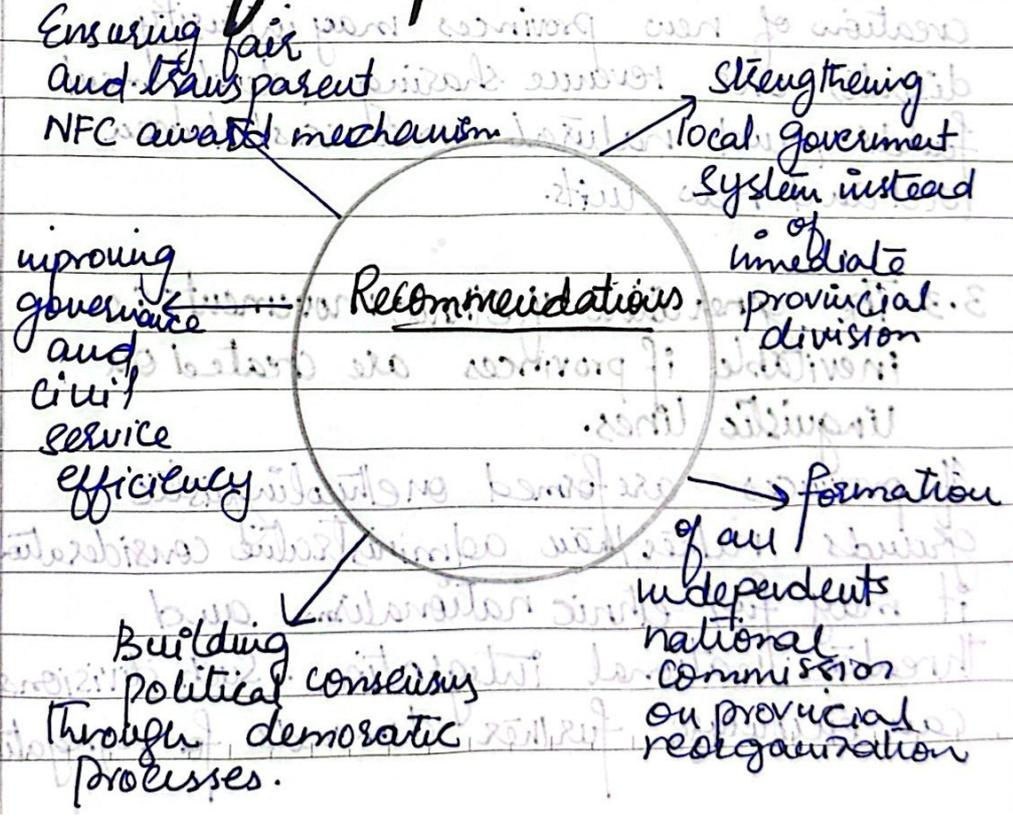
Establishing new provinces entails creating new assemblies, high courts, bureaucratic structures, and governance mechanisms.

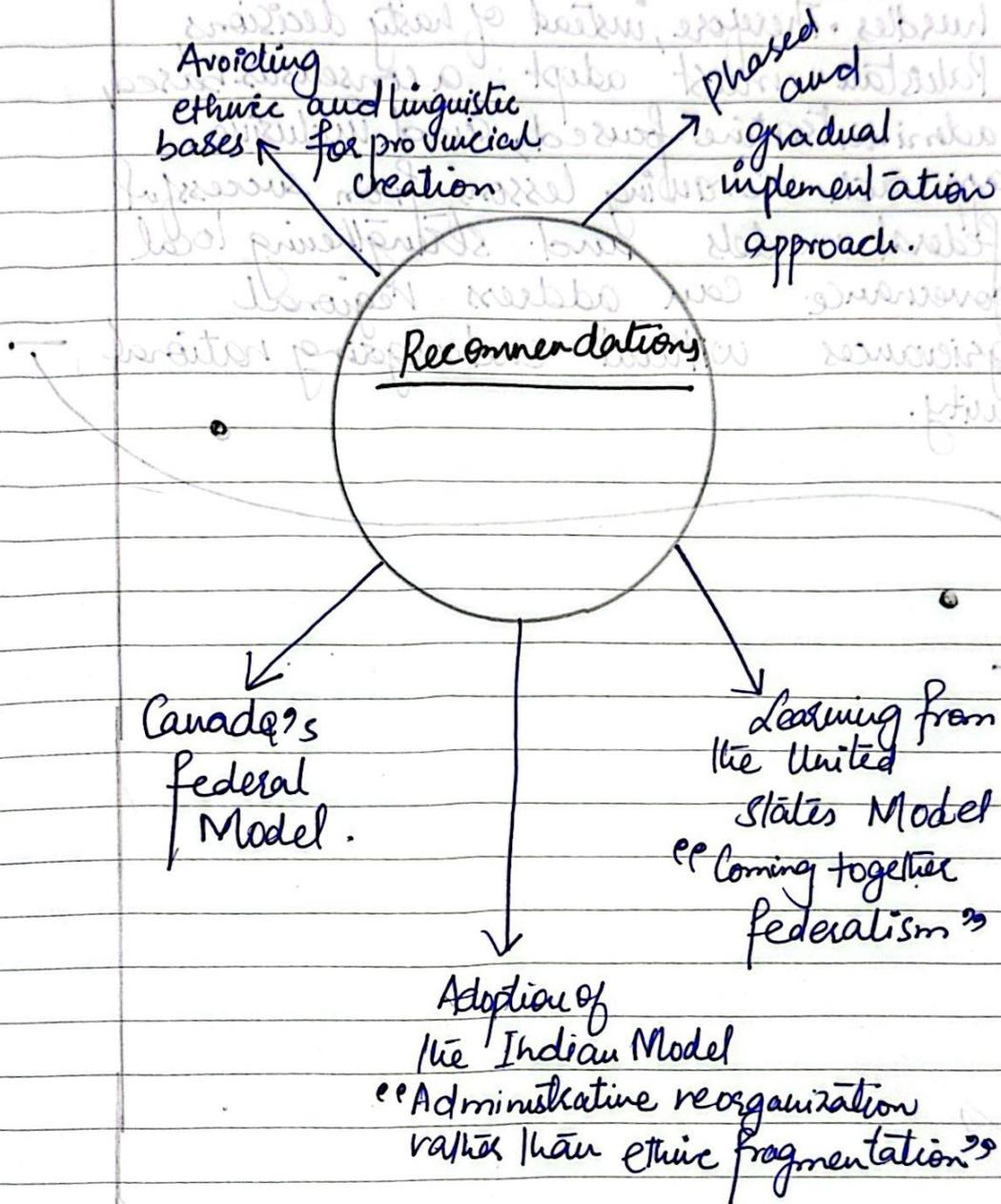
These administrative adjustments require time, expertise, and financial resources, making the process complex and burdensome.

3.5 - Economic implications hinder the creation of new provinces

The new administrative setups, elections, and institutions would strain Pakistan's already fragile economy and burden taxpayers.

### 4. Recommendations for creation of new provinces in Pakistan





## 5. Conclusion

The formation of new provinces remains persistent and sensitive discourse in Pakistan due to governance failures, regional disparities, and identity concerns. While smaller federating units may improve service delivery and representation,



Constitutional complexities, ethnic sensitivities, and economic constraints pose serious hurdles. Therefore, instead of hasty decisions, Pakistan must adopt a consensus-based, administrative-focused, and inclusive approach. Drawing lessons from successful federal models and strengthening local governance can address regional grievances without endangering national unity.

