

## QUESTION No.1

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

### Introduction

The formation of new provinces is a recurring discourse in Pakistan due to political issues, resources management, and uneven development.

There are multiple hurdles in formation of new provinces like political will, constitutional framework, economic issues, administrative issue and ethnic and language controversy.

However, strong local government, NFC formulae from provinces to district level distribution and making institutions at district level can be solve this problem.

### Hurdles in the formation of new provinces

#### 1. Constitutional Framework

According to the article 239 of the constitution of Pakistan, new provinces formation by two third majority from both houses senate and national assembly and also consensus from provincial assembly by passing bill with two third majority is

is mandatory.

## 2. Political will

Politicians do not want to lose their influence and power in some regions because they are the source of revenue generation. In Sindh demand of Karachi and Hyderabad as a new province. Karachi is the major source of revenue generation. Formation of new provinces would affect on interior Sindh.

## 3. Economic issues

Pakistan's economy is already fragile, growing slowly. The formation of new provinces require million rupees. So the Pakistan is not economically stable at this time to manage a huge amount.

## 4. Resources imbalance

Bahawalpur, Faisalpur, Hazara, GB - demanded, as they are major source of revenue but deprived of equal distribution of resources. They are demanding separate provinces due to socio-economic issues and limited resources opportunities.

## 5. Administration issue

On the basis of population Punjab is largest province <sup>and Pakistan and</sup> 12th largest province in the world, with 120 million population. Big size of population, difficulty in administration.

On the basis of area and accessibility Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan it covers 43% of Pakistan's area. Big area also creates difficulty in administration.

## 6. Uneven development

Uneven development of people, area, resources, and infrastructure create social political and economic issues in the regions. One region gets good benefits and other region faces difficulties result into social unrest.

## 7. Demand on the basis of ethnicity and language

Demand for formation of new provinces increase due to ethnicity and language as in Karachi urdu speakers MCPM demand.

In Punjab, siraiki province demand. Actual the issue is socio-economic but they reshape it on the basis of language and ethnicity.

# Recommendations for formation of new provinces in Pakistan.

## 1. Strong local government system

Developing strong local government system can be beneficial for speed service delivery. But it is necessary to empower local government with political and economic powers so that it solve the matters at district, tehsil level.

## 2. Providing NFC formula at district level

In 18th amendment, NFC distribution from centre to provinces, like this provide NFC formula distribution from provinces to district so that there may be no need to make new provinces.

## 3. Making institutions in districts

By making institutions in districts facilitate people specially in the region where size of area is big and delayed in service delivery. In this way regions strengthen and no demand for new provinces will be required.

#### 4. Making new Tehsil

By making small tehsils in provinces can be better for service delivery. There are big tehsils in Karachi and Balochistan, so ineffective service delivery. Recently, Tehsils made in Lahore like that other tehsils should be made to improve administration.

#### Conclusion

The debate on making new provinces in Pakistan is going on because there are socio-economic and political problems in the country. Formation of new provinces require more money, political will and administration. But it is not a proper solution to solve the issue. By providing <sup>strong</sup> local government, NFC distribution province to districts and ~~making~~ institutions in district can solve the issues.

## QUESTION No. 2

Pakistan - Afghanistan relations continue to remain tensed even after mediation by China. What do you think are the major factors and how could it be improved.

### Introduction

Pakistan - Afghanistan relations continue to remain tensed because Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of launching attacks on Pakistan by providing sanctuaries to TTP. However, Afghanistan denies of harboring TTP. China played role as a mediator but its failed. The major factors behind these tensed relations are duran line, Tehreek Taliban Pakistan (TTP), cross border terrorism, refugees sanctuaries, border closure and trade resistance. They could be improved by mediation at international forums, fencing borders, and opening border for trade.

### Tensed Relations and China as a Mediator

After the withdrawal of US from Afghanistan, in 2021 and take over power of Taliban government, it was considered that peace will come in the region. But Afghanistan became the safe haven for TTP and their terrorist

groups. Taliban provided shelter to TTP and terrorist groups because of ideological factors. These terrorist groups launching attacks in Pakistan from Afghanistan soil. China - Pakistan dialogue on resolving the issue has stalled because the Taliban hasnot assured Pakistan of stopping attacks from Afghan soil.

## Major Factors behind tensed relations of Pakistan - Afghanistan

### 1. Durand Line

Durand line is a boundary between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Afghanistan doesnot recognize the Durand line while Pakistan considers it the legal boundary.

### 2. Tehreek Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

Attacks on Pakistan launching from Afghanistan by TTP, creates tension between both countries. TTP sanctuaries in Afghanistan and they have support of Taliban.

### 3. Cross-border Terrorism

Recent attacks in Afghanistan targeting TTP have escalated relations-tensions.

#### 4. Refugees Sanctuaries in Afghanistan

Pakistan accuses Afghanistan for providing Sanctuaries to TTP, and Afghanistan denies.

Estimated 6000 to 6500 TTP fighters are present in Afghanistan. The group has received support from Afghan Taliban because of ideological similarities.

#### 5. Border Closure and Trade <sup>Resistance</sup> Deficit

Recent attacks in Pakistan, and closing border by Pakistan resist trade which affect economies on both sides. It creates mistrust and tensions.

Relations could be improved by:

##### 1. Dialogues on international forums

Discussing the issue on international forums can improve the relations because both countries get a platform to express concerns. and International attention can encourage constructive dialogues.

##### 2. Border Management

Both countries should work on managing borders to prevent - cross border attacks

and enhancing trade.

### 3. Addressing TTP Presence

Afghanistan needs to address Pakistan's concerns about TTP sanctuaries and activities.

### Conclusion

Pakistan - Afghanistan relations continue remained complex due to cross-border terrorism, Durand line dispute, TTP, border closure and trade resistance. Mediation by China not solve these issues. The relations could be better by managing border, addressing TTP presence in Afghanistan and dialogues on international forums.