

NOA

Mock Exam

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Current Affairs

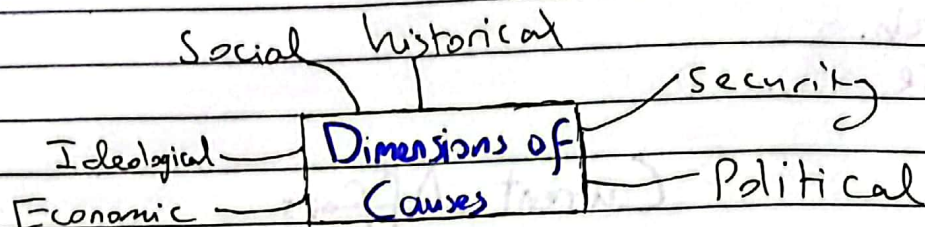
Part II

Ans. Qno. 2

INTRODUCTION

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been under immense strain. There are varying reasons for this issue ranging from security reasons to Ideological factors. These tensions reached a boiling point when Afghanistan invited India to operate from there and open an embassy. The housing of TTP commanders was what set off Pakistan to conduct airstrikes against them in Afghanistan. Border conflicts between the two have further fanned the flames especially with the Afghans relying on India. This issues can be solved through diplomatic efforts and if Afghanistan commits to bring regional stability and border control on their side.

UNDERLYING FACTORS



1) Security Threats:

i) Housing TTP:

The biggest point of contention between Afghanistan and Pakistan is the housing of TTP commanders on Afghan soil. TTP terrorists move in and out of Afghanistan to conduct attacks in Pakistan and use Khyber as their base.

ii) Lack of Border control:

Afghanistan's lack of border control allows for arms to reach BLA and for TTP to exploit these loopholes for their diabolical agenda.

2) Political factors:

i) Deep-rooted Indian influence:

The Afghan foreign minister's visit to India are a growing reflection of Indian influence dominating in Afghanistan to be able to restrain Pakistan from two fronts.

ii) Recognition Seeking:

Pakistan's refusal to recognize the illegitimate Afghan Taliban government fuels Afghan animosity against Pakistan.

3) Historical issues:

i) Claims for KPTK

For decades voices from Afghanistan were heard that the demand line is unjust and that KPTK is theirs. This illegitimate claim has no legal base yet it is a background factor.

ii) Regional instability:

Pakistan and Afghanistan have always had a complicated relationship and this partly owing to Afghanistan's instability whose shocks disturb Pakistan as well.

4) Social factors:

i) Pashtun Identity:

The Pashtuns of Afghanistan have wanted the Pashtuns of Pakistan to unite with them but the people of Pakistan want no such thing.

ii) Lack of Discipline:

Afghans have never, in modern times, have had discipline, control and structure in any of their socio-economic and political aspects which make them hard to work with.

5) Ideological factors:

i) Religious Fanaticism:

The religious extremism and fanaticism found in the Afghan Taliban and a sizable chunk of the population has led to ideological differences with Pakistan where moderate and balanced thinking systems are more preferred.

ii) Cultural Difference:

Afghans let their cultural uniqueness become a weakness which adds to their rigidity and inflexibility.

6) Economic factors:

i) Clandestine American exertion of control:

Through an American-influenced international financial institution the US has given over 80 million dollars of aid which has led to Afghanistan looking towards the US-India bloc.

ii) Missing Proper Economic structure:

Afghanistan is running on a ragtag economic framework which barely resembles a real economy. Their economic weaknesses have led to them switching their alliances despite China's mediation.

REMEDIAL MEASURES

1) Afghan Commitment to Peace.

If Afghanistan simply fulfils its promise for regional stability and peace, unlike in the Doha talks, it can lead to the revival of Pak-Afghan relations. They can do this by implementing draconian measures upon all terrorist organisations taking refuge there.

2) Installation of a Buffer Zone.

A one kilometre buffer zone between Pakistan's and Afghanistan's borders can effectively halt any inflow/spillover of unnecessary migrants and terrorists.

3) Ouster of TTP.

If the Afghan government ousts the TTP terrorists by handing them over to Pakistani authorities then that can resolve relations.

4) Tightening of Afghan Border Control.

The Afghan Taliban need to implement stringent border control measures so that Pakistan can be at ease about threats originating from there.

5) Prevent Indian Influence.

The Afghans need to stop the Indian government from extending their agenda to it.

Halting talks with them and renegotiating peace with Pakistan can bear fruit.

6) Intervention of Multilateral institutions.

If institutions like the UN intervene and get both parties to conduct effective dialogue then it can perhaps lead to the first stage of betterment of relations.

CONCLUSION

The Pak-Afghan relations currently are under great pressure and require effective resolution. The use of dialogue and mutual understanding of issues backed by the signing of a peace accord or agreement of some sort can restore relations. This is especially true if the Afghans hold their end of the deal.

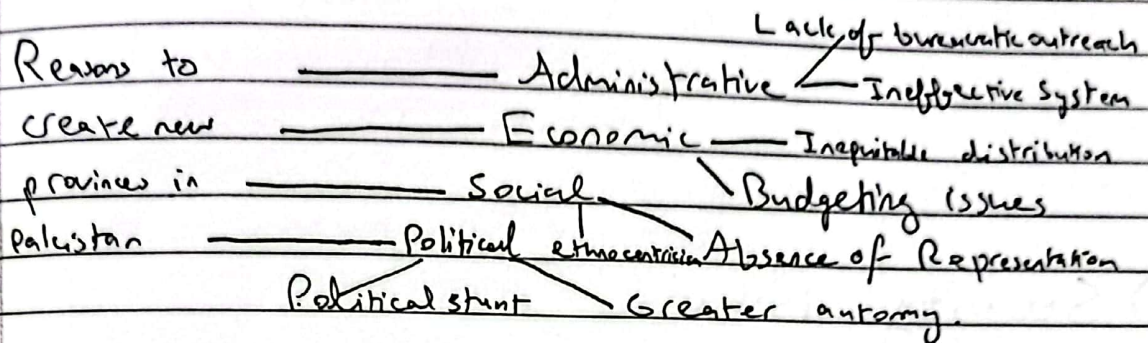
Ans. Q. no. 3

INTRODUCTION

The possibility of new provinces is one which is dependent on a multitude of reasons and factors. This discourse is brought into discussion every time when provincial autonomy is under threat or if there is unequal distribution of profits and resources. The creation of 6-7 more provinces faces financial and ethnic issues but it can be solved the revision of the NFC award and imposing

existing infrastructures.

Factors



HURDLES

1) Insufficient Funds.

Pakistan lacks the required economic power and funding to set up new provinces. This would require making new secretariats, new government buildings, institutions along with much more which isn't financially feasible.

2) Lack of Institutional Mechanisms.

Pakistan lacks the necessary institutional mechanisms to be able to divide provinces effectively and share power justly.

3) Absence of Policy Framework.

An exhaustive policy framework is required to bring into existence new provinces. This would demand time and resources, both of which Pakistan has little of. This would require hefty changes in laws, rules and regulations which is not a pragmatic option.

4) Divide on Ethnic lines.

Pakistan would further stir up ethnic faultlines which have already wreaked havoc. Further dividing the country could give leeway for some ethnic groups to take offense and take to the streets. It could possibly fuel ethnocentric tendencies.

5) Security issue.

A great concern for in terms of making new provinces is that the security infrastructure would be further divided up and strained.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Revise NFC Award.

Revising the NFC award and giving slightly increased shares to Balochistan, Sindh and KP would allow for the discourse of new provinces to die down.

2) National integration.

By involving the other 3 provinces, except for Punjab, in decision making process and integrating them could strengthen national unity.

3) Better distribution of Resources.

Distributing the resources of Pakistan and the resultant profits can enhance national cohesion.

4) Granting More Autonomy:

Granting more political autonomy to the provinces currently can allow for the need of new provinces to be diminished.

5) Improve existing infrastructure:

If the current existing infrastructure of provinces is improved then it can lead to wide scale satisfaction. Development projects, especially in rural areas, can cater to the people's needs.

CONCLUSION

The discourse of new provinces has been going on for a long time. The solution to this is to adopt a moderate path, one which exercises practicality and wisdom. Reflecting on the current conditions tells us that this situation is resolvable if the right steps are followed systematically.

Ans. Qno. 4

INTRODUCTION

The steady revival of militancy in KPK and Balochistan is on the horizon. This is especially true of TTP and BLA, both of which are fuelled by a plethora of factors.

Mainly the resurgence of this militancy is centered around Indian influence and funding, Afghan compliance with them and the lack of implementation on the NAP. This can be fixed by more funding to LEAs in KP and Balochistan, tightening of border control and implementation on the NAP.

REASONS FOR REVIVAL

Afghanistan KPK	Balochistan
Foreign Funding TTP networks and their affiliates are actively receiving hefty foreign funding specifically from India.	The BLA have also had boosts in funding in the last 2 years at least.
Involvement of RAW The Indian intelligence agency RAW, is actively involved in aid TTP.	The BLA have had active support from RAW. K. Yadav, ex RAW, confirmed that a long time ago.
Afghan Borders TTP has used the Afghan borders and ^{and} are ^{are} now is doing so more than ever for their attacks.	The BLA get their firearms from the Afghan border according to recent reports.
Nonimplementation of NAP KP require more personal and funds as per NAP but haven't gotten them.	Balochistan also lacks the necessary civilian security infrastructure as promised in the NAP.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Allotment and Recruitment of more Personnel:

KTP and Balochistan require more security personnel, especially the police, to be able to fend off the terrorist threats.

2) Enhanced training:

The civilian security forces in KIP and Balochistan need more and better training to be able to timely and accurately handle militant threats.

3) Increased Funding:

The KIP and Balochistan government require more funding to invest in the security framework to fight the threat.

4) Stringent Border Control:

Pakistan needs to further tighten up its border controls to prevent the pouring and inflow of arms and terrorists.

5) Implementation on NAP:

The national action plan needs to be implemented upon and needs to be revived to fight the military uprising.

6 CONCLUSION

The issue of increasing militancy in Balochistan and TIP is one which warrants serious attention. This problem is on the rise for various reasons which can be dealt with. Strategic pragmatism is required in this scenario to properly combat the revival of militancy in TIP and Balochistan.

Ans. Qm. 8

Introduction

The SMDA between Pakistan and KSA is a sign of strong ties and progress. Its signing indicates the threat that KSA felt when Israel attacked on Qatar to strike the Hamas leaders. The impact of this pact will be lasting and can allow for Pakistan to expand its presence in the Gulf and beyond.

Causes

i) Israeli Attack.

The main driving force of this pact is when KSA witnessed how Israel, with US support, attacked Hamas leaders on their soil.

ii) Lack of US regard.

The Israeli attack also proved that having a pact with the US does not mean that one of their allies cannot attack and the US would respond.

iii) Pakistan's strong defense.

The Saudis have seen first hand of how well trained and powerful Pakistan's army is. This is what led them to sign with Pakistan.

Implications

i) Expansion of Pakistani services.

Pakistan can extend its umbrella of defense services to other nations.

ii) Economic Benefits.

Pakistan can reap greater economic benefits with this pact.

iii) Stronger ties.

Pakistan and USA ties have gotten even stronger.

Conclusion

Ultimately this is a positive step for both countries which will allow mutual growth, peace and regional stability.