

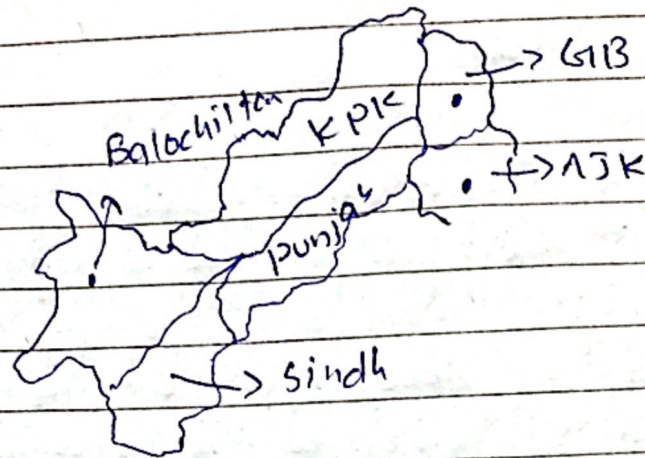
1. Introduction

Decentralization of power through creating new administrative units has long been under discussions in the vast corridors of powers in Pakistan. From One Unit Schemes to four provinces under federal form of government, Pakistan yearns for crafting more provinces. However, economic, security, and administrative challenges pose threats. Therefore, carrying out new provinces need meticulous process, plan, program, and policies on administrative and legal grounds rather than ethnic and identity based regionalization.

2. Historical overview of Pakistan's geographic division:

Pakistan has adopted the one unit formula to manage the state as Eastern Bengal and western Pakistan as two domains, which later proved to be a futile effort in maintaining a federal structure. Later on Pakistan adopted one plus four formula as Islamabad as center, encompassing four administrative units and territories.

map:



3. Highlighting Factors that prompt For new administrative units:

As Mifta Ismail asserted that Pakistan has to decentralized power by creating smaller units:

- i- increasing Population density
- ii- Decentralization of Power as promised in the 18th amendment
- iii- Equal representation of masses at national level.
- iv. Successful federal structure across world. Germany, Turkey, and India
- v- Ensuring good governance through local bodies. Article 140A-

Ibadat:-

" According to Islam

4. Prominent Hurdles in the way:

Pakistan has to face brunt of ethnic and legal hurdles before moving towards creating smaller unit.

(a) Economic cost is too high:

Creating new provinces need enough economic support. As at present Pakistan faces debt crisis. Amidst such scenarios creation of new provinces is impossible task. For example, Pakistan had to bear \$6 billion rupees cost while changing the name of the NWFP to the KPK.

This shows that economic uncertainty in Pakistan is a mighty hurdle.

(b) Open Gates to other Powers to demand more provinces

There are possibility of creating a few provinces. However, if Pakistan manages to create a few provinces on ethnic grounds. It is possible that other region^{my} claim their own provinces.

For example: Sindh can demand for separate upper, lower, Karachi, Muhajir, & urdu speaking areas as new province.

c. Regionalization may become Pervasive:

Pakistan already faces the regionalization of Province. A few Parties promote their Political agendas. This may lead to disintegration or regionalisation. For instance, BLA in Balochistan wants a separate area for it. Other Political Parties including the PML-N and PPP have failed to make a mark at national level.

d. Administrative burden:

New Province may need more officers and ministers. Poorer regions may face lack of quality people.

e. Displacement and dispute:

New Provinces may lead to huge migration and property dispute. As today, other smaller units alleged Punjab for resource exploitation.

f. Legal challenges:

New Provinces need permission from concerned and respective Province to pass resolution. Similarly there is need of amending constitution too.

Critical Evaluation:

Economic constraints, ethnic issues, and legal challenges are obvious. However, if respective authorities take decisive and meticulous measures, things can be settled out.

-5. Practical Steps that depict a silver lining:

(a) National Consensus is a pre-requisite:

It is imperative to ensure national consensus before crafting new units. Taking all stakeholders on board, Pakistan can streamline the process. As Sartaj Aziz poignantly asserts that in a democratic setup any change requires national general will in consideration.

(b) Creation must be on administrative grounds:

Instead of creating provinces solely on ethnic grounds, it must be done on administrative grounds so, levels of good governance must not be curtailed. For example,

India and Pakistan till date are facing ethnic confrontation.

(c) Making legal and constitutional changes without subduing the fundamental rights:

Both centre and respective provinces pass resolution and amend the constitution without harming the rights.

(d) Consideration of checks and Balances:

While creating new provinces, it is really important to ensure the checks and balances to nullify the threats of authoritarianism.

6- Conclusion:

New smaller units are needed for equal and sustainable representation and participation nationally. However, it must not be done by harming feelings of the people. Therefore, the concerned authorities must meet the demands, ensure national consensus, and avert divisive elements to endorse an inclusive federal structure of Pakistan.

Question: 2

Militancy

1. Introduction:

Pakistan has long been facing terrorism. However, last five years - especially in 2025 - have been fatal as far as security is concerned. Most importantly, recent attacks, target killings, and terrorist insurgency have grappled the KP and Balochistan. In this regard, Afghanistan's role, the US withdrawal, Indian proxy war, regional hostile and volatile landscape have exacerbated the situation. Amidst, such scenarios Pakistan needs to be more effective in deploying law enforcement and outreaching global actors to curb this menace.

2. Evaluating reasons that cause revival of militancy:

(a) Economic uncertainty and self-alienation:

(b) Abrupt withdrawal of the US caused a void:

(c) TTP's safe haven in Kabul:

(d) Poor counterterrorism strategy:

(e) Re-settlement of Good Taliban: A Strategic blunder:

(f) marginalization and disenfranchisement of people:

3- Impacts of militancy's revival:

- Suicide attacks on personnel
- property damage
- civilian and military casualties

4. Recommendations to curb the menace of militancy:

(a) An inclusive counter-terrorism strategy:

(b) Taking major regional powers on board:

(c) Economic and educational elevation:

(d) Regulation of misuse of social media:

(e) Involvement of local communities to deter security threats:

(f) Centre-Province should be on same page against terrorism:

5- Conclusion: