

QNO 1

1. Introduction

The formation of new provinces is a recurring and highly emotional debate in Pakistan. It is often proposed as a solution for unequal developments and poor governance. Proponents in regions like South Punjab and Hazara seek it to bring resources closer to the people. However, this demand, while based on real grievances, faces massive political, financial and constitutional challenges that must be understood alongside more practical recommendations.

2. The Hurdles: Why New Provinces are So Hard to Create

2.1. The Constitutional Hurdle in Creating New Provinces

The biggest challenge is legal, as creating a new province requires constitutional amendments. This needs a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly, the Senate and the relevant provincial Assembly. (Article 239)

2.2. The Massive Financial Cost: Hurdle in Creation of New Provinces

A new province requires a new capital, Governor's House, Secretariat, High Court, and entire civil service. Ministry of finance projections shows this costs hundreds of billions of rupees — not affordable for cash-strapped Pakistan.

2.3. Political Resistance from Major Parties - Hurdle

Established parties fear losing their vote banks and political strongholds if their home provinces are divided. This political self-interest is the reason why resolutions are passed but never implemented. - PIDE Analysis ^{What if?}

2.4. No Consensus on New Borders: Hurdle in Creation of New Provinces

There is no consensus on new borders, which creates new conflicts. The Seraiki demands, for example, conflicts with the separate movement to restore the Bahawalpur province.

2.5. Fear of Ethnic Conflict - Hurdle

Basing new provinces on languages (like Hazara's Hindko) can isolate other ethnic groups living there and spark new divisions. This ethno-linguistic

basis is often seen as a threat to national integration. (ICG reports)

2.6. Fear of Fragmentation of the Country - Hurdle

Many politicians fear that if one province is made, it will trigger dozens of other smaller demands. This makes all parties hesitant to support the first one.

3. The Recommendation: A More Realistic Path Forward

3.1. Empower Local Governments First: The Real Solution

The first step should be empowering local city and district governments as power is stuck in provincial capitals. (As per Article 101 of Constitution)

3.2. Create a Fair PFC (Provincial Financial Commission)

This automatically sends a fair budget share to every district based on its population and poverty, not politics. As per World Bank reports on fiscal decentralization.

3.3. Make Administrative Secretariats Meaningful

The South Punjab Secretariat failed because it was symbolic. Thus, give these units real financial control, separate from capital. Pakistan Institute of Development Economics reports have analyzed the failure of powerless South Punjab Secretariat.

3.4. Use Data to Spend Money

Use a transparent "Needs Index" to allocate all funds to the poorest areas, instead of letting

Politicians give development funds to their voters. As per UNDP's Human Development Index, which tells where the money should go.

3.5. Devolve the Civil Service

Make local bureaucrats in health, education, police accountable to the local mayor, not distant boss in Lahore or Peshawar.

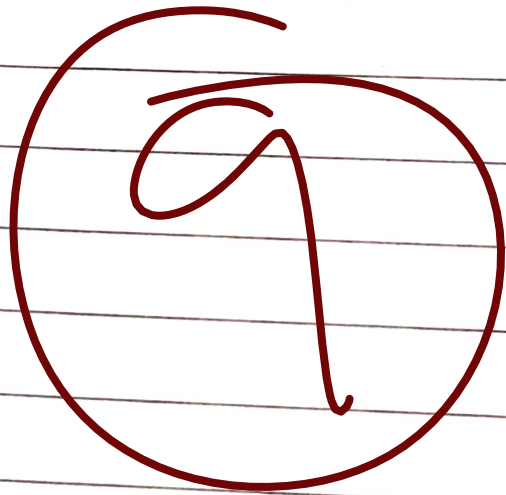
Dr. Ishrat Hussain's civil services reforms strongly recommend decentralization for efficiency.

3.6. Promote Regional Languages and Culture

Address the identity grievances by funding local regional languages in local schools and media. UNESCO's Policies on Cultural preservation show that respecting identity does not require changing borders.

4. Conclusion

The grievances that fuel the demand for new provinces are real. However, the political and financial hurdles are massive. So, a practical solution is to empower local governments. Thus, true reform is about devolving power to the people, not just redrawing lines on the map.



1. Introduction

Pakistan is facing a dangerous and escalating wave of militancy. In Kyber Pakhtunkhwa, the threat is a re-united TTP. However, In Balochistan, it is a persistent ethno-nationalist separatist insurgency (BLA, BLF). To counter this, a genuine political and economic reforms and diplomacy is crucial.

2. The Reasons: Why Militancy in KPK and Baluchistan is Reviving

2.1. Reasons of Revival of Militancy in KPK

2.1. Reasons of Revival of Militancy in Baluchistan

2.1. Reasons of Revival of Militancy in Kyber Pakhtunkhwa

2.1.1. TTP's Resurge and Unity → Kyber Pakhtunkhwa Militancy

Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan has unified and become more deadly terrorist organization.

PIPS reports show a massive spike (70% in 2021) in terrorist attacks from TTP.

2.1.2. Afghan Saye Heavens: Reason of Militancy in KPK

The TTP's entire leadership and operational bases are located in Afghanistan, from where they launch cross-border attacks on Pakistani security forces. (ISPR Confirmation)

R.1.3. The Afghan Taliban's Enabling role -

The Afghan Taliban as the TTP's ideological ally, are either unwilling or unable to take decisive action to expel them from Afghan soil. UNSC reported links between them.

2.2. Reason of Revival of Militancy in Baluchistan

2.2.1. Separatist Ideology - Baluchistan

The Baloch insurgency (BLA, BLF) is a long-running political conflict, not a religious one, driven by an ethno-nationalist ideology seeking independence.

ICG reports have documented this as a secular, separatist conflict for a decade.

2.2.2.

Deep Economic Grievances in Baluchistan

The insurgency is fueled by a powerful local narrative that the state is "exploiting" Baluchistan's natural resources (gas, minerals, CPEC) while the local population remains in deep poverty. UNDP Human Development Index Reports show Baluchistan as most deprived province.

2.2.3. Governance and Trust

Vacuum - Major Reason

In the remote areas of both provinces, a weak state presence, slow justice system, and corruption creates a trust deficit.

This vacuum, noted in World Bank governance indicators, is exploited by militants.

3. Recommendations to Counter Revival of Militancy in Both Provinces.

3.1. Sustained Kinetic Operations to Encounter Militancy

The state must continue high-tempo, Intelligence-Based Operations (IBOs) to hunt and neutralize militant cells and leadership.

3.2. Comprehensive Border Management is Crucial

The state must complete and effectively manage the Pak-Afghan border fence to stop the free flow of terrorists, weapons, and smugglers.

3.3. Coercive Diplomacy with Afghanistan - Important

Pakistan must use all diplomatic and economic levers e.g. trade, refugee status to force the Afghan Taliban to take verifiable action against TTP.

3.4. A "New Deal" for Baluchistan to Overcome Grievances

A purely military response cannot work. A credible political and economic package is needed that visibly gives Baloch locals control over resources and benefits from these.

3.5. Fully Implementation the National Action Plan

The state must fully implement all 20 points of NAP, especially checking terror financing.

Stopping hate speech, and Police reforms. NACTA must be fully empowered.

3.6. A Strong Counter-Narrative is Required

State must launch a powerful, unified counter-narrative to win back youth and discredit both religious and ethnic extremism.

4. Conclusion

The revival of military has two different natures. one, ideological (TTP) and ethno-nationalist (BLA) - the other one. ~~The~~ military approach along with coercive diplomacy is essential for peace and stability.