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Q1. Question # 1Ans. Introduction

The debate on formation of new provinces has once again taken the limelight during Prime Minister Sharif's government. However, there are many hurdles to making new provinces a reality. It includes the burden on scarce financial resources, approval from provincial assembly, new National Financial Commission (NFC) award, boundary issue and deepened ethnic issues. Recommendation include switching to empowering local Government body. This is due to its less cost, better governance framework, stronger accountability and visible representation of people.

9. Hurdles in the process of making new provinces

Burden on the economy of Pakistan:

Creation of new provinces further burdenise the economy of Pakistan, which is already facing issues like inflation, inefficiency and slow growth. New province would require infrastructure for new sectorial buildings, commission offices, high courts, etc. These new offices will demand an estimated 3000-4000 staff, putting strain on economic resources.

7 3/4 of resolution required from provincial assembly to make new provinces:

One of the major hindrances to new provinces is its approval from provincial assembly. It requires three-fourth of votes in its favour according to the constitutional requirements of Pakistan. Many major political parties such as Pakistan's Peoples Party (PPP) is not in favour of separating Karachi from Sindh.

Revision of NFC award may create disagreements:

NFC award is the division of financial resources between federal and provincial governments and among provincial governments. Pakistan is still following 7th NFC after many revisions. Making new provinces will give rise to thorough revision of NFC award. However, it may raise risks for disagreements and deadlock, paralyzing country's financial aspect.

Boundary issues among new provinces may cause national disintegration:

Boundary disagreements could arise as the new provinces form. This could result in negative sentiments between the provinces and weaken country's unity. It would require strong political will

and compromise to resolve ~~can~~ this challenge.

Deepened ethnic division is possible:

Ethnic divisions could intensify further due to dividing through ethnic lines. Formation of Hazara province, Seraiki province and Karachi province may reverse any diversity among ethnicities. Moreover, nationalism could deepen further the divisions on ethnic fault lines.

Recommendations to address the issue of new provinces — the empowerment of Local Governments

Rather than making extreme efforts to overcome the hurdles of forming new provinces, the country can aim to strengthen Local Government within the spirit of

18th amendment. This will incur low cost, strengthen administrative framework, ensure accountability and enhance true representation.

Low cost comparatively to forming new provinces:

Creation of Empowering Local Government instead of dividing to create new provinces makes a small percentage of cost in establishing new provinces.

Rather than requiring new infrastructure, it works within the existing system. Instead of mass recruitment, elections are conducted to bring the administrative persons.

More efficiency and improvement in administrative functions:

Local government requires administration to be performed on local level. Even if

new provinces are created, the power will still be centralized to the provincial administration. According to ex-IBA dean, Tehvat Hussain, the issue of administrative inefficiencies will still persist even if new ~~former~~ provinces are form. Instead, enacting administration ~~out~~ on local government body will address this issue without the need to make new provinces.

Better representation of the local people:

Decentralization from provinces to Local Government bodies will enhance local representation. Better redressal of local concerns will reduce grievances that prevail among the citizens. For instance, ~~tailoring~~ identifying and tailoring health in accordance to the needs of local population will significantly improve health service of the government.

Conclusion

The resurgence of debate to make new provinces contains many challenges. Among them are cost of the process, disagreement in NFC award, boundary disagreement, resolution from provincial assembly and risk of ^{ethnic} nationalism. Possible recommendation includes strengthening local government, which will incur less cost, create better local representation and significantly improve administration of the state.

Q2- Question #2

Ans. Introduction

Pakistan is facing a new wave of terrorism after withdrawal of United States from Afghanistan. There are many reasons for widespread militancy in KP and Balochistan. Among them are the following:

Sanctuaries given on Afghan land, proxy warfare by neighbouring countries, unaddressed grievances of local people, presence of undocumented migrants, and ~~negligent~~ presence of ~~modern~~ weapons with militants. Recommendations include negotiations with Taliban government, crackdown on undocumented refugees, establishing a robust framework to address provincial grievances, border management and diplomacy.

Reasons of militancy revival in Balochistan and KP

Sanctuaries of militants in Afghan land:

^{government}
Pakistan has repeatedly accused Taliban government of providing safe-havens to Tehrik-e-Taliban (TTP). They claim that TTP uses Afghanistan as launching pad to conduct terrorist activities. However, Afghan government

denies this, reflecting its stance on Doha Agreement.

Proxy warfare by neighbouring countries on Pakistan.

Many countries are using Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and TTP as proxy army to destabilise Pakistan. For instance China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is not in interest of India (China's rival) and Iran (Chabahar port). Hence, they aim to sabotage the project through destabilisation and targeting of Chinese foreign nationals. This is evident through confession of Kabbashan Vaidan (RAW agent) and attack by Pakistan on Iran in 2024, claiming it targeted BLA.

Presence of undocumented migrant posits risk to attacks.

The presence of undocumented Afghan migrants highlights Pakistan's vulnerability to attack. This is because Pakistan cannot keep checks and balances on foreign nationals, which could have migrated with poor intent of terror attacks.

Unaddressed grievances of local population:

Pakistan has lost a significant local support in KP and Balochistan due to several reasons, enhancing risk of terror attack. First, it has neglected economic and social development of the provinces. For instance, poverty, unemployment and illiteracy prevails in Balochistan. Second, locals from these provinces resent government's weak response to their complaints. Case of missing persons and right to mineral resources still needs strong

political will. Third, operations have displaced thousands without alternative settlement, rehabilitation and recovery. KP's Chief Minister Suleil Aliidi opposed military option because of influx of people to provincial capital, causing many challenges.

Porous border and advanced weaponry:

Porous border of Pakistan with Iran and Afghanistan makes the country an easy target for militancy. When Taliban came to power, they started destroying the boundary line as a defiance to Durand line. Moreover, US left high-tech weapons which came in the hands of these terrorists. On the other hand, Pakistan's law enforcement agencies lack capacity to counter insurgency offences from modern weapons.

Recommendations to counter militancy

Negotiations with Afghan Taliban through soft and ~~hard~~ approach.

Pakistan is currently in talks with Afghan government after clashes of forces between both countries. It has demanded that Afghan Taliban take actions against TTP and stop giving insurgents a safe-haven. The trade with Afghanistan has stopped, and it threatened to use force if ~~dialogue's~~ did not reached to an agreement. Similarly, it used diplomacy by alleviating ~~Pak~~ foreign relations to ambassadorial level with Afghanistan. Trilateral agreement along with China was also signed to include Afghanistan in Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC.

Redressal of ~~local~~ grievances:

Pakistan must address local

complaints to gain local support which will weaken military influence. It can address Baloch and Pashtun grievances through active talks with movements like Baloch Vakeeli Movement or Pashtun Tahafuz Movement. Moreover, it should promptly address issues of missing person and uplift social and economic development of provinces.

International diplomacy and narratives:

Pakistan can use diplomatic channels to internationally highlight India's involvement in terrorism. For instance, during the recent India-Pakistan conflict, the government released a dossier that provided evidence-backed details of India's involvement in terrorism. It has prompted Afghan government to pass a 'Fatwa', declaring military activity un-Islamic. Finally it highlighted Indian involvement in military by renaming BLA to Fitna tal Hindustan.

Strict border management to ensure legal presence of foreign nationals:

Pakistan must strengthen border management to avoid infiltration of militants and its facilitators from entering Pakistan to conduct terrorism. One way is to establish the requirement of passports. Second is the crackdown on smuggling to reduce terror financing. This will ensure that checks and balances persist to prevent terror attacks.

Conclusion

There are many reasons for revival of insurgency in Pakistan. These include the presence of terror sanctuaries in Afghanistan, grievances of local, foreign involvement and presence of illegal migrants. However, these issues can be addressed

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through diplomacy on international
platforms, negotiations with Afghan Taliban,
redressal of provincial issues and
border management.