

MOCK - TEST

Name = Ayesha Yousaf

Batch # 084

Subject = Current Affairs

Q3:

The demand of new provinces in Pakistan recurs periodically and arises from grievances over governance, resource distribution, identity, and development deficits. While provincial reconfiguration promises clear closer governance and redress of regional disparities, it also raises complex, political, legal, administrative and security challenges.

Major hurdles:

1. Political and Partisan contestation:

- Provincial creation is intensely political, parties view boundary changes as gains or losses in electoral strength.
- Lack of consensus between federal

and provincial govt, inflames mistrust and delays reforms.

2. Constitutional and legal problems:

- Formation of new province requires constitutional amendment and procedures under Articles dealing with provincial boundaries.
- Legal challenges and litigation in courts can stall progress for years

3. Economic issues:

- New provinces need reliable revenue bases. Disputes over division of assets, liabilities, natural resources and hydropower led to contentious negotiations
- Short term fiscal transfers from federal govt may be insufficient for viable public services.

4. Administrative capacity and institution building:

- Creating a province demands new bureaucratic structures such as secretariat, departments, police, local govt. systems.

- Instant readiness is rare, transitional chaos can harm service delivery.

6. Socio-ethnic tensions:

- Redrawing boundaries can intensify ethnic or sectarian tensions in mixed regions.

- Minority rights must be protected.

6. Security risks:

- Transitional periods are vulnerable to opportunistic violence, protests and criminal exploitation.

7. Institutional distrust:

- Top-down proposals without broad consultations undermine 'legitimacy'.
- Marginalized groups often feel excluded.

Critical Evaluation:

→ While the arguments for new provinces; improved local governance, tailored development and cultural negotiation are persuasive, their realization depends on overcoming systemic

deficits.

- Political bargaining often reduces reform to short-term calculations while legal ambiguities invites litigation. Creating a province without proper fiscal planning and institution-building risks substitutes one set of governance failures for another. This may lead to public frustration. Thus, a calibrated, legally firm and consultative pathway is essential.

Recommendations:

Recommendations can be both short term or medium term.

→ Short term:

1. National consensus roadmap:

establish a bipartisan Parliamentary committee to draft a clear procedure with timelines, required majorities and safeguards.

2. Transparent consultative process:

mandatory local referendums in affected districts, coupled with public hearings to record grievances and preferences.

3. Interim administrative plan:

Set up Transition cells (federal, provincial, local) to handle immediate service continuity and law and order arrangements.

→ Medium Term:

4. Fiscal viability Framework:

An independent commission should estimate revenue potential, divide assets / liabilities and design a phased funding model.

5. Institution - building Package:

Federal support for training administrators, creating legal administrative frameworks, establishing management systems before transfer of powers.

6. Minority and social safeguards:

constitutional guarantees for minority representation, language rights and anti-discrimination clauses, local power sharing where populations are mixed.

→ Legal and political safeguards:

7. Clear constitutional amendment text:

- Avoid vague provisions
- Specify electoral adjustments.
- Use resource-sharing formulas
- Introduced dispute-resolution mechanisms.

8. Performance metrics:

After 3-5 years, a parliamentary review to assess governance outcomes and correct course if necessary.

Conclusion:

The creation of new provinces can be constructive tool for

decentralizing power and addressing regional imbalances, but only if pursued through an inclusive, legally grounded responsible process.

Q2:

Introduction:

Pakistan and Afghanistan share a 2600km porous border, deep cultural ties and centuries of independence. Yet despite these linkages, their relations remained fraught with mistrust, border clashes and mutual accusations.

Even after China's recent diplomatic mediation in 2024-25, tensions persist over issues of cross-border terrorism, the status of Durand Line, refugee management and divergent security priorities.

These clashes will never stop unless both states move beyond reactive policies and engage through structural cooperation.

Historical Background:

1. Durand Line legacy (1893)

Durand line divided Pashtun tribes, sowing seeds of future disputes.

Afghan regime refused to formally recognize the border, considering it an imposed boundary.

2. Post independence Era (1947-79)

Afghanistan was only country to oppose Pak in UN.

3. Soviet Invasion and Mujahideen Era (1979-89)

Pak became on front line to support Afghan Mujahideen with US and Saudi assistance. While this period strengthened Pak's regional role, it also entrenched militant networks that later destabilized both states.

4. Post 9-11 Period & Taliban (2001-2021)

'Pakistan's alignment with US war on terror created fiction with Kabul which accused Islamabad of

Harboring Taliban elements. The US withdrawal and Taliban's return to power did shift dynamics but not bring mutual trust.

Present Relations (2023-25):

Despite initial hopes after the Taliban takeover, bilateral relations deteriorated due to current border clashes, refugees deportations, militant attacks in Pakistan by Afghan.

China's diplomatic initiative - **Trilateral Foreign Minister's Dialogue** (Beijing, May, 2025), sought to restore dialogue and encourage joint-terrorism mechanisms.

However, recent border skirmishes in Oct-2025 showed that mistrust still dominates the relationship.

Major Factors behind these tensions:

* **Cross-Border Terrorism and TTP issue:**

- The main issue is TTP that conducts

attacks inside Pakistan.

- Islamabad expects Taliban regime to take action against these groups but Kabul not in favour of this.
- Recent terrorist activities in KPK and Balochistan have further hardened Pakistan's stance.

* Durand Line issue:

- Afghanistan refusal to recognise the Durand line as an international border remains an irritant.
- Pakistan fencing the border since 2017 but Afghanistan dismantled sections of fencing.

* Refugee Question:

- Pak currently hosts over 3 million Afghan refugees.
- Recently Pakistan declared to depart undocumented refugees has become a major diplomatic flashpoint.

- Refugee management not only creates tension but also burdens Pakistan economy.
- On this, Afghan claims that deportations occurred without consultations.

* Economic and Trade Constraints:

- APTTA has repeatedly broken due to political tensions, high tariffs and border issues.
- Afghanistan's increasing trade with Iran and Central Asia has sidelined Pakistan's regional economic ambitions.

* Internal Political and Ideological Factors:

- The Taliban's govt. non-inclusive policies & reluctance to engage have isolated Afghanistan.
- Pakistan faces its own domestic political polarization and security pressures.

Mediation by China:

China's mediation stems from its strategic interest in regional stability particularly for:

- CPEC
- Belt and Road connectivity.

At Beijing, at Bilateral Dialogue (2023-25), China encouraged counter-terrorism coordination.

Limitations:

Limitations which restrict Beijing's influence are:

- ♦ Limited Leverage.
- ♦ Security concerns
- ♦ Mutual Distrust
- ♦ Structural Issues.

Ways to improve Pak-Afghan Relations:

Improvement requires a multi-dimensional strategy addressing political, security, economic and humanitarian aspects.

1. Pragmatic Border Management:

- (o) Agree to respect the existing fence as a temporary working boundary.
- (o) Introduce joint verification teams
- (o) Create cross border trade and transit corridors monitored by customs.

2. Security and Counterterrorism Cooperation:

- (o) Establish a joint counterterrorism mechanism under OIC.
- (o) Conduct coordinated border patrols,
- (o) Develop hotline communication between border commanders.

3. Economic Integration and Connectivity:

- (o) Revive APTTA on modern lines.
- (o) Link Afghanistan with CPEC
- (o) Develop border economic zones to employ youth, etc.

4. Refugee Framework:

- (o) Sign a bilateral refugee management protocol in cooperation with UNHCR.
- (o) Facilitate voluntary repatriation

with international support.

- (o) Establish border health and service centres.

5. Regional Framework:

- (o) Institute a Trilateral Forum (Pak-Afghan-China) meeting annually for security and economic cooperation.
- (o) Include Iran, Qatar, Turkey to broaden consensus.
- (o) Encourage UN and SCO technical support for border and refugee management.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Pak-Afghan relations remain strained due to historical disputes, cross border militancy, mutual distrust despite China's mediation efforts. Both nations need to shift from blame to dialogue and from security rivalry to economic partnership.

Q5:

The Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 symbolized global consensus on limiting global warming to below 2°C. However, the decision of Trump administration to withdraw the US - historically the world's 2nd largest emitter and a key financier - posed a significant challenge to global climate governance.

The absence of American leadership has disrupted financial flows, weakened diplomatic momentum and emboldened climate skeptics.

Consequences of US withdrawal:

- **Financial vacuum:**

US absence reduced resources available for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries and stalled research collaboration.

- **Diplomatic and Moral setback:**

The exit undermined global unity and encouraged other reluctant

nations to delay or dilute commitments.....

- **Boost to climate skepticism:**

Trump's questioning climate science emboldened denialist movements globally and polarized domestic debates in several nations.

- **Weakening of global emission targets:**

Without US, the aggregate global targets under Paris framework became insufficient to meet the 2°C goal.

Critical Evaluation:

[Shifts in Global Climate Leadership]

1. **EU and China Filling the Gap:**

EU and China strengthened their bilateral climate cooperation, reaffirming their commitments to green energy and emission reduction targets.

2. Rise of subnational actors:

In the US itself, states like California, New York, Washington continued to pursue aggressive climate policies under the "We are still in" coalition, showing that climate governance can transcend federal politics.

3. Private sector and civil society activism:

Multinational corporations, investors, youth movements such as "Fridays for Future" have kept climate change on global agenda, pressuring govt. to act even without American federal participation.

4. Role of developing countries:

Emerging economies such as India, Brazil, and South Africa have adopted renewable targets and local climate initiatives.

Future Prospects for climate

Efforts without US:

In short term, US effort absence created fragmentation and slowed negotiations on financing and technology transfer. Yet in the long term, it catalysed a diffusion of responsibility, encouraging multi-polar climate governance.

The Paris framework despite its fragility, demonstrated resilience. The global energy transition towards renewables is now driven more by economics and innovation than by US diplomacy alone.

Recommendations:

- Reinforce multilateral climate governance through stronger monitoring, verification and transparency mechanisms.
- Diversify climate finance by engaging the private sector and regional development banks to compensate for US funding withdrawal.

- Promote regional climate blocs (EU, ASEAN, African Union) to coordinate emission targets and green investments.
- Engage US subnational Factors through international partnerships to maintain continuity of American innovation and funding streams.

Conclusion:

The withdrawal of US under Donald Trump undeniably weakened collective momentum on climate action, both financially and diplomatically. However, it also revealed that the global response to climate change no longer depends on a single hegemon. The future of climate governance will depend not only on singular leadership but on shared responsibility, sustained cooperation and moral urgency of a warming planet.

Q4:

The revival of militancy in KP and Balochistan poses a grave challenge to Pakistan's internal security and national cohesion. Despite significant gains, achieved through military gains like **Zarb-e-Azb** and **Radd-ul-Fasaad** in recent years, have witnessed a surge in terrorist incidents targeting security personnel, civilians and development projects. This resurgence reflects a complex interplay of political instability, weak governance, regional dynamics demanding a comprehensive review of counterterrorism strategies.

Background:

- Since **2021**, militant attacks have been increased especially after Taliban takeover.
- The regrouping of **TTP**, rising attacks in ^{many} districts.
- Separatist groups in Balochistan

such as BLA and BRA have intensified attacks on security installations and CPEC-linked projects.

Major Reasons behind revival:

1. Political instability and policy inconsistency:

Recurrent political crises, shifting govt. and lack of consensus on national security priorities have weakened the states ability to sustain a unified counterterrorism policy.

2. Incomplete implementation of NAP:

The 20-point NAP launched in 2015, aimed to dismantle infrastructure, regulate madarass and counter hate speech. This created loopholes exploited by extremist groups.

3. Cross-border infiltration:

The border facilitates the movement of militants and arms. After Taliban's return to power in Kabul, the

TTP found ideological and logistical breathing space.

4. Security Lapses:

Despite establishment of NACTA, and joint cooperations, intelligence sharing remains fragmented.

5. Ideological radicalization:

Extremist ideologies continue to spread through unregulated religious seminaries.

6. External interference and proxy

Foreign dynamics:

Foreign intelligence networks especially those opposed to CPEC or seeking to destabilize Pakistan's western frontier have allegedly supported insurgent elements in Balochistan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (a) Ensure political stability and national consensus beyond party lines. Political disputes should not derail security priorities.

- (*) Revitalize NAP, regulate madarass, curb hate material and ensure accountability of banned organizations.
- (*) Strengthened border management and Afghan diplomacy.
- (*) Accelerate development projects in merged districts and Balochistan.
- (*) Launch community-based deradicalization programs, integrate moderate scholars in policy discourse.
- (*) **Counterterrorism** should be led jointly with civilian institutions taking charge of post-conflict governance and law enforcement.
- (*) Engage with **Iran, China**, Central Asian states to disrupt cross border militant networks and intelligence sharing.

Conclusion:

The resurgence of militancy in KP and Balochistan represents both a security and governance