

Current Affair Mock

part II

Q3. Introduction:

- The debate on creating new provinces frequently resurfaces in Pakistan's politics.
- Driven by demands for administrative efficiency, ethnic identity, and equitable development.
- However, numerous constitutional, political, and socio-economic hurdles impede progress.

Historical context:

- Inherited colonial administration division at independence (1947)
- Existence of East and West Pakistan until 1971.
- Post-1971 four main provinces — Punjab, Sindh, KP (then NWFP), and Balochistan
- Article 239 (4) of the 1973 Constitution makes boundary alteration

- periodic demands

- South Punjab
- Hazara province
- FATA

Reason Behind this Discourse:

- Administration efficiency
- Ethnic and cultural recognition
- Economic Equity
- Political Representation

Major Hurdles in the formation of New provinces:

- Constitutional and legal Barriers
- political opposition and power politics
- Ethnic and linguistic Sensitivities
- Economic challenges
- Bureaucratic and institutional Resistance.
- Fear of precedent
- public Distrust and political manipulation.

Critical Evaluation:

- Creation of new provinces may enhance representation and governance but not automatically solve systemic issue.

- Without institutional reform, corruption and inefficiency may persist at smaller level.

- The FATA ^{KP} merger demonstrates that administration reform requires consensus, planning, and gradual implementation.
- Weak governance and centralization.

Recommendations :

- Establish a Constitutional Commission
- Strengthen local governments
- Build political consensus
- Gradual Administrative Decentralization
- Ensure fiscal preparedness
- Avoid Ethnic - Based Division
- Sustain Political Commitment.

Conclusion

INTRODUCTION :-

→ The idea of creating of new provinces has long remained a recurring and contentious discourse in national politics. Periodically resurfacing during election campaigns and parliamentary debates, it seizes the country deep

deep-rooted issue. Proponents of new provinces argue that smaller administration unit ensure efficient identity, and even development.

Proponents of new provinces argue that smaller units ensure efficient governance, equal resources, and equal distribution of administration.

However, the path towards such restructuring is riddled with political and socio-economic hurdles.

→ HISTORICAL CONTEXT:- Pakistan administration structure evolved from colonial legacies. At independence, in 1947, the country was divided into East and West Pakistan. After the Separation of East Pakistan in 1947, the federation consisted of four provinces: Punjab, Sindh, KPK, and Balochistan. Over the decades, various provinces region such as South Punjab, Hazara, and SMTA has demanded separate status or province.

→ Reason behind Separate provinces:-

- Administrative Efficiency :- Pakistan population exceeds 240 million, yet it has only four main provinces. In contrast, countries with similar population like India have multiple smaller administrative units. Smaller provinces could include localized governance and efficient public service delivery.
- Ethnic and cultural Identity :- Many demands for new provinces, such as the Saraiki or Hazara movements, stem from ethnic and distinctiveness. These groups perceive themselves as marginalized within existing provincial structures dominated by their ethnicities.
- Economic and Resources Disparities :- ~~Relig~~ Regional inequalities like those between Southern and Central Punjab, Rural Sindh and Karachi - Juel calls

for separate province to ensure fair resources allocation and targeted development.

- Political Representation :-

The dominance of large province, like Punjab, creates a sense of political imbalance. New provinces could improve representation for historically underrepresented communities.

→ MAJOR HURDLES :-

- Constitutional and legal constraints :-

Article 239 (4) mandates that any amendment affecting a province limits requires not only federal approval but also the consent of the concerned provincial assembly by two-thirds majority.

- Political opposition and power politics :-

New provinces become an electoral Slogan. Political parties exploit regional

Sentiments to secure votes. For instance, (PML-N) has been reluctant to divide Punjab - its stronghold and local demand for Sindh South Punjab province. Similarly, in Sindh, such parties like PPP fiercely oppose any division, viewing it was a threat to Sindh unity.

- Ethnic and Linguistic Sensitivities :-
Pakistan provinces are deeply tied to ethnic identities like Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtun, and Baloch. For example the idea of a "Muhajir province" in urban Sindh is strongly resisted by Sindhi nationals who view it was an attempt to divide their homeland along ethnic lines.

→ Critical Evaluation :-

While the creation of new province could enhance governance and inclusivity, it is not a guaranteed solution to Pakistan structural challenges.

Decentralization without instrore institutional reform may replicate exiting inefficiency on a smaller scale. For example, unless local governments are empowered, new provinces may simply reproduce centralized system of corruption.

→ Recommendation :-

To address the recurring debate on new province, Pakistan should establish an independent Constitutional commission on provincial Reorganization to evaluate demands through objective demographic, economic, and administration studies. Instead of rushing towards new provinces, the focus should be on strengthening local governance and promoting gradual administration by empower regional and local bodies. Any reform must be built on national consensus through political dialogue in platforms like the council of

Common Interests.

→ Conclusion :-

Pakistan must pursue a balanced approach - emphasizing institutional strengthening, decentralization and consensus-based policy-making before embarking on new province, and administrative division.

Q7. • Introduction:

• Historical background of Pakistan Relations:

• Recent Development:

• Challenges in Balancing Relation:

• Opportunities in Balancing Relation:

• The way forward: policy Recommendation.

• Conclusion.

Pakistan foreign policy is once again at a critical juncture, balancing renewed engagement with the United States and a deep-rooted strategies

partnership with china. Historically, pakistan relations with the US and a deep china have shaped its global position. The US has been a key security and economic partner since the cold war, while china has emerged as pakistan most reliable ally in defence, trade, and development. However, the U.S - china rivalry poses a complex diplomatic challenge for Islamabad.

In recent years, pakistan has experienced a cautious revival of relations with the U.S, especially after the 2021 Afghanistan withdrawal. Washington seeks cooperation on counterterrorism, climate change, and economic, religion regional stability. Simultaneously, china Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), (CPEC), remain central of pakistan development strategy.

Several hurdles complicate this balance. First, geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific region compel the U.S. to strengthen its ties with India, creating unease for Pakistan. Second, Pakistan's economic dependence on China loans and infrastructure projects limits its diplomatic flexibility. In the last, persistent western skepticism of Pakistan's closeness to Beijing, coupled with domestic political volatility, undermines Islamabad's ability to project a stable and autonomous foreign policy.

Nevertheless, Pakistan's unique geography and economic potential provide an opportunity to maintain equilibrium. The U.S. remains Pakistan's largest export market, offering prospects for trade and technology collaboration, while China continues to be a vital partner in infrastructure and energy development.

To achieve this, Pakistan pursue strategic autonomy, ensuring decisions are guided by internal needs rather than external pressure. Economic diversification is essential - by attracting investment from the Gulf, ASEAN, and European Union, Pakistan can reduce overreliance on China or the US. Furthermore, institutional strengthening of the foreign ministry and think tank can enable consistent, well-informed diplomacy. By promoting itself as a bridge between East and West, Pakistan can continue to regional connectivity and peace rather than becoming a proxy arena for great-power rivalry. Transparency in (CPEC) project and construction ~~engagement~~ engagement with US-led initiatives in health, education, and climate cooperation will further enhance trust.