

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE -2

Current Affairs

Subjective Part II

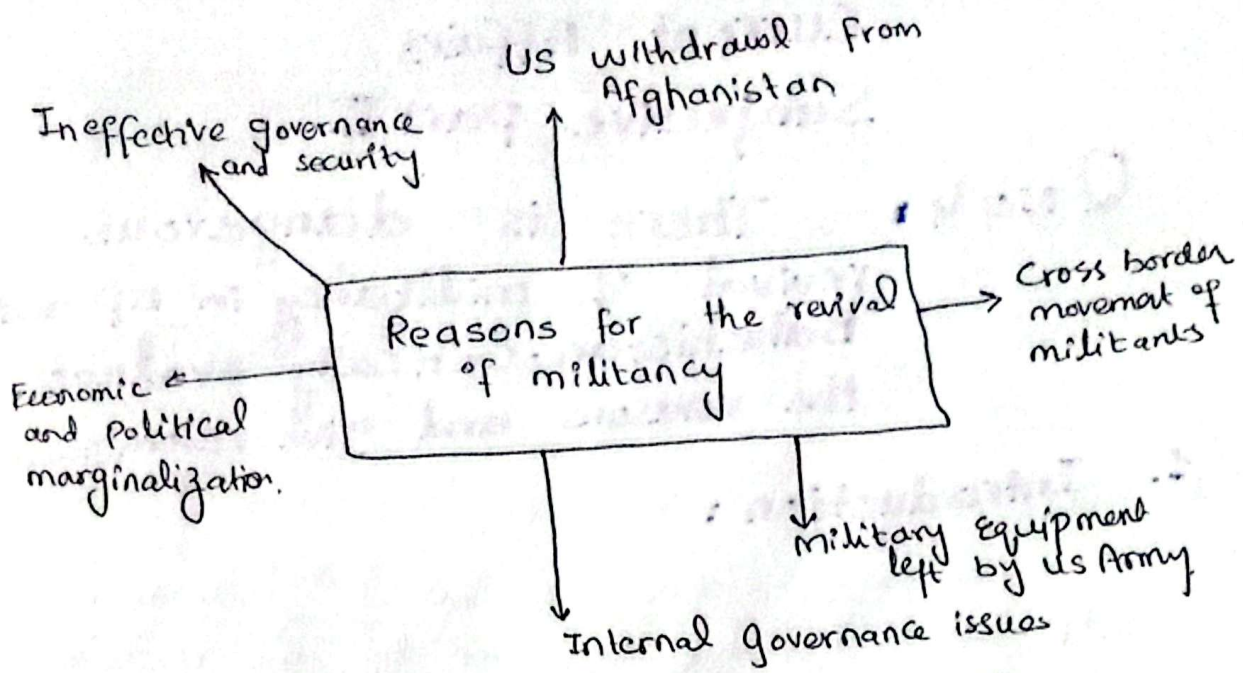
Q No 4: There is dangerous revival of militancy in KP and Baluchistan. Critically evaluate the reasons and give recommendations.

1. Introduction :

The revival of militancy in KP and Balochistan is driven by the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, which allowed groups like the TTP to return and expand, a history of political and economic marginalization in Balochistan, and internal governance issue in the former tribal areas. To counter this, Pakistan needs a multi-pronged approach that includes strengthening civilian intelligence agencies, Promoting economic inclusion and development, Implementing effective governance, and engaging in political dialogue to address the root causes of discontent.

2. Reasons for the revival of militancy

The reasons for the revival of militancy in KP and Balochistan are the following:



i. US withdrawal from Afghanistan:

The 2021 US withdrawal created a security vacuum, facilitating the return and expansion of militant groups like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan TTP and providing them with a stronger base of operations. Post-US withdrawal, Pakistan has witnessed a sharp increase in attacks targeting security forces, law enforcement agencies, and security checkpoints in Balochistan and KPK. These attacks escalated after the banned TTP broke a fragile ceasefire agreement with the government in 2022 and vowed to target security forces.

The rise of terrorism in Pakistan after the US withdrawal is contingent upon specific external as well as internal factors. The

② interior Ministry cautioned that terrorist groups posted a significant threats to Chinese developments projects such as the China - Pakistan Economic corridor, as evident by the attacks perpetrated against Chinese individuals.

ii. Internal governance issues:

The historical lack of effective local governance in the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) created a fertile ground for extremism, an issues that continues in parts of KP

iii. Economic and Political marginalization in Balochistan:

Despite being resource rich, Balochistan has seen limited benefits from development projects like the China Pakistan Economic corridor (CPEC). This has led to a lack of trust and resentment, with local communities feeling excluded from decision-making and economic benefits.

iv. Cross - border operation:

The porous border facilitates the movements of militants, creating a "battle border lands" environment where the TTP is challenging state control and expanding its operations, including partnerships with Baloch militant groups.

V. Geopolitical factors:

Internal vulnerabilities and external geopolitical interest are seen as fueling the rise of extremist activities. China's economic and strategic investments in Pakistan, mainly through CPEC, have made the country a key node in Beijing's Belt and Road initiative (BRI). Destabilising Pakistan disrupts those plans, hindering China's regional and global ambitions.

According to the report of Foreign Policy magazine, the TTP group and other groups are receiving external assistance, as indicated by their use of US-made weapons and advanced communication system, which have notably strengthened their technical capabilities and resources."

"Historical patterns of Proxy warfare, targeted attacks on Chinese interests, and evidence of external funding collectively suggested a nuanced yet troubling scenario."

Furthermore, there is substantial evidence suggesting India's involvement in supporting terrorist activities in ~~Afghanistan~~ Pakistan's Balochistan province through financial aid, weapons and training.

vi. Erosion of public trust:

Militant groups have killed many individuals perceived as state informers, making it difficult for loyal citizens to openly support the state and increasing the militants influence in certain areas.

3. Recommendations:

Following are some recommendations for reducing the militancy in areas:

i. Strengthen Civilian institutions:

Enhance the capacity and coordination of civilian-led counterterrorism agencies. Reform the criminal justice system to improve its efficiency and responsiveness.

ii. Improve governance and inclusion:

Incorporate dialogue and political engagement as part of the strategy, moving beyond military operations. Addressing economic grievances by implementing pro-poor policies and ensuring inclusive development, particularly for marginalized communities in resource-rich areas. Improve local governance structures and address the systematic issues that contribute to the problem.

iii. Enhance border management:

Improve border security and management to prevent the cross-border movement of militants.

iv. Promote Peace through education:

Focus on developing a culture of peace, pluralism, and inclusivity within educational institutions and madrasahs to counter radicalization.

v. Strengthen intelligence and financial intelligence:

Improve intelligence gathering to disrupt militant networks. Monitor and track the financial flows that support militant groups, including accounts that may be located outside the conflict zone. This will stop the flow of financial assistance to the terrorist groups and it will reduce the overall situations.

4. Conclusion:

It is concluded, the revival of militancy in KP and Balochistan is a complex issue requiring a multifaceted approach. Addressing economic deprivation, promoting inclusive.

governance, and countering extremist narratives are crucial to reducing support for militant groups. Strengthening security measures, fostering regional cooperation, and protecting human rights are also essential to militant networks and promoting stability. Ultimately, a sustained and coordinated effort from government, civil societies and regional partners is needed to tackle the root causes of militancy and ensure peace in these troubled regions.

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Q. 3 The formation of new provinces is a recurring discourse in Pakistan. Critically evaluate the reasons and give recommendations.

1. Introduction:

The issue of the formation of new provinces has become a hotly debated one. It has started with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Hazara) and Punjab (Sardaiki and Bahawalpur) but may not begin or end there. While supporting the creations of new provinces may appear an easy way out for the politicians, it is ~~typical~~ going to be a difficult task to actually carve them out once the genie is out it will not be easy to force it back into the bottle. Like creation of new

new districts, addition of provinces would become a political appeasement tool in a run up to each election. At the end of the day, country is likely to end up have a provincial map very close to an existing administrative identity called 'Division'.

2. Constitutional Debate on the Issue of New Provinces

It is very important to see what constitution of Pakistan 1973 says regarding the creation of new province. The 1973 constitution does not allow the formation of the new provinces. There is no article available in the constitution for creation of new provinces in the country. In fact, new legislation is required to legitimize the action. The weaker parties in the provinces play new provinces card to gain votes in elections.

The induced constitutional procedure for taking such mega steps - i.e. creation of new province is circuitous and laborious because at a given time, no political party or alliance is likely to muster two-third majority simultaneously in parliament and provincial assemblies. Obviously, new provinces would entail an addition to non-development expenditure. The additional administrative expenditure could be minimized by restricting the size of provincial government and bureaucracy.

3. Reasons for Demand of new Provinces:

Five important features that compose such a demand:

⑤ 3.1 People feel isolated:

People feel isolated in their present provinces on ethnic or geographical lines. They also get encouraged from the neighbouring countries with greater number of provinces. They are successful federation with a show of respect to their sub-national governments.

3.2. Feel major minority:

They feel a major minority and hence consider themselves distinct from the majority: Saraiki belt amongst Punjab and D.I. Khan, Hazara in KPK.

3.3. Powerful Capital:

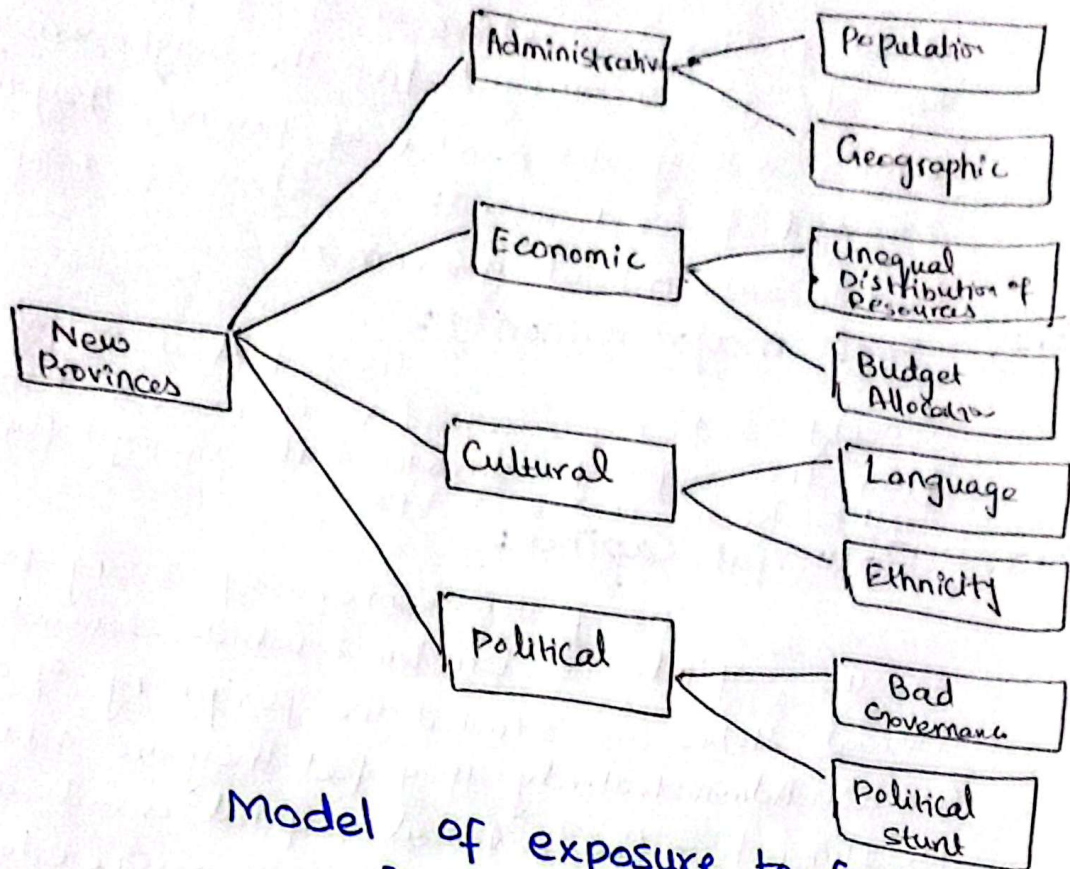
The power center of every province is its capital. The territories which demand a provincial status are situated at the periphery of existing provinces. Administratively they feel they are situated far flung from the provincial capital which always remains hub of administrative, economic, educational, political and social opportunities. Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalpur, D.I. Khan, Hazara etc in their respective provinces.

3.4 Demographic Division:

Pakistan has an additional excuse of demographic division that becomes a structural justification for increasing the number of its provinces. Punjab in terms of population size is larger than sum of all the three provinces combined.

3.5. Improvement in Governance:

Very important feature of new provinces demand is that this will improve state governance and ensure that state mandated services - law and order, justice, health, education will be easily available with more investment and great opportunities.



Model of exposure to factors for new provinces

4. Some Case Studies of New Provinces From Pakistan:

The demand to have new provinces has been raised from time to time; sometimes on ethnic backgrounds, sometimes on the basis of distribution of resources and sometimes on socio-economic backwardness of the areas.

4.1 The Case for South Punjab:

The case for South Punjab has been presented on socio-economic grounds. It is commendable that that proposed new provinces has been named as South Punjab and not as the Saraiki provinces which has been the popular demand. The rationale for the decision is the dispersed demography of the Saraiki speaking population which is scattered over

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23 districts, stretching from Mianwali, Bhakkar and Dera Khan, Multan, Punjab, and Bahawalpur in Punjab to Dera Khan and some part of Lakki Marwat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Sarai province thus would have become another unmanageably big province and its economic deprivation issue blamed on Punjab's large size would have remained unsolved.

← According to a PILDAT Discussion Paper
"South Punjab comprises around 48.5 percent of total area and 31.5 percent of the population of the present Punjab Province. It has three divisions subdivided into eleven districts"

The allocation of funds through Annual Development Program (ADP) was 17.76 percent in 2006 that was increased to 29.02 percent in 2010. The social indicators in education, health, labour and employment sector also present a poor picture. 43.41 percent people live below the poverty line as compared to 27.69 percent in Punjab.

4.2 Restoration of Bahawalpur Province:

It is noteworthy that the demand for granting Provincial status to Bahawalpur is not based on linguistic ethnic or cultural bases. The Bahawalpur division is the largest division of the Punjab in terms of area as it comprises 18,000 square miles and according to population it comprises 15 percent of total population of Punjab.

Being a part of South Punjab, the majority of people don't support for the demand of Saraiki Province because they fear that by supporting Saraiki province they will be giving up their claim of Bahawalpur province. Muhammad Ali Durrani, a former minister had also rejected the Saraiki province in favour of Bahawalpur provincial status. Bahawalpur, the largest of states that joined Pakistan, was given the status of province by an agreement signed on April 30, 1951 between Government of Pakistan and the Ruler of Bahawalpur under Government of India act 1935 regarding administrative and legislative matter.

4.3 The Case for Hazara Province:

Renaming of NWFP as Khyber Pakhtun Khaw by the 18th amendment triggered violent protests in Hazara Division demanding a separate Hazara Province. The Hazara Division of Khyber Pakhtun

Khaw consists of six districts: Haripur, Abbotabad, Manshera, Battagram, Kohistan and Since January 2011, Torghar. The population of Hazara is not homogenous in terms of ethnicity, ~~and~~ language and culture. The dominant language in Abbotabad, Haripur, and Manshera is Hindko, while people of Kohistan speak their own language Kohistani language. The

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People of Battagram and Torgrah speak Pashto supporters claim that Hazara will be economically viable as the region rich in minerals and natural resources. Tourism can be developed in Hazara to generate revenue and more hydroelectric Projects like the Khanpur Dam can be built to generate employment and royalty for the province.

4.4 Karachi / Urdu speaking Province from Sindh:

Demand on language base is very sensitive and it will create more problems for government and will not opt this option easily. People of Karachi with the support of MQM demanding their separate Urdu speaking Province. It will be very difficult decision for government of Sindh and people of Sindh it is possible that they may not accept this division.

4.5 Pashtun Belt from Balochistan:

Though the demand of separate Province by Pashtun speaking people of Balochistan is Province is not on the table, yet it can be heeded in future if new provinces were made elsewhere.

5. Recommendations:

Followings are some recommendations that Government should follow for satisfying

the peoples:

- * Government should consider four Her model
- * There is need to realign to all provinces to minimize conflict.
- * An independent commission for new provinces needed.
- * By considering the diverse culture, new provinces matter is very sensitive and much more work needed before announcement.
- * Government should ask entity, Commission or committee to keep in focus, language regions, culture, resources for new Project of provinces
- * Strengthening Local Governments
- * Promoting Good Governance

6. Conclusion

Federal governments deal with all provinces and after 18th amendment although many ministries shift to provinces but problem of law and order, development and especially health care not getting the right delivery from government either it is provincial or federal. To solve the problem of regions, languages, and less development it is necessary for government to make an independent commission and they have to make a report with the consultation of state holders. Now government can do it on administrative and political base. In short, the central government thinks twice before dividing the state's such that it doesn't affect the economy of the state.