

SUBJECTIVE PART- PART-II

Ans# 2. Pakistan and Afghanistan share deep historical, culture, and religious ties, yet their bilateral relations have often remained strained. Despite China's recent efforts, mistrust, border tensions, and conflicting security interests continue to hinder stability and cooperation. The root of these tensions lies in political, security, and socio-economic complexities that require a multi-faceted approach for improvement.

Major Factors Behind Tense Relations

1. Cross-Border Terrorism and Security Concerns:

Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of harboring Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) militants who launch attacks from Afghan soil. Conversely, Kabul blames Islamabad for supporting militant network like the Haqqani group. This mutual blame game fuels hostility and undermines trust.

2. Durand Line Dispute:

The unresolved issue of the Durand Line the 2640km border drawn during British rule remains a core irritant. Afghanistan refuses to officially recognize it as an international boundary, leading to frequent border clashes and tensions.

3. Refugee and Border Management Issues:

Pakistan has hosted over 3 million Afghan refugees for decades, but the continued presence of undocumented migrants has created social, economic, and

Security challenges. Recent repatriation policies have added friction between the two countries.

4. Indian Influence in Afghanistan:

Afghanistan's growing ties with India are viewed by Pakistan as a security threat, fearing encirclement and strategic isolation. India's economic and infrastructural in Afghanistan have intensified Pakistan's apprehensions.

5. Economic and Trade Barriers:

Despite geographical proximity, bilateral trade remains far below due to border closures, visa restrictions, and lack of infrastructure. Political mistrust overshadows regional economic cooperation.

6. Lack of Diplomatic Continuity:

Frequent political changes in both Islamabad and Kabul prevent the formulation of consistent foreign policies. Personal distrust between leadership further weakens diplomatic engagement.

Steps to Improve Pak-Afghan Relations

1. Counter-Terrorism Cooperation:

Establishing a joint counter-terrorism mechanism and intelligence sharing framework can help eliminate safe havens and build mutual trust.

2. Border Management and Recognition:

Both countries should institutionalize border controls through fencing, regulated crossings and gradual recognition of the Durand line as permanent frontier.

3. Revival of Bilateral and Regional Dialogues:

Reinvigorating platforms like the Afghanistan - Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS) and involving neutral mediators like China can sustain dialogue and reduce misunderstanding.

4. Economic Integration and Connectivity:

Expanding trade corridors under CPEC and CASA-1000 reopening border markets and improving visa regimes can strengthen interdependence and reduce hostility.

5. Managing Refugee Repatriation Humanely:

A gradual and coordinated refugee repatriation plan with UN assistance can address humanitarian concerns with easing Pakistan's domestic burden.

6. Soft-Diplomacy and People-to-People Contacts

Encouraging educational, cultural, and media exchange can rebuild goodwill and weaken extremist narratives on both sides.

Conclusion:

Pak-Afghan relations remain trapped between historical grievances and modern security challenges. China's mediation can offer a platform for dialogue, but sustainable peace requires political will, mutual respect, and regional cooperation. Only through trust-building measures, economic integration, and non-interference can both nations transform their turbulent history into a partnership for regional stability and prosperity.

Ans #3. The debate over the creation of new provinces in Pakistan resurfaces periodically, driven by demands for administrative efficiency, ethnic representation, and equitable distribution. While proponents view it as a pathway to better governance and national integration, opponents fear it may deepen ethnic divides and strain national unity. A balanced and pragmatic approach is essential to address the complex socio-political, administrative, and constitutional dimensions involved.

Historical Context

Since independence, Pakistan's administrative structure has evolved significantly. Initially composed of two wings East and West Pakistan the country now consists of four provinces, federally administered areas, and regions with special status. The demand for new provinces such as South Punjab, Hazara, and Mohajir province stems from perceived marginalization and governance inefficiencies.

Major Hurdles in the Formation of new Provinces

1. Constitutional and Legal Constraints:

- ➔ The creation of a new province requires a two-thirds majority in both houses of Parliament and consent from the concerned provincial assembly under Article 239(A) of the Constitution.
- ➔ This complex procedure makes consensus politically difficult.

2. Ethnic and Linguistic Sensitivities:

- ➔ Demand for provinces often aligns with ethnic identities, raising fears of fragmentation and ethnic polarization.

- ➔ For example, Saraiki vs. Punjabi and Hazara vs. Hindu speaking dynamics have made the issue highly sensitive.

3. Political Rivalries and Power struggles:

- ➔ Political parties often exploit provincial demands for electoral gains, rather than genuine administrative ~~system~~ reforms.
- ➔ Lack of political will and partisan interests have hindered constructive debate.

4. Resource Distribution and Economic Viability:

- ➔ The NFC Award and resource sharing mechanisms are already contentious.
- ➔ New provinces could create disputes over revenue distribution, water rights and administrative costs.

5. Administrative challenges:

- ➔ Establishing new provinces entails creating new bureaucracies, assemblies, and judicial setups demanding significant financial resources.
- ➔ Pakistan's existing administrative inefficiency raises doubts about its capacity to manage additional provinces effectively.

6. Fear of Precedent:

- ➔ Approving one demand (e.g., South Punjab) could trigger similar movements across the country, leading to instability and demand for further divisions.

Recommendations and the Way Forward

1. Administrative Decentralization Before Division:

- ➔ Strengthen local governments under Article 140-A to improve governance without necessarily creating new provinces.

2. Constitutional Clarity and Reform:

⇒ Establish a constitutional framework defining clear criteria (population, geography, administrative efficiency) for creating new provinces.

3. Consensus Building Through Dialogue:

⇒ Encourage federal-provincial dialogue involving all political stakeholders to ensure transparency and reduce ethnic tensions.

4. Economic Feasibility Studies:

⇒ Before any division, conduct independent economic and administrative feasibility studies to ensure sustainability of new units.

5. Strengthening Federalism:

⇒ The 18th Amendment already devolved significant powers; its effective implementation could address many grievances fueling for new provinces.

6. Balanced Representation:

⇒ Reforms in the Senate and NFC Award could ensure fair representation of smaller regions without altering provincial boundaries.

Conclusion:

While demands for new provinces stem from genuine grievances, hasty division may deepen ethnic and political fault lines. Strengthening local government, ensuring fair resources distribution, and fostering inclusive federalism offers a more sustainable path toward unity and effective administration.

Ans # 4. The resurgence of militancy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan poses a grave threat to Pakistan's internal security and national cohesion. Despite years of counterterrorism operations, militant networks are re-emerging due to complex regional, political, and socio-economic factors.

Major Reasons

1. Cross-border Terrorism:

The Afghan Taliban's return to power has emboldened the TTP and Baloch insurgents, providing them safe havens across the border.

2. Weak Border Management:

Incomplete fencing and porous borders allow easy infiltration of militants and arms.

3. Socio-economic Deprivation:

Poverty, unemployment, and lack of development in tribal districts and Balochistan fuel resentment and recruitment.

4. Political Instability:

Frequent political turmoil diverts focus from security reforms and counter-extremism efforts.

5. Ideological Radicalization:

Persistent religious extremism and lack of counter narrative education sustain militant ideologies.

6. Intelligence and Coordination Gaps:

Poor coordination among civil and military agencies weakens timely response to threats.

Recommendations

1. Integrated Counter-terrorism Strategy:

Revive and fully implement National Action Plan with focus on deradicalization and intelligence sharing.

2. Border Security Cooperation:

Strengthen Pak-Afghan border control and enhance diplomatic engagement with Kabul to curb cross border sanctuaries.

3. Socio-economic Development:

Prioritize education, employment, and infrastructure in militancy affected area.

4. Political Stability and Good Governance:

A stable political environment ensures continuity in counterterrorism policy.

5. Counter-Extremism Narrative:

Promote moderate religious education and community based awareness programs.

Conclusion:

The revival of militancy in KP and Balochistan is rooted in cross border dynamics, local grievances and governance failures. A combination of firm security measures, inclusive development and ideological reform is essential to achieve lasting peace and stability.

Ans # 9 :- The recent pact between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia marks a new phase in their long standing strategic partnership - This agreement reflects mutual security concerns, regional, realignment and shared interests in defense modernization and stability.

Causes

1. Strategic and Security Cooperation:

Both nations face evolving regional threats, especially from terrorism, border insecurity and instability in the Middle East.

2. Military Modernization:

Saudi Arabia seeks Pakistan's expertise in training, defence production and intelligence sharing to diversify its defense partnership beyond Western dependence.

3. Regional Power Balancing:

The pact strengthens Sunni bloc cooperation, counterbalancing Iranian influence and regional polarization.

4. Economic and Diplomatic Re-engagement:

Pakistan aim to revitalize ties with Riyadh to attract investment under Vision 2030 and improve its economy.

5. Changing Geopolitical Dynamics:

Aimed U.S. disengagement and China's growing presence both states seek mutual strategic autonomy through closer defense collaboration.

Implications

1. Enhanced Defense Cooperation:

Joint training, technology transfer, and intelligence sharing will strengthen both militaries.

2. Economic and Strategic Gains for Pakistan:

The deal may bring defense contracts, investments, and diplomatic leverage in the muslim world.

3. Regional Reactions:

Iran and India may view the pact with suspicion, potentially intensifying regional rivalries.

4. Broader Muslim Unity:

The pact could revive collective security mechanisms within the Islamic world under OIC frame works.

5. Dependence Risk:

Overreliance on Saudi aid might limit Pakistan's strategic neutrality in Middle Eastern politics.