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Current Affairs Mock.

Q(3) **NEW PROVINCES :** Add margin lines

Pakistan's government is premised on a federal structure under which the power is distributed between the center and the constituents. This helps cater to the demands of the country's heterogeneous and ethnically diverse landscape. On the other hand, in a unitary style of government, the power is concentrated in the centre. Regardless of the type of government, countries continue to create more provinces for efficient delivery of services.

Comparison of Total Number of Provinces in Countries

Country	Form of govt	Geographical Area	Popu-lation (2022)	Prov in 1974	Provi-nces in 2025
Pakistan	Federal	0.882	235.8 million	4	4
India	Quasi-Federal	3.287	1.0417 billion	22	28
Nigeria	Federal	0.924	218.5 million	12	36
Turkey	Unitary	0.783	84.9 million	67	81
Bangladesh	Unitary	0.148	171.2 million	4	8

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Globally, no country has a population exceeding 25% of its provinces' total. In Pakistan, however, the province of Punjab hosts 56% of the country's population, while Balochistan accounts for a meagre 5%. This has led to uneven resource distribution and unfair political representation in the national legislatures. Pakistan's four provinces are divided on the basis of British-era ethnolinguistic divisions, where districts and regions on the peripheries of each are the poorest and rank the lowest in Human Development Index.

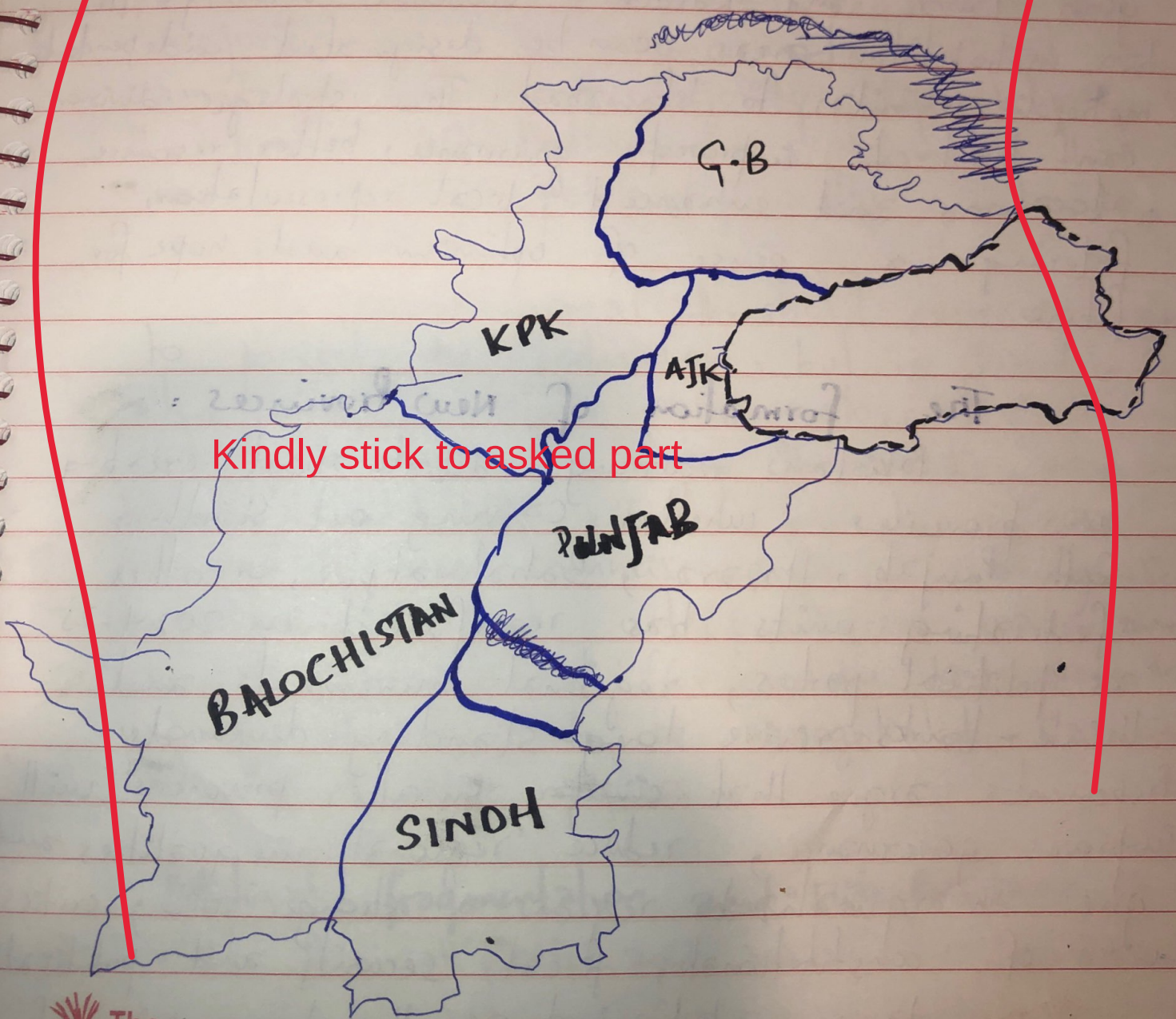
• International Comparisons:

- **Nigeria:** A country with a population and geographical size comparable to Pakistan, Nigeria has steadily increased its number of states from 4 to 36. This has helped decentralize governance, improve resource allocation, and mitigate ethnic disparities.
- **Turkey:** Initially divided into historical regions, Turkey has adjusted ^{provincial} boundaries to better meet administrative needs, enhancing social cohesion and local governance.

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India: India has systematically created new states to address governance challenges, with new states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand leading to improved governance and economic growth.

Current Provinces of Pakistan.



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looking at the map and considering the advantages of more units, 3, 4 provinces can be carved from Punjab and 2-3 from Sindh, KP, and Balochistan. The QB and ATK can be made into separate provinces with provincial status. Moreover, given Lahore and Karachi's economic vitality, the two metropolitan areas can be designated independent metropolis similar to Islamabad. This strategic division can lead to improved governance, better resource allocation, and enhanced local representation, fostering a sense of optimism and hope for the future.

The formation of New Provinces :

Pakistan's recurring debate about creating new provinces - whether carving out Sindh, South Punjab, Hazara, Bahawalpur, or other federating units has resurfaced in 2024-25 as political parties, regional movements and think-tanks revive long-standing demands. Proponents argue that smaller provinces will improve governance, reduce regional inequalities and give marginalized regions a stronger voice; critics warn of constitutional, fiscal, security and political dangers. but just as the two sides of

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a coin New Provinces debates too has its ups and downs.

Constitutional and legal hurdles:

The constitutional procedure for altering provincial ~~debate~~ boundaries require a two-third majority in the concerned provincial assembly and a two-third majority separately in both the houses of Parliament, a high bar that makes changes politically costly and procedurally complex.

The constitutional threshold exists ostensibly to protect the federation, but in practice it also enables status-quo actors to veto such a change. Beyond voting thresholds, any change triggers knock-on effects: formulae of the National Finance Commission (NFC) sharing, Senate Composition, and interprovincial water and resource arrangements. (for example 1991 Water Accord) would all have to be renegotiated. Each a Politically Sensitive process.

Political fragmentation and Elite Resistance:

Provincial elites and major national parties often resist the division of provinces because it dilutes

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their electoral and bureaucratic power. Punjab's dominance, in particular, generates strong opposition as any reduction in its size or parliamentary influence threatens entrenched interests. Even when regional movements gain traction, they face obstacles from powerful status-quo actors as Mian Raza Rabbani observes in "A Biography of Pakistani Federalism": "The perception of a strong Federation has been rotten and now we have to move forward with the thinking that we can progress through making provinces strong". His statement underscores that empowering provinces, not preserving outdated centralization, is the key to a balanced federation.

Administrative and Fiscal Capacity:

Creating a province demands more than legislative approval; it requires establishing institutions like secretariats, police departments and civil services, all of which entail heavy costs. Many proposed regions, such as South Punjab and Hazara, lack the fiscal base to sustain new bureaucracies. Under the current NFC award, Punjab receives 51.74% of the divisible pool, Sindh 24.55%, KPK 14.62% and Balochistan 9.09%. Any reallocation

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after creating a new province would necessitate a new NFC Award historically a slow and contentious process. The Express Tribune (2025) noted that such fiscal negotiations often turn into battle over influence rather than efficiency.

Risks of Identity Politics and Centrifugal Pressures.

Regional movements often overlap with ethnic and linguistic identities, raising fears of fragmentation. Historical memories of 1971 still shape elite anxieties about "balkanisation". As Rabbani warns, "whenever the question of provincial autonomy is raised, they warn about dangers of balkanisation". This reflects the delicate balance of Pakistan's unity, where inclusion and representation must outweigh identity-based politics.

The Legitimacy and Inclusiveness Problem

Demands for new province often lack a transparent process for defining boundaries and powers. Parliamentary debates are dominated by

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political elites, leaving local voices unheard. As the Friday Times editorially remarks, "Pakistan needs decentralisation not just new provinces." True empowerment, therefore, lies in strengthening local governments rather than redrawing borders.

Conclusion:

The creation of New Provinces can enhance governance if grounded in fiscal prudence, institutional readiness, and inclusive consultation. Without these, it risks deepening political ~~activities~~ divides. As Mian Raza Rabbani writes insightfully concludes,

"Without federalism (political, social and fiscal), our nation will remain a mere bonsai tree"

Hence, Pakistan's progress depends not only ^{on} new boundaries but on deepening democracy and equitable federalism.

Add recommendative part

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Q2

Trump's Withdrawal and Future

The global effort to combat climate change has once again faced a setback with the United States' renewed withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement under the current President Donald Trump. The move has disrupted international consensus and raised doubts about the durability of global environmental commitments. As Reuter (2025) reported, Trump "formally re-activated the exit process through executive orders signed in early 2025," "triggering widespread condemnation. Evans Njewa, chair of the Least Developed countries Group, remarked, 'We deeply regret USA plans to exit from the Paris Agreement'."

The United States has historically served as a linchpin in climate diplomacy providing both funding and political leverage to persuade other nations to act. Its renewed withdrawal from the agreement is therefore more than symbolic; it undermines financial assistance, technology transfer, in the moral leadership needed for global coordination. Nature 2025 observed that

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"US move risks creating a fragmented global response" highlighting the danger of regional rather unified approaches to climate mitigation.

Fragmentation and Emerging Leadership.

In the absence of US leadership, two opposite trends have emerged, fragmentation and compensatory leadership. Fragmentation reflects a splintered climate governance structure as nations pursue isolated policies. However compensatory leadership is visible as the European Union, China and India attempt to fill the gap. According to the Financial Times 2025, Brussels has "intensified cooperation with US states and cooperations to align clean tech policies" signalling the rise of subnational and regional actors as new climate leaders.

This decentralised response also includes private corporations, city networks and non-state actors committing to carbon neutrality.

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However without coherent national policies such efforts often remain limited in scope. AP news 2025 reported that an international maritime conference ^{it} ended without new regulations after US objections showing how Washington's absence or assistance ~~stalled~~ ^{hindered} progress.

Consequence for Global Equity.

Despite these challenges the US withdrawal might ~~also~~ inspire new coalitions. The EU and the China are developing mutual standards for new carbon products and regional "clubs of the willing" are emerging to coordinate carbon markets and finance innovation. ~~Substitution~~

The most critical consequence of this withdrawal lies in the weakening of climate finance mechanisms. The US had pledged billions through the green climate fund to assist vulnerable nations. France's climate minister acknowledged that "Paris will not give up on world bank climate goals" yet admitted the gap left by Washington cannot be fully bridged.

Instructions to get good marks in current affairs paper

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Important Note:

Marks would be given on the following parameters

a- Content 60% References 15% Subject specific language 15%. Graphs and charts 10%

Conclusion:

Add 12-13 headings in each question and write 8-9 sides to get above 15 in each question

the questions carry 3_4 parts... each part has equal weightage so discuss all equally

Give examples from present events to justify answers

Give attractive introduction and Conclusion as well

always give headings from the question statement.. take words from the statement

link each of the argument to the asked part in the question... if you fail to do so, no matter how accurate content is, if your heading is not align with what is asked in the question, it won't be accurate

Good Luck