A. AFGHANISTAN HAS NO CULTURE OF CONVENTIONAL POLITICS: NEITHER IT HAS ANY HISTORICAL PRECEDENCE OF WESTERN STYLE DEMOCRACY OR STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

B. LOCAL CONCILIATION AND COMPROMISE ARE KEY TO SECTARIAN, ETHNIC AND Factional ISSUES.

C. VILLAGE, TRIBAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS EXERT SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE OVER THEIR LOCAL POPULATION AND DOMINATE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE OF THE COUNTRY.

D. SOME OF THESE LEADERS TERMED AS WARRIORS HAVE THEIR OWN MILITIA. THESE WARRIORS ARE FILTHY RICH, HOLD HIGH POLITICAL OFFICES AND POSITIONS.

E. THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT IN THE RECENT POLITICAL HISTORY OF AFGHANISTAN WAS CONDUCT OF PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

F. AS A RESULT OF THESE ELECTIONS MOST OF THE INFLUENTIAL WARRIORS, DRUG BARONS AND FORMER MUJAHIDEEN OCCUPIED THE POWER SEAT. HENCE, THE BICAMERAL PARLIAMENT OF AFGHANISTAN IS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN CENTRAL POWER AND REGIONAL INTERESTS.

G. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE CONDUCTED IN SEPTEMBER 2009. OUT OF FOUR PHASES FOUR WHICH WAS POSTPONE FOR A MONTH DUE TO SECURITY AND ECONOMIC REASON HAS STARTED SINCE 20 JAN.

H. PRESIDENT KARZAI IS LIKELY TO HAVE A TOUGH CONTEST FROM THE MAIN RIVAL PARTY "UNITED NATIONAL FRONT" WHICH DOMINATED BY WARRIORS INFLUENTIAL EX ERSTWHILE NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

I. TO COUNTER THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF UNF, PRESIDENT KARZAI HAS ALSO

N. IF THE CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION IN THE SOUTH DOES NOT IMPROVE DRAMATICALLY THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF NEXT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

O. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS DETERMINED TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN 2009.
A. Opium was the major source of funding for the mujahideen

B. Opium was the major source of funding for the mujahideen

C. Opium was the major source of funding for the mujahideen

D. Opium was the major source of funding for the mujahideen

E. Opium was the major source of funding for the mujahideen

F. Opium was the major source of funding for the mujahideen

G. Opium was the major source of funding for the mujahideen

H. Opium was the major source of funding for the mujahideen

I. Opium was the major source of funding for the mujahideen

J. Opium was the major source of funding for the mujahideen
E. UNODC REPORTS THAT TALIBAN ARE COLLECTING 10 PERCENT USMR TO OPIUM PROCESSING AND TRAFFICKING THAT MAY HAVE RAISED AN ADDITIONAL USD 200-300 MILLION SUFFICIENT TO KEEP THE INSURGENCY ON HYPE.
F. NUMBER OF POPPY FREE PROVINCES GREW TO 18 IN 2008 FROM 13 LAST YEAR. THERE WAS 19 PERCENT DECREASE IN POPPY CULTIVATION DURING CURRENT YEAR, WHILE CANNABIS CULTIVATION HAS BEEN REPORTED OVER 70,000 HECTARE.

6. SOME FACTS ARE:
A. TOTAL AFGHAN REFUGEES - 4,467 MIL (FROM 1990 TO 2005)
B. TOTAL REPATRIATED - 5,241 MIL (FROM 1990 TO DATE)
C. BALANCE - MINUS 0.774 MIL
D. CURRENT GROUND BALANCE - 2.5 TO 3 MIL

7. GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN DEVISED A PROACTIVE STRATEGY FOR REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES BETWEEN THREE YEARS FROM 2007 TO 2009. HOWEVER, IN A MEETING WITH UNHCR PAKISTAN HAS AGREED TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE OF REPATRIATION BEYOND 2009. UNHCR AND PAKISTAN HAVE ALSO LAUNCHED A JOINT APPEAL TO RAISE USD 135 MILLION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AREAS IN AFGHANISTAN.

8. AN INTERNATIONAL DAY CONFERENCE HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER IN KABUL, IT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED BY UN AND AFGHAN GOVERNMENT THAT REPATRIATION AND REHABILITATION OF THREE MILLION REGISTERED AFGHAN REFUGEES (TWO MILLION IN PAKISTAN AND ONE MILLION IN IRAN) WAS A BIG CHALLENGE FOR

A. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NOT PAKISTAN ONLY WITH WHOM AFGHANISTAN SHARE ITS BORDERS. THERE ARE FIVE MORE COUNTRIES BORDERING AFGHANISTAN WHO ALSO HAVE CONSIDERABLE STAKES IN AFGHANISTAN AND THROUGH WHICH WEAPONS FLOWS IN TO AFGHANISTAN AND INSURGENTS MAINTAIN THEIR BASES.
B. MOST OF THESE COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN PLAYING THEIR ROLE IN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER IN KEEPING THE AFGHAN CAULDRON BOILING.
C. BESIDES GEOGRAPHICAL CONTIGUOUS NEIGHBOUR THERE ARE FAR DISTANT NATIONS RETAIN SUFFICIENT POCKETS OF INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN AND ARE EQUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR AFGHAN INTRIGUE.
D. PAKISTAN NEVER DENIED CROSS BORDER MOVEMENT.
E. MOST OF THE BORDER CROSSING TAKES PLACE FROM UNFREQUENTED ROUTES.
F. PRESENCE OF REFUGEES - MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN THE CONTEXT OF
11. The solution to Afghanistan's problems is inherently political and organizational. Given enormous ethno-political complexities of the present conflict, a stable Afghanistan seems to be a tall order. Internal dimension of Afghan conflict needs to be addressed first, i.e. resolving the issue of warlordism, drug trade, repatriation/rehabilitation of Afghan refugees, building of security and justice apparatus and provision of basic amenities to common Afghans.