

Question:

There is an alarming revival of militancy in Pakistan since the beginning of 2022. Critically evaluate the reasons and give policy recommendations.

Introduction:

Since the beginning of 2022, Pakistan has been facing a severe problem of militancy. The situation has become alarming. However, if one have a look over the past few years, the same issue seems arising. A lot of factors playing their role in uplifting the problem of militancy in Pakistan. Therefore, a need to strengthen the policy making and upgrading the laws is required.

Manifestations of Revival of Militancy:

1- Targeted Killings:

Targeted killings in Pakistan have been a major manifestation of revival of militancy in the country. According to South Asian Terrorism

Portal (SATP), a total of 6334 targeted killings in Pakistan reported between 2010-2020. These killings were carried out by militant groups. Since the beginning of 2022, there has been a rise in targeted killings in Pakistan indicating revival of militancy. According to a report by Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), there were 733 cases of targeted killings in the country in 2022, which is a 40% increase from the previous year. Majority of these killings have been carried out in the Balochistan province where different separatist groups are organized for decades.

2- Suicide Bombing:

Pakistan has been facing the wave of terrorism since the early 2000's, particularly in the form of suicide bombing, resulted in large number of casualties and damage to public and private property. According to South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP), a total of 3972 suicide bombings have been reported

in Pakistan between 2002 and 2021. This resulted in massive fatalities and injuries showing the magnitude of problem and the impact on the country. Similarly, according to Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security, in 2021, there have been 21 suicide bombing attacks.

3- Kidnapping and Hostage

Taking:

Kidnapping and hostage taking have been a persistent problem in Pakistan, and they have been used as a tactic by various militant groups to advance their objectives. One of the most notorious incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking was the siege of the Army Public School in Peshawar in December 2014. According to data from the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS), there were 1,996 incidents of terrorism and political violence in 2020. 34 of them involved hostage-taking. So, kidnapping and hostage-taking are a manifestation of the revival of militancy in Pakistan, with militant groups using them as a means of

advancing their objectives and financing their operations.

4- Attacks on Security Forces:

The frequency of attacks on security forces has decreased in recent years compared to the peak of militancy in Pakistan in the mid-2000s. However, there has been a resurgence of militant groups in some parts of the country, especially the recent incident in Karachi, when a group of militants and terrorists attacked a Police office. However, the attack was successfully saved by police and rangers. This shows that the militancy in Pakistan once again rising up.

5- Cyber Terrorism:

Pakistan has been the victim of cyber-attacks from various sources including various criminal groups and extremist organizations. These attacks have targeted government agencies, military installations, financial institutions, and other critical infrastructure. As, day-by-day, technology is becoming

2- Regional and International Dynamics:

These are also significant reasons for the revival of militancy in Pakistan. The country's location at the intersection of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle-East has made it vulnerable to external influences. Pakistan shares borders with Afghanistan and Iran, both of which have been affected by conflict and instability in recent years. The spillover effects of these conflicts, including the influx of refugees and the presence of militant groups, have contributed to the revival of militancy in Pakistan.

3- Insufficient Governance and Rule of Law:

These are the major reasons for the revival of militancy. The country has a long history of weak governance, corruption, and

ineffective rule of law, which has allowed militant groups to flourish. The lack of effective governance has led to a breakdown of law and order in some parts of the country, particularly in the tribal areas along the Afghan border. This has provided a fertile ground for militant groups to establish safe havens and carry out attacks on civilians and security forces. Moreover, the weak rule of law in Pakistan has contributed to the impunity enjoyed by militant groups and their sympathizers. Many militants are able to evade arrest and prosecution due to the lack of effective law enforcement and the influence of powerful political and ~~regional~~ religious groups.

4- Failure of Counterterrorism

Efforts:

Despite the government's efforts to combat militancy, including the launch of military operations and the formation of specialized counter-terrorism units, militant groups continue

more advanced, extremist groups are increasing using cyber-attacks to advance their objectives, disrupt critical infrastructure and spread propaganda.

Reasons of Revival:

1- Religious Extremism:

Religious Extremism is one of the primary reasons for the revival of militancy in Pakistan. The country has a history of religious fundamentalism, which has been fuelled by various factors such as sectarianism, political Islamism, and the influence of extremist religious groups. The spread of religious extremism in Pakistan can be attributed to various factors, including the prevalence of madrasa or Islamic religious schools, which often promote a narrow and intolerant version of Islam. The education system in Pakistan has also been criticized for its failure to provide a balance and secular education, which has left many vulnerable to extremist ideologies.

to operate in some parts of the country. One of the reasons of this failure is the lack of coordination and co-operation between different government agencies and security forces. The absence of a unified strategy and the overlapping responsibilities of different agencies have hindered effective counterterrorism efforts.

Policy Recommendations:

1- Strengthening Governance and Rule of Law:

The government should take steps to improve governance and strengthen the rule of law in the country. This includes improving the delivery of basic services, reducing corruption, and ensuring accountability and transparency in government institutions.

2- Countering Religious Extremism:

The government should develop a comprehensive strategy to counter religious extremism, which includes addressing the root causes of radicalization and promoting religious tolerance and diversity.

3- Regional Co-operation and Diplomacy:

The government should engage in regional co-operation and diplomacy to address the cross-border flow of militants and weapons and to promote peace and stability in the region.

4- Addressing Socio-economic Issues:-

The government should take steps to address the socio-economic issues that contribute to the marginalization of certain communities, including poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to education and

health care.

5- Building Capacity and Co-ordination among Security Forces:

The government should improve the capacity and co-ordination of security forces to enhance their effectiveness in dealing with militancy. This includes providing trainings, equipment, and resources to security forces, and ensuring better co-ordination between different agencies.

Conclusion:

To conclude, indeed there is an alarming revival of militancy in Pakistan since the beginning of 2022 which have resulted in various other problems on national and international level. It seems like a new wave of militancy in the country; however, the problem can be tackled by taking effective

Policy recommendations by
government and to establish a
better and prosperous country.