

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

Ans: 1. Introduction: After almost a decade of fighting against terrorism, Pakistan was finally able to purge the terrorists from their hideout. Military operations such as Zarb-e-Azb played an imperative role in disintegrating militancy in the country. However, this peace was short-lived and now faces resurgence of militancy once again.

2. Evidence of growing militancy: The resurgence of militancy is evident from the increasingly suicide bombings that are primarily targeted at military, para-military and police. These attacks include attacks on Police Station in South Waziristan, attack of Military in north Waziristan and multiple attacks in Lakki Marwat. These attacks are also aimed at the Chinese and Shia population, e.g. the suicide bomber attacked a van near University of Karachi, killing three Chinese academics. Moreover, the mosques are also being targeted which is evident from the attack conducted on Peshawar mosque, this was the most deadliest attack after APS. There has also been an increase in strategic attacks, the attack on CDT office in Bannu serves as a good example, where the fight lasted for 40 hours before the armed force were able to eliminate the militants. Furthermore, there have also been attempts made to enter the capital and the recent car bomb detonation is the testament of this.

3. Reasons: The core reason for the ~~riva~~ revival of militancy is associated with the withdrawal of US from Afghanistan. The Taliban have taken control of Afghanistan after US withdrawal. Afghan Taliban and those in Pakistan (TTP), are considered ideological brothers, as they have been fighting on the same side for many years against USSR and US and its allies. TTP is using Afghanistan as a launching pad to conduct cross-border insurgencies. The negotiations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have also failed. These negotiations were mediated by Afghan Taliban however, ~~the~~ the demands put forward by TTP were unacceptable. These demands included the reversal of 25th amendment and thereby reviving Ex-fata, Release of all TTP prisoners and implementation of TTP version of shariah all over Pakistan. These demands were unacceptable to Pakistan and thereby were rejected at once.

4. Recommendations: Pakistan should take stern measures to ensure such militant activities ~~is~~ are nipped in the bud. Proper training and equipment should be provided to paramilitary and other (CTD) department. The areas where the army has conducted operations to purge out the terrorists, are being handed over to police and paramilitary. However, the inability of these forces creates a vacuum, which could be exploited by the militants. Hence, proper training and equipment should be provided to these forces so that they establish complete hold over these areas. Another factor that allieviate the exacerbating military

insurgencies is fencing the Pak-Afghan border. Around 80% of border has already been fenced. However, the rest is a hilly belt which makes it very difficult to fence. This is because the process of installing fence ^{involves} digging trenches and then installing fences with other security installations, which is really difficult to do in hilly areas. Moreover, some of the fences are being stolen by Afghan people, therefore enhanced security installations are required. Another option for Pakistan is to approach all the neighbours that are affected and convince them to develop a collective policy that persuades Afghan Taliban to take serious actions against terrorist organisations harboring in Afghanistan.

5. Conclusion: There is no doubt that Pakistan is one of the most affected country from terrorism. Pakistan has suffered heavy losses because of this, and now faces the same threat. However, the resurgence of militancy, albeit it seems daunting, can be dealt by stern measures and national policy aimed at deterring militants from the country. Inspiration should be drawn from the fact that the country was able to disintegrate militancy once before, so doing this the second time is also achievable.