

Pakistan affairs

Pakistan has been reeling from a deadly phase of extremism in the past. Trace the genesis of recent wave of terrorism in Pakistan indicating its causes and measures to adopt.

## INTRODUCTION:

From the inception of Pakistan in 1947, Pakistan was always in a vicious cycle of wars with the hostile neighbours and socio-economic crisis. However, after the constitution of Pakistan was made, it was in a relief in terms of socio-economic problems. Moreover, when Pakistan participated in Soviet-Afghan war in 1980's and trained the fighters of Afghan, mujahideen, it proliferated the chaos and unrest in the country. The terrorism was spread, usage of drugs and weapons were a usual became a routine in Pakistan. The intelligence agencies and military tried their best practices and showed their excellent skills and combat terrorism and extremism from the country. However, in recent years, after the fall of Kabul and its deteriorated economic conditions resulted in the rise of terrorism across the country.

## HISTORY OF TERRORISM IN PAKISTAN:

Due to the

In 1980's, Soviets invaded

Afghanistan and tried to occupy its Afghan Land. To help Kabul, Washington with the support of Islamabad tries to resolve this matter and fought against USSR.

Pakistan trained the fighters in the tribal areas of the country. They won war against USSR and a peace

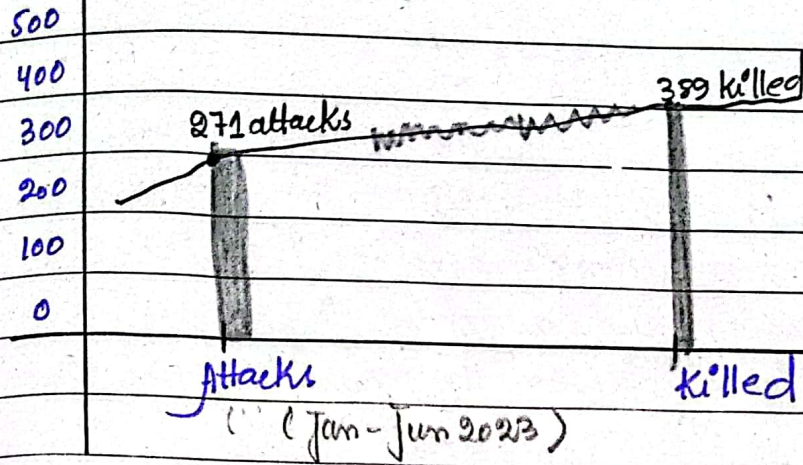
was established. On the other hand, the tribal areas became a hub of terrorists organizations and the worst impacts of USSR - Afghan war were faced by Pakistan. Likewise, the participation of Islamabad in War on Terror (WOT) and becoming a member of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and by becoming a non-ally member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) further fuel the fire of Terrorism in Pakistan. Hence, Pakistan had a deadly phase of extremism in the past.

## CURRENT SITUATION OF TERRORISM IN PAKISTAN:

In recent years, Pakistan faced a revival in the terrorism attack and these this revival will become more dangerous than previous wave of terrorism. As, according to the Centre for Research and Security Studies, Islamabad - CRSS, the latest trends of terrorism suggests that 2023 may be worse, with almost 200-terror related incidents and at least 340 fatalities by March. Also, according to the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) Military database shows a 51% rise in terror attacks in the tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) during the half of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. Hence, current situation of terrorism trend is extreme and intense, as shown in the table below.

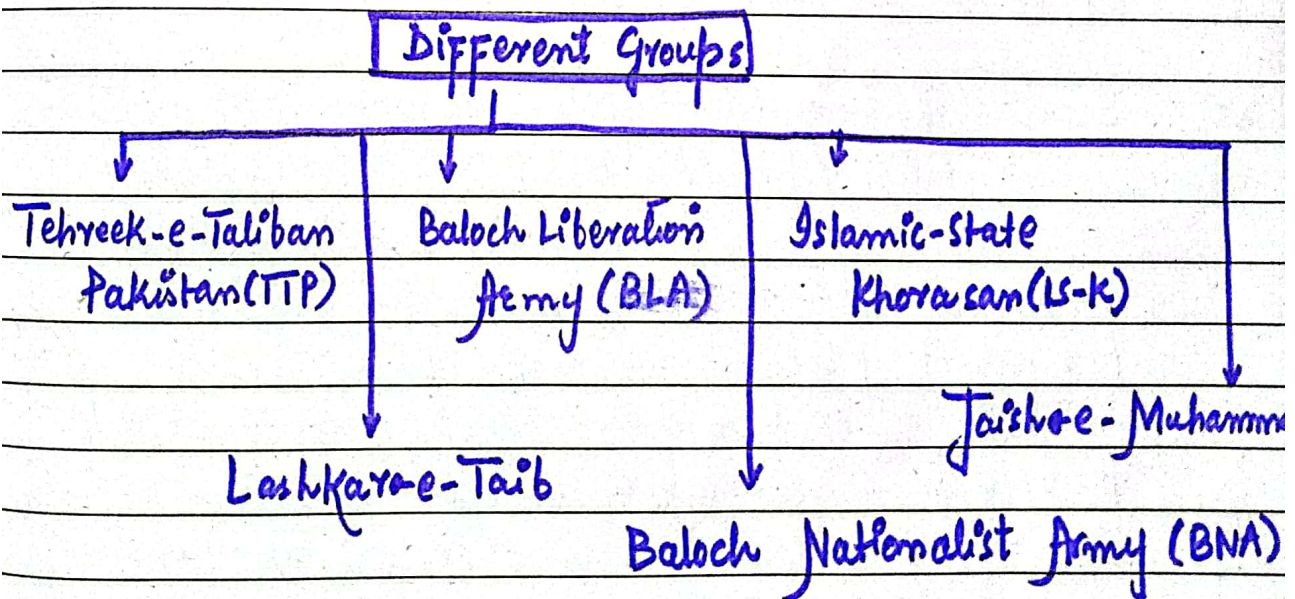
## Terror Trend in Pakistan - 2023

(Source: by PIPs)



## DIVERSE GROUPS INVOLVED IN TERRORISM: ~ COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW ~

After the war on terror, 9/11 incidents and Soviet Afghan war, there ~~are~~ were several groups or factions emerged across the country. A comprehensive overlook is illustrated below:



Following are the groups that involved in the recent wave of

terrorism.

## CAUSES OF RECENT WAVE OF TERRORISM:

There are a lot of causes of recent wave of terrorism in Pakistan. The attacks of recent terrorism are mostly confined to KP and Balochistan regions and attacking the security and intelligence places. ~~They are~~ The causes are mentioned below:

### 01) Ceasefire Cancelled by TIP:

TIP is one of the major groups in the recent wave of terrorism. Pakistan and the TIP signed a ceasefire agreement, which TIP unilaterally cancelled on 23, November, 2022 and started a full-fledge militancy in the country. Hence it caused a major damage to the country.

### 02) Security Agencies ill-decision to negotiate with TIP provides time to TIP to stabilize

Security forces and military commands ill-decision to negotiate with TIP, because it provided an ample time to the militant groups to make decisions and relocate to their sleeper cells. and also, they had a time to draw strategy to attack against the state and make alliances with other groups.

### 03) Inter-Group Merges and Alliances:

The officials ill-decision to negotiate with TTP gave TTP a lot of time to unite and make alliances with other factions. According to reports, the chief of TTP, Noor-Wali Masud, focused on uniting splitted groups of ~~of~~ after the ~~less~~ which were run and hide in other states during the operations of the Pakistan military. Hence, these unification puts a heavy setback on the country's security.

### 04) Myopic Approach in military operations:

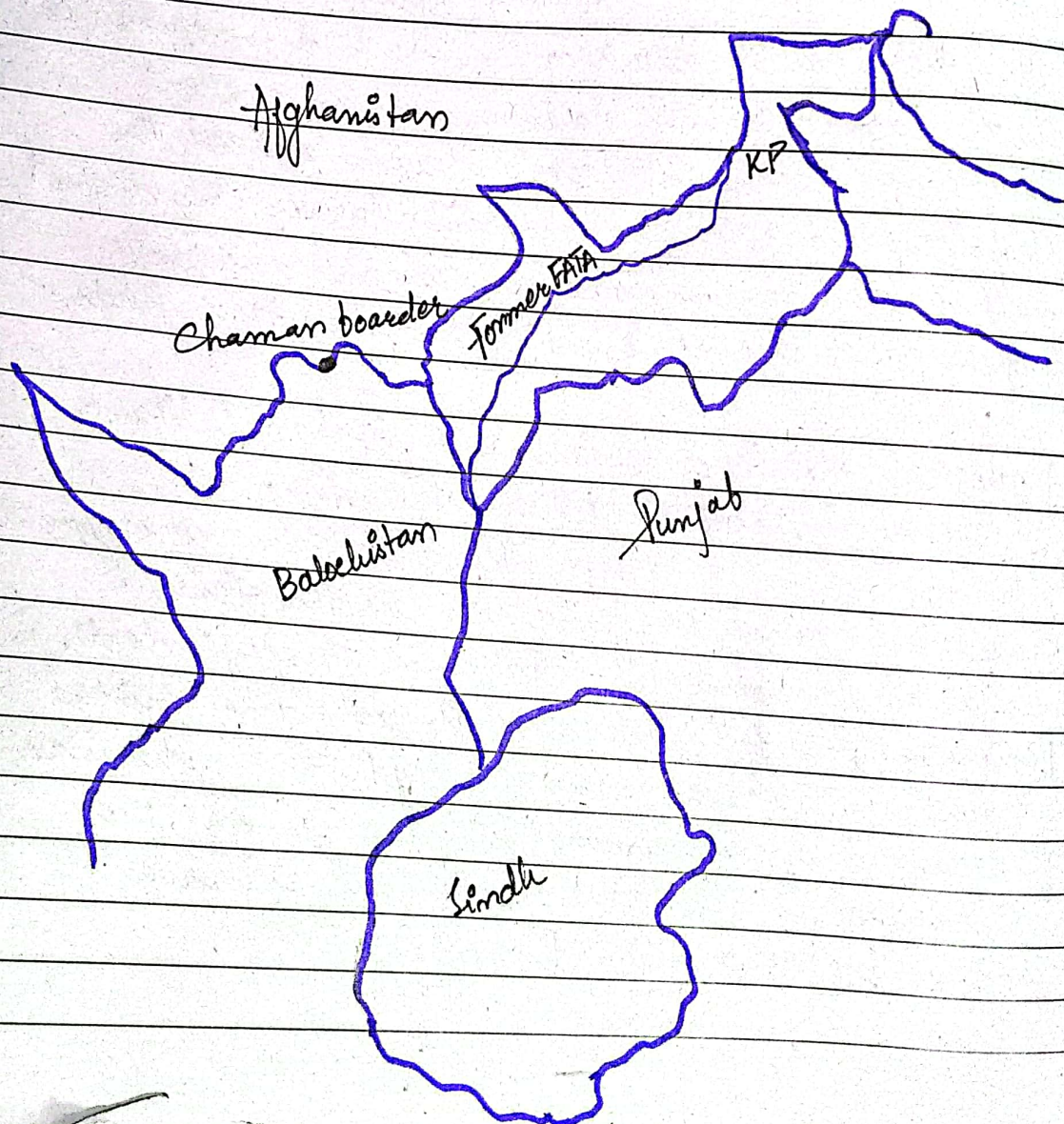
Military operations were conducted after the deadliest attack of militants ~~of~~ on Peshawar schools back in 2014. The operations gave an excellent results as they almost bombarded and damaged the sleeper cells and killed the militants. However, they did not overlook after the completion of operations and also only kinetic factor was not enough to destroy these groups.

### 05) Ideological Affinity of factions with Afghan Taliban: ~ a threat to Pakistan security

TTP and Afghan government shared an ideological affinity with each other. Hence, it was a popular theme that Pakistan's strategic depth is Afghanistan, but, in recent years, it looks like, instead of Pakistan, TTP has a strategic depth in Afghanistan. Therefore, this affection among both the groups puts a damage to Pakistan's security and a wave of terrorism proliferated in the country.

## 06) Inadequate Infrastructure of KP:

The attacks by militant groups are carried mostly on tribal belt because it is nearer to Afghanistan border, as shown in the map below. The reason behind it, KP lacks in counter-terrorism infrastructure and resources. A report submitted to Parliament in December 2022, which stated that, KP province <sup>witnessed</sup> ~~indicates~~ 300 attacks and required a proper CT infrastructure. Hence, it is a major cause of recent wave of terrorism.



## 07) Lack of Cohesive Civil-Military Action:

The lack of unification among civilian government and military also contributed to the rise of terrorism in the country. As, it gives the groups chance to penetrate in the civil society and manipulate the minds of innocent youth and include them in their groups. Hence, an unrest in civil-military relations advantage the extremist groups.

## 08) Politico-Economic Uncertainties:

The ouster of former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan through no-confidence motion leads to the political and economic turmoil in the country. Hence, it gave chance to terrorist groups to target the security agencies in the wake of unstable environment in the country.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE REVIVAL OF TERRORISM:

### 01) Deteriorate already fragile condition of economy:

The rise of terrorism has several ramifications. One is the deteriorate the already weak state of the economy. The foreign investment will halt in the wake of increasing security concerns. Hence, it <sup>will</sup> put a heavy setback to the country's economic state.

### 02) Impact the Tourism Industry:

Also, the terror attacks impact the tourist industry. As evidenced by the recent

announcement of international states to take cautions while visiting the Islamabad in the start of the 2023 year. Hence, it will decline the tourism industry and impact on economy as well.

## MEASURES TO SUBDU REVIUAL OF THE RECENT WAVE OF TERRORISM:

01) Re-visit the Afghan policy by officials:  
~ a need of Time ~

Due to the affiliation with the TIP by Afghan Taliban, they faced hindrance to take any punitive action against TIP. Hence it is a high time, Pakistan should have to revisit Afghan foreign policy options to minimize the terror attacks from the country.

02) Include Regional Actors in Negotiations with Afghanistan Government:

Pakistan needs to include regional actors to start negotiations with Afghanistan government over the terrorism threats. As, the Afghan-Taliban said that its the internal matter of Pakistan and we are helpless to provide any assistance.



### 03) Capacity Building of Law-enforcement agencies:

Pakistan also need to set ~~his~~ home its home at order. They also need to build the capacity of law-enforcement agencies to fight against terrorism. They need to implement the twenty-points National Action Plan (NAP) in true spirit and also revive the NACTA to curb the terrorism from the country.

### 04) Use of Non-Kinetic Factors in Policy Making against Terrorism:

The factions are united on the ideological front. Once said, hit on the believes and weak their faiths and you will find the way. Hence, Pakistan needs to use non-kinetic factors such as media channels revival in ~~high~~ media channels, religious scholars and public speaking to weaken and manipulate the ideologies of these factions to damage them for a long run.

### 05) Fulfil the Demands of KP to enhance their Infrastructures:

Pakistan also needs to fulfil the demands of the KP that were made during the merger of FATA in KP. It will boost the security and infrastructure of the KP institutes to curb the proliferation of terrorism in the tribal areas.

## CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, Pakistan has a long history of terrorism and its intensity.

In a nutshell, Pakistan has a long history of terror attacks and rise of extremism across the country. Historically, it faced a lot of struggle in combating terrorism, but, the military did a great job and resolve it. However, in recent years, the attacks are rising again because to the safe havens of terror groups in Afghanistan, improper and lack of resources and infrastructure, respectively, that becomes a major cause of the recent wave of terrorism. Hence, it can be measured by revisiting Pak-Afghan foreign policy and enhancing own capabilities.

~ 1 hour and 20 minutes ~

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