

Resurgence of Terrorism in Pakistan: A Spark in the Tinderbox

Outline

I. Introduction:

In Pakistan, the resurgence of terrorism has created highly volatile situation that has external and internal causes. So, it is dire need to timely address this issue to bring the country out of the quagmire of terrorism.

II. Manifestations of Terrorism Resurgence in Pakistan

III. How terrorism in Pakistan sparks the tinderbox:

A. Brings economic meltdown

B. Weakens democracy and political culture

C. Weakens havoc on diplomatic front

D. Causes loss of lives and property

E. Soars the fear of insecurity

IV. Causes of terrorism resurgence

In Pakistan:

- A. Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan
- B. Failed deal with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
- C. Merger of various terrorist factions into TTP
- D. Under-equipped law enforcement agencies
- E. A rift between modern education and Islamic teachings
- F. Lack of consensus among federal and provinces

V. Effort that have been done so far to counter the resurgence terrorism in Pakistan

VI. Further needed measures to counter the resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan:

A. Creating a strong diplomatic ties with Afghan Government

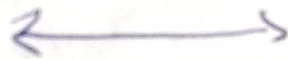
B. Addressing the grievances of the people of tribal areas

C. Interpreting Islamic teachings

on the base of modern era

VI. Conclusion:

Terrorism has brought the country into ^{the} verge of collapse. So, it is dire need to timely address this issue to make Pakistan prosperous.



Essay

Terrorism poses an existential challenge to the world in ^{general} ~~particular~~ and a state in particular. Many countries have been witnessing terrorism across the world - and Pakistan is no exception. The manifestation of terrorism in Pakistan is the recent cross-border attacks on security forces, targeting political figures, blasting in political and religious gathering, and attacking on foreign nationals. Consequently, the resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan as a spark in the tinderbox, as it brings economic meltdown, ignites poverty, weakens democracy, strains Pakistan relations with neighbour countries and drives mass migration. The causes of recent surge in terrorism in Pakistan are the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, the failure of

Pakistan's government to deal with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the merger of various terrorist functions into TTP and soft corner for fundamentalists within religious parties. Thus, the resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan has potential to create a dangerous situation, as it seems in the recent terrorist attacks. So, it is a dire need to timely address the causes and grave consequences of terrorism in Pakistan.

Pakistan has been in the marsh of terrorism for a couple of decades and the first obvious manifestation of recent surge in terrorism in Pakistan is the martyr of six Pak-Army soldiers in Balochistan. due to this militant attack was from Iranian side (ISPR). The exponential increase ~~in~~ militant attacks is the result

of Pakistan's strain relations with Iran and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Secondly, the targeting of political figures, and religious and political gathering is manifestation of terrorism resurgence in Pakistan. For instance, on November 3, 2009, Pakistan's Ex-Prime Minister, Imran Khan, was attacked by unidentified gunman. In July, 2003, a rally organised by the supporters of GUF leader, Fazul Rehman, was assaulted by suicide bombers where forty-four people were killed. Thirdly, the attacks on law enforcement agencies installations. For instance, in January, 2003, a suicide bomber detonated himself inside a mosque located in the police headquarters in Peshawar. Moreover, the multiple attacks on Chinese engineers at Gowadar by BLA are the proves of resurgence in terrorism in Pakistan.

The aforementioned manifestations

proved that Pakistan is in the
marsh of terrorism and have
been suffering from multiple fallout
of it.

Firstly, terrorism ignites a volatile
situation by triggering economic
crisis in a country. Economic
crisis refers a situation where
a country face budget de-
ficit, trade deficit, halt in foreign
investment and massive devalue-
ation devaluation of local currency.
Such situation have been witnessing
witnessed in Pakistan for last two
years due to resurgence terrorism.
Terrorism ^{in Pakistan} has ~~caused~~ to soared
fear among the people ~~of Pakistan~~
and disrupted the daily business
activities. It also Pakistan has go been
going through the destruction of
critical infrastructure due to the
militant attacks. Foreign investment
in Pakistan has ^{almost} halted for

one and half years. Consequently, a massive outflow of dollars has been observed which has brought the country into blink of impulsion. Hence, terrorism sparks a tendency in Pakistan by creating economic crisis.

Secondly, the presence of terrorism in Pakistan creates a sensitive situation that weakens the democratic culture in the country. A democratic culture means that people opinions are ~~been~~ ~~being~~ valued, and have strong trust on institution. Also, there is no interference of non-political forces in politics. However, in Pakistan, the situation is totally opposite. Terrorist attacks across the country have eroded public trust on institution and given an opportunity to the opposition to criticize the government's policies which gives a space to apolitical forces to intervene in the country's politics. As a result,

Pakistan has been witnessing political instability due to terrorism. Hence, terrorism in Pakistan has posed a significant challenges to the government and law enforcement agencies.

Thirdly, terrorism in Pakistan sets off a highly precarious situation by wreaking havoc at diplomatic front. Tense diplomatic relations refer that a country has no economic and political relations with the other country. Terrorism in Pakistan has caused the degradation of its political image in international arena. Consequently, many countries hesitate to make strong diplomatic relation with Pakistan. For instance, Pakistan has strong ~~relation~~ diplomatic relations with China, Saudi Arabia, the US and a few more out of one-ninety-

four countries. Pakistan claims that the cross border terrorism has been caused by Afghan-Taliban's regime which gives a safe heaven to TTP. As a result, Pakistan has strained relations with Afghanistan and many other neighbouring countries. Thus, acts of terrorism in Pakistan provoke a potentially explosive scenario at diplomatic front.

Furthermore, the emergence of terrorism in Pakistan fuels a potentially dangerous situation, as it causes the loss of lives and property. Terrorist attacks on mosques, public gathering and political figures have caused a massive casualties and destruction of important infra-structure. Approximately, 66,550 Pakistanis - civilians and opposition fighters, have been killed in various terrorist attacks since 2001. Of these,

24,099 are civilians (Waston Institute of International Affairs). The loss of property, bridges, hospitals, industries etc. causes a huge economic setback to a country. Almost 126.79 billion of USD total economic worth has been lost by Pakistan due to terrorism (nation.com.pak). Hence, terrorist acts in Pakistan fuel a potentially explosive climate by causing loss of lives and property.

Last but not the least, instances of terrorism in Pakistan incite a highly combustible situation by soaring fear of insecurity among masses. Fear of insecurity leads a person towards anxiety and uncertain future which derailed him from the normal life activities. The terrorists blasts here and there in Pakistan have put the fear

of insecurity in masses. Consequently, many domestic business activities have been disturbed and a huge brain drain has occurred. Almost, twelve hundred thousand people from Pakistan ~~emmi~~ emigrated to the other countries in 2023. So, terrorism in Pakistan provokes a volatile situation by igniting fear of insecurity.

The resurgence terrorism in Pakistan has posed the aforementioned challenges and there are multiple factors behind this new wave of terrorism.

The first obvious factor behind the resurgence terrorism in Pakistan is the Taliban regime in Afghan soil. Since August 2021, Pakistan has been witnessing exponential rise in terrorist attacks ~~inross~~ across the country, let alone Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan. Ambush on military vehicles at Gwadar and

and bomb blast in a mosque in KPK are a few examples of many. Why the resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan is due to the Afghan's Taliban regime? The outlawed TTP has got moral boost that if the Afghan Taliban defeats the world super power, the US and takes control on Afghan's soil, why TTP cannot control the soil of Pakistan? The Afghan's Government has already given the safe heaven to TTP to carry out terrorist attacks in Pakistan, which is proven by the use of the US modern weapons by TTP while carrying out the terrorist attacks. Thus, Afghan government is reason for the terrorism in Pakistan.

Secondly, the renaissance of terrorism in Pakistan is the ceasefire agreement with TTP

and the release of high profile TTP leaders. In November 2021, the Pakistan's Government made a ceasefire agreement with the TTP and released hundreds of Taliban including high profile leaders.

Consequently, the outlawed TTP got breathing space to regroup and reorganize itself. When it built the enough potential to carry out attacks and got help from Afghan Taliban, it broke the ceasefire agreement with Pakistan in November 2022. As a result, the country faces massive terrorism. So, the ceasefire agreement is the responsible for the rejuvenation of TTP and terrorism in Pakistan.

Thirdly, the merger of various terrorist factions into TTP is the cause of the reactivation terrorism in Pakistan. In August 2021, the Pakistan Taliban, TTP,

announced that it had merged with a former al-Qaeda-affiliated, anti-state Pakistani jihadist group. This was the ninth jihadist group to join TTP since July 2020. The other groups are Lashkar-e-Tangri, ISK, etc. Consequently, many people lost their lives in different terrorist attacks. For instance, the ISK carried out an attack on Jamiat-e-Islami-Fazl party rally in North West of Pakistan in July, 2023. Lashkar-e-Tangri bombed the International Protestant Church in Islamabad. Resultantly, hundreds of people lost their lives. Thus, the merger of terrorist functions into TTP caused the resurgence of Terrorism.

Furthermore, under-equipped law enforcement agencies have caused the emergence of terrorism in

Pakistan. Many law enforcement agencies are lacking modern equipments which are used to trace the terrorists, as well as explosive devices. For instance, Pakistan's Police department lacks in technical training to handle terrorist attacks and modern equipments like drones, explosive detective devices, mobile forensic labs (The Belzer Center for Science and International Affairs). The lack of modern equipments is because of Pakistan's poor economy and budgetary constraints. Thus, Pakistan have been witnessing the resurgence terrorism.

Additionally, the non-alignment of Islamic teachings in various madaris in Pakistan causes the infiltration of terrorism. In tribal areas, mostly religious scholars are conservative mind sets and interpret Islam accordingly. Consequently, those madaris students, who are not

aware of the modern educational system, have been influenced. Thus, terrorist organisations get an opportunity to mold their minds towards terrorism in the name of implementing Shariah in the country. Consequently, Pakistan is witnessing the resurgence of terrorism day in and day out.

To counter aforementioned causes and consequences of terrorism, various efforts have been done so far in Pakistan. Firstly, state security measures have been intensified since 2021. Border controls have been strengthened, intelligence sharing enhanced, and suspicious activities closely monitored. Secondly, efforts have been done to de-radicalize society. For instance, the Pak-army has established rehabilitation centers in the Swat Valley to de-radicalize former Taliban

Fighters and other militants. Furthermore, for the complete eradication of terrorist functions, Operation Zarb-e-Azab in 2014 and Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad in 2017 ~~was~~ launched.

Despite the aforementioned positive development, terrorism has not yet been addressed in Pakistan. Therefore, further potential steps are needed to curb terrorism in Pakistan.

Firstly, Pakistan needs to make strong military ties with Afghanistan to curb the resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan. Strong diplomatic ties could be fostered by establishing a joint committee on border movement. This committee, formed by Foreign's Ministry of Taliban's regime and the Pakistani embassy in Kabul, restricts the movement of militant groups. Also, Spin Boldak-Chaman border trade could be open which promotes seamless trade between Afghanistan

and Pakistan. Additionally, the Afghans refugees problem could be solved with the mutual consent of Afghans Government and Pakistan Government. These collaborative efforts not promote economic development but also address the terrorism issue in Pakistan.

Secondly, it is important to deal with the problems and grievances of tribal areas. ~~the~~ ^{Pakistan} can do this by making some important changes. First, there should be rule of law. This will help stop group from using local problems for their benefit. Second, information should be gathered and take action against terrorist groups in areas like the ex-FATA and Balochistan. Third, talking with local leaders is crucial. The law enforcement agencies should work with the mutual consent of the elders of these areas.

Fourth, improving educational system and creating jobs can help young people stay away from extremist ideas. In such a way, the resurgence of terrorism could be addressed.

Last but not the least, the Islamic teachings needs to ~~be interpreted~~ interpret in accordance with the modern era. Seminars on scientific innovations could be held across the country and ~~the~~ extremist religious scholars must be invited. These seminars, consequently, will reshape the ideas which they follow. Modern education must be mandatory for Madaris students, ~~which~~ who are the main reason of terrorism in Pakistan. Resultantly, these potential steps would foster the concept of *Jama* and *Jihad*, and help counter terrorism in Pakistan.

In a net shell, the resurgence of terrorism has set a substantial

threat to Pakistan by leading the country towards economic crisis, political instability and culture of fear. The root causes of ~~reaction~~ the reactivation of terrorism in Pakistan are the strain relation between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the wrong policies of the subsequent governments to cope the TTP and the amalgamation of TTP into other terrorists functions. Thus, terrorism has brought the country into verge of collapse. However, by introducing effective policies, the resurgence of terrorism can be controlled and make the country prosperous.

