

## Outline

### Resurgence of Terrorism in Pakistan: A Spark in the Tinderbox.

#### 1. Introduction.

**Thesis Statement:** The resurgence of terrorism affects the state not only economically and socially, but also challenges the writ of the state. Attacks on law enforcement agencies and processions put the country in hard time. Proactive and strict implication ~~on~~ national action plan is useful to stop it.

#### 2. Manifestations of Terrorism Resurgence in the Country.

- a. Exponential rise in cross-border attacks on security forces
- b. Targeting political figures and blasts in religious gathering
- c. Surge in attacks on law enforcement agencies' installation
- d. Attacks on foreign nationals

#### 3. How Terrorism in Pakistan Sparks the Tinderbox

- a. Brings economic meltdown.
- b. Weakens democracy and political culture.
- c. Wreaks havoc on diplomatic fronts.
- d. Causes loss of lives and infrastructure.
- e. Soars the fear of insecurity.

#### 4. Causes of Terrorism Resurgence in Pakistan.

- a. Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan strengthen TTP.
- b. Failed negotiation process with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
- c. Merger of various terrorist organizations into TTP
- d. Under-equipped law enforcement agencies and foreign investment

- e. Soft corner for fundamentalists within religious parties.
- f. Lack of consensus among federal and provinces.
5. How to mitigate/counter terrorism resurgence in Pakistan.

- a. Strick implications on all points of National Action Plan of Pakistan.
- b. Adapt proactive rather than reactive approach against terrorist organizations/groups.
- c. Work on strong connection among centre and provinces.

## 6. Conclusion.

A family was living in a house whose roof was continuously shaking because of weather and wind. Although, they repaired it many times but with material. One day the roof collapsed because of strong wind and they suffered from their ineffective planning. Similarly, Pakistan faced terrorism for two decades, but due to ineffective planning it is not ended but resurgence again. As, <sup>an</sup>increase <sup>in</sup> attacks on security forces, political figures, religious gathering, law enforcement agencies' installation and foreign nationals are the manifestation of terrorism resurgence in the state. As a result of this insurgency, country faces economic meltdown, weaken democratic and political culture. There is also wrecks havoc on diplomatic fronts. Country faces loss of life and infrastructure and citizens soars the fear of insecurity. Causes of this resurgence are take-over of Taliban Afghanistan by Taliban and failed the negotiation process between Pakistan and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. Moreover, various terrorist groups are also merge in TTP. The security forces also face problem regarding the weapons and foreign aid. Also, the softcorner for fundamentalists within religious parties and lack of consensus among federal and provinces. To counter it, strict implication on NAP and adopt proactive approach against terrorist groups. This is possible only with the help of strong connection between center and provinces. The resurgence of terrorism

affects the state not only economically and socially, but also challenges the writ of the state. Attacks on law enforcement agencies and processions put the state in hard time. Proactive and strict implication on national action plan is useful to stop it.

Exponential rise in cross-border attacks on security forces is the main sign of terrorism resurgence in the country. TTP attacks at North Waziristan and Balochistan borders for entering in the Pakistan territory territory. Currently, a massive fight between TTP and Pakistan Army at Chitral border area. This fight was continuing three days. In Balochistan, many attacked from BLA with the collaboration of TTP were happened. As a result, both sides faced casualties. Almost 230 attacks so far and as a result about 300 martyred. The instant explosive devices (IEDs) blasts in tribal areas after 2019 is the main point that contribute in resurgence. Rise of terrorists attack from cross-border is the manifestation of insurgency of terrorism in Pakistan.

Targeting political figures or blasts in religious and political processions is the result of insurgency. Attack on Ex-Prime Minister Imran Khan on 3rd November 2002 at Wazirabad and on Siraj-ul-Haq, Ameer, Jamaat-e-Islami, on 19 May 2023 in Zhob district

provide evidence that TTP has increased its footprints in Pakistan. Other than this, attacks on JUIF workers, conventions, Eid-Milad-un Nabi processions in Balochistan and mosque in Peshawar. Police lines provide strong evidence about TTP increasing influence in Pakistan. Almost three-figure citizens are martyred in these attacks. Attacks on leaders and people in gathering is the evidence that TTP is active in Pakistan.

Surge in attacks on law enforcement agencies installation specially in KPK is the manifestations that terrorism is increasing again in Pakistan. Blasts in Police Headquarters Peshawar and on Counter Terrorism Department office Bannu are the recents in this terrorism period. TTP is continuously targeting the police checkpoints and military installations. During these attacks, main target of TTP terrorists are destroying many installation and more casualties. Mostly KPK and Balochistan suffered this loss. As these provinces already face economic challenges and these attack also weaken the security situation in both provinces. Attacks on police and military installation give a valid evidence about TTP resurgence.

Attacks on foreign nationals is the sign of terrorism resurgence in Pakistan. Multiple attacks on Chinese Engineers and workers during these <sup>last</sup> three months.

In August 2023, BLA attacked on Chinese nationals and firing were continue between militants and security forces <sup>for 20 minutes</sup>. This not only damages <sup>the</sup> state's image but also slows down the CPEC. Attacks on foreigners is clearly <sup>the</sup> manifestation of resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan.

Terrorism brings economic meltdown in Pakistan. The main target of terrorists is to target the security forces. The weakness of forces give a clear sign to the investors that their investment is not safe in this country. As a result, shrinks Foreign Direct Investment and also shatters investor's confidence. According to State Bank of Pakistan, the FDI for full fiscal year 2023 in different different sectors of the economy fell to a four-year low at \$1.45 billion. Terrorism also affects the tourism, infrastructure development and business environment. The internal tourism is highly decreased because of attacks in KPK. Pakistan faces economic meltdowns due to terrorism resurgence.

Terrorism weakens democracy and political culture. Attacks in country erode trust of people on government institutions. This resurgence directly challenge the writ of the state and as a result law implementation is weaker in the country. When people feel unsafe then <sup>how</sup> why they trust on government institutions.

Moreover, there is increases in the influence of undemocratic forces. Other than this, when political parties create vacuum in the state then terrorists fill this gap. This was happened in last year when vote of no-confidence succeeded and government was changed. Resurgence of Terrorism weakens democracy and political culture in the state

Resurgence of terrorism wrecks on diplomatic front. Sources claimed that many TTP base camps are in Afghanistan's three provinces. Pakistan many times request Afghan government to take action against it. But, Afghan does not. As a result, a hard setback on diplomatic front. This can be seen in these days. The refugees are sent back, Afghan-Pak trade stoped many times and now Afghanistan rejects the food and medical support that Pakistan sent during earthquake. Moreover, similar condition with India. Indian Diplomat always claimed that Pakistan is indulged in terrorism that <sup>happens</sup> occur in Indian territory. During SCO meeting in Goa, the Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar clearly said that they cannot talk with Pakistan because they are terrorist manufacturing. So, both Delhi and Islamabad blame each other result in diplomatic ties.

Terrorism wrecks havoc on diplomatic front.

Terrorism causes loss of lives and property. When a suicide bomber blast itself then both

provide or losses occurred. And Pakistan faced these losses. Since 2002, Pakistan<sup>is</sup> facing terrorism and all this is the result of Afghanistan instability. During these years, Pakistan faces huge loss. According to Arab News, about seventy-five thousand casualties and estimated \$98 billion loss in collateral damage in Pakistan due to terrorism. This loss is increasing day by day because after 2011, more than 206 attacks from TTP in Pakistan. Terrorism damage the country physically in the loss of lives as well as in financially.

Insurgence of terrorism soars the fear of insecurity in Pakistan. People face fear in all places whether in mosques or the market. People observe that when police stations are not secured then how is it possible that other places are safe. This leads to anxiety and depression and as a result their future ~~is~~ uncertain conditions. That's why, about 4 million youths already moved to abroad for bright future. Terrorists are mostly targets mosques and gathering places for large number of casualties. That fear leads to instability and erode the trust of people on state which is exactly in Pakistan now. Insurgence of terrorism is increasing the fear of insecurity in the people of Pakistan.



Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan strengthen TTP and that is main cause of its resurgence. When USA was in Afghanistan, TTP was in double trapped because they have no place for hidden. But, after USA departed from Kabul, Afghanistan becomes a safe Heaven for terrorists. Moreover, it also provides a moral boost for the TTP Terrorist. One thing that is danger, the use of advanced weapons by the terrorists and these weapons are left behind by US and NATO Forces. According to the testimony Pentagon officials gave to the US Congress, about seven billion dollar amount of weapons are left in Afghanistan including guns, ammunition and other military equipments. Dispatched of US from Afghanistan and Afghan Taliban takeover of Kabul is the main cause of terrorism resurgence in Pakistan.

Failed negotiation process between TTP and Pakistan is also one reason of resurgence of terrorism in Islamabad. After Afghan Taliban takeovers, a negotiation process was start between TTP and Pakistan. But it failed due to strict conditions of TTP. During this, many terrorists came arrived in Pakistan. Now, these terrorists are.

involved internal attacked. Also, <sup>(one)</sup> year ceasefire provides breathing time for TTP to regroup and reorganize. Now state faces two sides danger. Terrorists wants to destabilize <sup>the state</sup> internally as well as externally. That's why they are attacking in Balochistan and KPK and on Border of Afghanistan so failed deal with TTP is also reason of resurgence in Pakistan.

Merger of Various terrorist factions into TTP that creates difficulties for Islamabad and that is solid cause of terrorism resurgence. Balochistan Liberation Army, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and Jamaat-ul-Ahrar merge into the TTP. These groups are involved in internal attacks with the cooperation of TTP. Moreover, potential links and cooperation between TTP and ISK that strengthen the Al-Qaeda. According to United Nation, the TTP might be seeking a merger with Al-Qaeda to create an umbrella organization that shelters all militant groups operating in South Asia. The merger of different groups is also one reason of ~~inew~~ resurgence in the Pakistan.

Under-equipped law enforcement agencies and foreign involvement is play an

important role in resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan. Paucity of advanced weapons to law enforcement agencies except army is main cause, because military just cleared the ground <sup>and</sup> then handover to the state police that area. But, police and other forces are not so much trained to maintain peace. In year 2023 more than three hundred KP Police officers are martyred. Moreover, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) funding and support to terrorist organizations. The recent attack in Mustang gives a proper hint of RAW involvement in terrorism. So, foreign involvement and under-equipped enforcement are also one cause of increases in terrorism.

Religion in politics is used for voters attention grabbing and soft corner for fundamentalists within religious parties. <sup>is also one cause,</sup> During gathering, hate speech and hate literature leads the youth toward extremism. Terrorist Organization finds such youth and used it in suicide attacks. That's why, most of the terrorists that are involved in attacks are young. These are picked from KPK and agencies. Political parties hate speech is also one cause of insurgence of terrorism.

in the Pakistan.

To mitigate this resurgence, Government of Pakistan must ensure the strict implication on all points of national action plan. National action plan is useful for both internal and external threats. Moreover, the training of the forces must be further harder, because this time mostly attacks are occurred due to internal involvement. Government should provide advanced weapons to front line forces especially KP Police because they are facing terrorists directly. According to national action plan, the process of hanging of terrorists must be fast and promote speedy trials of cases against terrorism. Strict Implication on national action plan is easy way to handle this resurgence.

Government and security forces must adopt proactive approach rather than defensive or reactive approach against the terrorist organizations. Many times, government request to Kabul but didn't get any <sup>positive</sup> response against TTP. When Turkey and USA attacks their enemy even other states, they why Pakistan not? Pakistan attacks on all terrorist organization that hide themselves in Afghanistan because Pakistan

sovereignty and state writ is important than any other things. Moreover, no more negotiation process with terrorists because they are challenged the state writ. State is sovereign than all other relations. Quick, proactive and intelligence based operations will be useful against terrorists.

Work on strong connection among centre and provinces to counter terrorism resurgence in Pakistan. As security comes under centre responsibility but without provinces collaboration, it is difficult to succeed. All provinces are facing this resurgence but KP and Balochistan faces a lot. Government must provides advanced weapons and economic support to these provinces. Moreover, all Punjab forces to fight against terrorism in these provinces. Strong relation between <sup>among</sup> provinces can dig helpful in this war. Centre must protects border, while provinces secure their internal areas. For this strong commitment among them will be essential.

In conclusion, terrorism is a big issue. It damages Pakistan socially, economically and culturally. Although Pakistan faces a lot of damage due to terrorism; by adopting suggestive measures it can easily mitigate terrorism completely. Strick

implication on national action plane, adopting proactive approach and strong collaboration among provinces and centre will <sup>be</sup> useful against resurgence. It is truly said by Kjell Magne Bondevik, "Terrorism is contempt for human dignity"