

Q: Critically evaluate the reasons and implications of revival of militancy in Pakistan. Also give possible recommendations for Islamabad to follow?

The fresh wave of terrorism hitting Pakistan shall be prevented to avoid further bloodletting. Amidst, growing political and economic crisis, militancy revival hitting areas of KP and Balochistan is of great concern. Addressing 76th anniversary of Pakistan, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) thanked ~~the~~ people of KP for being resilient and putting fighting against terrorism and asked Afghanistan to abide by Doha Agreement and to not to provide "safe heavens and liberty of action" to TTP.

→ T.T.P and its resurgency:

Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, known as Pakistani Taliban has been in different appellations and forms in Pakistan since 2003. It is umbrella organisation covering almost 27 militant groups under it and was formally formed in 2007. Major attacks including massacre killing of 135 children of APS have been done by TTP in Pakistan

After which Pakistan military held nationwide operations like **Zarb-e-Azb**. As a result of this operation there was timely reduction in terrorism in Pakistan. But after the Taliban's take over in August 2021 it has revived its dramatic activities in Pakistan. Recently August 2023, calamity of Gawadar was reversed by security personals where ^{en} terrorist group tried to attack Chinese convoy being transported to port. Euphoria of chaotic exit of foreigners from Afghan grounds and rapid victory of Taliban had resulted in enhancing TTP's footing by releasing TTP's fighters and Commander Deputy Emir Moulvi Faqir Muhammad had been from Afghan's prisons. TTP celebrated Taliban's victory as their own.

→ **Reasons of Revival of Militancy.**

• **Appeasement Policy of Pakistan.**

Appeasement policy refers to Kennedy's world wide cited definition of ~~app~~ appeasement as "Policy for settling international quarrels by admitting and satisfying grievances by avoiding military actions that

may be expensive, bloody and dangerous"

It was considered positive policy till 1938 Munich agreement which called it

"Corrupted diplomacy or move of cowardice"

Pakistan's appeasement policy towards

ATTP has been widely ~~criticising~~ criticised,

as it undermines the country's counter terrorism effectiveness. Pakistan

offered room for negotiations, liberated TTP's captives, offered their families repatriation but in vain. In 2014,

Pakistan and TTP signed ceasefire agreement.

In 2021, again Pakistan and TTP signed ceasefire agreement as a result of which

Pakistan freed TTP's prisoners but

this agreement lasted from 9th November to 9th December after which TTP declared to break the agreement causing Pakistan not to fulfill its deal bargains.

In February 2022, Pakistan again approached for negotiations but TTP's unrealistic demands couldn't be put up by Pakistan.

Pakistan approaching for TTP's amidst its heinous attacks on Pakistan

including "Attack on Peshawar Police line mosque" in July 2023 has killed

almost 32 people and injured more than 150 is giving weak impression of Pakistan. Repeatedly, deceptive behaviour shown by TTP makes it clear that Pakistan needs "wise policy" to comprehensively combat TTP.

• Afghanistan - Providing safe heavens

Recently Defense Minister of Pakistan said warned Afghanistan saying "Afghan soil provides refuge to those who shed the blood of Pakistanis" and accused Kabul that "Kabul has failed as

a neighbour by not fulfilling its obligations nor safeguarding Doha agreement" according to UNSC, largest transnational group in Afghanistan is TTP having 3000-4000 active freedom fighters under it, which is the reason that Afghanistan is reluctant to estrange "brothers in arms" TTP militants. Afghanistan on being asked by Pakistan to prosecute TTP said it's Pakistan's "internal matter".

• Chaotic Exit of US.

The worth mentioned reason of revival of militancy is US chaotic exit resulting in empowering Taliban's Government.

Pentagon testified Congress that upon its exit it left **\$7bn** weaponry in Afghanistan. Pentagon said it was impossible for them to clear all armaments. This irresponsible attitude of US could have alarming results. According to discussion underwent in UNSC, Nato calibre weapons are being alarmed to have reached IS-K through TTP which is alarming for Pakistan.

• Merger of Terrorist Factions.

The key factor of militancy is merger or alliance of non-state groups.

Since 2020, TTP leader Nur Wali Mehsud enhances is working on reuniting policy.

According to UNSC, "There are more than **25 militant groups under TTP**" which is giving TTP strength and enlargement to enter into the territory of Pakistan and tighten its footings.

• Afghan's policy of Pakistan.

Pakistan has adopted been adopting failed Afghan's policy to support Taliban which has resulted in mass scale terrorism in Pakistan.

• Weak Counterterrorism in Infrastructure

Poor counterterrorism policy of Pakistan is becoming the reason of increased militancy in Pakistan. According to the report under discu submitted in parliament, KP's CDT is weak, unequiped and under-resourced spending only 4% of the budget in operations. The total budget is \$9.8 million which is half of the Punjab CDT. Manpower is ~~no~~ under-trained resulting in losing ~~8~~ more than 80 security personals in 110 encounters.

• Instable Political and Economic Conditions.

Political instability creating vacuum for Foreign Forces to ~~att~~ take advantage of the situation amidst economic crisis of ~~the~~ Pakistan is the another major factor. April 2023, inflation hit its highest of 38%. Recent Electricity bills hike tolmed the country's patience and resulted in large scale protesting. According to World Bank "Pakistan is suffering from severe economic crisis reflecting long standing weak infrastructure"

Implications:

- 150 TTP attacks in 11 months of 2022. According to Islamabad based think tank PIPS, In 2022 Annual Security Report of Pakistan TTP conducted 150 attacks in 11 months of 2022 claiming the lives of more than 150 people and about 1105 security personnel. This is the extreme situation in last year.

• 2023 Terrorist attacks.

No to go further, just glancing these recent months show heinous attacks conducted by terrorist groups.

Peshawar attack in Police line mosque in July 2023 was deadly attack which resulted in the death of 32 people and 125 injured.

Gawadar attack on Chinese convoy in August 2023 was carefully prevented by CTD. Thankfully foreigners were in bulletproof vehicle.

According to South Asian terrorism portal, terrorism is being heightening in Pakistan in recent years from 2021-23.

• Erosion of Trust on Establishment

The resulting militant attacks especially in KP, Balochistan are eroding citizens trust on leadership. Citizens are concerned about their safety and protection. Recently, a large public rally in KP joined by masses demanded their protection against terrorist.

→ Recommendations for Islamabad to follow.

- Pakistan needs to shift "defensive policy to offensive policy" towards fighting terrorism. Longterm negotiations have resulted nothing but portraying weak image of Pakistan. Islamabad has to come up with "wise policy" to cope up with situation.
- Another option to eradicate terrorism can be **military Intelligence Based Operations (IBO)** that can help to minimize terrorism.
- Pakistan shall abide by Western off border attacks in Afghanistan to hit TTP sanctuaries. It will deteriorate the Pakistan's relations

with Taliban and can flare terrorism.

- Pakistan needs to come up with complete strategy to protect western border just fencing border won't stop the influx of terrorist.

In this dire situation, where there are critical political situation due to polarized politics in Pakistan, divergence in state centre-provinces and lack of trust between civilians and army leadership. ~~One~~ ~~to~~ ~~take~~ ~~there~~ ~~is~~ ~~no~~ ~~one~~ ~~to~~ ~~take~~

~~responsi~~ There is need to take systematic military operation plane with consenses of parliament, people and establishment to eradicate terrorism. Along with that Pakistan needs to strengthen its economic and political departments.