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Discusses in detail the efficacy of counter terrorism measure adopted by government especially with reference to national action plan.

INTRODUCTION

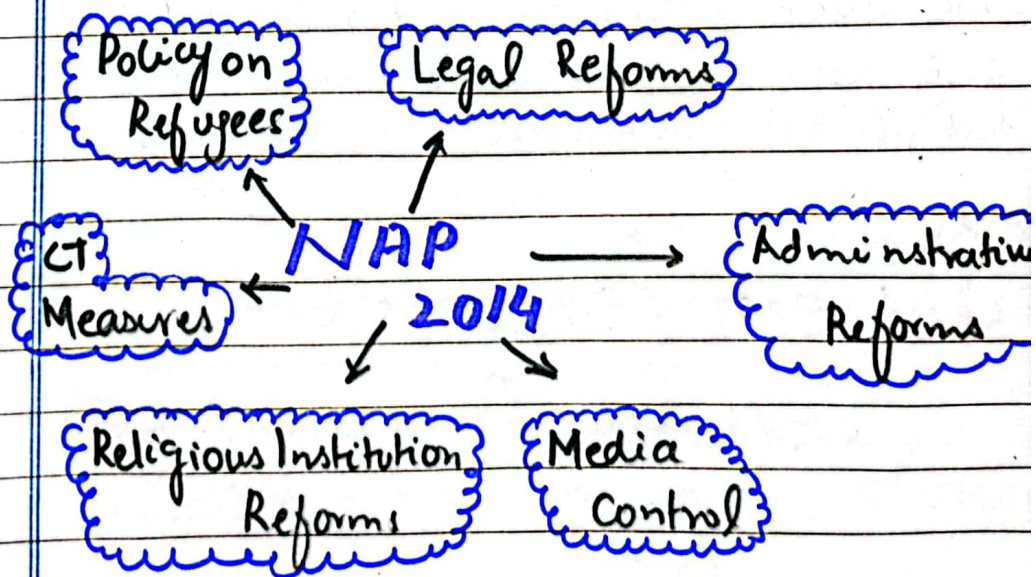
Pakistan has been fighting a counter insurgency since the late 2000's. Operations like Rah-i-raast, Zarb-e-Azb are a testament to the country's resolve of combatting terrorism. The country has paid a huge price at the hands of terrorism. Close to 80,000 lives, \$126 Billions and countless injured people have been suffered at the hands of terrorism since 2001 to 2018. In 2014, after the APS incident, the country formulated a national action/strategy to combat terrorism head on. That culminated in the NAP (National Action Plan) 2014. The salient features include kinetic and socio-economic measures to combat terrorist outfits and rehabilitate terror-hit areas.

SALIENT FEATURES OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

(P.T.O) →

The national action Plan was a 20-point agenda that is being given below-

- a) Ban on Glorification of terrorism on TV and print media
- b) Registration of madrassas and seminaries
- c) Completion of kinetic operations in Karachi
- d) Eliminating the financing for terrorists
- e) Administrative reforms in KP/FATA
- f) NACTA to be created
- g) Judicial Reforms in criminal Justice system
- h) Political Reconciliation of with Baloch stakeholders.



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EFFICACY OF MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVT. AS PER NAP, 2014

Administrative Reforms in erstwhile FATA areas

After the 25th Amendment ^{which was} passed in 2018, FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas) was merged into the province of KPK. Moreover, Abolition ~~was~~ of FCR (Frontier Crimes Regulation) 1901 and the repeal of Political Agents was also part of this amendment.

Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and Provincial Assembly was increased to the newly merged areas. Through this, political and administrative rights were secured for the people and relapse of terrorism was avoided.

Media Control regarding Terrorism

Terrorist outfits used traditional and print

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media to propagate their message. During the First wave of terrorism in Swat valley,

The TTP had its own radio station and print media section that their leader Mullah Fazalullah used to propagate the banned outfits message.

In this regard, the National Action Plan emphasized the curtailment of media coverage and the subsequent glorification of terror attacks.

Completion of Kinetic Operations in Karachi

During the formulation of the NAP, 2014. The country's largest city was gripped by a wave of terrorism. In this regard, a military operation was started in order to bring the law and order of the ^{city} country under control.

The operation was aimed at curbing the spread of lawlessness in the city, freeing it from the ditches of ethnic divides and restore an environment that can bring in significant business opportunities for the cities.

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Elimination of financing received by Terrorists

Financing received by the banned outfits is channeled through Hundi, Hawala and donations collected by fronts setup by the terrorist outfits. As per the NAP, stringent financial and fiscal regulations were put in place to prevent the proceeds reaching the banned/proscribed groups.

Moreover, national and provincial governments have regularly started issuing advisories about the proscribed organizations and their fronts. In order to deter people from giving out any donations to them

NACTA to be created and made functional

NACTA (National Counterterrorism Authority) is the premier agency responsible for inter-departmental coordination among various counter-terror organizations. To ensure its authority it was placed under the PM office, however, later on it was placed under the Ministry of Interior.

The country's premier coordination

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agency on counter terrorism ^{has} fallen prey to bureaucratic doldrums and lack of authority. Today it is a remnant of the proposed agency.

Registration of Religious Seminaries

It is an unfortunate sight, that religious seminaries were being used to recruit and train future terrorists. In this regard, in order to stem ^{this} and bring these religious school in line with national education standards, registration of all seminaries was ordered.

'Till date 45,000 madrassas have registered themselves with the government.'

However, the number of unregistered madrassas is also rising and the reluctance to register them is quite visible.

Judicial Reforms in Criminal Justice System

These reforms were envisaged in the NAP, 2014; however they were never fully materialized.

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The criminal justice system is a flawed and ineffective system. As per PILDAT

'Conviction rate of the Criminal Justice System at a mere 8.6%'

Hardcore terrorists are often released by the courts due to the lack of evidence gathered by the investigative officers.

Political Reconciliation of Upset Citizens in Peripheral Areas

This is a step that was envisaged in the NAP, however like the rest of the 14 points it was never materialized. It emphasized that political reconciliation is a way forward for dealing Baloch people and their elected leaders.

Moreover, it also emphasized that the Baloch people need a representative political elite that is empowered to deal with the problems of Balochistan.

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CONCLUSION

The NAP provided for a roadmap to counter terrorism in the country. The plan was lauded as it encompassed a multi sectoral approach to counter the menace of terrorism. However, it was never fully implemented in its true sense. The need to implement this is more heeded than ever.