

2019
Q7 C. Affairs

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How can the governing structures have the capacity to neutralize threats to internal security of Pakistan?

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan has now entered into its 24th year of countering terrorism. Many different strategies were used such as kinetic operations, dialogue/negotiations and ceasefires. However, the menace of terrorism does not seem to be ending, and every time it resurfaces it is more powerful and deadlier than ever. According to a conservative estimate made by the government, the country lost

\$126 Billion,

80,000 lives,

and countless others who

were injured during these attacks?

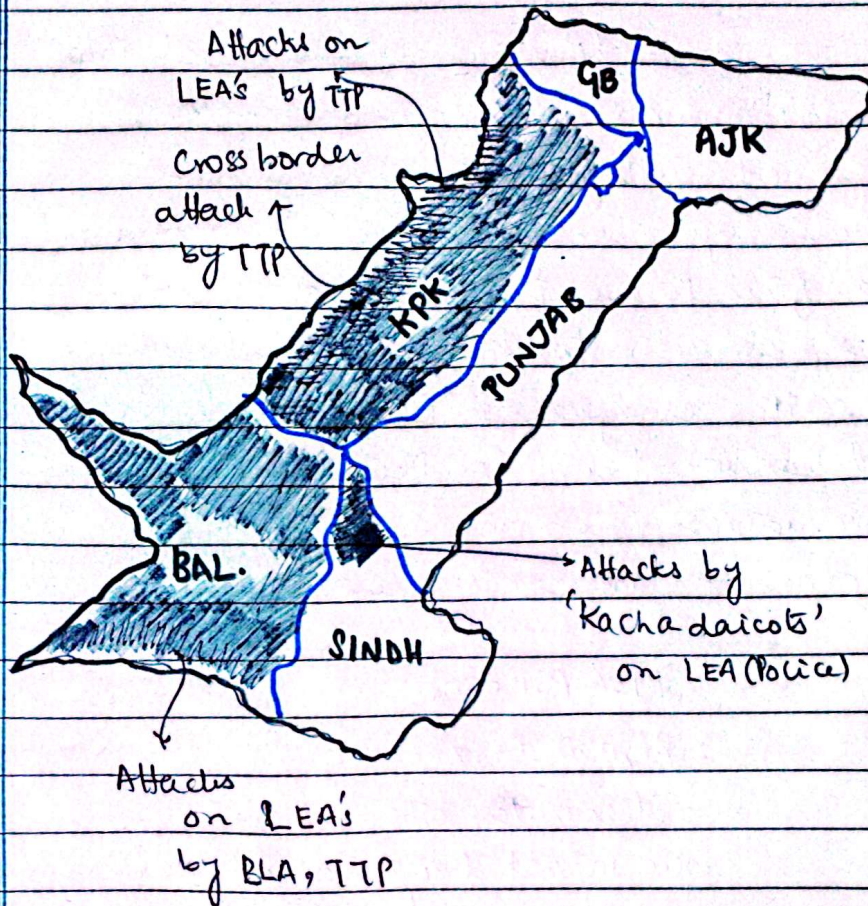
(Finance Division)

Neutralizing terrorism requires a multi-sectoral approach with an enhanced kinetic and socio-economic domain. Moreover, capacity building of existing structures along with increased coordination/support among those structures can lead to a better outcome.

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CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION OF PAKISTAN



KPK

- Along the AF-Pak border a ~~thin~~ skirmishes are regular sight
- 3-4 cops are being martyred on a daily basis.

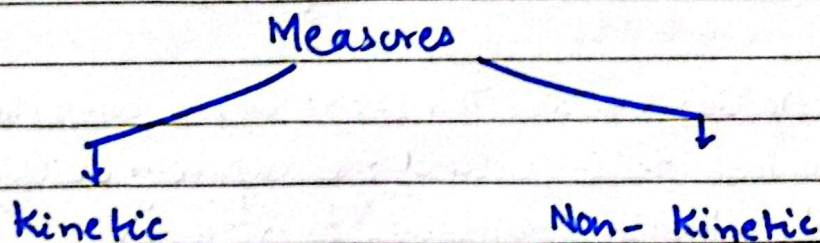
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BAL. → Province wide attack
by BLA resulted in
60 deaths
→ TTP is constantly
attacking border areas

Sindh → Kacha militants have
killed/martyred '23'
cops in an attack
→ Kacha insurgency has
taken full form of
militancy.

MEASURES TO ENHANCE SECURITY OF PAKISTAN

The following are capacity building measures to ensure effective neutralization of terrorism ^{and} once for all. These are split into two broad domains.



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KINETIC DOMAIN - EXTENSIVE IBO'S ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The government has recently announced the commencement of operation Arm-e-Istehkam. It was a much awaited operation due to the deteriorating security situation across KP and Balochistan.

The operation shall ensure that the LEA's (Law Enforcement Agencies) once and for all acquire and equip themselves with the capacity to root out this menace.

'Rs 60 Billion has been earmarked for modernization and capacity building of LEA's.'

NON KINETIC DOMAIN - Implementing NAP (2014) in full letter and spirit

The National Action Plan (2014) was a comprehensive document that ensured the capacity building and relevant departments to fight and counter the surge of terrorism.

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However, only 6 points of the 20-point agenda was implemented. Leaving much room ^{yet} to be filled.

The NAP focused on reforming the Criminal Justice System, political reconciliation with aggrieved parties in hard hit areas and economic rehabilitation of those areas too.

Strengthening Police as the first line of defence

The Police CP's (check posts), stations are seen as an easy target by these militants. Due to them being lightly armoured, they cannot withstand sophisticated high calibre fire from the militants side.

Police is losing considerable manpower and resources due to this phenomenon. Strengthening police is a requirement that cannot be ignored anymore. The role of police has changed in this wave of counter-terrorism. Significant investment in resources and manpower to efficiently counter terrorism.

Socio Economic Development of Militancy Hit Areas

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By providing means to earn their livelihood, people will be discouraged to take up arms against the state.

'Currently 1% of NFC award is being given additional to KP and Balochistan to rehabilitate militancy hit areas.'
(NFC Award)

The goal should be the provision of adequate economic opportunities to these areas and their residents.

'Ex-FATA areas have been given tax free status to stir up economic activity.'
(Finance Division)

By providing more, the roots of anti state elements can be weakened and a prosperous future can be achieved.

Reforms to Criminal Justice System

The Criminal Justice System (CJS) is in tatters. Hardcore terrorists are let off the hook due to the lack of the system's ability to prosecute and convict them. The investigation also is under extreme pressure due to the

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in ability to properly convict and collect the evidences against the terrorists.

'The CJS in Pakistan has a conviction rate of 8.6%'
(Pildat)

Reforms are necessary to increase the conviction rate and enhance the capacity of the system to prosecute the offenders.

Public Campaign against Terrorism

In this counter-insurgency war, boots on the ground cannot alone guarantee victory.

Winning the hearts and minds of the nation, locals and community members is a must.

In order to ensure long lasting peace, locals must be convinced of the cons of supporting the militants. Only then can a long and sustainable peace be achieved. If the locals support the militants, it will be no different as ^{the} seeds of today will result in the militants of

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tomorrow.

Curbing Disinformation on Social Media

After every attack, a deluge of false information and disinformation floods social media. Today, the way of narrative is an important aspect in this counter insurgency war. There is a need to educate the masses on filtering disinformation and protecting oneself from this menace.

Moreover, narratives have to be fought with narratives. In this regard fact-checking teams should be developed to curb the spread of false news.

CONCLUSION

Countering this wave of terrorism requires a multi-sectoral approach by taking on-board all the stakeholders in confidence. Socio-economic uplift programs hold the key to rooting out this menace once and for all. Similarly, reconciliation and dialogue with militancy hit areas citizens is also a necessary to ensure that terrorism is neutralized.