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Part II

Q6 Discuss the resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan and its implications. Also provide practical recommendations for its long term mitigation?

INTRODUCTION:

Terrorism has been the most used terminology while discussing threats to any state since 9/11. This is because it has halted all normal state functions and is a direct threat to the state security. Various measures have been taken by governments to counter the menace and it has born fruitful results. But the US Withdrawal from Afghanistan has given rise to resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan. The ideological brotherhood of TTP and Afghan Taliban has further dampened the situation. This resurgence has many strategic, political and economic implications for Pakistan.

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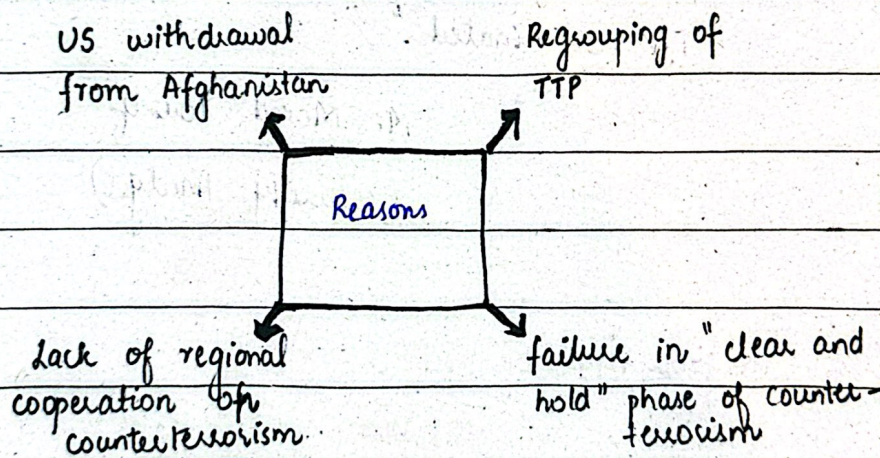
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THE RESURGENCE OF TERRORISM IN PAKISTAN:

Pakistan has witnessed a tick in terrorism activities in recent years.

2025 has been the deadliest year as proved by World Terrorism Index, 2025 which ranked Pakistan on the 2nd position out of 163 countries.

RESURGENCE REASONS:



US withdraw from Afghanistan:

After the US withdrawal of Afghanistan Post February Doha Agreement 2021, the morales of terrorism perpetrators

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got high. The counter-terrorism efforts of US ended which gave a free hand to terror breeders. Afghan Taliban gave abode to support their ideological brothers. This strengthened the motivation of terrorism both in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"After the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, the threat to the ideological foundation of TTP eliminated."

Mr Moed Yousaf
(Security Analyst)

2. Regrouping of TTP:

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan regrouped under the Taliban Government in Afghanistan.

Under the shrewd leadership of Noor Wali Mehsud, they gained new spirit.

The TTP captured prisons in Afghan cells were released after Taliban takeover.

They took control of the US left

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ammunitions and reemerged powerful than always.

3 Failure in "clear and hold" phase of counterterrorism.

After the crackdown of against terrorism specially under National Action Plan 2014, majority of the tribal areas were cleared. But the lack of retaining that clearance led to resurgence.

Governance vacuums and lack of local cooperation leads to terrorists take over that areas again.

"The most important phase in counter terrorism is to "clear and hold" places which were formally : terrorism centres "

Zahid Hussain

(Economist / Journalist)

4 Lack of Regional cooperation on Counter-terrorism.

The neighbouring countries specially

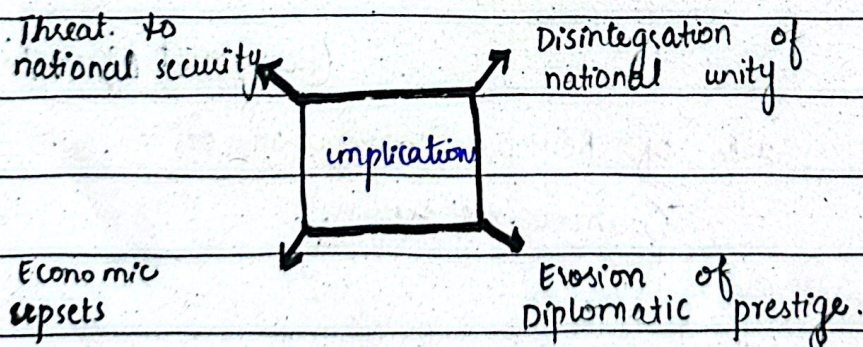
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Afghanistan remains reluctant to regional cooperation of peace in the entire South Asia. The tri-lateral talks with **Russia, China, Pakistan** failed with lack of Afghan government cooperation. Similarly the recent Pakistan Afghanistan border skirmishes in Oct 2025 were a result of frustration of terrorism perpetrated from Afghan soil to Pakistan.

India factor also adds to this. The support of India to banned groups like Balochistan Liberation Army has led to resurgence in terrorism. Its cooperation with Afghanistan recently poses to worsen terrorism threats for Pakistan.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN:



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1. Threat to national security:

The rise in terrorism is a direct threat to national security. The recent rise in terrorism attacks on important strategic locations portrays the picture.

According to a report by Centre of Research and Security Studies, Pakistan has seen a rise 46% in terrorism activities in the 3rd Quarter of 2025.

2. Disintegration of national unity:

The rise of militancy and the strategies of counter-terrorism has shown strength to disintegrate national unity. Lack of consensus of local people specially in terrorism hardhit provinces like KP and Balochistan has shown fury in people. The military operation 'Sarbakaf' in Bajaur region in Ex-FATA got criticism from local people. This shows that resurgence is a direct threat to national unity.

3 Erosion of Diplomatic Prestige,

Pakistan has faced severe criticism from international agencies over its attitude to terrorism. This is evident from the fact that the April 2025 Peshawar was directly associated to Pakistan. This shows that resurgence of terrorism is a stain of international standing. The Global ^{Peace} ~~Terrorism~~ Index, 2025 Pakistan is ranked 144th out of ~~163~~ 163 countries.

4 Economic upsets:

Resurgence of terrorism has hard-hit the economy. Most budgets and funds go to terrorism eradication leading little space for real development and progress. This shows that the severe implication for Pakistan that results from resurgence is economic setback.

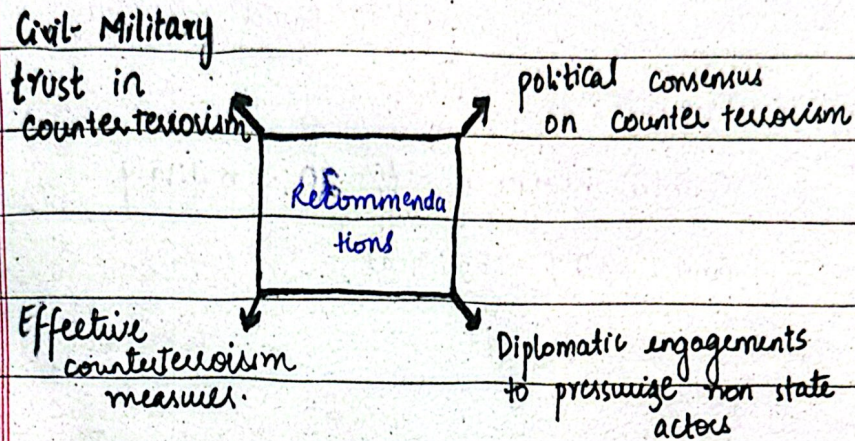
Pakistan has lost nearly 152 billion USD to counter-terrorism measures.

→ PM Shehbaz Sharif.

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PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNTER TERRORISM.



Civil military trust in counter insurgency

According to David Galula's books "Counter insurgency warfare: Theory and practical", the important strategy to win the will of population. If either the militants or the military win the side of the people they win the entire game. He says

"Population is the prize"

Counterinsurgency in Pakistan shall really focus to win the prize of population.

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2 Political consensus on counterterrorism.

Political consensus is the most important step in counterterrorism. David Galula in the same book says

"Counter insurgency is 20% military and 80% political."

Hence political order should supersede the military order.

3 Diplomatic engagements

To counterterrorism Pakistan has to involve diplomatic engagements to make counterterrorism effective and easy.

According to Sun Tzu:

"The best form of war
all the ~~war~~ ones won
on diplomatic forums."

Art of War.

4 Effective counterterrorism measures.

After the area is cleaned by military interventions. The change of

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it should be given to local law enforcement agencies or local people. This can reduce military frustration and also prevent militants taking back the areas.

CONCLUSION:

Terrorism and insurgency has resurfaced in Pakistan after 2021. This is due to strengthening of TTP and other organization under Taliban protection. They pose great threats to the economic, national integration, military trust and diplomatic standing. Only staunch counter terrorism measures, diplomatic pressurizing, military trust and political consensus can make prodicle solutions to counter terrorism.