

Q

Examine Cross-border challenge of militancy in Pakistan, focusing on TTP and its presence in Afghanistan. How it affects the Pakistan's security concerns and bilateral relations with Afghanistan.

1. Preamble :-

Terrorism in Pakistan is a prevalent issue, deteriorating the security situation in the country. The growing issue of militancy across the western border has further accelerated this issue. The religious extremism of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is a grave concern of Pakistan. A prominent diplomat of Pakistan, Hussain Haqqani, in his book 'Pakistan Between Mosque and Military' discusses that religious extremism coupled with prevailing ideologies of ~~band~~^{banned} outfits has pushed the country towards a security state. It is evident that cross-border terrorism and TTP's relations with Afghan government has aggravated security situation in Pakistan and leading both country toward halted cooperation and cold relations.

a) TTP: its origin, ideology and Romance with Afghan Taliban:

TTP is a militant organization operating inside Pakistan near border areas of Afghanistan. It was formed in 2007, aiming on establishing imposition of Sharia Law in Pakistan.

a) Ideology of TTP:

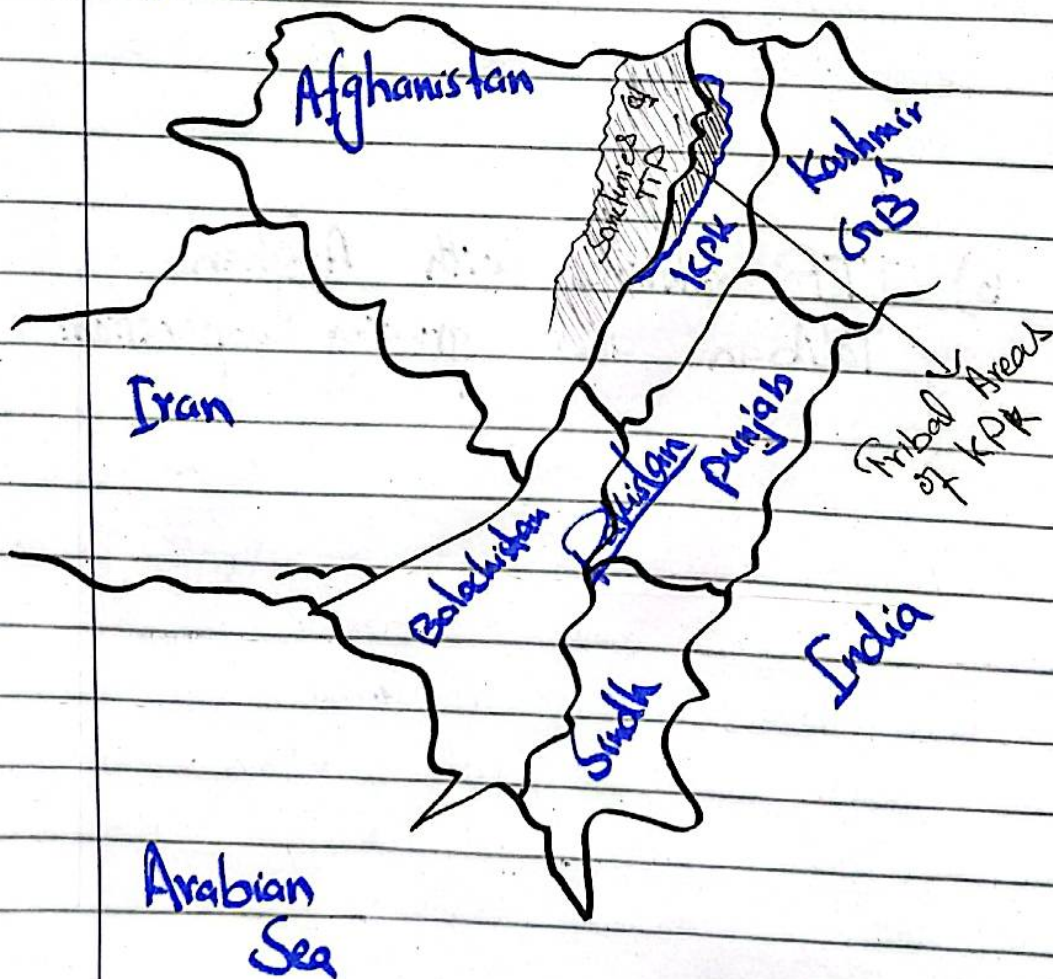
It is an Islamic militant wing which aims at establishing sharia state in tribal areas of Pakistan and the whole country.

b) TTP relations with Afghan Taliban and growing cooperation:

It is considered that TTP is offshoot of Afghan Taliban. During the refugee crisis in 2007, many fighters poured Pakistan's border and established a new group. Since then, both wings have strong relations with each other owing to having common ideology.

3) Challenge of cross-border terrorism in Pakistan:

Pakistan is grappling with multifaceted cross-border terrorism ranging from direct action to proxy warfare. The neighbouring areas of Pakistan with Afghanistan are safe havens for TIP and all other banned outfits. These organizations operate from Afghanistan and carried out operation inside the tribal areas of Pakistan.



4) Security Concerns of Pakistan

in the wake of Cross-border Terrorism

i) Border security management is an issue:

The growing terrorism has created multiple border security issues. Recently, an attack of terror outfits on security personnel of Pakistan claimed 16 lives and many injuries.

ii) Growing terrorism inside the country:

The media wing of Pakistan Army, Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) has published a reports which claims that total 900 militant attacks were carried out in Pakistan in ~~the~~ alone 2024, which is far more than pre-2015 level.

iii) Gives birth to extremism:

The terror

wings have appealing Islamic ideology which attract the ordinary citizen of Pakistan, hence giving birth to extremism in the country.

iv) A threat to lives of Civilians:

Terrorism is a severe threat to lives of civilians. ISPR reported that 1623 civilians sacrificed their lives alone in 2024 owing to growing incidents of terrorism.

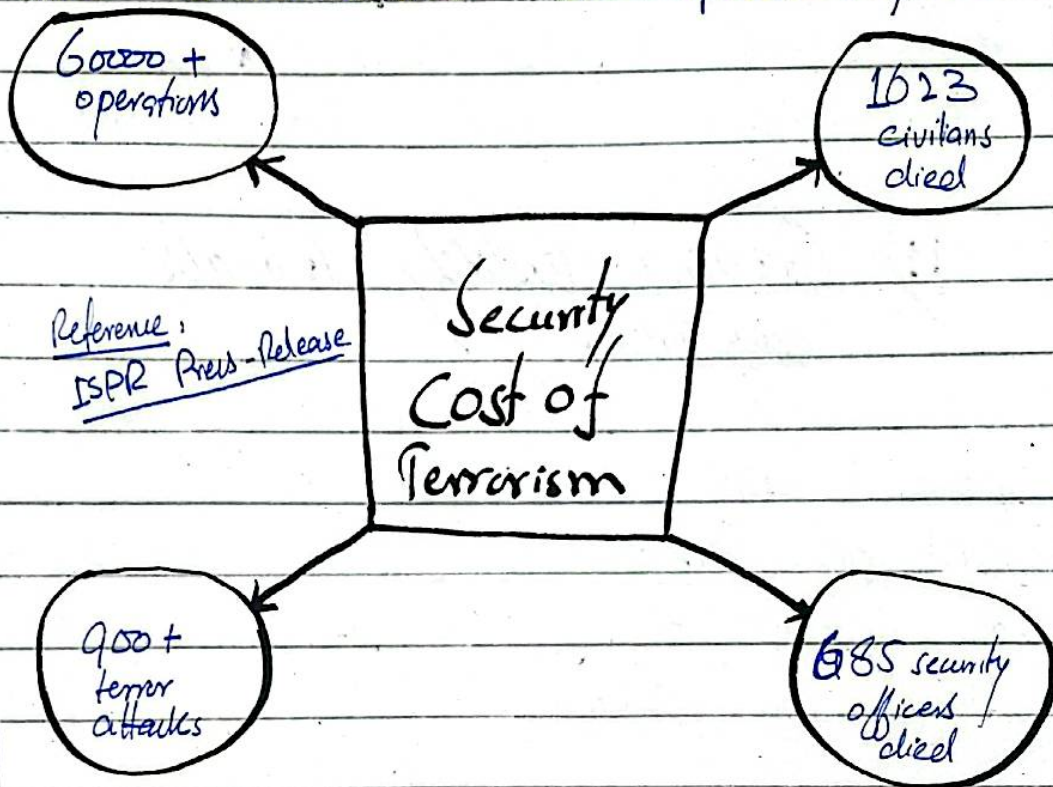
v) Target Security forces:

In a brief press release, ISPR reported that more than 400 armed security personnel and 200 civil security officer laid their lives in terror attacks in the country.

vi) Fading trust of people in security agencies:

The people

of tribal areas and other critical areas have lost their trust in security agencies due to growing terror attacks despite have multidimensional law enforcement plans.



5) Status of Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations amid Cross-border Terrorism:-

The current status of Pakistan-Afghanistan bilateral relation is not so good, giving rise to following concerns:

i) Halted cooperation among two neighbours:

Owing to current wave of terrorism and its relation with Afghan Taliban have halted the cooperation among two countries.

ii) Growing Hostility towards each other.

Growing terrorism has grown hostility towards each other. The recent press conference of Taliban Spoke Person have witnessed the exchange of non-diplomatic language with each other.

iii) No high-level engagement since Taliban Takeover.

Since the Taliban take-over in Afghanistan, both countries have not had any high-level meeting with each other to negotiate the issue.

6) Policy Recommendations to revive Active Engagement and counter terrorism:

i) Initiate talks with Afghan government.

It is need of hour to initiate a round of talks with Afghan government to bring issue on table.

ii) Use influence of religious leaders

Pakistan must utilize its religious clomain by using Ulema with talks with terror outfits.

iii) Revive trade and commerce:

It is needed to revive trade with Afghanistan as it will bring both parties closer to eachother.

iv) Joint Counterterrorism efforts.

Pakistan and Afghanistan must join hands to counter terror operation inside both countries.

7) Conclusion:

The Prevailing issues of terrorism and extremism due to growing aggressiveness of TTP and other militant organization have pushed Pakistan towards a strong security dilemma. It is country of 240 million people, divided in ethnic, lingual, and cultural basis. The growing issue of terrorism has pushed the country towards further divide. It is need of hour to pragmatically counter the terrorism by formulating inclusive and workable policy framework. Moreover, the multilateral talks with militant-sponsored wiyasad. Afghan government are crucial in this case.