

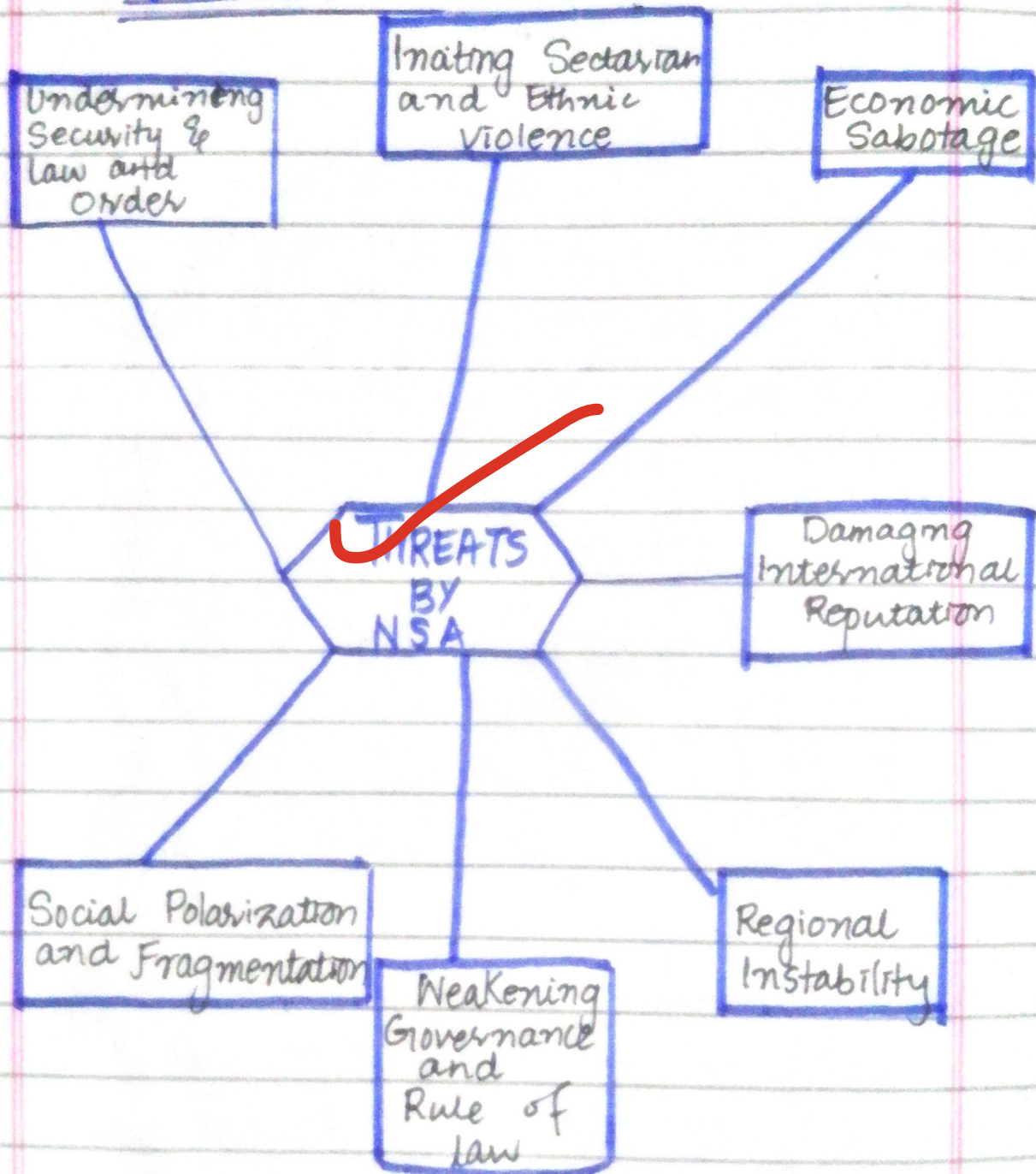
Define Non-State actors. "Non-state actors are posing more threat to Pak's national security than threats from external state actors." Argue in favor or against?

Non-state actors are individuals or entities or organizations that operate independently of any government and significantly influence international, regional, or domestic affairs. They pose significant threats to policy-making, economy, and security of a country. In the evolving landscape of Pakistan's security, the line between external and internal vulnerabilities has been blurred. These non-state actors - from terrorist outfits to sectarian militias - are posing more threat to Pakistan's national security than threats from external state actors.

"Pakistan's greatest security threat comes not from across the borders, but from within them."

~ Christine Fair, South Asia security analyst

NON-STATE ACTORS ARE POSING MORE THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY OF PAKISTAN



i. Undermining Security and Law and Order:

Non-State actors undermine security and law and order by challenging

the writ of State. They conduct various terrorist activities in order to destabilize the state and create a fear among citizens. There are numerous non-State actor organizations like Tehreek Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA), and many others are operating in different regions of Pakistan, especially in KPK and Baluchistan. The 2014 attack of Army Public School Peshawar was conducted by TTP. These NSA exploit governance gaps, establishing control over unregulated areas.

ii. Inciting Sectarian and Ethnic Violence:

Another major threat posed by non-State actors is fueling religious and ethnic divides that led to communal divides. Pakistan is diversified in ethnic and religious terms. These non-state actors mobilize extremist narratives to

deepen societal fractures. For example, recently in 2025, there was a long conflict between two religious groups - Shia Muslims and Sunni Muslims - in Parachinar. Those people had challenged the writ of state and ultimately destabilizing the region.

iii. Economic Sabotage:

One of the main purpose of non-state actors is to disrupt the economy of a state. Economy is the backbone of a country and these groups target economic infrastructures. For example, the Gwadar Port attack (2019) and Karachi Stock Exchange attack (2020) was done by BLA - a non-state actor organization. Their main target is to disrupt major economic projects like CPEC, so that Pakistan cannot boost its lingering economy for its development.

iv. Social Polarization and Fragmentation:

Non-State actors are involved in social polarization and fragmentation. Non-State actors thrive on dividing society along religious, political, sectarian, and ethnic issues. They do this to weaken national identity and social cohesion. Non-State actors exploit vulnerable population through indoctrination or radicalization. They use propaganda to polarize society and incite mass protests. For example, Tehreek-e-Labik Pakistan (TLP) has mobilized masses around blasphemy-related narratives. These fragmentations create distrust among citizens, enabling NSAs to exploit identity-based grievances.

v. Weakening Governance and Rule of Law:

Non-State actors exploit weak governance, fragile judicial system, and poor state writ system to

operate freely in many regions. They challenge state writ by creating "no-go" areas. Before FATA merger, it was ruled by militants, including TTP factions. This creates a vacuum of authority where NSAs can gain legitimacy and act as parallel power structures.

vi. Regional Instability:

The presence of NSAs in Pakistan has destabilized regional stability. They exploit porous borders for cross-border militancy and serve as proxies for foreign powers to destabilize Pakistan. After 2021, TTP regrouped in Afghanistan, and has launched many attacks inside Pakistan (confirmed by ISPR & UN).

vii. Damaging International Reputation:

Non-state actors tarnish Pakistan's global image that ultimately affects Foreign Direct Investment

because the investors lose interest trust. For instance, due to concerns over terror financing and links with banned NSAs like LeT and JuD, FATF added Pakistan in grey list in 2018. NSAs directly affect foreign relations and economic development.

add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments.....

CONCLUSION:

To sum everything up, it is a true fact - without any doubt - that non-state actors are posing more threat to Pakistan's national security than external state actors. NSAs are hollowing out Pakistan from within by exploiting weak governance, sectarianism, and ideological divides to make state fragile. The most dangerous enemy is the one who hides within. Pakistan must take strict actions against these NSAs.