

A New Peace accord

Not only in terms of losing thousands of precious lives, Pakistan has also paid a heavy price of terrorism in the form of weakening of its economy, social cohesion, and governance. Terrorism has also remained the driving force behind other problems such as fragile democracy, the dominance of security institutions in decision-making and contribute to the crisis. The Institute for Economic and Peace (IEP) latest global terrorism index shows that countries with poor governance and economic indicators are most affected by terrorism.

With Burkina Faso standing at ^{the} first in IEP Global Terrorism Index, Pakistan stands second and continued to remain at top for the last three years. Several nations have appeared in the top 10 rankings but have managed to leave within few years including Afghanistan, Israel, India and Iraq. It is conceivable that the countries ranked among top 10 for terrorism over the past 3 years would have experienced significant social trauma, especially among those directly exposed to the threat and living in constant fear. Moreover Institutions dealing with these threats would have undergone severe conditioning, leading in stereotyping and stigmatising of their own people and communities.

Growing insurgency and terrorism has increased the pace of fatalities in an alarming way. To counter

this distressing situation, a positive action plan is required. State institutions must focus on cultivating peace among the citizens and developing zero tolerance for racial and religious hatred which demoralize societal potential by triggering hate on the basis of faith.

In sum, Pakistan needs a plan to reverse the social engineering implemented by the government. There is a dire need of a social or peace contract focussing on collective efforts to get Pakistan out of the perilous ranking.

Geopolitics and its many shades

Watching and reading about the ongoing conflicts, especially in the Middle East and Africa, is heart-breaking. The driving forces of these wars are not internal, but are shinged with international complicities. For instance, in Gaza different actors and factors profoundly impact the state of the affairs - Hamas being supported by Iran and network of other militant groups in the area, exercises its control over Gaza. The supportive part of Iran aims to counter the legitimacy of Israel, and to expand its own sway in the region. Israel inhabited an essential ^{position} in the conflict wheel, owing concrete support of the US and West, thus altering the regional equilibrium of power and rendering the process of peace significantly challenging. In similar fashion, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) the influential roles of Rwanda and Uganda rendering the perpetuating of violence. What's more is, some Western countries have been favouring militarial support in the region in order to sum dollars into the pockets of their manufacturing companies, resulting their prosperous economies. To cut a long story short, it would not be wrong to say that every actor is self-centered and interest-oriented to bolster up conflicts in the region whose cost is being paid in guise of blood of common citizenry.

Shocking Ambush

The shocking ambush of Jaffar Express on 11th of March 2025 by terrorists is a rude wake up call to state. This is not the first time this particular train is brought under the writ of brutality, the suicide bombing in 2024 also targeted this train. The truth is that in Balochistan freedom of movement has been significantly descended, with terrorists able to hijack trains, buses and block highways.

While there have been counter-terrorism operations ^{carried out} in the province, resulting in martyrdom of various security personnel, no long-term peace has been achieved through these actions. The time for common sayings is over. Balochistan needs a concrete and comprehensive security plan to guarantee its people can live in peace, and carry out their lives without the fear of violence. The state must review its strategy and must writ its exercise throughout the province especially in no-go areas and ungoverned spaces where militants enjoy free air. What's more is, military has confirmed that the 'supporters and masterminds' of Jaffar Express ambush were in contact with terrorists in Afghanistan, which indicates that Pakistan must forcefully take this matter at diplomatic level with Afghan regime. Moreover, beyond the kinetic approach sincere efforts are required to address the root causes of Balochistan's misery that are exploited by separatists. Lasting peace in Balochistan, however, can only come when

there is good governance, the province's people have a share in its minerals wealth and other resources, and the genuine representative of inhabitants are allowed to take democratic process forward.

To summarize it all, such ambush incidents can be curtailed from prevailing through the collective and collaborative efforts of the center and province. Before the time may run out, the center must review its strategy and the province must address the gaps in execution and maintenance of law and order in order to retain integrity and peace in Balochistan.

National Question

When something specular happens only then Balochistan comes in minds. The recent train hijacking incident shows that the gulf has become wide. This gulf is likely to become even more wide, leaving its impacts on other provinces, if repression and resource grab continue. To contemplate with the impacts, Sindh is up against the proposed building of new canals on the Indus River which resulted the rise of discontent among the Sindhis for being displaced from their hometown. Similarly, in Gilgit Baltistan, mass protests emerge by the local communities against the displacement resulting in construction of Diamer Basha Dam. In similar fashion, in KP people are in throes of monstrosity of militancy in the name of religion and ethnicity. Last but not least, in case of Balochistan, underlying the intrigue is a resource grab by establishment and the unavoidable issue of missing persons. To counter these detrimental consequences posing threat to the national integration, there is a dire need of cohesive response and national reconciliation efforts should be led by the parliament in particular, and political class in general.