

'Terrorism and its psychological Trauma'

"Premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience." (U.S. Department of State) The rise of terrorism in Pakistan has undergone in multiple phases; in the form of Afghan Jihad, war on Terror and the Afghan Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Unfortunately, every phase of terrorism has jostled political, economic and social spheres. In the war on Terror, Pakistan supported U.S. against terrorist groups, once a friend, now an enemy. The areas that share a border with Afghanistan, especially FATA region, became a battlefield. Pakistan initiated Zarb-e-Azab operation to eliminate terrorist outfits in Waziristan. Ironically, the operation does not achieve the desired goal to eradicate terrorist groups. The consequences it had on the masses are heart-wrenching. Their traditional values were challenged in the form of displacement. A bulge of youth deprived from education, and forced to leave their homes. In the similar way, children affected from psychological trauma. In the age of learning they ~~now~~ have seen firing, blasts and murders. Still, the instability is continue. Innocent civilians are paying the price for terrorism. Recently, four children were killed in north Waziristan, a drone strike, launched by security forces against terrorists. However, targeting security forces is not the right option of militants. Bringing light on the situation in Bannu district, every week security forces are targeted and killed. It is well understood that security forces have suffered a lot from terrorism. But their response to civilians is unlawful.

In multiple protests, the people of Bannu demanded peace and stability. The fruits of protests were met with the suspension of network and blockade of roads. As a result, narrative building has started against security establishment, where people is unhappy about the performance of security forces in the elimination of terrorism. So, resolving the issue needs some constructive steps in order to bring peace, stability and prosperity. Confidence building between security establishment and masses is an important initiative. This can lead to understanding the common threat. Intelligence based operations is a viable option rather than full-fledge operations. It would reduce the cost of displacement and infrastructure damage. The process of de-radicalization is a well founded choice to eradicate the menace of terrorism. In this process, an ideological transformation leads to mutual coexistence in a society. Thus, implementation is required that could pave the way for stable and prosperous Pakistan.

Diplomacy: The way forward in China-Pakistan ties

"Diplomacy is the art of restraining power, of managing international relations through negotiation rather than war." (Henry Kissinger)

This year China and Pakistan are celebrating 74th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. The first diplomatic contact was happened on May 21, 1951. China and Pakistan friendship has evolved on the bases of mutual trust, strategic interests and supporting each other at regional and global level. For instance, in the 1965 Indo-Pak war, China supported Pakistan. Similarly, China supported Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Now, their relations expanded to economic, defence and cultural engagement. After the Pahalgam attack, war-like situation erupted between Pakistan and India. It was the Chinese-made J-10C that destroyed Indian jets. The defeat of Indian fighter jets has drawn international attention regarding Chinese effective weaponry. According to Bloomberg report, Chengdu Aircraft Corporation's market value rose by more than 55 billion yuan, showing investor confidence in the jets battlefield effectiveness. At this stage, both nations felt confidence in protecting sovereignty, territorial integrity and strategic interest. However, Pakistan confronts internal security issues. The rise of insurgents groups in Balochistan hampers success of CPEC projects. China should provide advance technology and security equipment in order to prevent terrorism in Pakistan.

Digital Activism in Pakistan

In the 21st century, the world is more connected than ever before. The use of technology has eased access to information. People are using digital tools in order to spotlight their voices. Digital activism is considered as a powerful tool for expression and advocacy among youth. In Pakistan, the scenario is different. Digital activism has been suppressed by state censorship, legal constraints, surveillance and systemic harassment. Freedom of expression is the fundamental right of every citizen. As article 19 of the Pakistan constitution mandated that every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech, expression and freedom of the press. People use internet and social media platform, so that they highlight their miseries and demand justice. Political activism has changed from conventional campaign to digitalize. Such as PTI used social media platforms in order to mobilise youth. However, digital activism in Pakistan has been subject to many challenges. First, the existence of legal and regulatory barriers has disrupted the freedom of expression. Many FIRs were lodged against journalists, accusing them of spreading misinformation. Second, disruption of internet is now a normal phenomena. In the general election of 2024, suspension of internet have raised concerns about the legality of election, and dissent voices were silenced. In addition, online harassment and threats are prevalent in the country. Many women are subject to online harassment, such as Aurat march.

organizers received online threats. As Digital Rights Foundation identified that 73% of women journalists were subject to harassment during 2024 election. So, it is important to strengthen enforcement mechanism. For instance, police, law enforcement agencies and FIA should properly investigate online content without bias.