

## Current Affairs

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### Question # 1

The international system is witnessing a gradual shift from a unipolar to multipolar world order. Critically analyze the declining dominance of the United States and the rise of China, Russia, and regional powers. How does this transition impact Pakistan's foreign policy choices?

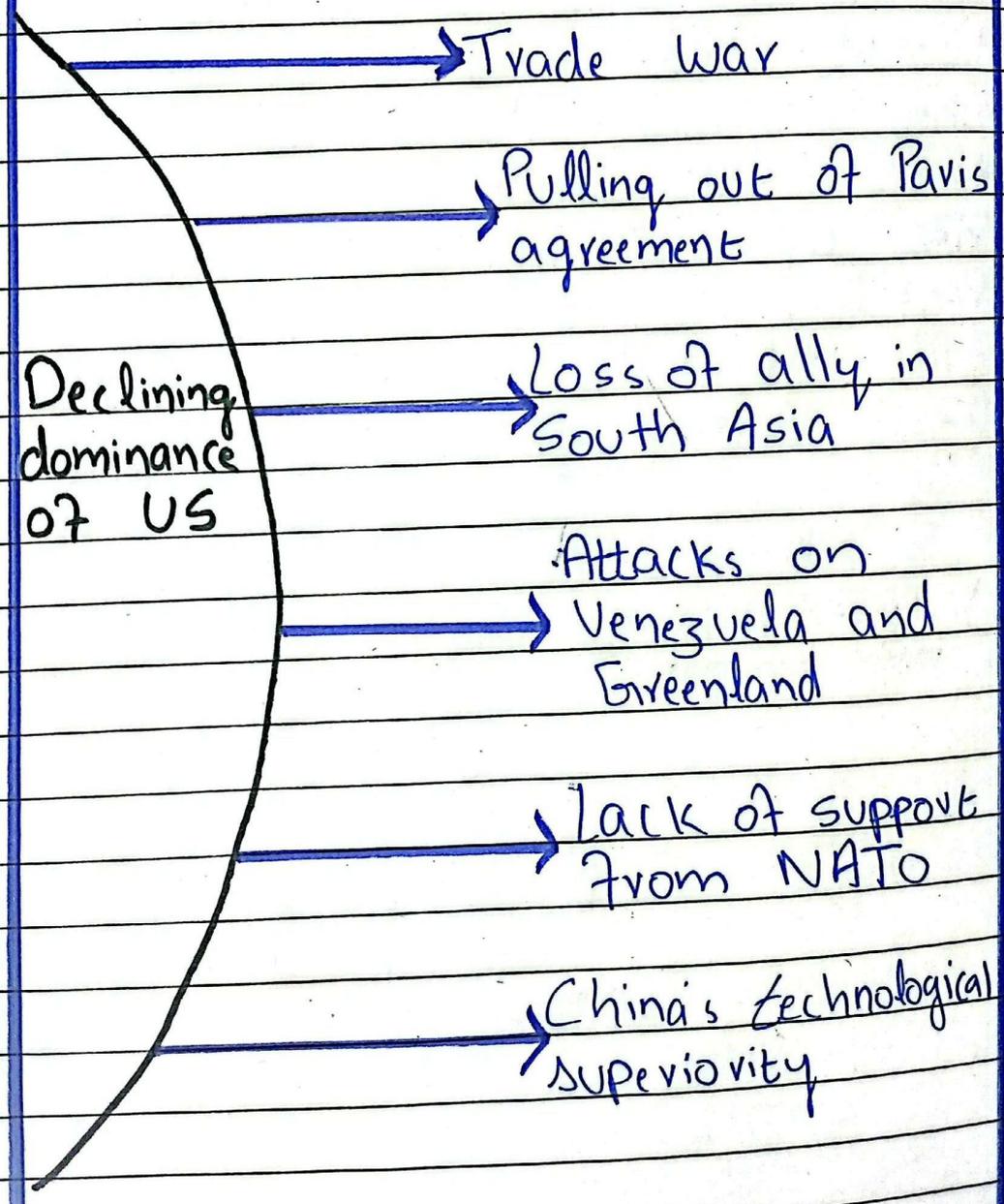
#### ① Introduction

In the recent times the international system is witnessing a gradual ~~and~~ shift from unipolar to multipolar world order. This shift is characterized by the declining dominance of US due to its policies and the rise of Russia and China. Owing to the changing geo-

geo political scenario Pakistan should aim to gain relevance by playing an active role in regional organizations.

## 2) Declining dominance of US

Following are the factors which led to the declining dominance of US



a) Trade war initiated by US declined its dominance

After becoming a president for the second time, Donald Trump initiated a trade war. He imposed tariffs on friends and foes alike. This policy was implemented in order to strengthen the economy. However it resulted in reverse tariffs on US. In addition to that many countries including NATO states criticized US for implementing such a policy. The imposition of tariffs led to crashing of stock market and decline in trade. Donald Trump reportedly stated

Trade wars are easy to win

— Trump

Trade war proved to be the first step towards declining dominance of US in geopolitics.

b) Pulling out of Paris agreement declined US dominance

Apart from the trade

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war. Trump also pulled out of Paris agreement declaring climate change as a hoax. Such a move resulted in a poor precedent for countries such as Australia which heavily relied on use of fossil fuels to fulfill their energy demands. According to Ban Ki Moon

"Without US support Paris agreement is just a piece of paper"

Banki Moon

### c) Conflict with Venezuela and Greenland

Acting on America great policy, US captured the president of Venezuela through a commando operation. In addition to that, the conflict with Greenland also resulted in criticism on US causing a decline in its dominance.

### d) Lack of support from NATO

Trade war, expansionist

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policy, and the role of US in Ukraine - Russia war resulted in ideological conflicts between US and NATO. According to NATO secretary general

" It is time for the world to look beyond US"

- NATO

The lack of support from NATO has also resulted in declining dominance of US

d) China's technological superiority results in declining dominance of US

China is rapidly advancing in military and AI technology. Chinese technology is almost at par with US technology. As power is a zero sum game therefore the rise of China is a contributing to the decline of US.

f) Loss of ally in south Asia

India and US have been strong allies. The former

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Secretary of state Hillary Clinton stated

"US and India are natural allies in 21st Century"

— Hillary Clinton

However, due to imposition of tariffs and constant criticism from US president weakened the ties between both countries. India also tilted towards Russia causing US to lose an important ally in the region.

### g) Breach of international law by US

Under the presidency of Trump, US has breached international law. It undermined the trust of allies in US resulting in declining dominance of US.

### 3) Rise of China in global politics

Following are the factors which contributed to rise of China

in global politics.

### a) Leadership role in climate change efforts

After US pulled out of Paris agreement, China being the second major economy, assumed the leadership role. President Xi Jin Ping displayed strong resolve to continue efforts against climate change in absence of US.

### b) China's role in regional organization

China plays an imperative role in regional politics. Being a core member of BRICS and SCO, China has strong influence within the regional as well as on global level. In BRICS, China is playing an important role in de-dollarization in order to weaken US hegemony, contributing to its decline.

### c) Belt and road initiative strengthens China's dominance

The Belt and Road initiative by China aims at strengthening regional connectivity along with enhancing trade. It also strengthens China's regional dominance resulting in gradual shift from unipolar to multipolar world order.

#### d) Approachment between Europe and China

Due to the bias policies of US, approachment is developing between Europe and China. Canada has also tilted towards China resulting in the rise of later and decline in dominance of US.

#### e) Technological superiority of China

The technological advancement of China is also resulting in a gradual shift from ~~multiple~~ unipolar to multipolar world order.

#### 4) Rise of Russia in global politics

Following are the factors

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that are contributing to the rise of Russia in global politics.

### a) Growing affiliation with China

In the recent times, the affiliation between Russia and China is enhancing as both countries are participating in trade <sup>ventures</sup> and joint military drills. The Russia-China ~~is~~ alliance is less of a friendship and more of a necessity, backed by a common goal of challenging western dominance.

### b) Russia's alliance with India

After US imposed tariffs on India, the later tilted towards Russia. It resulted in loss of ally for US. The alliance between Russia and India has also enhanced as both states are members of BRICS.

### c) Russia's role in regional organizations

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Russia also plays an important role in regional organization. Russia being a core member of BRICS plays an important role in challenging the dominance of West.

### 5) Impact on Pakistan's foreign policy

The gradual shift from unipolar to multipolar world order has following implications for Pakistan's foreign policy choices

a) Provides Pakistan an opportunity for issue based linkage

The gradual shift in world order has provided Pakistan an opportunity for issue based linkage. On the issue of anti-terrorism, Pakistan stands with US while in economic ventures Pakistan sidelines with China.

b) Opportunity for alliance with regional powers

The shift in world order has allowed Pakistan to pursue alliances with regional powers such as China and Russia. It has resulted in enhanced relevancy in multipolar world. Furthermore the alliance with regional powers would also strengthen Pakistan position in the region.

### c) Role in <sup>regional</sup> ~~multi~~ and global organization

The shift in the world order has allowed Pakistan to enhance its role in regional organizations. The geography of Pakistan has allowed it to become a corridor for Central Asian and Western states. As such its position in SCO, SAARC and other regional organization is important. Furthermore, proximity to a growing regional power has also influenced foreign policy choices.

### 6) Conclusion

The gradual shift

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From unipolar to multipolar is marked by declining dominance of US as a result of its policies and the rise of Russia and China. This change in global politics has allowed Pakistan to pursue a foreign policy prioritizing regional alliances over western alliance.

## Question #2

Pakistan continues to face economic instability, recurring IMF programs, and structural weaknesses. Analyze the root causes of Pakistan's economic crisis, the impact of IMF conditionalities, and suggest long term policy reforms to ensure sustainable economic growth

### ① Introduction

Pakistan continues to face economic instability despite recurring IMF programs. This instability can be contributed to low tax to GDP ratio and

dept trap. In order to deal with it Pakistan must implement long term policy reforms including expanding tax base and strengthening policy continuity.

## ② Root causes of Pakistan's economic crisis

Following are the root causes of Pakistan's economic crisis

a) Persistent energy crisis contributes to economic crisis

Pakistan has been facing persistent energy crisis since independence. Over reliance on single source of energy, lack of infrastructure development and long term inefficient agreement with independent energy suppliers is transforming energy crisis into economic crisis.

b) Low Tax to GDP ratio leads to economic crisis

Pakistan tax to GDP ratio is the lowest in south Asia. Services sector is heavily tax ignoring industrial and agricultural sector. This low tax base contributes to ~~low~~ economic crisis for the country.

c) Import export imbalance leads to economic crisis

Pakistan has low export base while it heavily relies on imports. This import export imbalance has contributed to economic crisis for Pakistan.

d) Policy inconsistency leads to economic crisis

Inconsistent policies have contributed to economic crisis for Pakistan. It also undermines foreign investment. According to Ishrat Hussain

"Investors value rule based governance and policy inconsistency"

e) Over dependence on agriculture and lack of industrialization

The economy of Pakistan heavily relies on agricultural exports. Agriculture consist of 16% of exports. In addition to that Pakistan lacks industrialization. It contributes to economic crisis for Pakistan.

### ③ Impact of IMF conditionalities on the economy of Pakistan

Following is the impact of IMF conditionalities on the economy of Pakistan.

a) IMF loans provide temporary relief.

Since independence <sup>Pakistan</sup> IMF has approached IMF 58 times. IMF loans often provide short term relief from economic crisis. This loan is often provided on strict conditionalities and high interest rate. As a result economic crisis is delayed <sup>often</sup>

instead of being overcome.

b) IMF conditionalities ignore underlying structural causes

IMF conditionalities focus on temporary relief without provide a viable solution to overcome underlying structural causes. As a result economic crisis often prevails in Pakistan.

c) IMF conditionalities often traps Pakistan under debt

IMF conditionalities and high interest rate often results in debt trap. It is also one of the main reasons why Pakistan is so much dependent on IMF.

#### ④ Long terms policy reforms for Pakistan

Following are the long term policy reforms for Pakistan to deal with economic crisis.

### a) Expand tax base

In order to overcome economic crisis Pakistan must ~~overcome~~ expand its tax base. Real estate, industrial, and agricultural sector should be included in the tax base.

### b) Ensure political stability and policy consistency

Pakistan suffers from political instability and policy inconsistency which leads the country towards policy inconsistency. Ensuring policy consistency shall lead to enhanced foreign direct investment and industrial growth.

### c) Balance imports exports

Imbalance of imports and exports leads to low foreign reserves. It leads to economic crisis. Balancing imports exports shall allow accumulation of foreign enhancing

currency value and strengthening economy.

d) Reform agricultural sector to strengthen economy

Pakistan lacks an innovation in agricultural sector. It leads to low exports as agriculture is the major export of Pakistan. Implying modern techniques shall enhance agricultural yield. Moreover introduce cooperate farming for ease of taxation in agricultural sector.

e) Strengthen accountability mechanism

Pakistan also faces economic weakness due to corruption and lack of accountability. Strengthening accountability at institutional level shall lead to enhanced economy.

## ⑤ Conclusion

The root causes of Pakistan's economic crisis is

persistent energy crisis and low tax to GDP ratio. In order to deal with economic challenges Pakistan will need to implement long term policy reforms including expansion of tax network and maintaining a balance of exports and imports.

### Question # 8

The resurgence of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan poses a serious threat to Pakistan's stability. Analyze the factors behind the resurgence of TTP, including regional dynamics. What policy measures should Pakistan adopt to counter terrorism effectively.

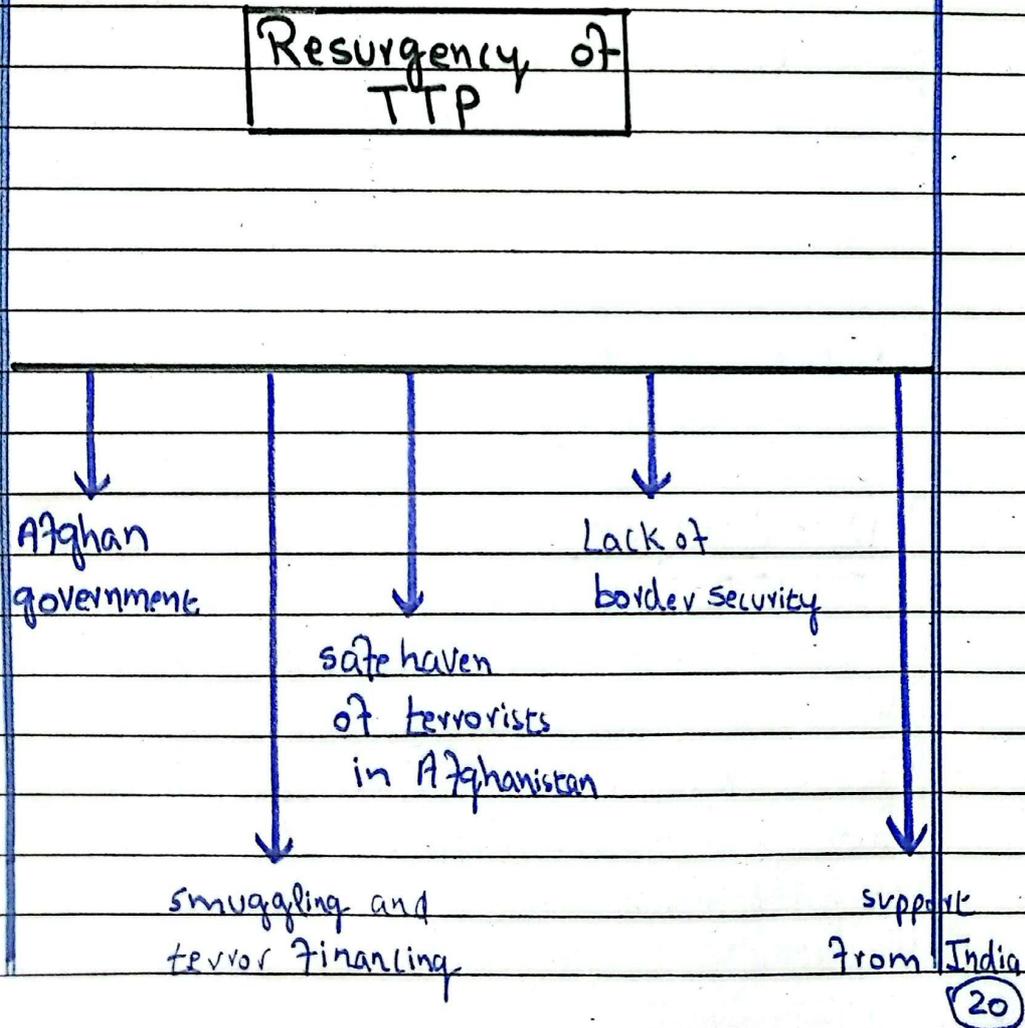
#### ① Introduction

The resurgence of TTP poses a serious threat to Pakistan. The revival of TTP can be attributed to Afghan government, lack of border security, and support from India.

In order to deal with this threat Pakistan must initiate counter-terrorism operation, strengthen internal security, and information intelligence sharing at regional level.

## ② Factors behind resurgence of TTP

Following are the factors which led to resurgence of TTP.



## a) Taliban government in Afghanistan

In 2021 Taliban took over the government after US ~~other~~ forces left Afghanistan. According to Economists

"Years of nation building project collapsed in 11 days"

— The Economist

The Taliban after coming to power supported TTP for carrying out terrorism in Pakistan.

## b) TTP safe haven in Afghanistan

TTP resurged as it found safe haven in Afghanistan. They carried most of their activities against Pakistan from within Afghanistan. Pakistan also carried out strikes against TTP safehaven in Afghanistan.

## c) Weak governance in tribal areas led to

## resurgency of TTP

The tribal areas of KPK and Balochistan have governance issues. Weak governance in these areas is exploited by TTP. It allows them to recruit individuals from these areas. Weak governance in FATA has made it a stronghold of TTP.

### d) Lack of border security

Pakistan and Afghanistan share a border of  $\approx 2600$  km. Lack of border security allows TTP ease in mobility. According to ISPR 95% of Durand line has been fenced yet lack of border security still persists.

### e) Smuggling and terror financing resulted in resurgency of TTP

Due to weak border security smuggling and terror financing activities cannot

be curbed. Such activities served as financial life lines for TTP. According to FATF

"Terrorism survives on finances. Cut the lifeline and violence shall starve"

— FATF

7) Support from India led to resurgence of TTP

India continuously supports terrorist organizations including TTP for carrying out terrorist attacks in Pakistan and weakening the country from within. The growing alliance between India and Taliban government proves that the former is responsible for sponsored terrorism in the region.

③ Policy measures for Pakistan to effectively counter terrorism

Following are the policy measures for Pakistan to effectively counter terrorism.

### a) Conduct Counter-terrorism operation against TTP

In order to counter terrorism operation Pakistan must conduct intelligence based operation against TTP. Pakistan has already carried out such effective operations in the past in such as Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasad. The army chief Asim Munir while boasting the morale ~~against~~ order to counter terrorism stated

"If the whole India army could not subdue us then what change do these terrorists have against us"

— Asim Munir

### b) Combine deterrence with negotiations

Pakistan should engage in bilateral talks with Afghan government and convince the Taliban government that they should now allow their land

to be used for terrorism against Pakistan. Along side that Pakistan should also show deterrence to any aggression from from Afghan government or TTP. Elaborating on the policy of negotiations cum diplomacy Moed Yousuf stated

"Hard interventions  
kill terrorists  
but soft measures  
kill terrorism"

— Moed Yousuf

c) Strengthening internal security to curb terrorism

The tribal areas of Pakistan have weak security. As a result it paves way for terrorism. Strengthening security in tribal areas of KPK and Balochistan along with governance reforms is essential for effectively curbing terrorism.

d) Enhance border security to curb terrorism effectively.

Weak border security facilitate the movement of TTP between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Strengthening border security would restrict TTP activity. In addition to that, border fencing would also curb smuggling and terror financing effectively countering terrorism.

### Participate in regional anti-terrorism operations

Pakistan should participate in regional anti-terrorism operations in order to effectively counter terrorism. Pakistan should effectively utilize SAARC anti-terrorism initiative to enhance intelligence sharing and raise awareness regarding threat of terrorism in the region.

### ④ Conclusion

The reemergence of TTP was possible due to numerous factors including Taliban government in Afghanistan, poor governance of tribal areas, and support from India. In order to effectively counter terrorism, Pakistan must strengthen border

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security and conduct intelligence based operations against terrorists.

## Question # 7

Pakistan continues to face complex internal security threats including terrorism, extremism, and political instability. Analyse the evolving nature of internal security threats in Pakistan. How can Pakistan adopt a comprehensive national security framework combining military, political and socio-economic measures

### ① Introduction

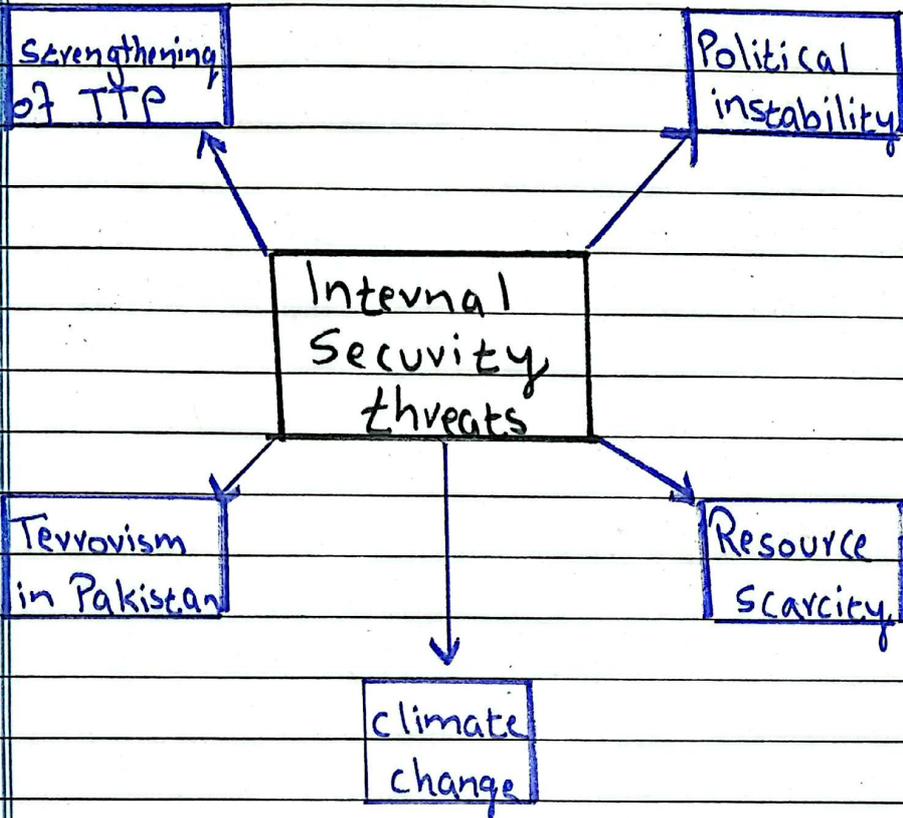
Pakistan continues to face complex internal security threats including political instability, resource scarcity, militancy, and terrorism. Moreover, climate change has also emerged as a national security challenge for Pakistan. Pakistan must adopt a comprehensive national

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security frameworks focusing on resolving regional grievances and strengthening internal security.

### ① Internal Security threats for Pakistan

Following are the internal security threat which have emerged as a challenge for Pakistan



a) Political ~~Security~~ instability undermines internal security

Pakistan faces persistent political

instability since independence. It also paves way for numerous security challenges including rise of militancy and declining security condition in KPK and Balochistan. Political instability also led to inconsistent policies, which undermines efforts against terrorism.

b) Resource scarcity has emerged as a major internal security threat for Pakistan

Resource scarcity has emerged as a major threat for Pakistan. It is already testing Pakistan's unity. Inequal resource distribution is already testing Pakistan has led to provincial grievances and has also given rise to militancy in Pakistan.

c) Strengthening of TTP

After the Afghan Taliban rise in Afghanistan, TTP has also strengthened in Pakistan. It has also contributed to the revival of terrorism in Pakistan

## d) Terrorism in Pakistan

The revival of terrorism has also emerged as a major threat for Pakistan. It can be contributed to poor governance in tribal areas and lack of border security.

## e) Climate change as a national threat

Climate change has emerged as a national threat due to increase in floods contributing to loss of life and infrastructure. Due to the devastating effects of climate change, President Asif Zardari termed it as a national threat.

## 2) National Security Framework for Pakistan

Pakistan should adopt a national security framework which focuses on following areas

### a) Strengthening internal security

In order to deal with evolving nature of internal security, threat Pakistan must strengthen internal security. Due focus should be given to enhance security condition in tribal areas.

### b) Equitable resource distribution

In order to efficiently deal with internal threats, Pakistan must focus of equitable resource distribution. NFC awards and CLI must be strengthened and provinces should be given their due share. According to Justice Cornelius

"Denying provinces their fair share breeds disintegration"

— Justice Cornelius

### c) Resolve regional grievances

Pakistan must solve regional grievances in order to establish peace. Regional grievances

should be solved through political accommodation rather than hard measures.

#### d) Action against climate threat

Pentagon in US labelled climate change as a threat multiplier. In order to deal with it Pakistan must enhance hydro infrastructure and focus on reforestation.

#### e) Provide provincial autonomy in line with federal principles

Provincial autonomy should be enhanced in line with federal principles. According to Hamza Alvi

"Pakistan must recognize unity in diversity"

— Hamza Alvi

### 3) Conclusion

Pakistan's internal

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security challenges evolved from political instability and terrorism to revival of TTP and climate change. In order to deal with it, Pakistan must adopt a national policy framework based on equitable resource distribution and resolution of regional grievances.