

(i) Terrorism and SGW era: Perception is a battlefield and misinformation is the deadliest weapons.

Outline :

- 1- Introduction
- 2- Emerging security threats in 21st century
- 3- SGW : as a threat to National Security of Pakistan.

a) Rise of Psychological warfare through fake propoganda's and News
(case studies: Taiwan - China)
(Pak - India during 1971 war)

b) Disseminating misinformation to control public perception
(90% of negative press generated from) indian website - (DG ISPR)

c) cyber attacks on information structure
(2020 - Attack on stock exchange)
(2021 - NBP)

d) Disruption of major Economic project like CPEC
(Murders of Chinese engineers)

e) Tremendous increase in terrorism
(PIPs Report 2025)

f) Provoking youth against the
State by social media
(opposition against military operation
in KPK by PKSF)

g) False narrative portraying causes
insurgencies and erode public
trust.
(Balochistan insurgency)

iv) Transformative measure to combat
the SGW Challenges:

a) Countering propoganda through
strategic narrative control
(e-g: America)

b) Developing Psychological resilience
in youth
(campaigns)

c) Investing in cybersecurity
(collaboration with china in cybersecurity)

d) Increase surveillance and Media
transparency
(e-g: use of AI technology)

e) Legal steps and laws to counter propoganda
(e-g: SMMARA)

ii) Terrorism and AI.

i) Introduction

ii) AI driven cyberterrorism and new challenges

iii) How AI is used for terrorism

a) Extracting vulnerable individuals to target them for extremist motives
(AI algorithms, social media platforms)

b) Encrypted messaging applications and communications
(Al-Qaeda, TPP)

c) Online Radicalization to spread fear and inspiring attacks
(Lone wolf attacks)

d) AI driven latest technologies used for attacks
(Drones, IED explosives)

e) AI for financing attacks
(Money laundering through crypto)

f) Disinformation campaigns and propaganda
(Fake videos)

g) Automated logistics for smuggling operations.
(Global access for weapon dealing)

ii) Rise cyberattacks and digital
infrastructure
(Indian cyberattacks using AI)

iv) Implications for Pakistan:

- a) Rapid increase in terrorism
- b) Leads toward social divide
- c) undermine civil-military trust
- d) Moves towards perception-centric warfare

v) Policy frameworks to combat terrorism:

- a) Pakistan National AI Policy
- b) AI in predictive threat analysis
- c) Strengthening legal framework
- d) Awareness campaigns
- e) Promoting digital literacy specially among youth
- f) Increase Social Media Surveillance.

Terrorism The calculated use or threat of violence to inculcate fear, intended to coerce or intimidate governments or societies - (Charles Tompkins)

Terrorism is an unlawful use of force or violence against person or property to intimidate govt, the civilian population, or any segment in furtherance of political or social objectives -

(F.B-I)

PIPs → 521 in 2024

2025 → 35 in only March

(Pakistan Inst - for
Conflict and Security
Studies)

Causes

i) War on terror and Taliban victory

against US and NATO forces:

(PK Security forces Report 2025 - 699 terrorist attacks, 34% in terrorist activity (PIPs))

ii) Activation of TIP and AlQaida

(In 2025, PICSS recorded at least 1,066 militants attacks nationwide)

iii) Non-state actors and Proxy wars

(Baloch nationalist movements, Insurgencies)

(Case study of Kulbushraun Jhadav)

iv) Weak Governance and Surveillance

in certain regions

(over 95% of terrorist attack in KP, Balochistan) (PIPs)

v) Religious Extremism and Radicalization

(Darul Uloom Haqqania suicide bombing)

(84 incidents in Ramadan 2025)

vi) Poverty and unemployment

(CRSS report 2025, 96% (KP & Balochistan))

(having ↑ Poverty, unemployment rate)

Poverty (PIDE) (WB) [Baloch 70-71%
KP 48-49%

9.6% KP
5.5% Baloch] Labour force survey 2021-25

vii) Geographical location as a launching
Pad:

(95% in KP & Balochistan (PIPs))

viii) Latest technology and warfare

(Drones (26 incidents) PICS)

Repercussions faced by Pakistan due
to terrorism:-

i) Massive human loss

(APs Peshawar Attack
Jaffar Express Attack)

ii) Trade disruptions and Invest. Deterrence

(GTE - 2nd rank)

(Tourism decline)

iii) Displacement: from Ex-fata and KP

iv) Societal fear & Academic disruptions

v) Decline in FDI & Domestic Investment

vi) Infrastructure damage and Economic
loss -

Transformative Approaches to Regain National Security:

Non-Kinetic

- i) Reforms in Anti-terrorist act of 1997 (UN Terrorist act)
- ii) Intelligence Reforms (Int-cooperation)
- iii) Strengthening institutions like NACTA.
- iv) Media & legislative transparency
- v) Good governance & Accountability
- vi) Political Stability -

Kinetic

- i) Intelligence Labelling
- ii) Advanced Surveillance and counter terrorism financing
- iii) Military operations
- iv) Enhanced technological artillery with advanced versions)

Policy framework:

- Combating online Radicalization
- Strengthening border Security
- Addressing socio-economic disparities.