

(PART-II)

Question no: 4

Revival of militancy: Threat To NATIONAL SECURITY:

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has been operating in Pakistan and ^{is} carrying out the attacks against the country since 2005. There has been many operations against them by Pakistan's army. After the operations like Zabe Azab, they flew from Pave and settled in Afghanistan. Ever since the Americans took off from Afghanistan and Taliban came to power, TTP has gained momentum. It is using Afghan's soil to carry out attacks in the western region of Pakistan. Specially in merge districts, KP etc. They are targeting Chinese investment, security personals and also civilians. Since the fall of Kabul into the hands of Taliban in 21 August, 2022, the attacks in Pakistan has been increasing at an alarming rate. The recent attack at the Peshawar mosque has created fear among people. There were many loopholes in

the Pakistan counter Terrorism policy. These coupled with the Afghan Taliban Victory in Afghanistan has intensified the Terrorism situation in the country.

↳ Pakistan's Appeasement policy

In the past, Pakistan had an appeasement policy for the TTP. The policy was appreciated by some while others called it "feeding the lion hoping it will eat you last". It was criticised as it bore no outcome except few cease fires. During the PML's government a series of negotiations were held with TTP but resulted in only a month long cease fire from Nov to Dec. along with Pakistan's government releasing more than 100 terrorist from jails. The government tried to renegotiate but TTP's demands made it difficult. They wanted the reversal of PATIA merger bill along with Sharia based system in country. According to NACTA report, during the negotiations, TTP used that time to rearm and regroup that only increased their momentum and attacks.

2. Afghanistan's Policy: in favor of TTP:

Afghan's government is not cooperating with Islamabad to end the use of Afghan land by TTP to carry out attacks in Pakistan. Afghan government only agreed and mediated talks between TTP leadership and Pakistan's leadership. Not only this but Afghan Taliban also released the TTP prisoners in Afghanistan. This has only created security issues for Pakistan.

3. Power Vacuum:

There exist a power vacuum in the merge districts. No proper policing along with the undertrained staff has given the opportunity to the Terrorists. Khasdars are given the rank of police and no capacity building or training has been provided. They are not trained to counter Terrorism.

4. Decreased attacks misunderstood as end to Terrorism:

Border fencing and the decrease in attacks were taken as ~~end~~ of the threat of Terrorism has been diffused. This has resulted in the increased momentum of terrorist activities. The time was used to reorganize and regroup by TTP.

5. BLA-TTP NEXUS:

It is quite evident that alliance has been made between TTP and BLA. Attacks on Chinese and CPEC is the pattern of BLA attacks, whereas attacking security forces shows TTP's pattern. This alliance has made TTP foothold stronger.

6. Incompetent CTD:

There is a strong need to reform the Counter Terrorism Department. The attack on CTD office - Bannu by TTP prisoners shows the grim picture of the department. There are no designated offices for the CTD. Prisons are in residential area and the department needs

Capacity building.

Keeping in view all the limitations, Islamabad need to work on its weak points so that this threat is diffused the earliest.

1) Need of renewed National Action plan:

Terrorist need to be dealt with the strong hand. Operations like Zab-e Azb and Radul Fasad are the need of the hour. But the operations should be carried out by taking the Local into the confidence that their life and property will be safeguarded. Without the local's support, the operations will be difficult.

2) Pressurizing Afghan government to deliver:

Pakistan need to pressurize Afghan Taliban to deliver. TIP should not be allowed to use the land of Afghanistan. Pakistan has always

supported Afghanistan on International settings. To improve its image, Afghanistan need to make its land free from being used as a launching pad for terrorist attacks.

3. Capacity Building of CTD:

CTD offices should be made away from the residential area. The staff should be trained with advanced weapons and technologies.

Budget allocation by Federal and provincial government is required.

4. Ending political instability:

Pakistan is facing worst era of political instability along with economic instability. This is providing a breeding ground to the militants groups. Pakistan need to solve its political differences and focus on the national security.

Conclusion:

Terrorism is a threat that Pakistan is facing and it needs to be dealt with as soon as possible. Pressure from the international community may prove to be fruitful. Security of the country and citizens ^{should be} is the topmost priority of the government and the issue should be dealt with strong determination. A strong policy and strong institutions can end this threat.



Question no: 2

Saudi-Iran Reproachment and Role of China.

The decades long rivalry in the Gulf region has ended, by an emerging ~~economy~~ super power, China. KSA and Iran has signed a deal to resume the diplomatic ties after decade long pause. This deal

was mediated by China. Middle East is the most important region in the world politics. China has created its influence in the region somehow challenging the USA and Israel. It is the one of the biggest achievement by China. It is hoped that peace will prevail in the region ending the complex proxy wars between the both countries.

Analysts argue that China could be a better mediator than US.

→ China's policy of Economic Interdependence

with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China is creating a world's largest infrastructural development that not only benefits China but also the whole region. CPEC will allow Pakistan to increase its trade and uplift its economy. The mutual economic uplift creates a sense of mutual trust and respect among the nations.

2. China's neutrality and USA's aggressive stance on Int. Conflicts:

China has always been neutral in the conflicts whereas USA has a history of picking sides. China's neutrality will provide it an edge to influence other countries. A country without any biases will have a better chance at solving conflicts or mediating between countries.

3. China's increasing influence:

China has become an economic superpower. A strong economy allows the country to influence weaker or stronger states. The countries' decisions will be given more importance. The increased influence of China is visible by the USA - Iran deal.

4. China's non-interference policy:

China has a policy of non-interference in internal conflicts and issues of the country. Whereas, USA does not have any

policy of the kind. Respecting the national sovereignty and culture of the country and letting them deal with them makes mediation peaceful and smooth.

5. Global anti-westren Sentiment:

Particularly in the middle east, the anti westren sentiment is on the rise. This can be used by the China effectively and make its place and standing in the region.

6. Regional uplift by China:

The use of China ~~has~~ is not limited to itself it is also uplifting the region with its BRI and other projects. This benefits both the sides without creating a country wholly dependent on itself. China becoming a powerful state in the region has raised its influence in the region.

Conclusion:

China's influence has greatly increased across the world with its policies and neutral stance. The Chinese brokered deal between KSA and Iran is its example. In coming years, it may not be wrong to say that China will leave the US behind and become a better mediator for the world.