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4 There is an unprecedented rise in militancy in merged districts, KP and other parts of Pakistan critically evaluate the reasons and way out.

Pakistan launched series of military operations such as Rah-e-Rast, Rah-e-Nijat, Karb-e-Arab etc. Consequently majority of terrorist hit areas i.e. tribal belts in Malakand Division, Banna Division and Baluchistan were cleared of militancy. Since 2021 there is rise and revival of militancy despite peace was predominantly established after the aforementioned operations conducted by Pakistan Army. This rise and revival of militancy in Pakistan can be attributed to multiple reasons ranging from flaws in Pakistan internal policies to defence and foreign policy. However, Pakistan can overcome militancy by reorganising its

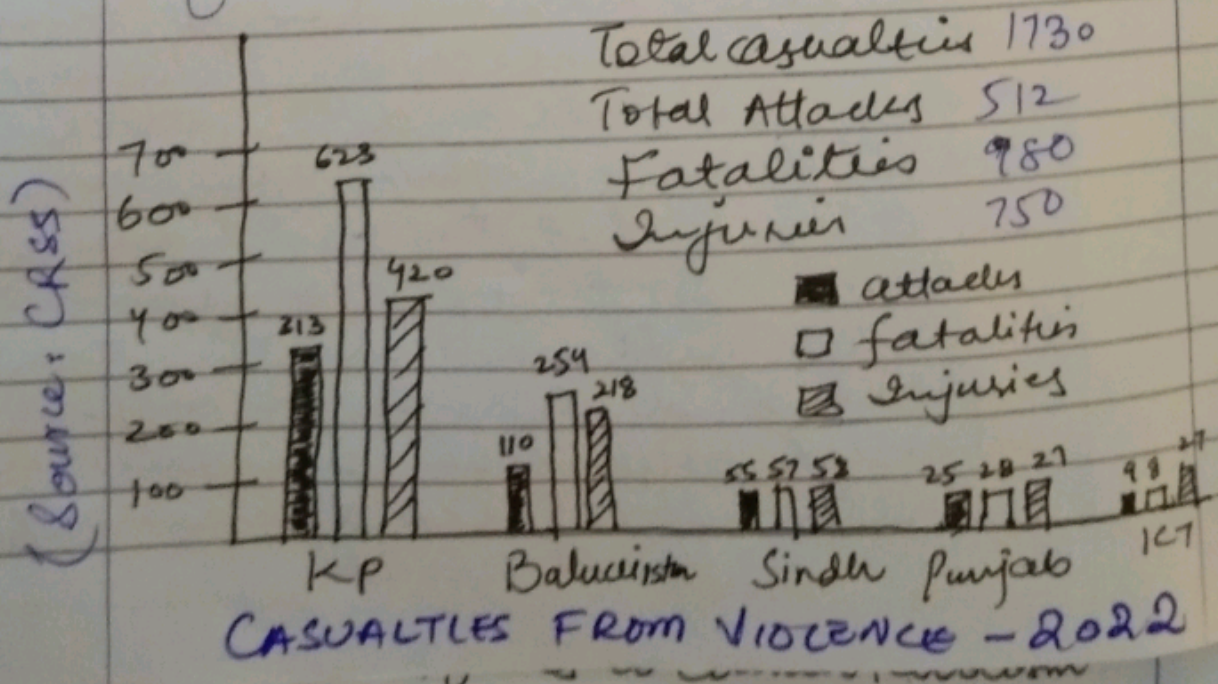


approach towards addressing the current rise and revival in militancy.

## 1. RISE AND REVIVAL OF MILITANCY IN KP & PAKAT A GLANCE:

Current statistics show a large - scale rise in number of attacks on government offices in Pakistan and KP in particular. For instance Dleg office in Karachi, CTD office in Swat and Bamur were hit by terrorists recently.

According to Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), Annual Security Report (2022) KP is the highest hit province with highest number of militant attacks, fatalities and injuries among all the provinces of Pakistan.





## 2. REASONS OF RISE AND REVIVAL OF MILITANCY IN PAK AND KP:

Besides the 'quillawar technique' used by terrorists major reasons behind resurgence of terrorists in Pakistan are victory of Afghan Taliban, security vacuum in Pakistan and faulty negotiations of Pakistan government with Tehrik Taliban-Pakistan (TTP):

a. Victory of Afghan Taliban acted as driving force for Tehrik Taliban Pakistan and other militant outfits:

Afghan Taliban defeated US-NATO force (world's strongest military machine) that encouraged TTP to potentially challenge security apparatus in Pakistan. Moreover TTP is close ally of Afghan Taliban. TTP used Afghanistan as launching pad for terrorist attacks in Pakistan. The tribal belt of Pakistan is contiguous to Afghan border of Pakistan which gave another advantage to TTP and other militant outfits for breaching security of Pakistan.



b. Security vacuum in Pakistan served as breathing space for terrorists:

In Pakistan, after several military operations, the cleared areas were handed over to police by military. Military and paramilitary forces of Pakistan did so because:

(i) The job of military and paramilitary forces is to carry out operations and clear the areas of terrorists. Military can not perform policing as it's not trained for it.

(ii) There was public pressure that army should hand over posts to police.

(iii) Police is not well equipped and well trained to counter highly trained and equipped militants.

One of the glaring example of how this vacuum benefited terrorists is the attack on CTD office Bannu where terrorists fought more than twenty four hours with CTD.







As per the lessons learnt from the previous operations misplacing public and launching heavy operations in the area will overburden Pakistan's economy as well as amplify terrorism so localized military operations must be launched to catch military in its early stage.

### b. Empowerment of police:

The vacuum created because of ill equipped and ill trained police can be filled if police is capacitated and provided with required equipment to counter and confront militants. These equipments may include helicopters, rocket launchers, modern guns and pistols etc.

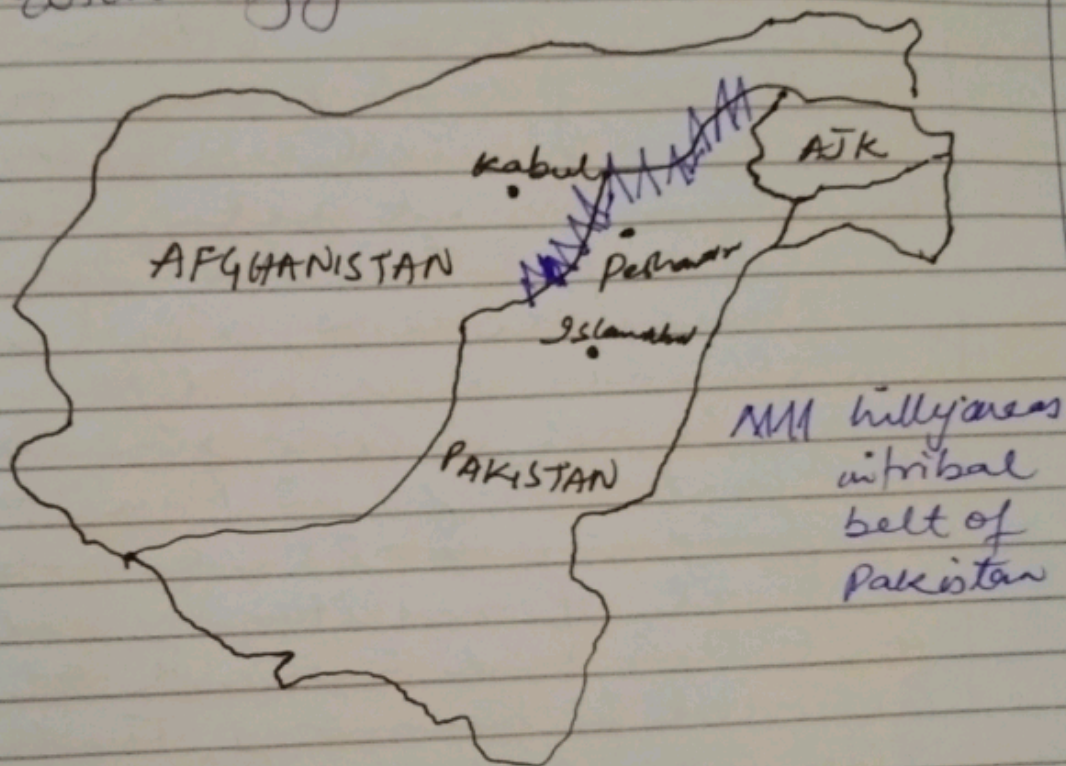
### c. Approach Kabul, TTA to cooperate:

Government of Pakistan must approach Kabul to guarantee that it should give a clear message to TTP that Afghan land should not be used by TTP as launching pad for terrorists attack in Pakistan.



d. Expedite the process of sealing borders:

Although borders are sealed in plain areas but problem still lies in hilly areas. As per the map of Pakistan, northern areas of Pakistan share hilly border with Afghanistan.



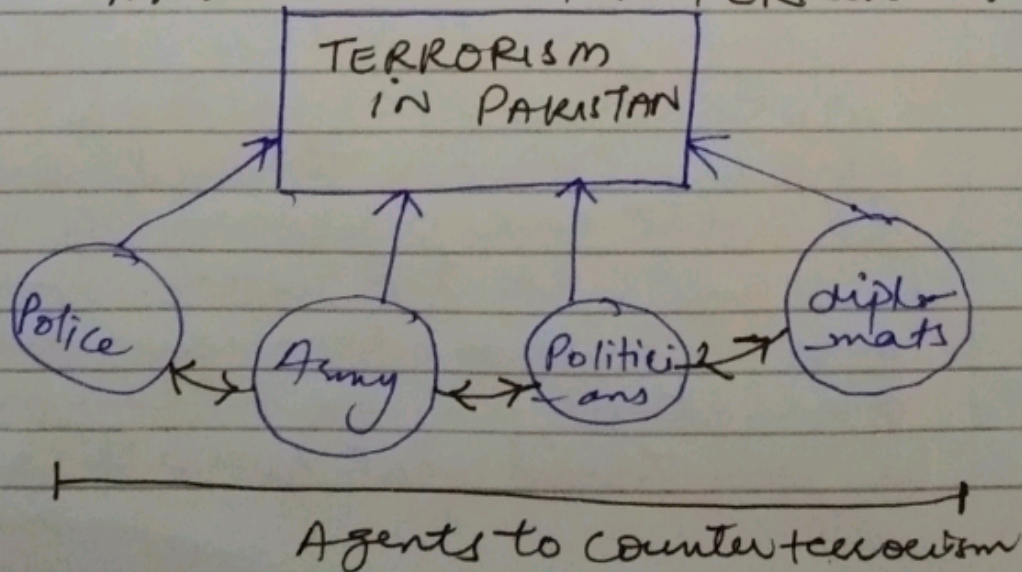
#### 4- CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Militarism in Pakistan in its nature is not only a physical and psychological threat but also a political problem, a crime and an act of war. Keeping in view its nature removal of militarism in Pakistan must be countered with overall reorgan-



eation in defense, military, political and foreign policy as depicted in solutions. The aim of the state must relate with its method to curb this challenge threat by protecting its potential targets, address the root causes, punish terrorists and eliminate terrorists through military and police force. The agents involved in counter terrorism must act wisely such as politicians, policy makers, bidders, diplomats, intelligence and military units must work in coordination. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, keeping in view the reasons of revival of militancy exhibited that aim and method of state are not in harmony. Furthermore the agents (mentioned above) are lacking some sort of coordination.

### MODEL TO COUNTER TERRORISM





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CONCLUSION:

In situation without clarity on strategic interests and coordinated efforts of the agents to counter terrorism in Pakistan, the military solution can only be temporary and counter-productive. The most important part is the political governance and foreign policy without which military actions may fail to produce lasting solutions.

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