

Question # 023

The Revival Of Militancy in Pakistan: Reasons, Implications, and Recommen- dations.

Militancy has been a persistent issue in Pakistan, with various periods of escalation and decline. In recent years there has been a noticeable revival of militancy in the country. The revival of militancy in Pakistan has emerged as a critical concern, posing significant challenges to national security, regional security and well being of its citizens.

Reasons & Implications

(i) Socio-Economic Disparities.

Pakistan's Socio-economic disparities have contributed significantly to the revival of militancy. Socio-economic disparities and high

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high unemployment rates have left marginalized communities feeling disenfranchised, making them susceptible to recruitment by militant groups. According to the International Labour Organization, Pakistan's youth unemployment rate was 9.61% in 2020, exacerbating the issue.

(2) Radicalization & Extremist

Ideologies

The spread of radical ideologies, often rooted in extremist interpretations of religion, has contributed to the revival of militancy. The presence of madrassas promoting such ideologies remains a concern, providing fertile ground for radicalization.

(3) Cross-Border Conflicts &

Safe Havens :

Pakistan's proximity to conflict-ridden Afghanistan has allowed militant groups to find safe havens along the porous border, facilitating their operations.

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The Council on Foreign Relations reported ~~in~~ ~~the~~ in past - that Pakistan hosts several terrorist groups with links to Afghanistan.

(4) Weak Governance and Ineffective Law Enforcement:

Corruption, weak governance, and ineffective law enforcement have hindered counter-terrorism efforts. The Global Terrorism Index 2022 ranked Pakistan as the 6th most affected country by terrorism.

(5) External Support & Proxy Warfare.

External actors have historically supported various militant groups as part of their proxy warfare strategies. The US Commission on International Religious Freedom's report in ~~recent~~ past highlighted Pakistan's ties to groups involved in militancy.

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Implications of Revival of Militancy

(1) Threat to National Security.

The resurgence of militancy poses significant threats to Pakistan's ~~anti~~ national security. Frequent terrorist attacks, both domestically and in neighboring countries, have led to ~~the~~ loss of life, infrastructural damage, and deterrence to foreign investment.

(2) Regional Stability:

The revival of militancy in Pakistan affects regional stability, as demonstrated by the 2019-Pulwama attack in Indian-administered Kashmir, which escalated tensions between India & Pakistan.

(3) Humanitarian Consequences:

Militancy contributes to humanitarian crises, displacing communities, and disrupting essential services. The consequences of violence on civilian populations are devastating and require comprehensive humanitarian responses.

(4) Impact on Economic development

Persistent militancy hampers economic development and deters foreign investments.

Recommendations For Islamabad

(1) Address Socio-economic Disparities:

Invest in education, health-care and infrastructure development in marginalized areas to alleviate grievances and reduce the appeal of militancy among vulnerable populations.

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(2) Counter Radicalization through Education

Promote a moderate and inclusive interpretation of religion within educational institutions to combat radical ideologies. Provide vocational training and employment opportunities to steer youth away from extremism.

(3) Strengthen Border Security and Cooperation:

Enhance border management with Afghanistan and Iran to curb cross-border movement of militants. Strengthen intelligence sharing mechanisms with neighboring countries to combat transnational terrorism effectively.

(4) Reform Governance^{ance} and Law Enforcement

Implement institutional reforms to enhance governance and root out ~~terrorism~~ corruption - strengthen

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law enforcement agencies through modernization, training, and improved coordination.

(5) Engage in Diplomatic Efforts

Actively engage with regional and international partners to address concerns related to external support for militancy. Strengthen diplomatic ties to promote collective efforts against terrorism.

(6) Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programs

Develop comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration programs for former militants, providing them with education, job, training, and psychological support to facilitate their successful reintegration into society.

In a nutshell, the revival of militancy in Pakistan stems from socio-economic disparities, radicalization, cross-border conflicts, weak governance, and external support. Its implications on

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national security, economic development, regional stability and humanitarian well-being are significant.

To effectively combat this challenge, Islamabad must address root causes, strengthen border security, reform governance, engage in diplomatic efforts, and implement rehabilitation programs.

A multifaceted approach is essential to ensure a safer and more stable future for Pakistan and the region.

Question # 05

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The Ukrainian Conflict: A Crucible for the West

Global Order

Geo-Political Significance of Ukraine

Ukraine's strategic location and resources make it a pivotal player in global politics. Its proximity to 'Russia' and access to the 'Black sea' have historically attracted both Western and Russian interests. The outcome of the war in Ukraine will have far-reaching implications for the balance of power and influence in the region and beyond.

West's Commitment to International Norms

The conflict in Ukraine tests the West's commitment to upholding international norms

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and principles. As proponents of democracy, human rights and territorial integrity, Western nations face a litmus test in how they respond to Russian aggression and support Ukraine's sovereignty.

NATO's Credibility and Cohesion.

The war in Ukraine challenges the credibility and cohesion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). As an alliance based on collective defense, NATO's response to Russian actions in Ukraine will determine its ability to deter future aggression and maintain solidarity among its members.

European Union's Unity and Resilience

The European Union's unity and resilience are on trial during this conflict. How the EU deals with the challenges posed by the

Ukrainian crisis will shape its ability to address internal and external threats to its cohesion and common values.

Energy Security and dependence

The war in Ukraine puts a spot light on energy security and dependence in the west. With significant natural gas pipelines running through Ukraine, the conflict highlights the need for diversification of energy sources and the reduction of dependence on Russian supplies.

Economic Sanctions & Trade Relations.

Western countries' use of economic sanctions against Russia in response to the conflict showcase the importance of trade relations and economic interdependence in shaping global politics. The effectiveness and consequences of these sanctions will impact the west's ability to influence global affairs.

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Soft Power and Public Diplomacy

The Ukrainian crisis presents an opportunity for the west to ~~can~~ demonstrate the strength of its soft power and public diplomacy. How Western nations engage with global audiences, shape narratives, and build alliances will be critical in determining their leadership role in the international community.

Impact on Emerging Security Challenges

The war in Ukraine has implications for emerging security challenges, such as cyber warfare, disinformation campaigns, and hybrid threats. The west's response to these non-traditional challenges will determine its ability to navigate a rapidly evolving global security landscape.

Humanitarian and Refugee Crisis

The conflict in Ukraine has led to a significant humanitarian and refugee crisis. How the west addresses the needs of displaced populations and provides a humanitarian assistance will reflect its commitment to protecting vulnerable populations in times of conflict.

Role of International Organization

International organizations, such as the United Nations, play a crucial role in mediating conflicts and maintaining global order. The Ukrainian crisis will test the effectiveness and relevance of these institutions in resolving territorial disputes and promoting peace.

Technology and Military Modernization

The war in Ukraine demonstrates

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the importance of technology and military modernization in shaping the balance of power. Western countries' ability to stay ahead in technological advancements will influence their military capabilities and deter potential adversaries.

Impact on Global Trade and Economy

Instability in the region can disrupt supply chains, affect commodity prices, and create economic uncertainty, impacting the West's ability to maintain a thriving global economy.

Multilateralism vs Unilateralism

The crisis in Ukraine raises questions about the effectiveness of multilateralism versus unilateral actions in addressing global challenges. The West's approach to resolving the conflict will reveal its stance on the importance of collective decision-making and

international cooperation.

Lessons From History

Historical precedents provide valuable lessons for addressing the conflict in Ukraine. The West's ability to draw from past experiences & implement effective strategies will determine its capacity to navigate complex geopolitical situations successfully.

The Future of West's Leadership.

The war in Ukraine is defining moment for the future of the West's leadership in the world. How western nations navigate and resolve this crisis will shape their standing and influence in the international order for years to come.

In short, the conflict in Ukraine serves as a critical litmus test for the West's leadership and its ability to uphold international norms, maintain unity among allies, and respond effectively to emerging challenges. The outcome

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will determine whether the west's global order continues to thrive or faces potential decline in the face of geopolitical complexities. By demonstrating resilience, solidarity, and a commitment to shared values the west can emerge from this crisis as a steadfast leader in the international community.

Question # 06

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Pakistan's Precious Predicament

Pakistan is a land of diverse landscapes, is battling with two relentless adversaries - devastating floods and crippling water scarcity.

The nation grapples with these extreme situations, threatening the livelihoods of millions and demanding immediate attention. There are many underlying factors responsible for these crises and ~~there~~ their recommendations are given below:

(1) The Wrath of Floods

Floods, a recurring nightmare, plague Pakistan's low-lying regions, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake.

Numerous factors contribute to this calamity, exacerbating the challenges for the country's vulnerable communities.

(i) Monsoon Miseries and Climate Change

A major cause of floods

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In Pakistan lies in its geographical location and monsoon bring heavy rainfall, overwhelming riverbanks and drainage systems. However, the changing climate has intensified these patterns, leading to erratic and intense rainfall, amplifying the flood risk.

(ii) Deforestation Dilemma

The wanton destruction of forests and ecosystems has severely impacted Pakistan's natural defense against flooding. Trees play a crucial role in preventing soil erosion and regulating water flow, but rampant deforestation has diminished this resilience.

(iii) Dam Mismanagement

Inadequate management of dams and reservoirs adds to the floods woes. Poorly timed or uncoordinated releases during monsoon seasons worsen downstream flooding and increase the pressure on river systems.

(2) Water Scarcity Struggle

As floods wreak havoc in some regions, others face the opposite challenge - acute water scarcity. This growing crisis results from a confluence of interconnected factors, necessitating urgent attention.

(i) Population pressures.

Pakistan is struggling with a growing population that strains the available water resources. Increased demand for agriculture, industry, and domestic use intensifies the scarcity, depleting groundwater and surface water reserves.

(ii) Climate Change and Glacial Retreat.

Climate change has far-reaching consequences on Pakistan's water supply. Melting glaciers, particularly in the Himalayan region, threaten the flow of vital rivers, jeopardizing water availability.

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Recommendations for Resilience.

To overcome the dual challenges of floods and water scarcity, Pakistan must adopt a multifaceted approach, combining short-term mitigation with long term strategies.

- (i) Embracing sustainable water management
- (ii) Reforestation and Ecological Preservation
- (iii) Modernizing water Infrastructure
- (iv) Climate Adaptation strategies
- (v) International collaborations.

Conclusion:-

Pakistan must confront the challenges of floods and water scarcity head-on by implementing a well-coordinated and sustainable approach. Only through proactive measures and global cooperation can the nation

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overcome these extreme situations and secure a more resilient future for its people.

Question # 07

Navigating the US-India Strategic Partnership.

The evolving strategic partnership b/w the US and India, primarily aimed at countering China's influence; has significant implications for Pakistan's security and regional dynamics. Islamabad must proactively respond to this geopolitical shift with a well-calibrated approach, considering various options to safeguard its interests.

(i) Assessing the US-India Alignment

Before formulating policies, Pakistan must conduct a comprehensive assessment of the

depth and scope of the US-India partnership - understanding the extent of their collaboration and potential areas of cooperation is crucial in devising an effective response.

(ii) Bolstering Regional Diplomacy

Enhancing regional diplomacy and fostering stronger ties with neighboring countries can help Pakistan balance the impact of the US-India partnership. - Engaging in dialogue and cooperation with other regional players can create opportunities for economic, political & security collaboration.

(iii) Strengthening Ties with China

Pakistan's longlasting and strategic relationship with China can serve as a counterbalance to the US-India alliance - Strengthening economic and defense ties with China can provide Islamabad with leverage and support in the face of regional

Challenges.

v) Leveraging Multilateral Forums

Active engagement in multilateral forums, such as the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), can amplify Pakistan's voice on the global stage. Utilizing these platforms to address concerns and garner support can help mitigate the negative implications of the US-India partnership.

vi) Enhancing Economic Resilience

Fostering economic resilience through domestic reforms and diversification can make Pakistan less susceptible to external pressure. By focusing on sustainable economic growth, Pakistan can reduce its vulnerability to external dynamics.

(vii) Strengthening Internal Security

Internal security and stability are crucial for Pakistan's ability to navigate geopolitical challenges effectively. Investing in counterterrorism efforts and addressing internal conflicts can enhance national resilience.

(viii) Engaging in Track-II Diplomacy

Track-II diplomacy involving non-governmental and academic exchanges, can facilitate a better understanding of Pakistan's concerns and interests. Such engagements can build bridges of communication and cooperation with key international actors.

(ix) Diversifying Foreign Policy Engagements.

Relying on a diversified foreign

policy approach, Pakistan can engage with a broad range of countries and organizations beyond its traditional partners. Expanding diplomatic ties can reduce dependency on any single ally.

In a nutshell, Pakistan must adopt a comprehensive and proactive strategy to navigate the implications of the US-India strategic partnership (most recently QUAD-4) effectively. By engaging in regional diplomacy, strengthening alliances, leveraging multilateral platforms, and ~~its~~ bolstering its internal resilience, Islamabad can safeguard its interests and ~~in~~ maintain a balanced position in a evolving geopolitical landscape.

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