

Date: 20th Dec '24

Q3- Pakistan has been engulfed with terrorism since the cold war. The dawn of Taliban since the Soviet invasion and ^{anti}nationalist sentiments of Baloch people have switched to insurgency. The introduction of nukes drove the country to channel their interest into proxy wars rather than direct conflict. Since 9/11, Pakistan lost around 80,000 people and billions of dollars due to terrorism. Operations like Zarb-e-Azam and Rad-ul-Fasaad curbed terrorist activities to some extent. However, the new wave of terrorism has emerged from the time when Taliban came into power. This has exacerbated instability in Pakistan with government finding difficulties in suppressing the new wave effectively. The main hurdle lies in effective policies of using force, dialogues, intelligence information, weak state institutions with poor coordination, unstable government and weak economy.

The Failure to understand and address the reasons of terrorist activities

The state failed to fully understand and address the underlying concerns. The grievance of Baloch people, the hard-lined Islamic ideology of Taliban, the diplomacy of proxy war and the sheer negligence of such areas provide an ideal breeding ground for terrorists.

Failure to address

The issue of missing person and the share of natural resources. A deep historical issue of Balochistan

The protest of Baloch people in Islamabad during 2021 became the highlight of the country. The demands of the protest included the stated that the government must take legal action regarding the case of missing person. According to the protestors, the government detained their relatives forcefully without any arrest warrant. In addition, concerns were raised over the exploitation of resources in Balochistan by the federal government and the foreign investors with no fair distribution of the returns from such resources to the Baloch people. Unfortunately, the protest was responded with force. Tactics like spraying of cold water on protestors was used to disperse them in cold winter. This further fueled Baloch people ~~over~~^{with} the sentiments of building a separate nation for themselves. This led to many aggrieved joining or supporting the militant groups like BLA, and BRA, fueling the terrorism further.

Failure to understand

The hardlined Islamic ideology of Taliban:

The induction of Taliban government in 2021 was a hope for Pakistan to have security on Western border. However, the resort to violence by Afghan Taliban was to forcefully establish Shariah compliant government. The same has been

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the case of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. The base of all such terror activity lies in their similarity in ideological value to that of Afghan Taliban. Clearly, the Afghan government will provide them with safe refuge. Operations like Zab-e-Azam did curb their operations, but they still regroup. Therefore, it must be understood that Pakistan needs to curb the influence of the extremist ideology. Tactics like mass social media campaigns could be used. The title of Fitna-tul-Khawrij is an effective strategy undermining their ideology. Ulemas must raise their voice against such menace on both Pakistani and Afghan side. Hence, Pakistan should combine the strategies of force, rhetoric and dialogues to curb the issue.

The new era of proxy wars and diplomatic and forceful tactics must sync together:

Nuclear weapon commencement in global politics have forced the country to proxy wars to achieve their strategic objectives. Pakistan understands the new global tactic of sabotaging states. The case of Maheshwar Yadev is a glaring example for India's proxy war with Pakistan. Militant factions like arch BLA and TTP has Research and Analysis (RAI) involvement, which is intelligence agency of India. Pakistan raised

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the issue in International Court of Justice. However, it was not enough. Pakistan must make a strong narrative to declare India as a country providing aid to terrorist factions. Advanced intelligence gathering with using of data driven technologies must be developed to take time action. The issue must be raised in organisations like Inter Financial Action Task Force. However, Pakistan has resorted to force to curb the issue. Historically, this measure has proved short term.

Negligence of Balochistan and ex-FATA throughout the history:

From the colonial era till the ~~historical~~ current date, the areas of Balochistan and ex-FATA are subject to negligence. A ^{majority} of dry and barren mountains, agriculture is done on negligible level. There No efforts have been made to promote tourism, establish industries and increase employment. Bad Governance and lack of vision has led ~~to~~ to high illiteracy and poor quality education. The displacement of millions during the ~~Zab~~ operation Zab-e-Azam and hard mines have led to displacement of millions and loss of innocent lives. With poor health and rising poverty, anti-state sentiments naturally develops.

Unstable political situations in the country:
Since the ~~outbreak~~ outbreak of Insurgency in the

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combustional political approach has risen. The country, till date, remain unstable. The government and oppositions have strongly opposed each other's policies. For example, federal government is in favour of force against TTP while KPK government wants dialogue with the faction. Government institutions have overriding conflicts and turf wars. Majority of them have been politicised. This has enhanced corruption in these institutions, as they have already lost their integrity, making them ineffective in curbing terrorism. For example, CTD and its resources are reportedly used to curb political dissent.

Conclusion

Government has resorted to force to curb terrorism. This is a short-term measure which could worsen situation in long-term. Underlying political conflicts, negligence of the underdeveloped areas and failure to understand the core issues of conflict, leading to an creation of unsustainable policies.

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Qs- Pakistan is among the few countries having nuclear arms. Hence, it cannot be ignored in geo-political global landscape, highlighting its international relevance. Moreover, it lies in the cross road of Central Asia, South Asian and Middle East. However, international relevance of the country if Pakistan failed to strengthened ~~is weakened~~ its democracy, stabilised in political arena, established competent governance model and synced people with the government. However, Pakistan must take urgent action since it is lacking in all the mentioned factors above.

How a strong democracy ^{and political stability} enhances Pakistan's international image:

Political instability and Foreign policy of Pakistan

The protest of November by the opposition ⁱⁿ 2024 creates a strong impression of unstable Pakistan. Initially the protest was planned during SCO summit Islamabad, it happened during the visit of the president of Belarus. This created a bad image for the world perceiving Pakistan as a weak state which failed to manage its internal affairs effectively. This is why government and opposition has recently decided to come on terms through dialogues and minimise political polarization.

Economic conditions and bad governance;

Pakistan struggled alot to gain economic traction throughout the ~~that~~ beginning of

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third decade of 21st Century. However, despite all these efforts are not effective without strong governance.

The economy is still struggling to achieve a good growth rate. Corruption is still rampant and NAB has become a political tool of exploitation. The government must ensure competent decision making and policies as well as its effective implications. This will enhance Pakistan's image as a friendly country for investment through international parties. The introduction of STFC has proved to be one of such good governance measures.

Healthy politics and sustainable economic policies:

Pakistan's unstable politics leads to inconsistent economic, foreign and domestic policies. A stable government means a complete tenure for achieving the goals visualised in the government's 5-year plan. Usually, a government policy is replaced by the other government without the policy reaching its true value. This creates a risky environment for investors. Relations with friendly countries deteriorate. A prominent example is the visit of Indian Prime Minister to Pakistan. During the height of the war, the visit was disrupted.

between both the countries in Kargil. Such inconsistent policies create trust deficit in foreign relations, creating a loss of image in international platform.

A strong democracy and the trust of people:

Although Pakistan is a democratic country, it is engulfed with politics of nepotism, feudalism, elitism and dictatorship. Every government-blames party blames the election winner for meddling in electoral process. Usually, the leaders of opposition ~~it is~~ blame military for changing election results. This has severely undermined democracy for two reasons: the interference of non-political institutions and the accusation of illegitimate government. Mistrust is created in people who loose nationalistic sentiments ^{and} perceive govt. actions as done for their own interests causing demoralisation. International importance of a country automatically diminishes if people feel betrayed because internal unity creates a strong state. Otherwise, the state cannot assert its strength in international field.

A despair state provide an optimal environment to enemies:

A state with political and economic stability on one hand and lack of nationalism

on other creates an environment for enemies to achieve their goals. Negative feelings results in low cooperation with state, anarchy and corruption. The new wave of terrorism can be directly and indirectly associated with lost patriotic sentiments. In the bigger picture, it exposes state to vulnerabilities and disintegration. On International platform, low importance is given due to bilateral diplomatic approach.

Conclusion

Pakistan has to take sincere and urgent measures to uplift the conditions of the country. People, especially youth, has weakened hopes. Democracy is weak and political polarisation continues. The country has grave national security threat. Therefore, domestic affairs must be effectively addressed to enable Pakistan, in flexing its muscles internationally to achieve International goals.

Q7. Poor quality and outdated education should be considered a threat to national security and a grave concern for in the path of sustainable economic prosperity. Education in Pakistan is subjected to outdated curriculum, incompetent faculty and massive corruption. This creates issues like a rise in unemployed ~~excess~~ graduates, ~~and~~ due to outdated skills, inability to adapt to changing environment and high illiteracy. Possible solutions include annual revision of curriculum, sustainable ways to capacity building and a crackdown on consistent corruption and bad governance. If this issue persists, we may will continue to be a third world country or vanish altogether through climate change, security or economic instability.

The underlying issues to lack of educational advancement

Outdated Curriculum in Matric, FSC and university level:

The world is rapidly advancing in science and technology. The curriculum of Pakistan education is decades old. It is based on cramming and lack of critical thinking. Students compete to pass exams rather than actually learn. The rapid inclusion of

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new technology continuously updates make the curriculum irrelevant. Moreover changes are slow to include. For example, the field of business analytics and digital marketing are now become relevant. Yet, the students are stuck to rot-learning the basic theoretical concepts.

The faculty loose competence with newer scientific and technological breakthroughs

Faculty of educational institutions are rigid in their teaching methodology. They are unable to adapt to new more effective educational methods. The Expectations are based on student learning the bookish content without valuable and flexible new ideas and approaches. Moreover, faculty are disinclined to learning new ideas and concepts. For example, a test in Punjab was conducted for government teachers. The purpose of the test was to assess the areas where training will be given to teachers. It was massively boycotted on notion that the teachers will loose their jobs.

Corruption and bad-governance.

The budget of 2024-2025 allocated budget smaller than defense to education. The small chunk of budget is further subjected to

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corruption. Schools and colleges are constructed with no effective operations. Irregularities and lack of ex vision and clarity regarding education results in no serious thought given to update curriculum, build modern school models and introduce advanced subjects like Artificial Intelligence.

Problems due to ineffective education model system:

Unemployment and unproductivity due to outdated skills among graduates;

A graduate spends 16 years of his/her life investing time, money and energy in education. Unfortunately, all such efforts go to vain when unemployment persists due to lack of required skills. Graduates are either find their skills outdated or realize their ineffectiveness in applying the acquired material in industry practice. This is one of the examples why Multi-national companies takes over the markets. The market lack the skills and productive input required to compete with more developed countries. In CPIC, Chinese investors are not able to acquire skilled workers in Pakistan. Therefore, they bring their own workers with them.

Illegality prevails, making it a long chain of generational issue:

People lose trust in education system. Many prefer practical self-employed jobs, and as they perceive education as sham. This causes backwardness in the society. Crime and poverty prevails in the society. Many of them become blue collar workers abroad. The country struggles with international competitiveness, which weakens economic and political landscape of country. Lack of awareness to social and environmental problems like climate change creates negligence. People do not raise their voices or take action, making them extremely vulnerable to catastrophes.

Solutions

Solutions include declaring educational issue as a grave security threat. Budget should be increased for its development and advancement. Education's curriculum should be assessed and analysed every year. Regular training and sessions should be conducted for teachers. Strict crackdown should be initiated against govt officials involved in corruption. Their historical activities should be analysed to assess their educational success in education policies.

Q6. Pakistan current economic situation has gained some stability after two years of struggle to avoid it from defaulting. Historically, Pakistan has struggled to manage its economy. Bhutto's nationalisation, incomplete political tenure, bad governance, short term political gains and poor decision like FPPs and loans has all short-term gains and long term repercussions.

Nationalisation process by Z.A Bhutto:

Bhutto's socialist lens of rohi, kapay and Makom became very popular. He took measures to nationalise the private sector. This exacerbated the political economic instability, as the govt. lacked the structure to efficiently run the companies. Huge losses were reported.

Incomplete Political tenure.

With few exceptions, Pakistan's democracy has not witnessed a full tenure of govt. This created lack of consistency in policies. New govt. will halt previous projects and all policies with it. Dictators used authoritarian approach. Investors loose confidence in such environment, as risk of investment increases.

Bad governance and short term political gains:

Bad governance exists on bureaucratic and political level. Policies are centered for self-interest. No sincere policy-making process occurs. Politicians please public for short term gains like subsidies to please public. No impactful long term measure is taken. For example, the development of effective education system.

~~The~~ unsustainable and incompetent policy making process: External loans and IPPs:

The govt. is incapable of making visionary decisions for public. Rather, policies resorts to short-cuts for window dressing of economy that proves disastrous later. The external loans that are taken by each govt is a prominent example. Loans are meant to provide traction to unstable economies. In Pakistan, loans were used on non-developmental projects that did not provided meaningful return.

For example, instead of establishing industries or developing education system, motorways and public transport sector was given boost to please people. Similarly

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Commitment with FPS has provided economy
with burden.