

QUESTION : 07

Analyze the challenges Pakistan faces in terrorism and extremism.

OVERVIEW OF PAKISTAN'S STRUGGLE WITH TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM

Terrorism and extremism in Pakistan have been persistent since its inception due to various socio-economic or geo-political issues. But particularly in 2024, Pakistan witnessed a sharp rise in terrorist attacks. Pakistan is struggling with its homegrown militancy, radicalization and threat of support of foreign aided insurgency.

HISTORICAL DRIVERS OF TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM IN PAKISTAN

The involvement of Pakistan in Afghan-Soviet war in 1980's aided by CIA and Saudi Arabia led to the creation of several jihadists groups. For example :

Lashkar-e-Taiba in 1980's to fight in Kashmir along with attacks in India and Pakistan ; especially Mumbai attack of 2008.

Influence of
Militant Groups

The Rise of
Religious Extremism

Drivers of extremism
(socio-economic concerns)

Cross-border militancy
and geopolitical dynamics

THE INFLUENCE OF MILITANT GROUPS: THE TTP AND CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM

The resurgence of groups like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), was responsible for Peshawar school massacre 2014, revealing its ability to carry out such high level strikes despite the

counter-terrorism efforts. And the cross border terrorism with Afghanistan is also another challenge for Pakistan. Due to the resurgence of Taliban after 2021, it significantly increased the frequency of attacks.

The mosque bombing in Peshawar in January 2023 was direct result of cross-border militant movements by TTP.

THE RISE OF RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM: RADICALIZATION AND MADRASSAS AS CATALYST

Religious extremism creates sectarian violence embedded in fabric of society. Ahmadis Muslims in Pakistan are severely targeted due to the opposing extremists ideologies.

In 2010, suicide bombing in Lahore killed dozens of Ahmadis, claimed by Al-Qaeda.

Whereas, madrassas are the core centers of radicalization for young generation. According to International Crisis Group, certain madrassas in Pakistan have been linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba.

SOCIOECONOMIC DRIVERS OF EXTREMISM:

POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDER-DEVELOPMENT IN TRIBAL AREAS

Pakistan's economic difficulties and vulnerability due to under-development is being exploited by extremist groups in order to recruit disfranchised young individuals. The recruitment by Al-Qaeda to the tribal areas individuals are drawn towards their promising bright and stable future.

The attack of 2012 on Malala Yousafzai, a young Pakistani education activist, underscores extremism.

The under-developed areas like FATA and Balochistan are more prone to militancy extremism due to lack of education, infrastructure and state presence.

POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE FAILURES: FUELING TERRORISM IN PAKISTAN

The frequent political instabilities leaves security gaps in government, that is a challenge to democratic process along with the hurdles in

national security policies. Many a times, there is discontent between civilians and military and that further alienates with the will of government.

Pakistan's support to US, on War on Terror was at odds with internal relationship groups.

CROSS-BORDER MILITANCY AND GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS : AFGHAN - PAKISTAN

Afghanistan dwindling situation contributed directly to the instability in Pakistan. After US withdrawal in 2021, there was an increase in cross-border militant groups like TTP and Islam State of Khorason (ISIS-K). The military terrorism attack in 2022 on Pakistan army checkpoint in North Waziristan by TTP militant was result of their control over Afghanistan.

GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM

Pakistan has numerous threats and challenges by terrorist organizations and extremist groups that are strongly withheld due to efforts of our government.

MILITARY OPERATIONS : TACKLING THE TERRORIST THRESHOLD (STRONGHOLD)

Military operations like the Zarb-e-Azb (2014) and Rad-ul-Fasad (2017) have targeted large population of terrorist strongholds especially in FATA and other tribal areas.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN : BLUEPRINT FOR COUNTER EXTREMISM

NAP established in 2014 aims to counter extremism through law enforcement, judicial reforms and regulation and checks on madrasas. It was formed after the Peshawar school attack.

COUNTER RADICALIZATION PROGRAMS : REHABILITATING EXTREMISTS

Pakistan's government launched programs to eradicate extremists, by particularly targeting former militants.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's De-radicalization Program.

provides rehabilitation services to former militants and their families.

CHALLENGES FACED BY PAKISTAN IN COUNTERING TERRORISM

Coordination
between
Security
Agencies

Ideological
Battle

Regional
and
International
Dynamics

Resilience
of
Terrorist
Groups

According to Global Terrorism Index 2023, Pakistan ranks among top 10 countries most affected by the terrorism. It highlights the urgency to address underlying challenges in order to ensure peace and stability.

COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINED APPROACH

In spite of making significant measures to combat terrorism and terrorism, Pakistan needs a sustainable approach by integrating military, politics and socio-economic strategies. Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General said:

Terrorism is a global menace with deep roots and addressing it requires more than military action - it needs education, infrastructure and shared commitment to justice.

QUESTION : 01

Critically examine two-nation theory by Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal.

TWO-NATION THEORY : A CORNERSTONE FOR THE CREATION OF PAKISTAN

Two-Nation Theory provides the ideological foundations for the creation of Pakistan.

The theory by Allama Iqbal in his philosophical vision and later transformed to political theory by Quaid-e-Azam asserts that Hindus and Muslims are not merely the two distinct communities but two distinct nations. They were deemed incompatible within a single political framework because of their differing social, political, cultural and the religious values. From aspirations of pre-partition Muslims to post-partition India and Pakistan, TNT remains integral part in the dynamics of Global South.

IQBAL'S Intellectual Blueprint : The Ideological Genesis of Pakistan Two Nation Theory

Allama Iqbal regarded as the spiritual architect of Pakistan, laid the intellectual groundwork for TNT in 1930 in his Allahabad Address. His vision was that the Muslims of sub-continent should have the right to self-determination due to their distinct religious and cultural identity.

Iqbal's Vision for Separate Muslim State : The Genesis of Pakistan's Territorial Idea

Iqbal gave the idea for creation of separate Muslim state in northwestern India. He proposed homeland comprising of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and North West Frontier Province, with a Muslim majority.

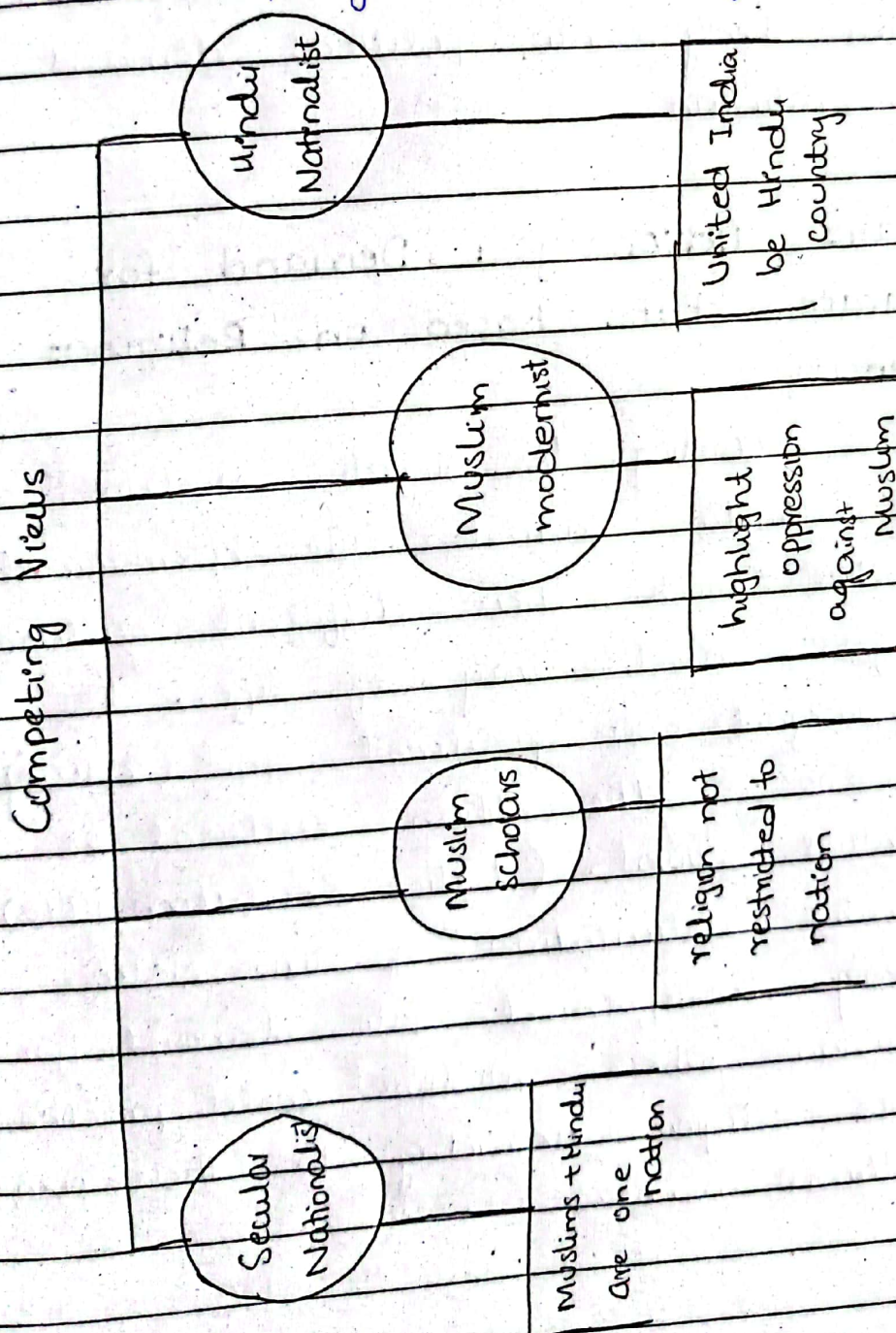
I would like to see Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh, NWFP amalgamated into the single state. Self-government within British Empire or without the British Empire, formation of consolidated Northwest Indian Muslims state appears to me, the final destiny of Muslims. (IQBAL)

Iqbal's Holistic Vision of Islam : Guiding Principle for Muslim society and state

Islam, for Iqbal represented a comprehensive code of life, governing social, economic, political, ethical or the cultural identity. It was not possible in Hindu-majority India.

Iqbal's Call for Muslim Revival : Spiritual Leadership and upliftment of Humanity

He believed that Muslims had a historic role to play as moral and spiritual leaders. He envisioned a state where Islamic principles could flourish by uplifting humanity and inspiring Muslim unity.



IQBAL VISION AND JINNAH LEADERSHIP: FROM PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATION TO POLITICAL REALIZATION OF PAKISTAN

Iqbal's vision of separate Muslim state provides the philosophical foundation for Pakistan Movement. His vision inspired Quaid-e-Azam to take mantle of Muslim leadership and to translate the Two-Nation Theory into political demand for Pakistan.

Jinnah's Advocacy : Demand for Separate state based on Religious Identity

According to Jinnah, Muslims and Hindus cannot live harmoniously together with their different culture, religion and way of life. He emphasized on political and security concerns rather than cultural or spiritual revival. (Lahor Resolution 1940).

Jinnah's articulation of Two-Nation Theory transformed into demand for Pakistan where Muslims could practice their religion according to their own cultural norms.

Jinnah's Vision of Secular Pakistan: Religious Tolerance and Inclusivity

Quaid-e-Azam defined the ideological framework for the new separate nation in his famous speech at the Constituent Assembly on 11th August 1947. Although, he supported TNT to justify creation of Pakistan but his speech focused on inclusivity and religious tolerance, where all citizens would have equal rights without any discrimination.

You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or any other place of worship within the state of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion; caste, race that has nothing to do with the business of state.

IMPACT ON POST-PARTITION INDIA PAKISTAN RELATIONS

P.T.O

Post - Partition Divide : Lasting Impact of Religious Identity on India Pakistan relations

In post-partition era, both India and Pakistan developed distinct national identities primarily based on religion. Though, India was secular with Hindu majority and Pakistan was defined as Muslim majority. The ideological division made it hard to protect Muslim minority and while balancing Hindu-majority identity.

Kashmir Conflict : A Flashpoint shaped by Two-Nation Theory

The Kashmir issue is central to India - Pakistan conflict post-partition. The princely state was Muslim majority population with a Hindu ruler that was the result of influence of TNT. Both claimed it to be their part and led to (1947, 1965, 1999 wars), countless military hurdles and ongoing political tensions. The theory stresses that Kashmir based on religious identity became a flashpoint that continues to strain the diplomatic ties.

Sectarian Divide and Military Strife : Legacy of Partition

The partition left legacy of sectarian tensions where in Pakistan, religious identity fostered sense of nationalism but with division of Shia Sunni sects along with ethnic groups. While in India, secularism was guiding light - The rise of Hindu Nationalism is a reaction to Pakistan's Muslim identity.

CONCLUDING POINT :

The Two-Nation Theory was instrumental in creation of Pakistan providing with the distinct ideological grounds. The religious divide entrenched continues to affect both India and Pakistan's cultural, political and diplomatic relationships leading to tensions and hostility.