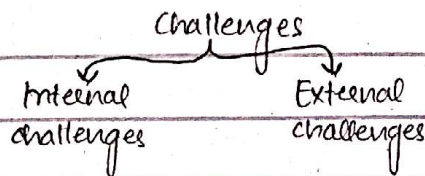


Q7.

Challenges Pakistan Faces in terms of terrorist attacks

In the shadow of mountains and amidst the echoes of resilience, Pakistan faces a relentless storm - terrorism - a challenge that tests its resolve, shakes its foundation, and demands unwavering determination to secure its future. This issue of terrorism and extremism is a double-edged sword which targets not only innocent people but also destabilizes society. Although a recent attack at a mosque in Peshawar's red zone was not of the same scale as the terrorist attack of Army Public School in 2014, it was still a horrific incident. Countless lives could have been saved had there been a plausible and effective exit strategy from the menace of terrorism. After every attack, the state responds with pledges and action plans which along with NACTA are not implemented to yield any proper result.

Challenges Pakistan faces in terms of extremism and terrorism:



Internal challenges:

① Economic Impact

Due to surge in terrorist attacks and extremism, Pakistan ~~has~~ is facing enormous economic challenges. It challenges the social fabric of the society and tears it

apart. Economy of the country in the dwindling times faces a major set back due to this ailment. Pakistan has already lost \$150+ billion due to terrorism. To control this continuously expanding mission of insurgents, economy of the country faces issues and still it has not been manageable by the state. Terrorism and extremism through different channels including Taliban, insurgents and proxies affect the development programs and initiatives within the country. For example, CPEC in Pakistan has had a huge impact and its deterioration is the ultimate goal of the terrorists.

② Social Impact

Terrorism and extremism because of its power weakens the social fabric of the society. Both these forces produce new terrorists and extremists within the country to destroy peace within the communities. Paschimur attacks can be taken as a huge example of extremism interlinked with terrorism. People are manipulated to carry out the tasks and it leads to the destruction of infrastructure of society and has a huge impact on women within the society. Women are being exploited during such activities and this leads to increase in gender parity. ~~The education of women in Afghanistan has been~~ Women are forced to have no education and social life and their role in society keeps on decreasing in the areas where militants and such groups dominate and destroy the social structure of a community.

③ Human Price

Pakistan had to pay a huge amount of price for human lives since the start of terrorism. Pakistan lost around 83,000 lives in Great War on Terror which was basically an exploitation of this state against terrorism. This has led to the circumstances where Pakistan till today has to pay the price of human lives as the rapid surge in terrorism has risen Pakistan to 4th rank in terrorism. Our rank has surpassed Afghanistan. This surge leads to staggering 81% increase in deaths due to terrorism. Terrorism and extremism are interlinked and used by the proxies in most vulnerable yet

the areas which form the backbone of the country. Terrorism has its bases near the border areas of Afghanistan, in ex-FATA regions, in regions of Southern and Northern Punjab and even Islamabad highlighting the ability of such organizations to penetrate deep down in the state.

④ Impact of Displacement

Baluchistan under the recent surge in terrorist attacks is facing a lot of displacements. People get displaced and no one has a clue. This continuous increasing displacements of around 2.7 - 3.5 million people according to Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies is ~~bad~~ pressurizing the government of the state to immediately take an action to address this concerning issue. Increasing displacements also produce in people ~~in~~ of the area a sense of revolt and this leads to being a chance of becoming an insurgent against the state.

⑤ Impact on Education

Pakistan is a country with already 25 million ~~children~~ out-of-school children according to a UN Report. Terrorists already have a mindset of no Western education and extremist religious approach. According to an IPRI Report, 65% of the militants are illiterate and have no inclination towards obtaining education. These facts clearly asserts that the huge of number of children and adults out of school have high chances of getting under such extremist organizations who can further prevent others from getting education with their own white-washed brains. The attack on Army Public School Peshawar also refers to the mindset terrorists have towards children getting educated.

⑥ Psychological Impact

Last but not the least challenge the population of Pakistan has to face due to increased and exacerbated violence, extremism and terrorism around them is

Trauma and fear - Psychological impact these forces have on the mental health of the people who already live in a time where mental health problems are increasing is worsening the abilities of people.

External Challenges:

① Halt in Foreign Direct Investment

Pakistan being a security-centric state has always worked towards a foreign policy which is geo-strategic in nature and not geo-economical in nature. Today, when the world is rapidly pacing towards geo-economics, Pakistan has to face issues in bringing in the direct investment due to the terrorist organisations and groups working in Pakistan. CPEC face delays due to terrorist attacks on Chinese nationals in Karachi. This can severely impede the growth and progress of the country. Development projects and CPEC especially is a major breakthrough for Pakistan which is being halted by such forces.

② Strained relations with Afghanistan:

Due to the rise of Taliban in Afghanistan, Pakistan has faced 138% rise in killings of Pakistan people from March 2021 to April 2023. The neighbouring regions around the border have extreme tensions and are highly under-developed. The friendly and diplomatic relations as expected with Afghanistan could not develop. These militants group thus damage bilateral ties and complicates regional counter-terrorism efforts.

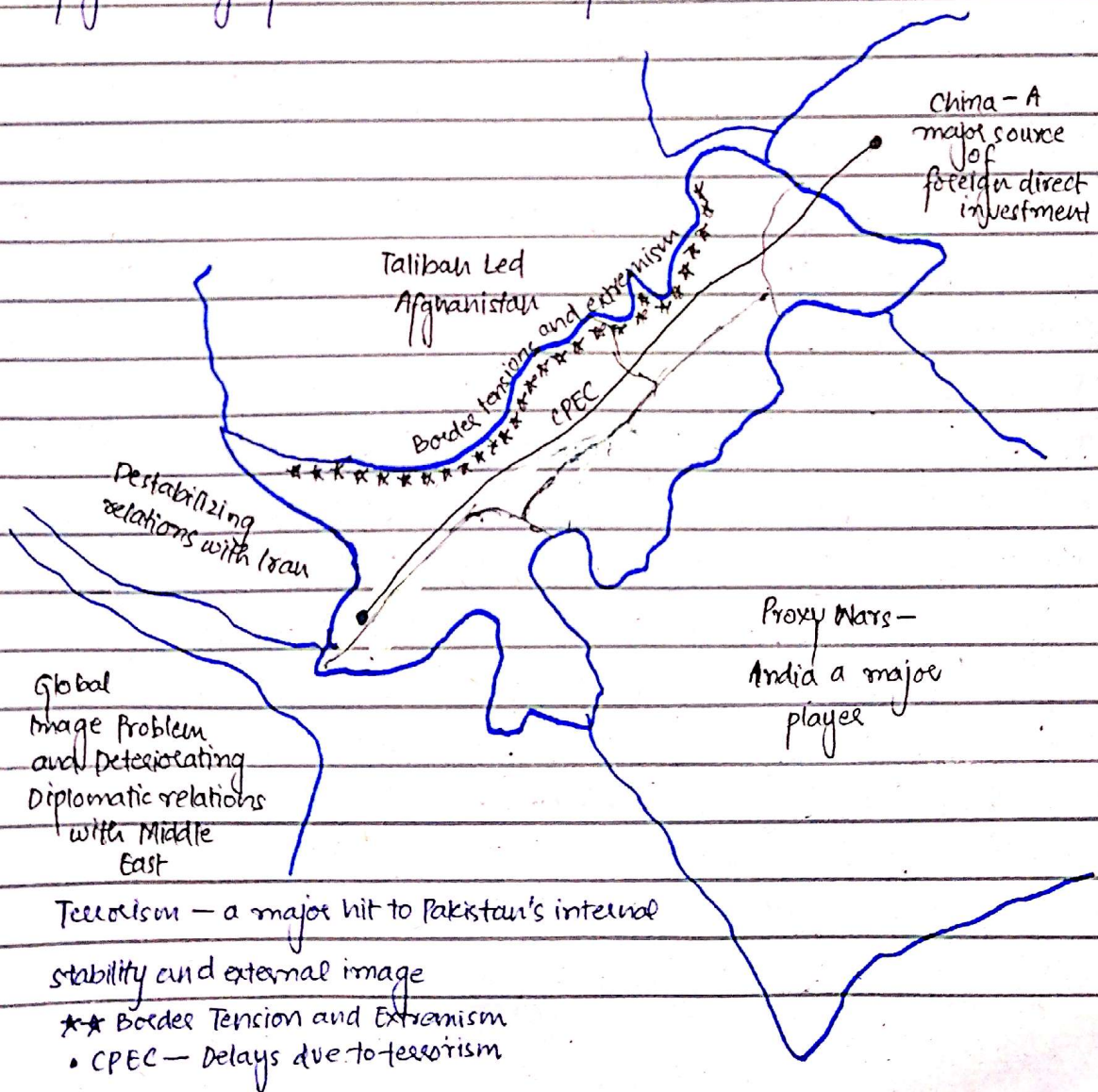
③ Proxy Wars

The state has to face proxy wars and militants through these proxies. It further complicates the security and peace situation within the country. Apprehension of Kulbushan Yadav in Baluchistan (2016) is a prime example of Indian being a major player within the proxies of Pakistan has to fight against. Indian and other

foreign intelligence operational agencies exploit fecorism as a tool to dectabilize Pakistan. Proxy wars in Baluchistan and ex-FATA regions erode internal stability and international trust.

④ Global Image Problem

Pakistan for being perceived as a hub of fecorism due to presence of militant groups like TTP (Tehreek Taliban Pakistan) and BLA (Baluchistan Liberation Army) portrays itself in a negative side. This leads to undermining of the global standing and diplomatic credibility. Pakistan has overthrown Afghanistan and has become a country with most terrorist attacks and deaths in South Asia according to an Australia based Institute for Economics and Peace). This leads to the degradation and deterioration of global image of Pakistan on world map.



Conclusion:

Terrorism has become a problem for Pakistan which is deepening its roots within the state. It has become a major challenge for internal peace and external relations of Pakistan. Extremism is side by side played by terrorists and insurgents to demoralize the population within the country. Terrorism and extremism are to be eradicated through non-kinetic measures including education, awareness, basic religious teachings, employment and tolerance by people along with the proper implementation of policies issued by government. These forces are otherwise challenging the writ of the state and because of external proxies strengthening its roots within the state.