

NOA - Current Affairs Test Series Final

Date:

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Q.4)

10/20

Introduction

The lingering tensions between Islamabad and Kabul, driven by the presence of the TTP using Afghan territory underscores a complex and volatile dynamic in the region. This issue not only strains bilateral relations but also exacerbates regional instability. Addressing this challenge requires a nuanced understanding of the underlying factors, coupled with strategic recommendations to foster peace, security, and mutual understanding.

Brief Overview - Recent Developments

→ Islamabad-Kabul tensions have grown over the years, with the issue becoming more pronounced since Taliban's return to power in August 2021.

→ In 2024, Pak experienced an alarming surge in terrorist incidents with over 2,500 fatalities, marking a 73% increase compared to the previous year (Arab News).

→ resurgence poses a severe challenge to Pakistan's internal security, economic stability, and regional influence.

Causes of TTP's Cross-Border Attacks

① Sanctuaries + Safe Havens in Afghanistan

→ with Afghan Taliban's ascent to power, TTP has found a more permissive environment to operate

→ although Afghan Taliban has repeatedly assured Pakistan of its commitment to preventing use of Afghan territory, little concrete action has been taken

↳ E.g. Pakistani security forces claim 80% of terrorist attacks in Pakistan in 2024 were orchestrated from these regions (DAWN News)

② Access to Advanced Weaponry

→ US + NATO withdrawal in 2021 left behind a significant amount of military equipment, much of which has fallen into the hands of various militant groups

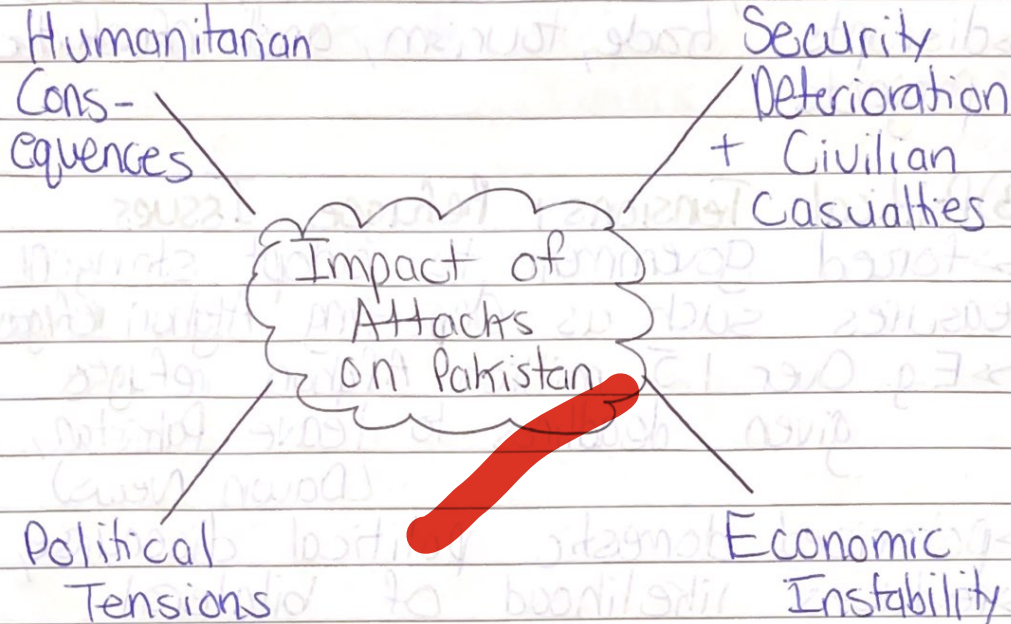
→ weapons have allowed TTP to enhance its operational capabilities

③ Release of Militants After Taliban Takeover

→ Taliban's takeover led to the release of thousands of imprisoned fighters, including key TTP commanders

↳ E.g. TTP leader Niaz Wali Mehsud who had been lying low, reemerged to lead attacks

Impacts of TTP's Attacks



① Security Deterioration + Civilian Casualties

- widespread insecurity across Pakistan, particularly in KPK and Balochistan
- groups attacks on civilian + military targets have significantly increased death toll + created climate of fear

* Over 2,500 fatalities reported in terrorist incidents in 2024 *
(Arab News)

② Economic Instability

- insecurity discourages foreign direct investment and disrupts economic activities in affected regions

→ E.g. CPEC projects faced multiple delays due to security concerns
(→ disrupts trade, tourism, and infrastructure projects)

③ Political Tensions + Refugee Issues

→ forced government to adopt stringent measures such as deporting Afghan refugees

→ E.g. Over 1.5 million Afghan refugees given deadlines to leave Pakistan, (Dawn News)

→ polarized domestic political discourse,
→ reduces likelihood of bilateral cooperation

④ Humanitarian Consequences

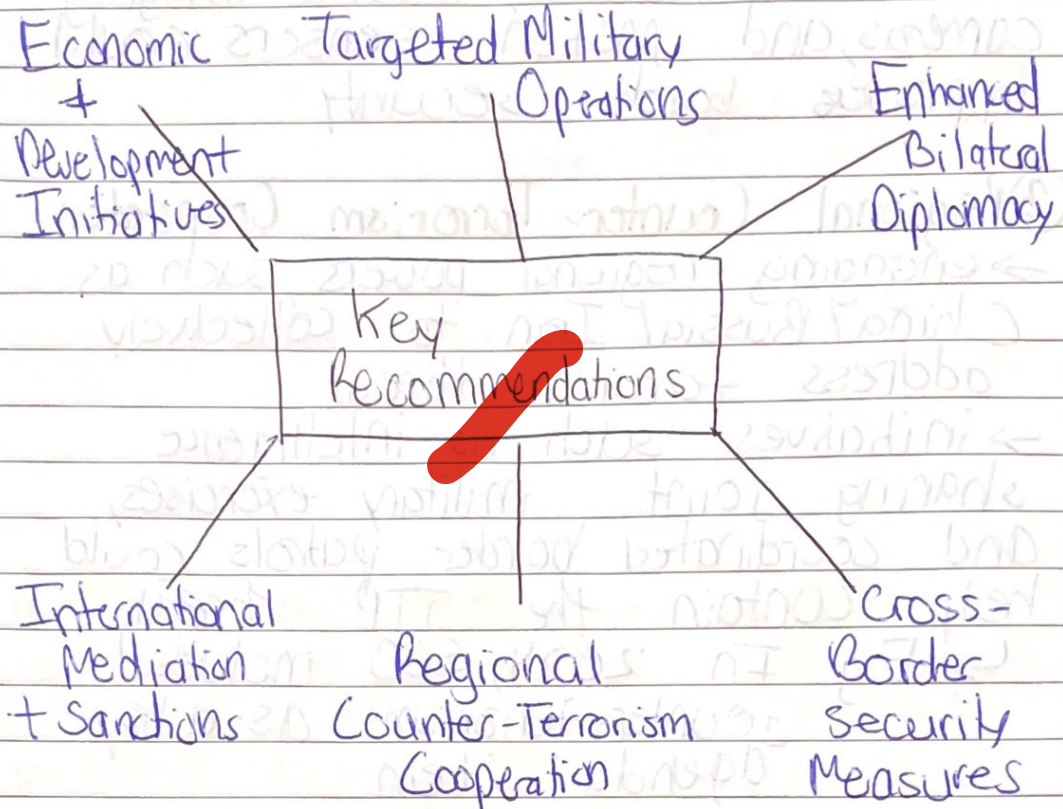
→ heightened violence has displaced thousands of families, particularly in tribal regions, creating a humanitarian crisis

→ access to education, healthcare, basic services widely disrupted

→ placed additional pressure on Pakistan's already overstretched social services and infrastructure

* In North Waziristan, over 100,000 people displaced as a result of military operations against TTP*
(Dawn)

Solutions to Address TTP Challenge



① Enhanced Bilateral Diplomacy

- strengthening diplomatic dialogue to build trust and agree on mutual counter-terrorism strategies
- Afghan Taliban have resisted Pakistan's demands for actions against TTP
- this makes it imperative for Pakistan to offer incentives

② Cross-Border Security Measures

- strengthening border management and surveillance to prevent TTP militants from crossing into Pakistan

Date:

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

→ deploying advanced technologies such as drones, thermal imaging cameras, and motion sensors could improve border security

③ Regional Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

→ engaging regional powers, such as China/Russia/Iran to collectively address terrorism threat

→ initiatives such as intelligence sharing, joint military exercises, and coordinated border patrols could help contain the TIP threat

↳ E.g. In 2024, SCO included counter-terrorism as a key agenda item

④ Targeted Military Operations

→ conducting precise counter-terrorism operations to dismantle TIP infrastructure in border regions

→ targeting TIP strongholds can disrupt their command structure and weaken operational capacity

→ aim is to push militants out of key areas and reduce terrorist activities

E.g. Operation Zarb-e-Azb (2014-k) is a success story of this

Date:

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

⑤ Economic + Development Initiatives

- addressing socio-economic grievances of marginalized regions to reduce the appeal of militant groups like TTP
- poverty, unemployment, and lack of education are key drivers of recruitment for militant groups
- integrating such regions into national economy and political system is also critical for long-term stability

⑥ International Mediation + Sanctions

- involvement of international organizations such as UN and OIC could help mediate tensions and encourage compliance with counter-terrorism agreements
- international community could also impose sanctions on Afghan regime if it fails to act against TTP

Conclusion

The Islamabad-Kabul tensions over TTP activities present both challenges and opportunities for regional peace and stability. The causes and impacts of this crisis are multifaceted.

Ultimately, sustainable peace will depend on addressing root causes and building a collaborative framework