

# Current Affairs (Mock-4)

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There is a dangerous revival of militancy in K.P and Baluchistan. Critically evaluate the reason and give recommendations?

## Introduction:

Pakistan has been facing militancy threats for so many decades. To deal with those threats, Pakistan have conducted numerous military operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan which have caused economic as well as human life losses to Pakistan. However, there is a threatening revival of militancy after a small break of peace. Taffer express Hijacking, Kidnapping school Bus incident, killings of security personnel, Attacks on constructive project sites etc. some of the <sup>key</sup> manifestations of dangerous revival of militancy in K.P and Balochistan. This revival is a serious threat to Pakistan, reducing <sup>its</sup> foreign investments, halting ongoing developmental projects and killing innocent civilians.

## Causes of Militancy Revival:

Multiple social, economic, political and historical factors have collectively contributed to this revival of militancy.

### 1) External Actors Supporting Militant groups:

Pakistan has inherited external threats since its inception. Eastern and western neighbours of Pakistan have had tense relations with Pakistan since its birth.

Pakistan's eastern neighbour - India fully manipulate Pakistan's western neighbour - Afghanistan to its own benefit and support militant groups in Pakistan against Pakistan. In addition to direct border clashes, these states are involved in strengthening terrorist organizations in Pakistan, thereby indirectly threatening Pakistan.

### 2) Afghan's Support to their Brotherly TTP:

Afghan Taliban and TTP are two brotherly groups. With Taliban's inclusion in Afghanistan government in 2021, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan strengthened by getting more support from Afghan Taliban. The reason that Afghan Taliban support TTP is its

6000 in the history to the era of Afghan Jihad and war on Terror. Moreover, Afghanistan also claims a portion of KPK and Balochistan in their territory. These both factors contribute to strengthen Taliban and other militant groups in KPK and Balochistan.

### 3) Underdeveloped KP and Balochistan:

Lack of development in KPK and Balochistan also provides free breeding grounds to terrorist organisations. Due to less check and balances, they could freely strengthen up in these regions.

### 4) Policing Vacuum:

There was a policing vacuum in the region. Khasadars were responsible for maintaining security and peace. Khasadars were not fully equipped.

This policing gap and weak law enforcement also provided an opportunity to terrorist organisations to strengthen their networks.

### 5) Poverty: Strengthened Terrorist Networks.

Pakistan has large youth bulge.

Due to its struggling economy, there are not much employment

opportunities that compels young minds to join the terrorist organisations providing incentives.

## 6) Alienation of KP and Balochistan:

Owing to unstable conditions in KP and Balochistan, these areas largely remained unfocused, underdeveloped and marginalised. This has led to the alienation of masses of KP and Balochistan which has arose the separatist tendencies. This also pushes people to support militant organisations against the country.

## 7) Role of Medrassahs

Medrassah education has also deviated young minds from the right path. Not all, But many Medrassahs that are run by terrorist organisations has trained young minds to fight state in the guise of Jihad. This misinterpretation and misuse of religion has also strengthened terrorist networks.

## Recommendations

There are multiple steps at multiple levels that are needed to be taken to combat this resurgence of militant group.

### 1- Education and Awareness among Masses:

#### 1- Rehabilitation of People:

People of KP and Balochistan that have suffered due to military and poor policies need to be educated and rehabilitated. It is high time to educate and alter mindset of masses through religious entities, clerics, Friday sermons and media. This step will not only reduce marginalisation of people but also clarify the concept of "Jihad".

#### 2- Developmental Projects in affected areas:

By starting developmental projects in these provinces will produce employment opportunities, diverting the attention of young minds from militant organizations to developmental projects. This will help to weaken terrorist organizations.

Moreover, unemployment and poverty reduction will also contribute positively to combat terrorism.

### 3- Inclusive Policy Making:

While formulating <sup>national</sup> policies, consensus of all provinces should be prioritized. This will reduce alienation of provinces from center and reduce separatist tendencies, ultimately reducing insurgency.

### 4- Focused Ground Operations:

Intelligence based ground military operations can eradicate terrorist organizations, resulting in revival of peace. Pakistan has previously done successful operations namely Operation Zarb-e-Azab, Operation Raed-ul-Farq.

### 5- Diplomatic Engagements with External Actors:

Pakistan needs to have dialogue with its neighboring countries on cross border militancy support. Pakistan has tried to engage its neighbors but that have proved futile. These dialogues can only work if government could take these matters to International forum.

### 6- Empowering police

Empowering police by equipping it with latest equipment and abundant resources can reduce militant groups strength.

In a nutshell, Resurgence of Terrorism has multiple causes including support from external forces, underdevelopment, weak economic conditions, poverty, misuse of religion by terrorist have collectively strengthened terrorist organization thereby sowing insurgency. To deal with it, government needs to engage its neighbors in negotiations, <sup>conduct</sup> Intelligence based military operations, alteration in Medressah syllabus, Awareness of masses by through clerics.

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Pak-Afghan relations continue to remain tense even after mediation by China. What do you think are major factors and how could it be improved?

### Strained Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations:

Pakistan and Afghanistan relations has barely normalized since 1947. Strained Pakistan-Afghanistan relations could be result of Afghanistan claim on KP and Baluchistan, Afghan Jihad, War on Terror and India's manipulation of Afghan government. Owing to series of events, Pakistan and Afghanistan relation have remained tense and continue to

remain tense. There could be resolute normalised by engagement at society level, both economically and culturally.

## Major Factors leading to Pakistan Afghanistan Tensions:

History has played a major role in causing tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Other factors also contributed and are contributing to tense relations but their root and lies mainly in history.

### 1- Border Dispute since 1947:

Afghanistan's illegal claims on sovereign land of Pakistan is one of the major factors ~~then~~ leading to strained ties. Pakistan inherited western border as an international border from its parent land. This border has been recognised internationally even before independence of Pakistan.

Even Afghanistan have previously accepted it as border. However, Afghanistan's ~~successing~~ claims on K. P. and Balochistan have contributed to tensions among two Muslim neighbours.

## 2) Afghan Jihad:

Though Pakistan <sup>has</sup> hosted one of the world's largest refugee for many decades, this had also negative impact on Pakistan's security. These issues that arise due to Afghan refugees and Jihadist mindset left behind after Afghan Jihad has also strained relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

## 3) Grievances of Afghans due to War on Terror:

Afghanistan perceives Pakistan as its enemy after Pakistan alliance with US during war on Terror. This also led to tense relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

## 4) Taliban Government Post WOT:

Following war on Terror, Taliban came into power. who consider themselves warriors and defectors of superpowers. They want world to engage with them solely on their terms which is not possible. Not ready to accept international law and norms, they have caused relations to strain.

### 5) Afghan Taliban brotherly ties with Militant Organisations.

Afghan Taliban government has close ties with militant organisations operating in Pakistan. Taliban government fully ~~recognise~~ support TTP and allows TTP to operate against Pakistan using Afghanistan grounds.

This has triggered the tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

### 6) Afghan Taliban manipulated by India:

India ~~has~~ always try to manipulate Afghan Taliban against Pakistan to fully gain advantage of the situation. However, Kabul consider this as a balancing act between Pakistan and India. And this is straining Pakistan and Afghanistan relations.

### Ways to Improve Ties:

Ties between Afghanistan and Pakistan can be strengthened by engagement at multiple levels.

#### 1) Diplomatic Engagement:

Peaceful negotiation and dialogue is the best way to strengthened ties with each other and address grievances of each other.

## 2) Developing Economic Relations:

Agreement on trade and economy can improve ties leading to strengthened relations. Turkmen border.

## 3) Extending CPEC to Afghanistan:

With China's involvement, CPEC extension in Afghanistan can provide an opportunity for these countries to strengthen ties.

## 4) Establishing relations through Religious Entities:

Conservative and conventional mindset of Taliban government will not allow normalization of relations in these conditions. However, engagement of religious counterparts can bring not only masses but also governments closer.

## 5) Doha Pact 2.0:

With the mediation of Turkey and Qatar, a peace agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan is being brokered which could be successful only if both parties agree and ensure implementation of conditions.

In conclusion, Afghanistan and Pakistan have had strained relations since inception of Pakistan mainly due to border, territorial claims, support to militant groups. There

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Relations could be normalized if  
both countries are willing to engage  
diplomatically and on other grounds.