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TERRORISM: A COMMON ENEMY AND CHALLENGES IN MAINTAINING GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY PARTICULARLY IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

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Abstract:

This paper is on the threat of terrorism on humanity. It is a creation of man for some vested interests that have gone out of control threatening the peace of the society. It has become the reason in the narrative of the geopolitical relationship and realignment. In the experience of the Indo-Pak relationship and terrorism, it is observed that the countries that suffers from terrorist are found to be pawn at the hands of some other external powers. The act of terrorism in a state or region is a threat to the world at large and unless this monster is tackled collectively, it will continue to terrorise the world.

Terms: Terrorism, insurgency, naxalism, proxy war, subcontinent, cross border

Introduction:

Terrorism commonly relates with violence, terror, and destruction. It is an act of making strategic plans to achieve political power and mostly concerned with ruling their government without interference of outsiders. However, often it lacks concrete strategic aims, and their political aims are irrational.¹ It involves three important elements, violence, aim to attain political power and the soft target of terrorism are the innocent civilians by creating fear, anxiety, trauma, and horror. Historically, terrorism has taken many forms. Initially, there were individual acts, or small-scale acts committed during wars but paradoxically, in all these acts of terrorism, religion plays a crucial role in shaping different ideologies among the terrorist which are contradict to the present political power holders. And it has become more lethal and complicated with the emergence of chemical weapons of mass destruction emerged in twentieth century.²

This fear further creates uncertainties among the civilians which have a direct impact on government that if it cannot protect its citizens and that quality of life will be adversely affected. With all this in mind, the phrase the “Global war on terror” through ‘antiterrorist’ and ‘counterterrorism’ where anti-terrorist follows lawful step, from special legislation to martial law whereas counter terrorism is the adoption of terrorist methods such as assassination and arbitrary reprisals by the state’s own forces is to prevent, control, and annihilate the menace of terrorism.

Terrorism breeds on the need and concern of public or society as a main key to operate their functions and feeds on the fear, anxiety, insecurity of the civilians. The pressure of public anxiety is inevitably greatest in democratic societies, where various public representatives, including a free and professionally alarmist media, will certainly demand action even if ordinary people do not.³

The terrorist and insurgent groups are funded through two ways, i.e either through gray economy or dark economy. first part of the framework is concerned with how terrorists and insurgents fund their organizations. Gray economy is a combination of licit and illicit activities. It focuses on diaspora support, charities, fraud, legal businesses, and money laundering. Dark economy focuses on various facets of transnational organized crime, including human trafficking, narcotics smuggling, gun-running, money laundering, extortion, coercion/intimidation, kidnapping for ransom (KFR), corruption, and cybercrime.

The funds collected from these sources are used to pay the salaries of insurgents, purchase weapons and equipment, bribe corrupt officials, provide for the families of killed or captured insurgents and social service provision. Apart from the mentioned sources, terrorist groups also get an external state sponsor in helping to finance an insurgency under certain conditions like the diaspora community responsible for providing significant financial assistance to an insurgent group, Tamil Tigers in Shri Lanka. Other groups rely on extortion, or “revolutionary taxes,” as evidenced by cases in Peru, Colombia, Uruguay, Spain, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Northern Ireland, to name just a few.⁴

Significance:

Terrorism has cause massive collateral global economic, security and political relationship damage. It has overshadowed the relationship of many countries, and no region or country is immune to terrorism. Its act has a huge impact on nation’s security and has changed the geo-political alignment.

South Asia remains the focal point of terrorism despite various efforts to bring peace in the region and Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India account for a high terrorist record. Cross border terrorism between India and Pakistan has been one of the main concerns in maintaining peace not only in the region but globally as well. Collective action and concerted effort to counterterrorism is the need of the hour by sharing intelligence to combat terrorism. The researcher will follow historical and descriptive analysis.

Providing policy makers with the findings of balance and reliable research on terrorism is essential in producing effective strategies and political to counter and prevent terrorism. terrorism might not end but better data collection and analysis along with effective counter measures can significantly reduce the threat and violent act of terrorism.

Objective

The objective of this paper is to study the impact and challenges of terrorism in maintaining world peace, especially in the Subcontinent. Is terrorism a common challenge and to India and Pakistan in maintaining a cordial relationship? It is imperative to have a collective effort to meet the challenges of terrorism rather than face by an individual states. Terrorism is a common enemy and challenges in maintaining Global peace therefore it must be tackled collectively.

Global terrorist index

The total number of deaths from terrorism declined in 2021. The primary driver of this reduction in 2021 has been a fall in the intensity of conflict in the Middle East, and the subsequent decline of the Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria. However, increases in the number of deaths were recorded in three of the nine regions - Asia-Pacific, North America and South Asian regions, which increased by 303, 66 and eight per cent respectively. Despite the year-on-year fall in deaths, the number of attacks rose from 4,458 in 2020 to 5,226 in 2021, a 17 per cent increase and the highest number of attacks recorded since 2007, largely due to violence in the Sahel region and instability in country such as Afghanistan. Afghanistan had the highest impact of terrorism for the third consecutive year.⁵

TEN COUNTRIES MOST IMPACTED BY TERRORISM, RANKED BY GTI SCORE

COUNTRIES	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
AFGHANISTAN	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	1
IRAQ	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
SOMALIA	5	7	7	7	8	5	3	3	3	3	3
BURKINA FASO	113	113	111	108	52	30	21	15	7	6	4
SYRIA	20	4	4	5	6	7	7	8	6	5	5
NIGERIA	8	5	5	3	2	2	4	4	4	4	6
MALI	41	23	19	21	16	13	10	9	8	7	7
NIGER	49	57	44	34	20	19	18	19	14	12	8
PAKISTAN	2	2	2	2	4	4	5	5	5	8	10

Red - Death **yellow** - Injured **White** - Incident

The above table highlights the ten countries most impacted by terrorism according to the 2022 GTI, and how they have ranked on the index since 2011. Afghanistan and Iraq remained as the most impacted countries by terrorism, for the third consecutive year. Besides Burkina Faso overtaking Syria and Nigeria to be the fourth most impacted country, Pakistan moved from eighth most impacted to tenth and Nigeria dropped two places to sixth most impacted country. This is Somalia's sixth consecutive appearance amongst the five most impacted countries. P19

The four terrorist groups responsible for the most deaths in 2021 were Islamic State (IS), Al-Shabaab, the Taliban and Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM)

Terrorist activities in the Asia pacific regions

The situation in Indonesia has improved due to the successes of Indonesian counter-terrorism efforts in 2007. Another successful outcome has been in Malaysia and Singapore as the authorities in Malaysia stay prepared to take forceful preventive measures, utilizing the preventive detention provisions under the country's Internal Security Act, to prevent militants from carrying out any terror attacks. The authorities in Singapore too have been very concerned in using preventive measures, utilizing the Internal Security Act. The authorities of Singapore have introduced the rehabilitate program following the success of such programs implemented by the Malayan Communist Party and it resulted a huge success when the 31 detained JI suspects involved in the failed Singapore bomb plots have been put in rehabilitation. The situation in the southern Philippines too has improved, but despite better prospects for a comprehensive peace agreement with the main separatist group, the MILF, there exist a number of smaller, radical groups that will ensure that the violence will continue. The Moro problem in the south is likely to remain a long-term challenge. However, the situation in southern Thailand has deteriorated in the past decade due largely to gross mismanagement, to the point that a real transformation from an ethno-nationalist insurgency to a jihadist movement cannot be ruled out. In China, the spread of radical ideology through Central Asia has galvanized the ETIM separatists, who have shown renewed signs of vigor in recent years.⁶

Kashmir has been the bone of contention between India and Pakistan since independence and terrorism has been the thorn in its relationship since 1980s. The Pulwama bombing in Jammu & Kashmir, which killed 40 Indian police personnel, perpetrated by the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) brought terrorism to the limelight again in the Subcontinent. In response, India launched airstrikes against an alleged terrorist training camp in Balakot, Pakistan.⁷

TERRORISM, ITS ACTIVITIES AND COUNTER-TERRORISM IN PAKISTAN

The Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan in 1979 played an important role in giving birth to terrorism in Pakistan. The jihad was initially a rallying call against the British invaders who tried to invade Afghanistan in nineteenth century. In order to defeat Soviet Union, Pakistan became a very close alliance with the US mostly during the time of Zia and was enabled to strengthen its security and protection from a Soviet dominated Afghan and its ally India in Pakistan which was also the beginning of dictatorial control of Pakistan. Taliban was born out of the end of the Afghan jihad, the defeat of the Soviets, and the withdrawal of US support, those Afghans living in the refugee site of Pakistan. Pakistan and Taliban became natural allies, particularly against India however, threat of the spread of religious extremism in Pakistan was ignored.⁸

With the end of Jihadi movement and the mushrooming Madrasas in Pakistan society Taliban took roots in Pakistan and got the necessary political support to breed and support it. The 9/11 in 2001, was the flashpoint in the narrative of US policy towards terrorism especially towards the Taliban and US-Pak relationship. Taliban project religious activism which was supported by different tribes. The main purpose of these groups is to control the Pakistan authority and pursue their economic and all other purposes.⁹

Terrorism became a serious problem during the 1980s in Pakistan due to the growth of sectarian violence committed against the minority Shias by Sunni extremists in certain parts of Pakistan. By the 1990s, sectarian conflict became a major concern and Nawaz Sharif's government made the first serious attempt to end the conflict by passing the anti-terrorism legislation, which gave wide powers to the police and the judiciary so as to apprehend and try alleged terrorists, free of political influence and threats in August, 1997. Sharif also attempted to negotiate a peace settlement between Sunnis and Shias through a committee consisting of ulema from both sects. Unfortunately, the peace negotiations fell apart, and sectarian violence returned during the latter half of 1999.

The powerful Pakistan military's support of jihadi groups in the Kashmir Valley which used terrorist proxy tactics against India. Pakistan also faced lots of criticism in the 1990s for its support of the Kashmir insurgency through its training and logistic support of jihadi groups, both within Kashmir itself. This led to the Indian government retaliating and using state terrorism in their attempts to crush the growing unrest. India also attempted to have Pakistan labelled as a terrorist state by the international community.¹⁰

The danger of terrorism flourishing in Pakistan is not that the terrorists are going to overtake the entire country or that the state is going to become a nuclear-armed Islamic fundamentalist-run state, but that the government is extremely fragile and is not capable of dealing with the underlying issues that are driving the people towards the terrorist groups.

Pakistan has been facing terrorism from different insurgent groups besides its own support of terrorism. The level of attacks has increased despite a persistent counterterrorism campaign by the Pakistani military. Support for Islamic militancy in Pakistan did not emerge from a religious base, as is the case in Afghanistan or Iraq, but it emerged from the guidelines that were adopted from the policies enforced by the West against the Soviet Union during the invasion of Afghanistan (1979–1988). Essentially it was the failure of Pakistan's underlying political institutions, rampant corruption, poverty, and denial of equal rights that provided a base for extremist religious beliefs to take root.¹¹

Religion is used for the instigation of terrorism by two sets of actors in Pakistan, the Sunni and Shia of Islam. The Sunni militant organizations call for Pakistan to be declared a Sunni state while Shias fight for specific political rights to safeguard their distinct status. This communal schism on sectarian lines was the direct outcome of the process of Islamization of laws in Pakistan that was introduced by President Zia ul-Haq in 1977–88. There has been a continuous tension among the two religion communities as both fears to be overshadowed by the other. Another set of actors are jihadi groups that were considered by the Government of Pakistan up to 2001 as strategic tools to be used in Afghanistan and Kashmir, some of whom have now turned against the government and become involved in terrorist activities inside the country. After September 2001, when the Pakistani Government's support for the international reaction to terrorism led it to reverse many of its policies that had been amenable to the jihadis, some jihadis also resorted to terrorist violence inside Pakistan, initially directing their attacks against foreigners and the local Christian population.¹²

Pakistan has had its share of terror such as the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on October 18, 2007 along with 139 people in Karachi, On December 16, 2013, the Taliban insurgents storm an army-run school in Peshawar, killing 154 people, most of them children in Pakistan's tribal areas in June 2014,

On September 17, 2016, A Taliban suicide bomber kills at least 36 people as they attend Friday prayers at a mosque in a north-western Pakistani tribal area, Nearly 200 worshippers were inside the mosque when the bomber struck. Jamat-ul-Ahrar, a splinter group of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was carried out to avenge the deaths of 13 of its members in 2009. Pakistani Taliban routinely targets courts, schools, and mosques in the tribal region, where the military has launched a massive operation to flush out the terrorists since 2014.¹³ On 25th October, 2016, at least 59 people were killed and dozens more wounded when Islamist militants wearing suicide vests stormed a Pakistani police academy near Quetta in the troubled southwestern province of Balochistan. Militants, particularly sectarian groups, have also launched a campaign of suicide bombings and assassinations of minority Shias.¹⁴

The Pakistani have taken drastic policies and measures to prevent, control and eradicate terrorism but has not yielded desired success. It had passed and implemented the Antiterrorism Act of 1997, the National Counterterrorism Authority (NACTA) Act, the 2014 Investigation for Fair Trial Act, and 2014 amendments to the Antiterrorism Act (ATA), all of which give law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts enhanced powers in terrorism cases. Pakistani law allows for preventive detention, permits the death penalty for terrorism offenses, and authorizes special Anti-Terrorism Courts to try terrorism cases. It collects biometric information at land crossings through its International Border Management Security System However, the authorities had limited ability to detect smuggling by air travel. The Customs Service attempted to enforce anti-money laundering laws and foreign exchange regulations at all major airports, in coordination with other agencies. The Pakistani government operated five de-radicalization camps offering “corrective religious education,” vocational training, counselling, and therapy. A Pakistani NGO administered the juvenile-focused Sabaoon Rehabilitation Center in Swat Valley, which it founded in partnership with the Pakistani military.¹⁵

Terrorism, its activities and counterterrorism in india

Terrorism is not new to India. The ethnic-cultural diversity of India became a fertile ground to breed insurgency and terrorism. The territorial dispute between India and Pakistan and the on-going cross border conflict in the region of Jammu and Kashmir causes various terrorism. Terrorism, naxalism, and insurgency in India are based on political, religious, ethnic, ideological, identity driven, linguistic, or socio-economic grievances.

After many agitations and long struggle, Pakistan and India legally became fully sovereign, independent states by the Indian Independence Act on August 14 and August 15, 1947, respectively. The twin births of these two new states from the erstwhile fabric of colonial India was celebrated in jarring contrasts – on the one hand with speeches and parades rejoicing in a hard-won independence struggle and, on the other hand, with immense communal bloodshed as Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs living on the “wrong” side of the border migrated to states where they would be in the majority.¹⁶

For decades, India and Pakistan have been expressing their animosity of one another through wars, terror attack, attack on minority communities, etc. This ever-increasing tension had been there way before the independence and the partition however, the tension between the two countries increased immensely after the partition. Independence had been accompanied by a multitude of problems, and, of course, centuries of backwardness, prejudice, inequality, and ignorance still weighed on the land. The debris of two centuries of colonialism had to be cleared and the promises of the freedom struggle to be fulfilled. The long haul had just begun.¹⁷ The Boundary Commission chose to allot it to India, sparking fears of violence on the eve of Independence. Across the subcontinent there was trouble in the capital of the Punjab, Lahore.¹⁸

India and Pakistan emerged shattered, but intact, as two separate nation states at the end of the summer of 1947. Nobody had imagined that the Partition plan or Pakistan’s creation would lead to this scenario of death and destruction. Nobody had thought that freedom would come in this guise. Newly anointed Indian and Pakistani leaders now had to juggle the ceaseless flow of distressed and penniless refugees, to set up a feasible and functioning state, and to integrate princes and provincial interests in the shadow of Partition. Although no one could be naïve enough to suggest that only one side was responsible for the terrors of 1947, it is little wonder that nationalism was given a new edge. The two states necessarily saw each other through the prism of the violence that had taken place and eyed each other warily across the expanses of the ruptured Punjab.¹⁹

This decades long enmity has a deep root into factors such as communal conflicts, religious differences, different ideologies, social and cultural contrasts and most importantly, the dissimilarity of views and thoughts among the national leaders. Four major wars were fought ever since the partition on 1947, 1965, 1971 and 1999 the terror attack in Mumbai on 2008 that killed 171 and 239 were injured, the terror attack on the Indian parliament, the proxy war, further deepened the hatred and animosity between the two countries. Even after

various political dialogues between the leaders of the two countries, the problems remain unresolved rather it increases and besides, the participation of third parties. However, the depth of the socio-economic and political impact in the relations of the two nuclear power countries is not clearly acknowledged nor ignored.

The largest Democratic nation has its fair share of state sponsored terrorist attacks. The attack on the Indian parliament on December 13, 2001. The November 2008 Mumbai attacks were by no means the first acts of 'terrorism' perpetrated on Indian soil, or even in India's financial capital Mumbai. As defined by major news agencies, more than 800 people have been killed in two dozen 'terrorist attacks' across India since mid-2006 alone. In July 2006, 180 people were killed in seven bomb explosions in trains and railway stations in Mumbai. Only two months later, in September 2006, 30 people were killed in bombings at a mosque in Malegaon, also in the state of Maharashtra. On 18 February 2007, 68 passengers on the Samjhauta Express train service between New Delhi and Lahore (Pakistan) were killed due to fires that broke out after twin bomb explosions. Following these incidents, a series of bomb attacks were carried out in Indian cities during 2007 and 2008. Bombings following a fairly regular pattern targeted Hyderabad, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Delhi and Guwahati. In most cases, bombs were planted in crowded public places such as markets, and often Islamic militants were the suspected perpetrators, following messages claiming credit being received from the 'Indian Mujahideen'.²⁰ On January 2, 2016, Pathankot Air Force Station was infiltrated by the terrorist.

Indian government has left no stone unturned to prevent, control, and put an end to this heinous terrorist acts in the nation. It has made every effort to reach out to the neighbouring countries to strengthen its relationship and to live in peace and harmony but seemed to have failed in its earnest efforts.

If the subcontinent is to experience peace and prosperity, and to be reckon as world powers, improvement in India-Pak relationship need to be prioritised. Both the nations need to have a paradigm shift in its geo-political relationship and realignment. This proxy terrorist tactic is only serving the interest of other vested nations at the expense of India and Pakistan. The state sponsored terrorist bred and nurtured in the subcontinent will only hurt the socio, economic, and political interest of both the nations. The stability in the two nuclear power nations relationship will be in the interest of peace in the world or else it will become a classic case of a created monster getting out of control.

Conclusion

Terrorism has taken huge toll on the live and property. The destructions caused by the terrorist acts affected not only on the economy and political stability of any country. The relations among the neighbouring states are disturbed to the extent that it almost led to confrontation and war. Now we see that terrorism is not confined to one county and region. Every county in south Asia has been affected and pose great challenge to every country. We can no longer handle the issue of terrorism by state. There is an urgent need to put concerted efforts and face terrorism as a common enemy in the region in general and for Pakistan and India in particular. Peace and stability, security and development require peaceful relations between India and Pakistan. The friendly relations between these two countries are imperative for peace in the South Asia which will have a positive result in maintaining Global peace.

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