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PAKISTAN: CHANGING FACE OF TERRORISM





MISSION

We endeavour to sound **ALERTS** and create **AWARENESS** about the myriad dimensions and manifestations of **DEFENCE** and **SECURITY** in India and around the world.



The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...

Security of the citizens at peace time is very important because State is the only saviour of the men and women who get affected only because of the negligence of the State.

- Chanakya

DSA IS AS MUCH YOURS, AS IT IS OURS!



In popular wisdom, India is the principle victim of Pakistan-based terror groups. But the reality is rather different, and Indians may be disappointed to learn that fact. The harsh truth is that the longest suffering victim, and one which has lost the most lives to Pakistan-based and sponsored terror groups, is actually Afghanistan. The story of Pakistan and Afghan terrorist groups is enunciated in terms of the Soviet invasion of 1979 and the heroic fight of the mujahideen. The truth lies elsewhere.

Pakistan's meddling in the affairs of Afghanistan began soon after its defeat by India in the 1971 War which led to the liberation of Bangladesh. Thrashed and dissected by India, Pakistan began the process of training and sponsoring Afghan dissidents into terrorism and insurgency in the mid-1970s. The money came from Saudi Arabia, and the motivation from Rawalpindi. Which, in fact, says a lot about Pakistan, for since then, it has had soured relations with both its principal neighbours, India to the east and Afghanistan to its west.

Both neighbours lament the export of terror from Pakistan.

Pakistani terror plans in India first came to be implemented through the Khalistan-inspired Punjab-based groups. India's haphazard handling during the early days only made matters worse. Indian Punjab was set on fire by diverting resources from the Afghan mujahideen campaign, for which by the mid-1980s, there were many countries giving enormous amounts. Pakistan's ISI took many of their partner countries for a ride on this matter, and successfully harassed India well into the mid-1990s. By that time, Pakistan had played its primary and final card, in igniting the Jammu and Kashmir youth into rebellion. Indian errors led to the ignition in the early days, but they were suitably stoked by Pakistan.

Almost 30 years down the line, the situation remains as it was, volatile, uncertain, and deeply bitter. Indo-Pak relations are currently hooked on to the cycle of violence and retribution, including amongst the diplomats posted in either country. This is such a pity. It is safe to say that India-Pakistan relations are

directly proportionate to the level of terrorism that is being pushed into India. As the mountain passes open for summer, expect more of the same. But it also has a substantial impact on Pakistan.

Terrorist groups in Pakistan have metamorphosed into differing directions depending on convenience, conviction, and also, convergence of thinking. Over the years, they have been responsible for killing hundreds of innocent Pakistani Shi'a. The sectarian agenda has become explicit for some groups—once born to make hell in India. Then, there are others who have begun to take on the Pakistani state as well, an illustration of the local version of the Taliban. Countless Pakistan Army soldiers have died combating them. So, the experiment that began more than 40 years ago, to meddle in Afghanistan, and then India, has turned around and is now eating the insides of Pakistani society. This corrosion will continue as long as Pakistan believes that it can run with the hare and also, hunt with the hound.

Manvendra Singh



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PAKISTAN: DESCENT INTO DISASTER



The entire world has finally come to accept the self-evident truth that Pakistan is a flourishing hub of terrorism. Terrorism has been raised to the level of an industry in Pakistan. For decades, it has been milking the US of billions of dollars as compensation for fighting the 'global war on terror' (GWOT), after being reluctantly brought to heel by President George W. Bush Junior's blunt query: "Are you with us or against us?" That famous American turnaround came about only after the two symbols of American world economic and military dominance—the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon in Virginia—were attacked using hijacked aircraft as flying bombs on September 09, 2001 (the infamous 9/11).

As part of its carefully crafted 'industry', Pakistan fed the American yearning for revenge for 9/11 with small morsels of small and middle level terrorists to help fill Guantanamo Bay penitentiary on Cuban soil. It kept the kingpins of Islamist terrorism like Osama bin Laden of Al Qaeda in safe havens in the heart of its military establishments i.e. Osama in Abbottabad house with high walls. It took the equally astute business acumen of President Donald Trump to realise how America had been led up the garden path by Pakistan. He clamped down on military assistance to Pakistan but in the latest round of drone strikes in which several terrorists were killed inside Pakistan, it appears that the Americans are targeting only those terrorists that Pakistan wants to eliminate. The much-wanted Haqqanis are still roaming around free and 'global terrorist' Hafiz Saeed is preparing to become the ruler of Pakistan.

The distinction between the civil and the military in Pakistan has become totally blurred. It was under the civilian government of Benezir Bhutto that the Taliban was created in Pakistan madrassas to flood Afghanistan and confront the Soviet troops there and create greater strategic depth for Pakistan. The Pakistan military dictatorship under Gen Pervez Musharraf reaped the billions of dollars that the Americans poured into the Pakistani coffers to fight the Soviet Army in Afghanistan.

Over the past two years, there has been a major flux in the geopolitics of the region. Both China and Russia have moved closer to Pakistan in expectation of an American withdrawal. Within Pakistan, a coalition is being created inclusive of Hafiz Saeed, the terrorist kingpin who has turned politicians to avoid UN sanctions. He is being supported by former dictator Gen Pervez Musharraf and cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan.

The emerging paradigm in Pakistan points to an ultra-hardcore Islamist political entity led by Hafiz Saeed supported wholeheartedly in the Wahhabbi military establishment, led by serving and retired military officers. This grouping will have control of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal. Given the history of nuclear weapons proliferation of the Pakistan nuclear establishment, the prospects are horrendous.

This edition is well-conceived considering the changing face of Pakistan, and, our distinguished contributors have shared their well-researched thoughts for your best updates on this. I am sure you will like this edition too.

Happy reading!

Pawan Agrawal



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