

National Action Plan

(National Security Policy Terrorism)

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Introduction:

- Pakistan has suffered due to terrorism during the last 20 years.
- 9-11, war in Afghanistan and our policies are mainly responsible for terrorism in the country.
- We have lost more than 70,000 people including 5000 military personnel.
- Our economic loss is more than \$150 (Billion).
- The Governments of Musharaf and PPP wanted to resolve the problem of terrorism but could not do so.
- The Government of PML (N) after coming to power convened an APC to jointly tackle this problem.
- The APC passed a 14 points resolution and it was decided that first option should be dialogue with Taliban and then military option.

- The previous PPP regime introduced an unrealistic 3D formula — development, deterrence and dialogue — to curb violence.
- The PML-N government announced a policy to deal with endless violence and the worsening law and order challenges, in September 2013 known as National Internal Security Policy
- It was reviewed in 2018 and extended till 2023.
- PTI government has revised the NAP in October 2021 by reducing 20 points to 14.
- Some of points have been reformulated.
- The role of NACTA has been reduced and a new NAP secretariat has been created to review and implement it.
- The original NAP was formulated in December 2014 following the Army Public School attack.
- A working group of professionals drawn from both civilian and military organizations had developed the NAP with help from the Interior Ministry.
- The 20 points included short-term as well as long-term measures.
- The NACTA was the lead organization for its implementation.

Historical Background:

- Historically terrorism in the country can be traced back to:
 - I. *Afghan conflict* which started in 1979 with the Soviet intervention & weapons came to Pakistan in large numbers and particularly Kalashankof culture.
 - II. *Zia ul Haq Islamaization*, which introduced sectarian, ethnic conflicts in the country.

National Internal Security Policy (NISP):

- Pakistan had unveiled, in February, 2014, its first ever National Internal Security Policy (NISP) after 67 years of its existence.
- Some have called this a game changer and
- Others called it civilian perspective on a turf traditionally dominated by the security establishment.
- It was presented in the NA, after the approval of Cabinet.
- The five layers of the national security policy, prepared by the NACTA are: *to dismantle, to contain, to prevent, to educate and to reintegrate.*
- Due to resource constraints the NISP could not be implemented.
- However APS Peshawar incident compelled the Government to do something urgently and hence NAP.
- The NISP is based on *two principles of mutual inclusiveness and integration of all national efforts* and includes *three elements*;
 - I. Dialogue with all stakeholders
 - II. Isolation of terrorists from their support systems
 - III. Deterrence enhancement by capacity building of the security apparatus to neutralize threats to internal security of Pakistan.

•There are five policy objectives :

- I. To establish the writ of the State and protect the people from all internal threats
- II. To protect the life, property and fundamental rights of the citizens of Pakistan
- III. To promote pluralism, freedom, democracy and a culture of tolerance.
- IV. To prevent, deter and contain threats to internal security in a transparent, accountable and just manner
- V. To peacefully resolve and manage disputes with hostile elements without compromising the rule of law

- The National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), an existing institution for coordination,
- Would implement the NISP with the help of
- Provincial Governments,
- Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), and
- Intelligence Agencies.

•**Estimated cost of the *federal component* is Rs. 10 billion for;**

- A. Strengthening the NACTA,
- B. Establishing Rapid Response Force (RRF) and
- C. Civil Armed Forces Headquarters in the Ministry of Interior, and
Modernization of LEAs.

•**The *provincial component* is estimated at Rs. 22 billion;**

- A. To improve capacity of Police, and
- B. Establish counter terrorism departments,
- C. Rapid response forces and
- D. High security prisons.

National Action Plan by PML(N):

Summary of the short term NAP against terrorism announced by PM on 24/12/2014

1. Execution of convicted terrorists will continue.
2. Establishment of special trial courts for two years for speedy trial of terror suspects.
3. A commitment to ensure that no armed militias are allowed to function in the country.
4. Strengthening and activation of NACTA
5. Countering hate speech and extremist materials
6. Choking financing for terrorists and terrorist organizations
7. Ensuring against re-emergence of proscribed organizations
8. Establishing and deploying a 5,000-strong dedicated counter-terrorism force.
9. Taking effective steps against religious persecution
10. Registration and regulation of madrassas
11. Ban on glorification of terrorism and terrorist organization through print and electronic media
12. Administrative and development reform in FATA with immediate focus on return of IDPs
13. Dismantling communication networks of terrorist organizations
14. Tangible measures against abuse of internet and social media for terrorism
15. Zero tolerance for militancy in Punjab
16. Taking the ongoing operation in Karachi to its logical conclusion
17. Empowering Baluchistan government for political reconciliation with complete ownership by all the stakeholders
18. Dealing firmly with sectarian terrorists
19. Formulation of a comprehensive policy to deal with the issue of Afghan refugees, beginning with registration of all unregistered illegal refugees
20. Revamping and reforming the criminal justice system, to strengthen counter-terrorism departments including granting of powers to the provincial CIDs to intercept terrorist communications

Revised NAP by PTI 2021:

- The federal government has scaled back its 20-point National Action Plan (NAP) against terrorism to 14-points and strengthened the role of the military in the internal security matters.
- Various security agencies had reviewed the scope of the NAP in consultation with all stakeholders.
- Their recommendations were then approved by Prime Minister Imran Khan.
- The federal government has scaled back its 20-point National Action Plan (NAP) against terrorism to 14-points and strengthened the role of the military in the internal security matters.
- Various security agencies had reviewed the scope of the NAP in consultation with all stakeholders.
- Their recommendations were then approved by Prime Minister Imran Khan.
- A Rs 110 million budget has been approved for the current fiscal year.
- With 28 new contractual posts in order to implement the revised NAP.
- The newly-sanctioned posts include a grade-20 NAP coordinator and five deputy directors (one each from Pakistan Army, Law and Justice Ministry, Ministry of Interior, Information Ministry and the Ministry for Inter-Provincial Coordination).
- The secretariat is functioning under Brig Mussaddiq, a former sector in charge of the Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) in Lahore, as its first coordinator.
- The NAP Secretariat will coordinate implementation, progress review, evaluation and monitoring of the revised plan. Four new implementation committees are proposed to be set up.

•*Following points have been omitted form NAP*

- 1) The setting up of special trial courts under the supervision of the army;
- 2) strengthening the National Counterterrorism Authority;
- 3) establishing and deploying a dedicated counter-terrorism force;
- 4) zero tolerance for militancy in the Punjab; and
- 5) completion of the Karachi operation against terrorists; have been removed from the original 20-points.

•*Some of the most important revised points of the NAP are:*

- 1) countering the spread of terrorism through all forms of media including social media;
- 2) tribal area reforms (including National Finance Commission, local body polls and land reforms);
- 3) the Balochistan reconciliation process;
- 4) and the repatriation of Afghan refugees.

•*The (Revised) National Action Plan*

- 1) Execution of capital punishment awarded to convicted terrorists.
- 2) Intolerance for militancy – no militant/ armed/ criminal/ gangs to be allowed to operate.
- 3) Capacity building / strengthening of Counter Terrorism Departments (CTD's).
- 4) Action against spread of terrorism through media (electronic, print and social media), communication and cyber networks.
- 5) Choking of terror financing and proscribed organizations.
- 6) Taking effective measures against religious/ sectarian persecution and terrorism.
- 7) Regulation and registration of religious seminaries/ madaris.

- 8) FATA reforms (NFC, capacity building of LEAs, local government elections and land reforms).
- 9) Balochistan reconciliation process.
- 10) Repatriation of Afghan refugees and dealing with their issues.
- 11) Reforms of criminal justice system.
- 12) Legislative/ legal oversight for espionage/ subversion.
- 13) Institutionalization and implementation of Counter Violence Extremism (CVE) policy.
- 14) Curb increasing trends of illegal spectrum.

- ❖ The revised NAP has curtailed the role of the NACTA, a civilian body created in 2009 to combat terrorism and implement NAP.
- ❖ The implementation of the 20-point NAP had been the primary responsibility of this civilian body. Over the years, the NACTA's role has been limited to information gathering following a power struggle ending in the dominance of the military.
- ❖ A National Intelligence Coordination Committee (NICC), a liaison body for the official intelligence networks, was separately set up a few months ago.
- ❖ Instead of empowering the NACTA and relying on it, Prime Minister Imran Khan set up the NICC to share/ organise key information to counter the threat of militancy and terrorism.

Conclusion:

- ★ It is concluded that terrorism can only be eliminated if NAP is implemented in letter and spirit.
- ★ For some it is a plan of action and for others it is a plan of inaction.
- ★ It has reduced terrorism to a great extent in the past and it would continue to do so in future.

