



Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS)

Forum for National Security Studies (FNSS)

Title: **Growth of Tehrik-e Taliban**

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- Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), established in 2007, has managed to sustain itself over the last decade and continues to grow despite the various lethal military operations conducted on it by the State.
- The existing terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan, along with the various networks of other existing terrorist groups in the region, provides the resources in the form of finances and man power for the sustenance as well as expansion of the TTP.
- The TTP is predominantly prevalent in the Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) which lies in the north-western region of Pakistan. As the State power is weak in these regions – as there is no rule of law – it provides for the establishment of Warlord regimes that are autocratic as they enjoy local monopoly.
- TTP has a decentralised hierarchy structure, that is, there is no centralisation. However, there exists a Shura that lies at the core and behaves like a consultative council comprising about forty militant groups. Through this council a network of franchises is created amongst the various groups to help coordinate and help unite to fight against a common enemy.



- TTP functions and implements its operations in alliances with other terrorist groups, such as the IMU, ISIS, Punjabi Taliban, Haqqani network, Afghan Taliban and the Al-Qaeda. Networking with these various terrorist groups is beneficial in terms of branding – providing the name of the group to an attack provides legitimacy to the smaller groups; these bigger groups may support their operations but not necessarily their ideology, finance and recruitment.
 - For financing, TTP relies on organised crimes such as kidnapping and extortion, bank robbery, murder, smuggling, etc. Thus, today we find in Karachi that although the number of terrorist attacks has gone down, there has been an increase in the number of organised crimes.
 - By conducting these organised crimes, apart from helping fuel its finance, it is also a means to help make a statement to the existing State authority and delegitimise the State presence. At the same time it incentivises the local lower caste and class to join the fold and feel that they have come at par with the higher hierarchy of the society.
 - The major goals of the TTP are: to enable a regime change in Pakistan based on the Takfiri Doctrine, removal of the US and the NATO alliance from the region and the enforcement of Sharia in Pakistan.
 - The strategy adopted by the TTP is to achieve the goal of a credible threat (done through attrition), undertake costly impact (done in order to get reactions), provocation and intimidation. The tactics used to this end are bombing and explosion, armed assault, hijacking, hostage, and kidnapping.
 - TTP is becoming more lethal with the alliances it is making which are enhancing its financing as well as its method of operations. The Pakistan government method of using one terrorist group to fight against another has not worked and a sense that the government is not doing much is beginning to emerge amongst its people.
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