



Pakistan's Climate Change Challenges

By: Saman Choudary



Pakistan is successfully countering home-grown and international terrorist networks. The major conventional security threats from India have always been a regular feature – with a combination of Non-State Actors (NSAs) presence in Afghanistan, which are committing acts of terrorism in Pakistani territory. Global warming has brought many changes, and Pakistan is not an exception. It

faces numerous problems, especially earthquakes, floods and melting of glaciers.

The devastation caused by extreme weather changes is posing serious threats to people and infrastructure. Listing these challenges and creating a system of emergency preparedness should be the top priority because existing structures need much to be desired. Some of the important climate changes include increased temperatures, out-of-season rainfall and frequent earthquakes.



The current weather conditions demonstrate two extreme patterns, that is, intense flooding and risks of droughts. The rapid melting of Pakistan's glaciers is making northern regions more vulnerable as there is a danger for glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) – glacial avalanches and icebergs. According to Global Climate Risk (Index 2015), Pakistan is the 10th most affected country due to climate change.



Given the risks and dangers of wide spread impact of climate change, emergency preparedness appears to have not taken roots into operationalization, rather than there have not been serious efforts by successive governments to establish centralized command & control system to counter climate change related challenges.



The impact of climate changes is also causing huge economic losses. According to an estimate, the current economic losses annually stand at 14 billion US dollars. According to the Asian Development Bank (2010), the internally displaced people in Pakistan are around 10 million. As a result, Pakistan is increasingly becoming vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.



Climate change research results conclude that changing weather patterns will be and tropical cyclones will become much stronger, and would require comprehensive measures to prevent reduction in agricultural yield, which in turn can cause food shortage and drought. Food, water and energy security therefore should be among the top national security objectives for current and every government in coming decades. Global perspective needs to be incorporated in studying patterns of climate change in Pakistan so lessons should be learned from damages done by global warming in other developing countries.

Fact Sheet: India Is the Biggest Arms Buyer

By: Sadaf Sultana



The US President Barack Obama revealed on 13 February, 2016 that it would sell eight US made F-16 Block-52 fighter jets to Pakistan

along with performance engines, advanced radars, electronic warfare equipment and spare and repair parts. The deal is intended to increase the number of aircrafts available to Pakistan Air Force to continue operations and support transition training for pilots new to the Block-52 fighter jets. The expected cost of the sale is 699 US million dollars which will not only help to strengthen bilateral relationship between the two states but will also facilitate Pakistan to meet current and future security threats.



India has strongly reacted and expressed its disappointment over this deal by criticizing the justification of Obama administration that this deal will support Pakistan to fight terrorism. India is judging that Washington decision to sale advanced fighter jets to Pakistan will tilt the military balance in the region. Ironically, the sale of just eight F-16 can never be a source of security imbalance; it is rather an effort on India's part to bully Pakistan in every possible way. Conversely, the

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) fact sheet of March 2015 states that India's imports are three times larger than China [or Pakistan], and it has now become the world's top ranking purchaser of major arms.



In December 2015, India finalized biggest defense deal with Russia under which purchase of five S-400 air defense system is included. S-400 is the latest upgraded air defense system with digital target acquisition system and radars which can hit multiple range air targets. India also concluded an arms deal with Afghanistan in November, 2015 and decided to send four Ni-25 attack helicopters equipped with machine guns, rockets and grenade launchers to Afghan government.

For Pakistan Air Force, the purchase of eight F-16 is just an addition to its reasonable airpower, in order target terrorists in all weather conditions and detect low flying aircraft in radar ground clutter. Pakistan has almost eighty F-16 aircrafts in its armory. Pakistan also upgraded

the available stock of F-16 aircrafts with the new technology of Block-52 from Turkey. It is widely argued that the decision of the US Department of Defense Security Cooperation Agency demonstrate US support Pakistan's efforts in counter terrorism.

Table: The 10 largest importers of major weapons and their main suppliers, 2010-2014

Importer	Share of international arms imports (%)		Main suppliers (share of importer's total imports), 2010-14		
	2010-14	2005-2009	1st	2nd	3rd
India	15	7	Russia (70%)	USA (12%)	Israel (7%)
Saudi Arabia	5	1	UK (36%)	USA (35%)	France (6%)
China	5	9	Russia (61%)	France (16%)	Ukraine (13%)
UAE	4	5	USA (58%)	France (9%)	Russia (9%)
Pakistan	4	3	China (51%)	USA (30%)	Sweden (5%)
Australia	4	3	USA (68%)	Spain (19%)	France (6%)
Turkey	3	3	USA (58%)	South Korea (13%)	Spain (8%)
USA	3	3	Germany (18%)	UK (15%)	Canada (13%)
South Korea	3	6	USA (89%)	Germany (5%)	Sweden (2%)
Singapore	3	3	USA (71%)	Germany (10%)	Sweden (6%)

Source: SIPRI Fact Sheet March 2015

All these developments lays a trail of bread crumbs towards Indian hegemonic designs and ambitious aims and by overly debating the defense deal, India is trying to mask its own grey initiatives. Therefore, the negative reaction from Indian government on F-16 deal does not make any sense as it will not affect the prevailing equilibrium in the region rather India is trying to kick off the balance by massively spending a huge chunk of its defense budget on acquisition of weaponry. The overall



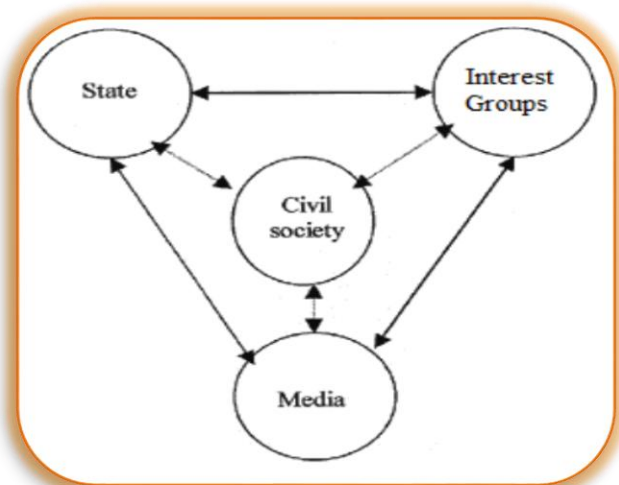
picture underlines only the revisionist intentions of Indian state rather than Pakistan.

Psychological Warfare and Media Propaganda

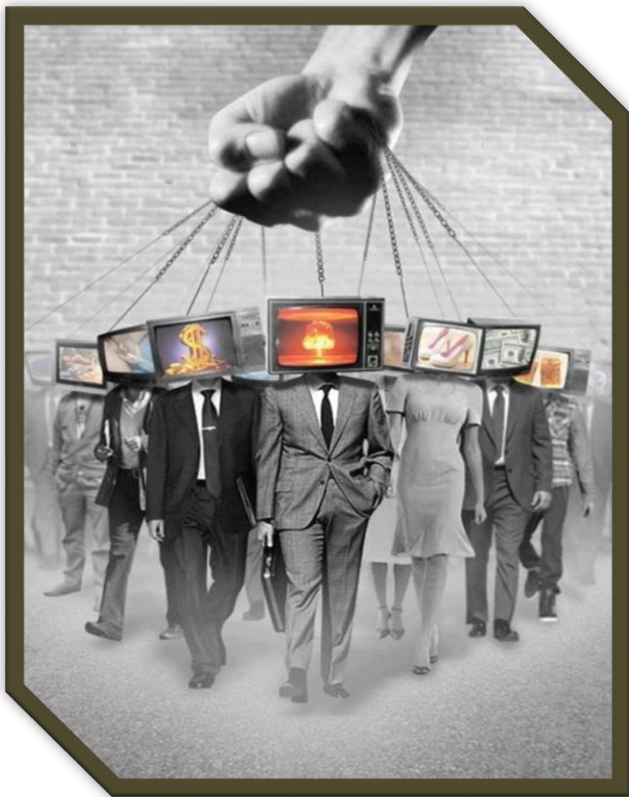
By Waqas Waheed Malik

The interface between media and internet users in Pakistan has been problematic as the state of different institutions relate to incorrect application of rule of law. The terrorists have initiated a sophisticated propaganda to impact psyche of young students. Threatening to attack more educational institutions is part of overall scheme to destroy the lifestyle and social harmony. Following the terrorist attacks on Bacha Khan University earlier this year, a video clip surfaced on Pakistani social media featuring TTP Pakistan commander Mullah Umar Khalid Khurasani along with some Taliban suicide fighters – threatening to target schools and other educational institutions, in order to coerce the Pakistani state. The video was widely circulated on social media and viewed by a

large number of Pakistani internet users. The state and society of Pakistan strongly reacted and condemned the contents, and the Taliban commanders who refused to surrender to the state laws. Although the impact of this video was effectively neutralized, the propaganda however was spread through digital media. The role of internet demonstrates that it would take harden state policies to counter propaganda machine of Non State Actors (NSAs), because countering violent extremism and hate through electronic and social media are vital to purge anti-state elements.



Contrastingly, the government faces several challenges, especially regarding security of educational institutions. The closure of schools by Punjab government in January 2016 was blamed on severe cold weather, rather than the fact of security concerns. This dilemma reflects an inherent disconnect between comprehending the propaganda warfare of militants and responsible reporting. Due to lack of professionalism, the negative impact of reporting and sensation is undermining student's morale and desire to exercise their legitimate right to study.



During the subsequent incident, the Punjab government issued detailed security instructions for public and private schools, and even registered cases against schools against noncompliance with security instructions. However, the Punjab government succumbed to pressure and withdrew

cases registered against certain schools. This created a huge confusion and unrest among students and parents. Under the given security matrix, it is highly dangerous to pressurize government by private schools or other organizations regarding to compliance. It is assessed that private media groups often unwittingly support vested interests and become part of psychological warfare. In this case, the media propaganda sided with biggest chain of private school system and thus contributed to ignorance of security instructions.

Pakistan's private sector media is developing exponentially and is regulated by inefficient media regularity authority, hence state media lacks capacity to attract a large viewership and to effectively build and propagate state's narrative. It becomes quite easier to manipulate the ideal role of media. As private media in Pakistan largely relies on the funds coming through commercial sponsorship or private investments, which in several cases traced back to vested foreign interests. It is this complexity that inspires misrepresentation of national narratives and creates hype a false impression.



Mostly, non-issues have become the source of news, that is, personal interest take-over national interests. Entertainment media is also influencing life style, which may negatively impacts social fabric of a society. Promoting foreign cultures in the name of “soft image” of Pakistan would effectively undermine genuine and popular socio-cultural values and practices that have been part of Pakistani society.



Interest groups finance media to project their agenda or narrative in the public to buy public support and build pressure on government to get their interests served. Politicians or power brokers in government also use media to create consent and mass legitimacy. Spin-doctors keep public away from policy machinery, and manage the masses by information-detour and falsification of facts. Currently, celebrities too are supporting certain politicians who ultimately use them to sell their policies. Showmanship has thus become one of the best tools of media groups, government and interest groups to get funding as well as popularity. Foreign sponsored media projects and so-called “journalist

trainings” infiltrate into socio-political constructs, and breach the nature of loyalty. The media watchdog Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has always been a dormant player, and to-date remains a centre of negative attention and fails to serve Pakistan’s national interests.

The policy recommendations must incorporate essential guidance to promote Pakistani cultural contents and heritage. Upholding Pakistan’s national identity, unity and cultural harmony should be clearly defined and enshrined on sustainable basis because digital communication and social media has made interface between internet, and national social responsibility. Media groups must also promote professionalism, honesty and demonstrate better image of Pakistan. National media policy must also provide with guidelines and offer media training and briefing in order to state correct information and place Pakistan’s national interests over organizational interests.





PAKISTAN HOUSE

An Independent Institute of International & Cultural Affairs



Head Office

House No. 9-B, Street 12,
F-7/2, Islamabad,
Pakistan

info@pakistanhouse.net

Phone: +92 51 8732287 Fax: +92 51 8732286



