

**RESEARCH PAPER****Pakistan's National Security Policy: An Analysis****¹Samiya Ashraf, ²Dr. Ghulam Mustafa* and ³Ghazanfar Ali³**

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***Corresponding Author** ghulammustafa@gcuf.edu.pk**ABSTRACT**

Pakistan announced its new national security policy, 2022-2026, on January 14, 2022. This article is written in the backdrop of Pakistan's General elections 2018. As a result of which new government of Pakistan Tehrik-I insaf (PTI) has come into power. The new Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Ahmed Khan has promised a new Pakistan in his maiden speech by emphasizing the citizen's rights to dignity, need for provision of services/ welfare by state, need for institutional and behavioral change with the supremacy of law. Apparently, Prime Minister's first speech depicts that he is vowed to fulfil his promises which the nation and country faces both internally and externally yet things are different when one has the executive power and run the show. The new government has taken the command of the country at a time when it is amongst challenges and opportunities with regard to the issues of national security, foreign policy, its soaring relations with the US, India and Afghanistan. The article discusses Internal and external challenges of the country. It concludes with a 'way forward approach' that can be adopted for effective long-term national security policy together with national imperative.

Keywords: Pakistan, National Security Policy, War against Terrorism, Kashmir Dispute, Indo-US Nuclear Deal**Introduction**

Pakistan's first national security strategy document is the National Security Policy (NSP) 2022-2026. The "Comprehensive National Security" concept is presented in the NSP with a focus on the citizenry. It admits that a combination of conventional and non-conventional dangers and opportunities affects overall national security. The Policy emphasizes a geo-economics vision to complement the focus on geostrategic and puts economic security at the center of national security. It also acknowledges the need for sustainable and equitable economic development to increase the size of our national resource pie. By doing this, more resources will be made available to support traditional and human security. Peace and security in the area and beyond, based on respect for one another and sovereign equality, will continue to be our top priorities in terms of foreign policy and military capabilities. The vision of my government, which holds that the security of Pakistan rests on the security of its residents, is at the heart of the National Security Policy 2022-2026. "This citizen-centric approach to national security prioritizes national cohesion and people's prosperity while ensuring fundamental rights and social justice without discrimination," the statement reads.

Pakistan is envisioned as an Islamic welfare state that is relevant on the global stage and in line with the tenets of justice, equality, and tolerance. Strive for a harmonious community built on interdependence, proximity to other areas, and prosperity for everybody. A safe and prosperous Pakistan that benefits from demographic and cultural

diversity, while upholding social justice and basic rights without caste, creed, or belief-based discrimination. Strengthening institutions and making accountability, openness, and transparency core principles would help to promote good governance.

The present foreign policy of Pakistan has changed. The nation understood that in order to compete with its enemies, the economy must be strengthened. To safeguard its national interests, the State therefore proclaimed a switch from geostrategic to geo-economics thinking. There is no denying the significance of strategic interests, and it is essential to have a strong economic base in order to realize them. As a result, it is believed that switching from geostrategic to geo-economics thinking is the best way to safeguard the nation's integrity. The nation does not have to disregard strategic interests because of geo-economics. Simply said, the economy would be given greater attention. This is why increasing internal security has received so much attention. In order to ensure its economic success, the nation plans to stay out of any conflicts, demonstrating its support for peace and preference for it in its foreign policy.

Literature Review

Following are the review of important relevant literature review is an imperative part of research. These books and articles are related to Pakistan national security policy 2022-2026. There are books newspaper, journals, published and unpublished, articles and reports, on this research literature which included relevant.

Concept of National Security: Singh's 2015 Year in Review The author of this piece examines On January 14, 2022, Pakistan made public its new national security strategy for the years 2022–2026. The new approach is said to be citizen-centric and emphasise both economic and social security. In contrast to the conventional idea of national security, which is predicated on bolstering the military and defence, it is different. For the first time in Pakistan's history, the new policy altered how the state views human security. This research focuses on explaining the new, unconventional national security concept that was first adopted in Pakistan and starting a discussion about its effects on Pakistan's political environment. The broad concept of "national security" permeates every aspect of a country's overall state policy. All sectorial policies from different sectors are formulated in accordance with the overarching national security strategy before being transformed into operational strategies and action plans. National security is referred to as "National Security Strategy" and "Grand National Strategy," respectively, in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Senate body concerned over rising trend of crime in capital 2021 by Abbasi the author of this essay examines how, throughout the most of the 20th century, military might and strategic readiness were the only acceptable definitions of national security. The new realities of life, however, pushed governments to refocus their attention on other pressing concerns, including poverty, pandemic preparedness, societal violence, water scarcity, environmental problems, and population growth. According to the United Nations, 2021, Pakistan is one of the top four contributors to population increase worldwide. Numerous economic, social, and socio-demographic issues in the nation are directly related to the country's expanding population. The Senate Standing Committee of Pakistan was notified in November 2021 that crimes including homicide, purse snatching, home invasion, robbery, and fraud had increased during the last three years. The primary factors are the rise in costs, inflation, and the decline in employment possibilities in the nation.

Socio-Economic Disparities and National Security of Pakistan 2022 by Naiz As a result, when the idea of national security is realigned and limited to armed conflict and national defence alone, it commits the reductionist mistake and is eclipsed by the new circumstances and growing reality. It's eye-opening that recent political upheaval in Sri Lanka resulted in ministerial assassinations. Therefore, the danger to national security must

originate inside the borders of the state itself and cannot come from a non-state actor or an adversarial neighbouring state. As a result, the breadth of the new idea of national security is larger and encompasses a number of economic, political, and cultural fronts, including the State's ability to protect individuals, boost the economy, and create institutions. Political, energy, national, cyberspace, and environmental security are just a few of the numerous values that are impacted by national security policy. Other unconventional strategies combining diplomatic, military, economic, and political might must also be used to maintain national security.

Pakistan's energy security: can Afghanistan play a crucial role? 2021 By Sharma, He discusses the natural resources of Central Asia as well as the energy requirements of Pakistan and India in a significant piece. The author also emphasises how crucial Afghan stability is for both countries' access to the vast quantities of natural gas in the Central Asian republics. The author advocates Pakistan and India be included in a mutual energy agreement. The author was certain that Central Asian hydrocarbon reserves could be exploited via cooperative planning. The author, however, did not account for regional organisations that may provide multilateral charters. Despite the fact that my research addressed it, the significance of the key regional states was not emphasised here.

National Security Policy of Pakistan (2022-2026): Introduction and Impact on Political Landscape of Pakistan 2022 by Shafi The goal of national security policy is to handle all possible risks and challenges to national security, both obvious and covert. Therefore, developing a national strategy to handle domestic problems in the context of domestic values is one of a national security policy's primary goals. Therefore, a comprehensive analysis of all possible dangers to national security is necessary for the job. The evaluation often results from feedback from relevant security-related security authorities and civil society. Setting manageable and realistic objectives will be aided by this. A better understanding of national security is also necessary for accurate prioritisation and consistency in choices.

Analysis Design, Architecture, Specification and Formal Verification of a Smart Flood Monitoring Systems of Systems 2016 by Khan A national security strategy, in other words, is a set of broad rules for formulating tactics that link several facets of national power for a lengthy list of workable schemes. Therefore, national security policy is an armpit that functions in both directions, giving an entire national policy which serves as a network of policies, including those for defence, the economy, foreign policy, media, and security grip and coherence internal. The PEN paper does not indicate any specific actions that will be taken to carry out the PEN goals. In certain states, national leaders and political parties shape national security strategy, which represents the paradigm or framework through which a leader sees and comprehends the world as the source of her vision of governance. Obama, a previous US president, was renowned for his original viewpoint on US national security strategy. He linked the economy, weapons non-proliferation, and climate change as potential challenges to national security and human security (National Security Strategy, 2015). Another past US president, Donald Trump, prioritised China and Russia as sources of national security in 2017. Both countries are considered revisionist powers. He reduced the importance of climate change to national security. Trump rejected the idea of a global community of interests in favour of competitiveness.

Brief Introduction of Pakistan's National Security Policy

Pakistan has maintained a national security state status from its early years of independence and has embraced a state-centric, conventional understanding of national security. The non-traditional approach to national security places more emphasis on wider factors that might have an impact on a country's economic health and citizen well-being. The conventional approach to national security prioritizes national defence, territorial integrity, internal security, and diplomacy. (NSP, 2021). There are several explanations for why

Pakistan previously embraced the conventional idea of national security. One of them was the continued fuzziness and difficulty in conceptualizing national security strategy. Second, even though it was conceptualized, the old framework a people-centric approach as opposed to a state-centric one dominated it. The state-centric viewpoint resulted from customs of personalized decision-making, which are a defining feature of weak democracies. In order to please the military establishment and maintain political control, Pakistan's weak political governments have traditionally favored the conventional notion of national security. Because it has a greater grasp of the conventional definition of security, the military establishment might impose weak regimes that set the parameters for national security policy. However, Imran Khan, the former prime minister, signed and delivered the new NSP 2022–2026 the nation's first unconventional national security strategy in Islamabad on January 14, 2022. Approximately 600 academics, experts, representatives of civil society, and students were consulted for an inclusive paper, according to the NSA (National Security Adviser). The aforementioned text is reported to have included ideas from Pakistan's many cultural and ethnic groups in order to foster harmony. (Abbas, 2022)

Concept of National Security

The broad concept of "national security" permeates every aspect of a country's overall state policy. All sectoral policies from different sectors are formulated in accordance with the overarching national security strategy before being transformed into operational strategies and action plans. National security is referred to as "National Security Strategy" and "Grand National Strategy," respectively, in the United States and the United Kingdom. (Shivamurthy, 2022).

For the majority of the 20th century, military might and strategic readiness were the only ways in which the idea of national security could be conceived. The new realities of life, however, pushed governments to refocus their attention on other pressing concerns, including poverty, pandemic preparedness, societal violence, water scarcity, environmental problems, and population growth. According to the United Nations, 2021, p. 33, Pakistan is one of the top four contributors to population increase worldwide. Numerous economic, social, and socio-demographic issues in the nation are directly related to the country's expanding population. The Senate Standing Committee of Pakistan was notified in November 2021 that crimes including homicide, purse snatching, home invasion, robbery, and fraud had increased during the last three years. The primary culprits include the country's declining employment possibilities, rising costs, and inflation (Abbasi, 2021).

National Security Policy: 2021-2026: Main Features

According to reports, the above-mentioned caretaker administrations and several federal organisations often debate and weigh in on the new national security strategy. This is the first time the government has created a national security plan of this scope, and Pakistan is slowly moving away from the traditional definition of national security and towards one that emphasises people, the national economy, and other socio-economic indicators as the primary sources of security rather than just state security. The NSP, which was introduced in January 2022 and is a precedent-setting document, is ambitious (Lee, 2023).

For the first time in NSP, non-conventional security risks have been acknowledged on par with conventional ones. The new national strategy attempts to achieve national security by formally establishing ties between human prosperity, security, economic stability, and military stability of the country. It also tackles national defence and the military. As a result, the new national security strategy acknowledges how conventional and non-traditional components work together to form a cohesive national security that can adapt to the next decades. The PEN 2022–2026 identifies seven key sectors as sources of territory security, internal security, foreign policy, economic security, human security, and

cohesiveness at the national level. It seems that the new strategy has only been expanded to include one conventional idea: military security. For the first time ever in Pakistan, the NSP has enacted a comprehensive security strategy that takes both human security and economic security into consideration. The NSP's seeming shift away from conventional ideas of national security towards a balanced and mutually beneficial partnership with non-traditional components is its most striking feature. (Ali, 2023).

Opportunities and Challenges

Identity and Culture

The philosophy of Pakistan, which is inscribed in the Constitution, and our unique culture help to create our people's identities and give them a feeling of pride in and admiration for their country. We must fortify our cohesive national identity, which is built on the idea of unity in variety. Disruptive outside support that seeks to undermine national cohesiveness and create division on identity-related problems makes divisive dialogue about racial, religious, and socioeconomic differences much more of a problem. Despite the State and people's unceasing efforts, they have not been effective. Via a concentrated strategy, efforts will be made to value Pakistan's variety, foster tolerance, and advance national cohesiveness via educational and cultural institutions as well as an open national dialogue. (Maapesa, 2022)

Socio-Economic Inequalities

Socioeconomic disparities undermine cohesiveness by highlighting existing social rifts. Strengthening national cohesiveness is directly impacted by addressing these inequities. Pakistan has made great strides in eradicating poverty during the early 2000s, cutting it by more than half. To promote national cohesiveness, however, additional efforts are required to further resolve socio-economic disparities between the haves and have-nots in a developing country. In order to do this, it is necessary to further enhance social funds with a welfare emphasis, make an effort to expand employment prospects for small and medium-sized businesses, and deal with the distortions brought on by the gap between the formal and informal economies. Similar regional differences exist within Pakistan in terms of important development metrics. Affirmative action is necessary for the distribution of additional resources and targeted development projects in remote areas despite the efforts of succeeding governments to address these inequalities. This is done to eliminate any sense of deprivation and counter-narratives that aim to exploit differences between developed and underdeveloped countries. (Maapesa, 2022)

Governance and Institutional Capacity

Good administration promotes citizen pleasure, enhances the connection between the State and its people, and unites society. The goal of current administrative changes is to increase the public sector's ability to fulfil contemporary demands. Addressing increasingly complex problems that are often cross-cutting in nature will be achievable with improved federal-provincial, inter-provincial, and inter-departmental collaboration. Similar to this, routine process reform and improvement would guarantee improved institutional coordination and the delivery of public services in light of the current circumstances. Opportunities that call for continuity include projects like citizen complaint websites, the digitalization of land records, and advances towards electronic government. The majority of public services are now provided by the federated entities of Pakistan due to the devolution of ministries. The Ministry of Interprovincial coordinating, the Council of Common Interests, the National Finance Commission, and the National Economic Council, among others, must all be further strengthened as coordinating bodies. Through more responsive and empowered district and lower levels of administration, the current allocation of duties between province and local governments may be improved. (Adnan, 2023)

External Imbalance

This imbalance results from persistently larger outflows of foreign currency than inflows. It is crucial to solve the problem of external imbalance in order to exercise the full range of sovereign choices in domestic development goals and international affairs. Pakistan's capacity to reduce its current account deficit is crucial for long-term sustainability. This will be done largely by concentrating on export growth and export-oriented foreign direct investment, which will be made easier by the ease of doing business and by higher levels of international remittances. Likewise, ongoing attention to tax changes is necessary to ensure a sustainable budget deficit via a constant growth in government income. (Adnan, 2023)

Vertical Inequalities

Socioeconomic inequality, which shows up as the wealth disparity between the affluent and the poor, is the first axis of inequality. Social discontent and political instability may come from this imbalance, which may be brought on by market forces or unfair economic policy. As a result, promoting equitable economic growth is a top national security concern that will be tackled through avoiding the obliteration of low-income families' prospects, reducing obstacles to entrepreneurship, and opening up ownership to them. The most vulnerable residents will also continue to get direct assistance to ensure their social security. Existing initiatives like Ehsaas and Panah Gah, among others, will be reinforced even further to make sure of this. Long-term social cohesion improvements and internal conflict reductions will result from equity-promoting policies, which also boost the human security pillar of comprehensive national security. (Asia, 2021)

Horizontal Inequalities

A top national security objective is to eliminate inequalities in economic growth throughout the nation. Sub nationalist groups have leveraged regional differences in wealth and opportunity to create a narrative of grievance based on the underdevelopment of their areas. Additionally, these disparities have sparked an increase in migration to metropolitan areas, wreaked havoc on regional economies, and negatively impacted lives. These horizontal disparities are intended to be addressed by the development packages for South Balochistan, Sindh, and Gilgit-Baltistan as well as greater funding for the newly combined districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. To promote long-term sustainable and equitable development, ongoing efforts will be undertaken to balance public sector funding allocations to satisfy the requirements of undeveloped areas. The study that follows focuses on sectorial opportunities and challenges that directly affect these three dimensions while taking into consideration the goals of lowering the external economic imbalance and vertical and horizontal disparities. (Siddiqi, 2022)

Growth and Development

A secure country has inclusive development and sustainable prosperity. The availability of the resources required for residents' subsistence is ensured by a thriving economy. A solid development trajectory and a thriving economy, despite political unpredictability and security issues, serve as evidence of Pakistan's economic resilience. However, Pakistan needs ongoing rapid growth to guarantee job possibilities commensurate with their educational levels and abilities given the roughly 2 million new workers entering the labour market annually. Similarly, boosting savings rates via wider access to financial services and a better banking infrastructure is necessary to achieve sustainable development. In addition, a medium- to long-term goal should be boosting the productivity of the industrial, agricultural, and information technology sectors. In the agriculture sector, enhancing the value chain will assist improve output, provide greater returns for farmers, and lower the cost of raw materials by bridging the gap between

producers and consumers. The sector may be consolidated to promote scale and value addition, which will boost exports and economic development. Digital connection, information technology, and enabled services will all contribute to Pakistan's economy's growth and bring up new export opportunities. To accomplish our sustainable growth and development objectives, policy consistency is crucial. This would gain from an economic consensus that cuts across party lines and supports guiding ideals for long-term economic planning. (Siddiqi, 2022)

Terrorism

The most extreme means by which a society might attempt to lose its feeling of stability and societal cohesiveness is via terrorism. Pakistan has a policy of having zero tolerance for any group that carries out acts of terrorism on its territory. Pakistan has engaged in one of the most successful counterterrorism campaigns in the past 20 years because to a strong sense of national devotion and purpose. Despite this success, the threat still persists. The employment of terrorism has become a preferred political option for antagonistic parties, along with soft invasion via other non-kinetic measures. Terrorism is often used to thwart and delay development initiatives. Pakistan has received praise from all around the world for its aggressive efforts to create a trustworthy financial monitoring system to curb the financing of terrorists. The State has also started innovative development projects in areas of the country that had previously been affected by terrorism. By strengthening police forces and related counterterrorism organizations, conducting intelligence-based operations against all terrorist groups, preventing the use of financial resources for terrorism, addressing structural issues and feelings of deprivation in recruitment hotspots, and promoting a pluralistic fight against the terrorist narrative, our internal security environment will continue to get better. (Hilmes, 2022)

Internal Security Challenges

Another need for Pakistan to be seen as a safe country deserving of respect in the international world is internal peace and harmony. For decades, terrorism and militant activity supported by foreign governments have had a severe impact on Pakistan's society and economy. Pakistan has lost 70,000 people in the Global War on Terror (GWOT) and spent US\$123 billion. 20 Terrorist organisations like Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant groups have targeted not just political figures but also members of minority religious groups, rival groupings, and other ethnic groups. The terrorist attacks had a significant negative impact on Pakistan's economy, as foreign investment dried up, companies relocated, workers left, and business costs rose overall. (Zhang, 2023)

Despite the nation having just ended ten years of democratic government, its capacity to carry out and oversee internal security policies is compromised by political apathy, a lack of leadership, and inadequate administration. You may implement the "Inner Peace" technique by adhering to the principle of "zero tolerance for any form of violence." This strategy comprises both short-term and long-term actions. The short term involves initiating initiatives like Operation Radd-ul-Fasad to drive away criminal elements from urban areas, while the long term requires strengthening the police and judicial systems so they can effectively carry out their duties. Duties quickly by implementing changes and building capability. It is deemed crucial to address the security challenges posed by extremists and sectarian organizations. In this respect, the National Action Plan (NAP) subsequently included the policy directives that were previously contained in the first National Internal Security Policy (NISP) of 2013 (NISP). In order to bring the area up to pace with the rest of the nation, the FATA reforms have succeeded in combining it with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Madrassa reforms are also seen as being essential to prevent the spread of radicalism and extremism and to help them become harbingers of peace in society. (Shah, & Mahmood, 2022)

Internal and external challenges

Pakistan is faced with two significant obstacles, one on the internal front and the other on the external front. Although they don't seem to be connected, when taken collectively, they have important consequences. Along with the Indian leaders' inflammatory and aggressive words, the situation on the Afghan border is becoming worse on the exterior front. Internally, there is political unrest, social discord, economic anarchy, and a state of law. Both the events taking place inside Afghanistan and the state of affairs along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border are very unsettling. The nation's security situation is becoming worse. Internationally, the Afghan Taliban's desire and capacity to rule are being questioned. His administration has been in power for more than 15 months, yet it is not recognised. Apart from a little amount of humanitarian aid, this has also resulted in a lack of resources to address the requirements of the populace. Poor law and order circumstances are made more likely by deteriorating economic conditions.

In terms of hunger, poverty, underdevelopment, a lack of educational opportunities, and racial and gender discrimination, human insecurity has reached catastrophic proportions. Public executions and flogging, as well as racial discrimination against women, are important global issues that serve as a reminder of the past Taliban administration to the international community. The legitimacy and efficiency of the judicial system have also drawn criticism from the United Nations. These developments, particularly those pertaining to women's rights to education and freedom, are also seen as the Taliban's failure to uphold their end of the bargain when they seized power after the United States left. The situation on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan is becoming worse and worse. Damage to the removal of portions of the border barrier posed a severe issue since, in addition to raising the likelihood of smuggling, it also makes it easier for terrorists to go across borders. The rise of terrorist attacks in Pakistan against law enforcement personnel raises concerns about the implications of a lax border control system brought on by the broken or destroyed barrier.

External Challenges & Regional Perspective

Today, Pakistan has undergone a third democratic transition, transforming itself into a possibly stable democratic state. A participatory democracy has replaced the official one. Politically, the nation is more aware, and the people expect more from the leaders. In addition, Pakistan lacks a conventional security strategy that is adequate. The new administration promises to address the neighborhood's exterior concerns. The primary concern of Pakistan's national life at the moment is defence, both domestic and foreign, despite the fact that Pakistan is facing several security difficulties that are inextricably linked to external pressure. The weak security of any state makes it easy for the major players in international politics and regional players to protect their interests. However, the country's security situation has been significantly worsened by the development of terrorism as a result of the American invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001. Due to Pakistan's unique geostrategic location in the region, it has also brought about a significant amount of foreign influence in the area (especially in that nation). (Syed, 2014)

Conclusion

This study provides a succinct overview of Pakistan's national security strategy. The history, setting, and significance of the policy are covered in the first part. Along with the study topics, possible research goals have been identified. The study would use a qualitative approach. The main elements of the national security policy are succinctly outlined in the literature evaluation. The importance of the study has now been understood.

The National Security of Pakistan (2022–2026) is a hybrid national security strategy that incorporates both conventional and unconventional national security principles. The

NSP of Pakistan includes seven topics that show a non-traditional approach on national security, such as governance, economic security, human security, territorial integrity, internal security, and foreign policy of Pakistan. The state was pushed by new realities of life to concentrate on other pressing issues including poverty, pandemic human security, societal violence, water depletion, climate change, and overpopulation. Nevertheless, determining how this new approach calms Pakistan's delicate political environment is a significant problem.

If followed, Pakistan's new national security strategy for the years 2022–2026 has the potential to improve the country's political climate. Although it wasn't encouraged, opposing political parties' involvement in parliament. According to the national security advisor, several stakeholders from various industries and professions were consulted throughout the development of the new policy. But even in that case, it is a solid start to change the national security policy's emphasis from a conventional to a non-conventional one. The effectiveness with which the subordinate ministries are permitted to craft their own policies in light of NSP 2022–2026, however, will be the new policy's next major litmus test. What effects, excluding those beyond the scope of this research, are anticipated for Pakistan's political environment as a result of the new national security strategy? Before it was presented for approval and during the early phases of the policy's development, the parliamentary committee on national security received a briefing. Members of the opposition abstained from the briefing.

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