- 1. Seizure of Power: Musharraf came to power through a military coup in October 1999, overthrowing the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. He cited corruption and mismanagement as reasons for the coup, promising to restore stability and initiate reforms.
- 2. Economic Reforms: Musharraf's government implemented economic reforms aimed at liberalizing the economy, attracting foreign investment, and promoting growth. The privatization of state-owned enterprises, deregulation, and investment in infrastructure were notable aspects of his economic agenda.
- 3. Counterterrorism Efforts: In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, Musharraf allied with the United States in the global war on terror. His government took measures to counter extremism and terrorism within Pakistan, cracking down on militant organizations and improving intelligence cooperation with other countries.
- 4. Political Restructuring: Musharraf introduced political reforms such as devolving power to local governments, conducting local elections, and implementing electoral reforms. These measures aimed to strengthen democracy at the grassroots level and enhance political participation.
- 5. Kashmir Conflict: Musharraf made efforts to resolve the longstanding Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India. He initiated a peace process with India, including high-level talks and confidence-building measures. However, progress in resolving the conflict remained limited.
- 6. Controversies and Challenges: Musharraf's presidency was not without controversies. His suspension of the constitution, restrictions on the media, and dismissal of judges sparked protests and criticism of his authoritarian tendencies. The Lal Masjid siege in 2007 and the subsequent unrest in parts of the country further added to the challenges faced by his government.
- 7. Resignation and Exile: In 2008, faced with growing opposition and the threat of impeachment, Musharraf resigned as President. He went into self-imposed exile and faced legal cases upon his return to Pakistan in 2013.