

## Pak-Affairs Test-1

Name: AFSHEEN

Batch: 49 (online)

LMS ID: 28513.

Q. The ascending potency of hybrid warfare being foisted on the state of Pakistan is adding to the security woes of the country. Elaborate with examples. (20)

Answer

The ascending potency of 'Hybrid Warfare' adding to Pakistan's Security woes.

In the words of Clausewitz 'war is the extension of policy by other means.'

<sup>x</sup>In 21<sup>st</sup> century<sup>x</sup>. The adversaries use both conventional and unconventional means against each other to control each other's moves (economic and security development etc). This phenomenon is known

as Hybrid warfare. Pakistan is facing this menace since its inception in 1947 and mostly its Pakistan's long-term adversary India, that uses all means to cripple down the strength and integrity of Pakistan. India successfully used Hybrid warfare technique in 1971's East Pakistan Episode and has been trying continuously to hinder the prosperity of Pakistan. Pakistan, which is already drenched in the fragile socio-economic conditions is now facing 'even' the increased risk of hybrid warfare primarily due to advancement in technology. However, combined national will and courage could make Pakistan face and overcome this threat successfully.

→ Understanding the concept of Hybrid Warfare in 21<sup>st</sup> Century:

The concept of hybrid warfare was coined by Frank Hoffman. He defines



Hybrid war is one that incorporates varied modes of warfare i.e conventional military combats; terrorist attacks and coercion and criminal disorder.



Fig: Concept of Hybrid Warfare in 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### → HYBRID WARFARE IN PAKISTAN:

The history of hybrid warfare in Pakistan dates back to 1947. India on multiple occasions deliberately tried to cripple Pakistan by using hybrid warfare tactics. One of the most evident examples of this is the India's

Involvement in the Fall of East Pakistan in 1971. India evidently added fuel to the fire of ethnic riots in Pakistan and encouraged Bengalis quest of separate homeland and even provided military and moral support to ~~Bangladesh~~. But in present times due to the advancement in technology, Pakistan's concerns over hybrid warfare have mounted.

→ Some Illustrations of Hybrid warfare in Pakistan:

Give below are some of the illustrations of hybrid warfare in Pakistan:

- Fall of East Pakistan 1971
- C9HQ Rawalpindi attack in 2009
- Abduction and killing of Eleven Hazara coal miners in 2021
- Dasu Terrorist Attack on Chinese nationals in 2021



- Confession of RAW agent Kulbhushan Yadav about RAW sponsoring BLA
- Balakot air strike 2019.
- Bajor attack 2023. etc.

→ Pakistan's Increased Security Woes Amid Ascending potency of Hybrid Warfare: ~~being~~

Hybrid warfare has been a persistent issue for Pakistan due to the country's strategic location and the presence of various internal and external threats. Given below are the challenges faced by Pakistan amid the looming threat of Hybrid warfare.

(i) Conflicts in Geo-Strategic Transit Provinces i.e KP and Balochistan:

A series of violence against certain communities have spurred over a period of time in these provinces. Primarily these violent



episodes are purposefully done or sponsored by ~~our~~ long-term advisers of India. India is actively involved in terrorists attacks in these provinces as these two province i.e Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkwah, are major part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. These internal conflict create a rift or bitter feeling between the masses and Government e.g Hazara Miners killing in 2021 by IS Group engendered tension between the state and the targeted community over the issue of security of Hazara people in Pakistan.

Similarly Dasu Attack in 2021 was planned strategy by India in order to sabotage the image of Pakistan and portray it as a state that could not even guard foreign workers. This was done to halt the construction of Dasu dam.



## (ii) India's Support to Non-State Actors in Pakistan - Challenges for Pakistan:

India's evident support and alliance with certain non-state actors and terrorist groups in Pakistan is further worsening the already ~~for~~ shattering law and order situation in the country. The apparent financial sponsorship provided by India to terrorist bodies like Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP); Balochistan Liberation Party (BLA) is a deling to security concerns of Pakistan. The prove of this funding is the confession of RAW agent Kulbhushan Yadav, who confessed that RAW is funding and assisting BLA.

## (iii) Increased potency of Hybrid warfare and Challenges for Pakistan on Diplomatic and Economic Fronts:

The diplomatic isolation of

Pakistan was used by USA as a pressure tactic to persuade Pakistan on following US policies in certain matters. For instance Pakistan was placed on FATF grey list and was not pulled out even it fulfilled majority of points that were given by FATF, in order to undermine Pakistan's economic stability.

### (iv) Hybrid Warfare and Cyber-Security Risk for Pakistan:

Cyber attacks are as threatening as other tools of Hybrid warfare. These are used to hijack country's confidential information, and are capable to halt the day-to-day affairs of a state. Cybersecurity incidents have increased in recent years, in 2020 alone 300% rise in cyber attacks was reported. Furthermore in Jan, 2021, the banking sector of



Pakistan suffered a big cyber-attack by dint of which country lost millions of dollars. These attacks could be fatal for Pakistan's economy that is already suffering.

#### (v) Hybrid Warfare and Misinformation:

Misinformation or altered information is popular hybrid warfare tool that ~~can~~ adversaries use against each other. India being Pakistan's decades old adversary used this tool to sabotage the image of Pakistan in international arena and even to sprout conflicts within the country. This is evident from the the shocking revelations made by EU Disinfo Lab in 2020 in report titled 'The Indian Chronicle'. The report unveiled 750+ fake websites across 119 countries to discredit Pakistan on global level, with the sole purpose of isolating Pakistan diplomatically.

The report added one more risk to the security fabric of Pakistan.

→ Factors Contributing in making Pakistan to become more vulnerable to Hybrid Warfare Tactics:

Following are the factors that make Pakistan more vulnerable to hybrid warfare tactics:

- Political Instability
- Strained civil-military relations
- Economic Dependency and Poverty.
- Ethnic disintegration
- Secetarian and Religious Concerns
- Lack of modern technological & education.
- Lack of institutional harmony.
- Ineffective governance and accountability.
- Lack of awareness among masses regarding the threats of Hybrid Warfare.



## → Ways to Confront Hybrid Warfare in Pakistan:

Given below are some tactics to confront the Hybrid warfare risks;

- Providing adequate financial support to respective agencies like FIA do deal with this menace.
- Training the security officials in a way that they could be able to fight this war. For instance, technical training should be provided to officials to keep country's confidential information safe from cyber-attack.
- Political stability is key to fight all issues including security issues.
- Efforts should be made on state

level in order to cultivate the seed of national integration.

- Sound diplomatic means should be ~~should~~ <sup>used</sup> to counter any ~~has~~ false propaganda against Pakistan on International level.

- Media should be used to highlight the soft image of country. In this regard, an international English channel would be helpful. Since India is utilizing this means effectively with its channels like WION and Hindustan Times etc.

- Pakistan should adhere pre-emptive measures ~~rather~~ <sup>more</sup> than reactive/defensive approach in order to counter terrorist attacks and security breaches by its adversaries.



## Conclusion:

In a nutshell, Pakistan is facing the challenge of Hybrid warfare at the hands of its adversaries since its inception; primarily at the hands of its neighbor. Due to these hybrid warfare tactics Pakistan has suffered massive socio-economic destruction and has lost dozens of previous lives. And in recent times the threat of hybrid warfare has multiplied manifold. To overcome and to confront this Pakistan need to adopt certain pre-emptive measures ranging from national integration to technological development.

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