

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q. HYBRID WARFARE AND SECURITY WOES OF PAKISTAN

• Introduction:-

In these modern times, the security issues have taken new forms. Threats are no longer associated with other states but are coming from ethnic groups and their hypernationalism, criminal gangs, mafiosis governance, terrorism, cyber wars and economic-social trans-gressions. In this century, the technique of hybrid warfare is used that involves multiple factors. It can be described as a hidden warfare that targets various fields such as economy, politics, diplomacy, security, religion and socio-economic fronts of a country. This type of warfare has taken a toll on the overall wellbeing of

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Pakistan as well and has negatively impacted the state greatly.

5th Generation Warfare and Pakistan;

Pakistan is also facing multi-dimensional and multi-directional challenges. Where Pakistan has never recovered from the turmoil since its existence, these added threats only weaken the state at its very foundation.

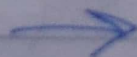
Pakistan has to deal with this hybrid warfare at all fronts. May it be at the hands of its enemies or other attacks of various sorts within the country, Pakistan has to deal with it all. In this portion, we will discuss one by one the different types of hybrid warfares and their impact on the security of Pakistan.

(1) Multiple Enemies;

This can be named as the biggest threat that Pak is facing right now. Big and influential states such as The US, Israel and India are constantly trying to sideline

Pakistan. The US with its power and influence over a majority of countries faces no difficulty in posing sanctions on Pakistan. In case Pakistan decides to take its own way, the US immediately reacts and poses sanctions on Pakistan. This not only hurts the country economically, but also tags Pakistan in the eyes of other countries.

Similarly, India is one of the gravest enemies of Pakistan. The bilateral relationship between the two countries have never been cordial and the very foundation of our relationship is based on hatred. In order to hurt the pride and prestige of Pakistan, India stages proxy wars and fake attacks such as the Pulwama incident, 2019. Such tactics are used to corner Pakistan. When India and Israel, two of the worst enemies of Pakistan join hands, it ought to have great and negative impact on ~~the~~ Pakistan. Such use of irregular forms of warfare play a serious role in the security issues of Pakistan.



(2) Attacks and Losses in various sectors:-

The use of hybrid warfare against Pakistan has resulted in losses in different sectors namely economic, political, at diplomatic level, security level, at religious front, state level and in the lawmaking sector.

(a) Economic Attack:-

Since Pakistan's birth, it has been struggling financially. It never stood on its feet nor had a strong economic backbone. As a result, Pakistan had to look at other states and organizations for aids and funds. IMF was one of the organizations by which Pakistan took and still takes loan. However, in order to accept our request IMF poses subsidies that directly impact the annual budget allocation of Pakistan. These rules and regulations are not favourable for the growth of Pakistan. They do not allow the state to be independent. They put on us strict restrictions that gives us no room to grow and liberate ourselves of this debt.

Similarly, FATF has added the name of Pakistan in the Gray List multiple times. It is constantly threatening to put Pakistan in the Black List. This is affecting the current economic condition of Pakistan, greatly limiting the state's potential to export and import goods. No investor is confident in dealing with Pakistan due to the economic instability. The effect of it can also be seen in the Stock market. Such a degrading economy has devastating effects on Pakistan and results in deficient economic security and inflation.

(b) Attack on military:

In order to divide the civilians in two, the enemies of Pakistan attack the military. They plan propagandas against them. They plant seeds of doubt among civilians and use the dedicated army against the country. Not only this, the USA blames Pakistan for the USA failure in Afghan issue. It claims that Pakistan has worked with ISIS against the USA and has a major role in the failure of war against terror in Afghanistan.



This claim of Pakistan's involvement with terrorists paints us as the culprit affecting our relationship with the US and other states.

(c) Attack on Diplomacy:

In this hybrid warfare, the diplomacy in Pakistan is challenged. The civilians are being fed that their rights are not fulfilled. Such agencies tend to cause ~~socio-polit~~ socio-political unrest. They instigate the people of Pakistan to come on the streets to demand their due rights. They are ~~told to~~ fed information that will result in an uprising and so this unrest will prove that the democracy of Pakistan has failed.

(d) Political Attack:

This involves some parties to have a pro-US stance while others to be against it. Not only does this divide the political parties but also disintegrates their supporters. In case of any unrest, they become violent and are at dagger's dawn with each other.



The constant political instability results in an unstable nation at a grass-root level. With the elected government not given a chance to complete their term, no big projects are being established in Pakistan. No body is prepared to take on the responsibility of the State and its affairs. They are so focused on their political career that they do not realize the immediate as well as the longterm effect it would have on Pakistan.

(e) Religious Attacks:

The religion is also attacked and targeted. As religion is a very emotional entity and close to the heart of all Muslims, it is used as the largest weapon against them. In Pakistan, not only are the Muslims are divided into Sunnis and shias but also categorized into other groups such as Qadianis, Barelvis etc. This sectarianism is used to create difference among the people. In order to protect their religious interests, people tend to divide into groups and are ready to defend their beliefs with all violent and nonviolent forces. This results

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in a never-ending fight among different sects and a constant unrest prevails.

This religious sectarianism is fully exploited by external and internal powers. It is the type of approach where they let us fight among ourselves and have nobody else to blame for ~~that~~ our fall but us. In this way, the opposing powers have to do limited to cause any damage to the integrity of Pakistan and so easily destroy the very being of it.

(f) At an International Level:

When the media coverage world-wide shows this fragmented version of Pakistan, it is as plain as a pikestaff that the image of Pakistan internationally would be negative. With an economy in ruins, political instability, lack of investors, separatism, extremism and fragmentation being the identity of Pakistan, would result in isolation from the rest of the world.

This would mean that no foreign as well as local investor would have confidence in

Investing in Pakistan. It would mean that the political leaders of other states would hesitate to develop diplomatic relations with Pakistan. On top of that, no one would form alliance with Pakistan and this would mean no external support for it.

Conclusion:

With the escalating hybrid warfare, it is certain that the overall security of Pakistan and its well being is being challenged. Not only does it have immediate consequences for Pakistan but also has long term effects on the very existence of it as a state. Certainly, the ascending potency of hybrid warfare is adding to the security woes of Pakistan.
