

IS Pakistan ready for fifth-generation warfare?

Outline

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→ Indian support and propaganda for BLA and BLF

^{Resurgence}
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→ Blasphemy cases in Pakistan

c) Acceleration in ethnic conflicts due to false propaganda

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d) Confrontation among State institutions due to misuse of social media

→ Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir has termed this confrontation as "Digital Terrorism"

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d) Implementation of firewall for restricting misuse of media

Information Minister: Atta Tarar: Firewall will restrict misuse of media (Dawn)

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a) Weak preparation to counter insurgency

- Attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan are part of propaganda to create enmity between China and Pakistan

b) Inadequate preparation to halt religious propaganda

- Social media channels are increasing Shia-Sunni divide

c) Unable to restrict Indian propaganda

- Indian propaganda restricting BRICS membership of Pakistan

d) Lack of mechanism for countering misinformation despite implementing Firewall

Information Minister Atta Tunar: Pakistan

lacks proper mechanism for countering misinformation (The Nation)

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6- Conclusion

The Essay

After gaining material pursuits, human beings have become a victim of conflicts and long-lasting wars. In order to enhance their material gains, human beings have developed different means of fighting wars. These means range from iron weapons to automatic weapons, resulting in the deaths of millions of people. Currently, the nature of traditional war has been completely changed due to the emergence of technological gadgets. Now, wars are not fought in battlegrounds rather the opponent state is converted into a battleground. This new method of war is primarily known as fifth-generation warfare. Many countries are ill-prepared against this newly emerged curse of war. Pakistan is also one among them. In short, the role of foreign and

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internal actors in enhancing hybrid warfare indicate the vulnerability of Pakistan against fifth generation war. Moreover, Pakistan's response against fifth generation war proved to be ineffective. Hence, Pakistan is not ready for fifth generation warfare. Many factors such as the rise of separatist movements and religious extremism depict the fragility of the country. Additionally, accelerating ethnic conflicts, rising confrontation among state institutions, and growing propaganda regarding nuclear insecurity are also highlighting the vulnerability of the country. Apart from this, ineffective cyber security mechanism is another weak zone of the country against rising fifth generation warfare. However, various initiatives like countering separatist movements, eradicating religious extremism and highlighting Indian propaganda prepare the country against fifth generation war.

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Despite this, the country is not well-prepared for fifth generation war due to numerous challenges. These challenges include ineffectiveness against regarding escalating religious and separatist propaganda. Moreover, the country lacks proper mechanism for countering misinformation. Therefore, Pakistan is not ready for fifth-generation war.

Fifth-generation war is a modern type of war. It is fought with newly emerged technological methods. Abbot obviously describes it as a "war of perception and information" [Handbook of 5 Generation war]. Simply, this war provi creates a havoc in opponent state by spreading misinformation increasing conflicts and widening gulf between state institutions. Russia and USA are involved in fifth-generation war. Similarly USA and china are also fighting this modern war instead of going toward traditional war. Therefore,

Fifth generation war has become a rampant and popular method of destabilising the opponent state.

To begin with, Pakistan is facing a rise of separatist movements with foreign support. Under the shade of fifth-generation war, foreign actors are increasing anti-state elements in the country. India is most notorious foreign enemy, supporting separatist movements in Baluchistan. Baluch Liberation Army and Baluch Liberation front are receiving direct Indian support for performing their unwanted activities. Kalbhosham Yadav, an Indian, has confessed the Indian involvement in Baluchistan after his capture in Pakistan. Therefore, the presence of separatist movements with foreign assistance make the country fragile against fifth-generation war.

Another weak point of the country combating against

Fifth generation war is resurgence of religious extremism. The foreign countries enhance religious extremism for destabilising Pakistan. They use social media platforms for spreading hateful content that increase social religious extremism. By getting influence from this hateful content, people perform such activities that increase religious extremism. For instance, a teenage boy has killed his teacher over false blasphemy charges in Pakistan. ~~After~~ After investigation, the boy has revealed that he has killed his teacher after being influenced by social media content. This hateful content is hated & and sponsored by the enemies of Pakistan. Hence, it shows the vulnerability of Pakistan against fifth generation war.

Similarly, the acceleration in ethnic conflicts indicate the fragility of the country against fifth-generation war. The enemies

of the state spread false propoganda that cause in exacerbating ethnic conflicts. For example, the propoganda such as Punjabis are marginalising Balouch people in terms of facilities and resources. This enhances the ethnic conflicts between different ethnicities residing in the country. Recently, Balouch people has killed Punjabi workers due to this baseless enmity.

These ethnic conflicts fulfill the purpose of the perpetrators of fifth-generation war against Pakistan.

Therefore, the rising ethnic conflicts depict the weakness of the country against fifth-generation war.

Apart from this, the growing confrontations among state institutions also highlight the ill-preparedness of Pakistan against fifth-generation war.

The foreign actors use utilize social media platforms for creating a rift among state institutions. India has been accused of spreading

malicious content on social media for widening the gap between ^{among} Pakistani institutions. Currently, the country is experiencing severely increasing divide among ^{the} state institutions. The chief of Army Staff of Pakistan, Syed Asim Muneer has summarised it as a "digital terrorism," exacerbating enmity ^{be} among state institutions [Dawn]. Hence, the increasing divide among state institutions point out the unpreparedness of the country against fifth generation war.

Coming to another point weak zone of Pakistan, the propaganda against nuclear insecurity of the country describes the inefficient preparation of the country against fifth-generation war. The foreign actors including western countries and India propagate that the nuclear weapons of the country might fall into the hands of terrorists. Moreover, they assert that the nuclear assets of the

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Country are completely insecure. European Union Disinfo Lab has discovered 250 fake Indian websites, spreading propaganda against nuclear weapons of the country. However, Pakistan remained unable to intercept these websites. Therefore, the growing propaganda against nuclear insecurity ~~of the country~~ shows the fragility of the country against fifth-generation war.

The most prominent factor of the vulnerability of Pakistan against fifth generation war is failure of cyber security. The cyber security network remains fail to stop hackers. A worth-citing example is of Turkish hacker attack on NADRA in 2012. Moreover, the hacking of the voice recordings of former Prime Minister Imran Khan also indicate the failure of cyber security network in Pakistan. Hence, the failure of

cyber security against restoring hackers highlight the fragility of the country against fifth generation war.

Despite these factors mentioning the fragility of Pakistan against fifth generation war, it is argued that the country is prepared for fifth generation war.

Firstly, the response against separatist movements shows the readiness of Pakistan against fifth generation war. The country has launched many successful operations for countering propganda in Balouchistan. The operation named "Pur Anam Balouchistan Drive" is also one among them. It was aimed at removing suspicions among Balouch separatist leaders. Consequently, Saifraz Bangial, a separatist leader, has surrendered due to this operation. Therefore, it shows the readiness of the

Country.

Secondly, Pakistan the commitment of Pakistan regarding eradicating religious violence is another factor depicting the readiness of the country. For this purpose, the country has devised a comprehensive plan including many practical steps such as reforming Madrasahs. This plan is known as National plan of Action. This has assisted country in countering religious extremism. Consequently, the commitment to end religious extremism indicate the preparation of Pakistan.

In the same manner, Pakistan is highlighting fake Indian propaganda for strengthening its sea preparation against fifth-generation war. The country has attempted to highlight Indian propaganda regarding nuclear instability at international level. For instance, Pakistani ambassadors

are pointing out Indian propoganda during the sessions of United Nations Security Council. This shows that Pakistan is ready for combating Fifth-generation war.

Another significant step displaying the readiness of the country is implementation of firewall. By following the footsteps of China, Pakistan has implemented a social media firewall for restricting hateful content. The Information Minister Atta Tara has claimed that firewall will restrict misuse of media [Dawn]. Moreover, it will assist country in controlling religious, ethnic, and political violence initiated by social media. Therefore, the implementation of firewall strengthens the readiness of Pakistan against Fifth-generation war.

However, these steps do not guarantee the readiness of Pakistan against Fifth-generation war. Still,

There are many challenges affecting Pakistan due to its fragility against fifth-generation war.

First comes the weak preparation to counter ~~separatist~~ insurgency. The enemies of the country are still enhancing insurgency in the country. For instance, western world and India are against the CPEC. Consequently, they are enhancing insurgency for maligning the PAK-China friendly relations and restricting CPEC. A worth-citing example is of attack on Chinese nationals in Pakistan that is primarily sponsored by any of the foreign enemy. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it remains unable to counter these attacks. Therefore, Pakistan is still not ready for fifth-generation war.

Similarly, the inadequate preparation to counter religious extremism depicts make it clear

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that Pakistan is not ready for Fifth-generation war. Despite enacting National Action Plan, the country is still burning in the wave of religious extremism initiated by foreign actors. The Shia-Sunni divide is exacerbated by Saudi Arabia and Iran. Recent Shia-Sunni conflicts in Balochistan are example of this. However, the country is ill-prepared to counter it. This highlights the ill-preparedness of the country against Fifth-generation war.

Apart from this, the inability to counter Indian propaganda also clarifies the vulnerability of the country against Fifth-generation war. Despite highlighting Indian propaganda in UNSC general session, the country still remains the victim of Indian propaganda. For instance, Indian propaganda is still labeling the country as a terrorist state plagued by

insurgents. Moreover, this Indian propaganda is halting BRICS membership of Pakistan. The country is ^{not} ~~is~~ in a position to counter it. Hence, rising Indian propaganda makes it clear that Pakistan is not ready for fifth generation war.

The most unfortunate factor displaying the unreadiness of the country is lack of mechanisms for countering misinformation. The misinformation exacerbates the threats of fifth-generation war. For instance, it can enrage Baluch separatists and enhance institutional differences. Despite the implementation of social media firewall, the country still lacks a proper mechanism for countering misinformation. The Information Minister Atta Talwar has summarised it "Pakistan lacks proper mechanism for countering misinformation [The Dawn]."

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Therefore, the country is not ready for fifth-generation war because of not having a mechanism for countering misinformation.

In conclusion, it becomes abundantly clear that Pakistan is not ready for ~~fight~~ combating fifth-generation war due to lack of proper mechanisms, internal problems, and foreign enemies. Despite initiating wonderful steps against fifth-generation war, it remained unable to effectively counter it. Still, the resurgence of religious extremism, sectarian violence, and propaganda issues are plaguing the country. However, in upcoming decades, Pakistan can prepare itself against fifth-generation war but currently it is not in that position. Hence, the country is unprepared for fifth-generation war.