

Warfare is no more
about Arms alone

In the modern age, warfare has evolved far beyond the physical confrontation. Fifth generation warfare represents a paradigm shift whose battleground is no more the land, sea and air; it is the human mind. It is characterized by the use of misinformation, psychological manipulation and propaganda war to influence public opinion, and achieve strategic objectives without traditional military engagement. The major platforms which are used in fifth generation warfare include social media platform, deepfakes, cyber security and artificial intelligence that not only targets the enemy soldiers, but also the whole population especially their belief, trust and perception in state institution. Nation-states, non-state actors and even corporation engages in psychological and cognitive manipulation. The recent example is the use of social media to spread disinformation during the recent escalation between Pakistan and India. The Indian media uses all sorts of fake news as a strategic tool to spread misinformation and manipulate the masses' perception. It is necessary, as a nation, for us to invest in digital education and enhance our critical thinking, media awareness for national security.