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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

Introduction:-

The higher potency of hybrid warfare leads to Pakistan in "combination of wars" which both types of war fought in Pakistan.

The strategic objective achieving in the Pakistan enemy started the conventional and unconventional wars that including cyber attacks, psychological warfare, economic warfare and proxies.

The Pakistan has been victim of the hybrid warfare. The hybrid warfare cause harm to Pakistan security and its stability. However Pakistan tackle the crisis of hybrid warfare but it's late because of its has affected country security and sovereignty. Its create disruption in the tourism, economy and destabilizing the political system. It weaken the state military and damage reputation of Pakistan.

Factors

1) Proxy Warfare:-

Pakistan has accused neighbouring India of supporting and financing insurgents and separatists movement in the Balochistan and other areas. These allegation use in sense of proxy forces that part of hybrid warfare where a country support non-state actors to destabilize Pakistan.

Examples

- Balochistan Insurgency:-

The Balochistan insurgency is an ongoing conflict between militants and/or nationalist and Pakistan's government. The Baloch nationalist fighting for the autonomy for Balochistan. The Government of Pakistan has alleged to Iran and India to support Baloch nationalist. The Balochistan Liberation Army involve in terrorist activities. On August 1, 2023, Pakistan military launched operation in Makran against BLA.

August 15, 2023, Pakistan government announced to new package economic that's investment on the infrastructure, education and healthcare. The government want to reduce insurgency.

- Militancy in North Pakistan:-

The KPK and FATA faces militancy and insurgency from decades. The foreign players involve behind the militancy and insurgency. The biggest is Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) that involve in major terrorist activities in Pakistan. Pakistan launches various operations against TTP

1 August, 2023, TTP suicide bomber killed 10 people in crowded market in Miranshah then Pakistan launched oper. TTP carried 191 attacks from January to August. According to SATP

a) Information Warfare & Propaganda:-

Information warfare involves the dissemination of fake and misleading information manipulable in public. Pakistan have engaged in information warfare by spreading propaganda to create unrest and chaos in Pakistan.

- The fake news uses against Government and law & enforcement agencies

The Pakistani government and law & enforcement agencies has been target of a misinformation warfare to seek discredit policies, achievements and actions to create untrust of people.

- Fake news about Government arrested group of journalist who criticize military.

- Fake News spread in Social of Church Incident.

- Spread Disinformation about CPEC:-

CPEC has under threat of misinformation to unbalance the Pakistan. The campaign carried out through social media and purpose was damage Pakistan and China relationship.

- Fake News that CPEC was debt trap

- Fake News about that the CPEC was giving China control of Pakistan military and nuclear assets.

3) Cyber Attacks-

Pakistan has reported cyber attacks on its critical infrastructure and govt institutions.

These attacks can disrupt essential services, steal sensitive information. Cyber attacks consider important component in hybrid attacks.

- July 20, 2023 Cyber attack on National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) left millions of Pakistanis without access of documentation.

1 August, 2023 Cyber attack on Pakistan Stock exchange (PSX) caused the exchange to shut down for several hours.

On 15 August, 2023 cyber attack on PTA (Pakistan Telecommunication authority) disrupted internet services in several countries. The attack carried by the hacker.

4) Economic Warfare:-

Economic pressure and sanctions can also part of hybrid warfare. Pakistan faced severe economic challenges and sanctions that weaken economy and destabilize Pakistan. Economic warfare has objective

- FATF Greylist:-

The Pakistan placed on FATF grey list in 2018 which means the country considered as high risk jurisdiction for money laundering and terrorist financing. This action damage Pakistan image in international world.

- Pakistan Rupees fallen against US dollar. The fall of rupee has been attributed the number of factors including current account deficit.

5) Diplomatic Isolation:-

Efforts to diplomatically isolate Pakistan at international level can be viewed as a form of hybrid warfare. Pakistan has felt isolated in international forums.

- Suspension of US military aid to Pakistan in 2018
- Expulsion of Pakistani diplomats from India 2019
- Cancellation of US-Pakistan summit in 2020

Conclusion:-

Pakistan has faces many of challenges which solely contributed to hybrid warfare. Pakistan work on their strengthening its intelligence and security agencies to fight the hybrid warfare.