

# Q → Hybrid Warfare and Pakistan

## 1. Introduction

Wars are no longer fought on conventional battlefields alone, but also over the digital world, cyber space etc to exploit the domestic faultline like political, economic and societal to destabilize a country.

Hybrid methods of warfare - such as propaganda, deception, sabotage and other non-military tactics - have long been used to destabilize adversaries.

Pakistan is among of those fighting against its traditional and non-traditional security threats.

What is new about attacks seen in recent years is their speed and intensity, facilitated by rapid technological changes and global interconnectivity.

In his speech at Pakistan military Academy, Kakul, Chief of Army staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa said,

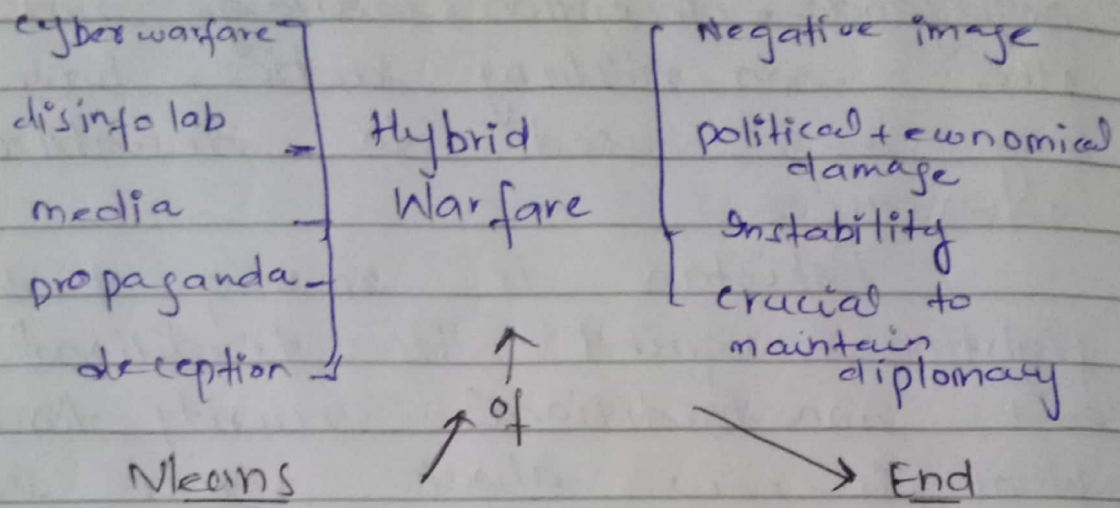
"Our enemies know that they can't beat us fair and square and have thus subjected to a cruel, evil and protracted Hybrid war"

Post nuclearization of weapons employ conventional or hybrid warfare.

## 2. Hybrid Warfare - Tactics

Hybrid warfare is a blend of following tactics:

1. Conventional tactics
2. Non-conventional tactics
3. Kinetic and subversive efforts
4. Regular and irregular tactics
5. Information and cyber tactics



## 3. Hybrid Campaigns against Pakistan

### 1) Nuclear Security concerns

confluence of increased terrorist activity in Pakistan, the country's ongoing instability, and the growing size of Pakistani arsenal is increasing challenge to Pakistan's nuclear security.

Despite of Pakistan's assurance a number of specialists around the world remain skeptical of the security threats steps that Pakistan has taken. Also within the country, the media, politicians and anti-nuclear activist



raised many questions about ability of Pakistan to stable its security issues. This is the way to portray a negative and weak image of Pakistan around the globe.

(ii) Coercive diplomacy to hold Pakistan's missile technology upgradation Pakistan has been the target of coercion by its neighbours, specifically India and US in various instances. The US policy makers employed a carrot-and-stick approach in dealing with Pakistan after 9/11. This became a particular pattern since the onset of the war on terror in October 2001.

(iii) American failure in Afghanistan was ascribed to Pakistan for providing safe heavens to Taliban. Pakistan's decision to join the war on terror in Afghanistan against Al Qaeda can be partly termed as product of American failure's backlash. They blamed Pakistan as it divided the Taliban into two categories according to its interests.

(iv) India's coercive diplomacy against Pakistan. The most sustained campaign was

carried out during 2001-02 military stand off. India enjoyed the support of US and other members of international security. India attempted to take advantage of post 9/11 international environment related to terrorism.

(v) India's campaign after Mumbai terrorist attacks

Bilateral dialogues aimed at resolving disputes through talks were suspended. India moved against Pakistan at various platforms to declare it a state supporting terrorism.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) also formally placed Pakistan on its 'grey list' due to "strategic deficiencies" in anti-terrorism financing regime. Pakistan believes that it has been done on the behest of India and with the consent of US.

(vi) Cyber attacks

These involve the spread of misinformation and propaganda with the help of internet, media platforms and artificial intelligence.

The report "Indian chronicles" exposed a network of 500 fake Indian media outlets that India had been using for 15 years to portray a negative image of Pakistan.



Amidst all political turmoil, hostile intelligence agencies are exploiting the situation by trying to turn the nation against its military. False news against judiciary and police has become a common issue.

#### 4. Conclusion

Hybrid warfare has become common for political gain and monetary benefits. The objective is to deflect the enemy from pursuing unacceptable military or political objectives, imposing economic pain.

Pakistan has focused on building its national resolve strengthening a political consensus on staying firm in the face of adversity.

Effective counter strategies are required. Domestic consistencies also need to be taken on board. Building a national narrative is crucial but possible under farsighted leadership.