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Introduction:

Characteristics of warfare has changed with the passage of time. Especially in the 21st Century, and with rapid globalization, new aspects of warfare has been used by adversaries to achieve their political, social or diplomatic interests. Hybrid warfare is a buzzword. It is also called cyberwarfare, 5th generation warfare or information warfare. Nowadays, concept of total warfare has been decreased now, states or groups employ both traditional or non-kinetic strategies against adversary in order to achieve their objectives. Russian involvement in US election, Crimean war, Hazeullah along with guerrilla tactics used in information technology are all examples of employing many modern tactics in war.

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Definition:

"Hybrid warfare is employing both kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities against one's adversary to achieve interests."

Broadly, it can be referred as a battle of information and perception.

Hybrid Warfare: Threat to Pakistan's Security

Pakistan has been vulnerable to security challenges since its inception. In the contemporary world, Pakistan is vulnerable to insurgency, information warfare, militancy, cyber attacks, economic strangulation, misinformation etc.

Enemy Purpose to employ hybrid warfare against Pakistan:

Following are the purposes of enemies ^{using hybrid tactics} against Pakistan:

- a) Destabilize Pakistan
- b) Economic ⁱⁿdestability.
- c) Portray negative image of Pakistan.
- d) To weaken Pakistan internally.
- e) Damages national integration

Hybrid campaign against Pakistan

Pakistan is facing multi-facet security challenges. Such challenges is are increasing day by day - due to Pakistan's security geo-strategic position. Cyberattacks are more frequent now. Following are few examples against Pakistan in which enemies' are frequently engaged in hybrid campaigns.

a) Command and control system of Pakistan's Nukes.

Pakistan has developed its nukes and it is a responsible state. Pakistan's has effective control and command system. Pakistan's command and control system is in accordance with IAEA guidelines. However, international media and scholars have overstated their concerns regarding Pakistan's nuclear weapons. There is propoganda that nukes may fallout in the hand of terrorist organization which is merely is a propoganda against Pakistan.

b) Conspiracy against Pakistan and China economic Corridor.

Western media has developed narrative that CPEC will increase theft cases, terrorism, drug trafficking in the Pakistan. They regard this project as "debt-trap." Adversary has been using militants to halt CPEC project. One of such example is, attack on Chinese consulate in Karachi.

c) Exploit Balochistan's youth to destabilize Pakistan.

India has been employing hybrid warfare against Pakistan. India is funding different groups in Fata Balochistan to disintegrate Pakistan. The arrest of Kulbuschan Yadav in Balochistan, the confession made are real manifestation of Indian hybrid warfare design against Pakistan.

In addition to this stock exchange incident is a direct attack on economic setup of Pakistan. This attack is conducted by Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) that ~~was~~ is funded by India to create unrest in Balochistan.

d) Portray negative image:-

Indian Chronicles report by 'Eu' shows that a network of 500 fake media outlets had been used by India to portray negative image of Pakistan.

e) Accusation of Pathankot attack

India accused Pakistan for Pathankot attack without any meaningful evidence. Such accusations not only present Pakistan as terrorist state but also damage its soft power.

f) Pakistan: safe heaven for terrorists.

India internationally, blame Pakistan for terrorism. In order to damage reputation of Pakistan, it is involved in propoganda so, to improve its diplomatic standing in the world.

g) Lobbying in FATF

Moreover, lobbying in FATF, to get Pakistan black-listed clearly identifies India's political and military leadership goal and objective toward Pakistan, an indirect war

Strategy against Pakistan on the international stage to seize its economy and assets.

b) Incite Sectarianism in Pakistan for one's interest.

Pakistan is multi-ethnic country. Attack on Higera Coal miners by IS group increases tension between government and aggrieved community. Proxy war which Pakistan has been victim also incite sectarianism in Pakistan. Saudi-Arabia supports Sunni Section and Iran supports Shia Section of Pakistan for their rivalry. Middle East rivalry has proliferated in Pakistan resulting in disharmony, violence and mistrust.

(i) To degrade Pakistan prestigious institutions:

India disseminate misinformation to instill hate in public. Pakistani institutions are special focus of such malicious propaganda.

Causes of hybrid warfare in Pakistan:
Following are few causes

of hybrid warfare in Pakistan

(a) Political instability

Political instability is conducive to the development of insurgency.

(b) Geopolitical factors

The conflict in Afghanistan, India's role in the region, has also contributed to the rise of hybrid warfare in Pakistan.

(c) Religious extremism

Religious extremism has been a significant factor in the rise of hybrid warfare in Pakistan.

(d) Economic factors

Economic inequality have contributed to the rise of hybrid warfare in Pakistan. People living in poverty are more likely to join militant groups.

Strategies to overcome implications of hybrid warfare.

Following are the recommendations/

Strategies to overcome implications.

- a) Strengthen institutions
- b) Promote soft image of Pakistan.

- c) Regulate media platforms
- d) Improve economic conditions.

Conclusion:-

Hybrid war due to its multidimensional nature is posing threat to Pakistan's security. Pakistan, ^{needs to be} is very careful in dealing with the cyber threats to its nuclear and financial infrastructure or ~~its~~ to its overall security.
