

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS TEST-1

Name : Umme Kalsoom

Batch : OB-54

LMS ID : 30142

- 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 to Hybrid warfare (5th generation warfare)

As per famous military sage Karl von Clausewitz, "Hybrid warfare is a combination of traditional means of kinetic warfare supplemented by diplomatic pressure and economic coercion, ~~an~~ intelligence gathering and Propaganda; proxy wars and cyber attacks."

The concept of hybrid warfare originated from the Hoffman's theory of military strategy that entails an interplay of kinetic - conventional military techniques, and non kinetic measures - propaganda, information warfare - to achieve specific tactical, military and diplomatic objectives..

Technology and scientific innovations have played an important role in introduction of 'virtual' battle spaces to achieve political goals.

Hybrid warfares are tactical, operational as well as strategic. Hybrid warfares can hence be defined as coordinated and simultaneous deployment of multiple instruments of Power and influence aimed at exploiting the adversary at every level from leaders to citizens.

On a broader level, hybrid tools can create "virtual war", but also include cyber-attacks on national databases, hostile narrative building through propaganda, misinformation and disinformation through social media. The main objective is to hurt the adversary at the psychological and cognitive level, without causing any harm within the physical space.

Pakistan's situation in terms of Hybrid warfare Pakistan is in a wide range of multidimensional threats. Hostile forces are in full play to isolate Pakistan, internationally. Pakistan is being labelled as "irresponsible state" and "sponsor of state terrorism". National resolve is disrupted by money and agents. The aim is to create ~~an~~ a weak image of National leadership, that lacks the ability to manage and comprehend the developing situation. Propaganda against Pakistan's image is spread by both traditional means (print and electronic media) and non-traditional means (social media campaign). Threat of cyber attack, isolation of political stance on Global S

Gen Bajwa addressed the Hybrid warfare in 2018 (passing-out parade of cadets in PMA (Pakistan Military Academy - Abbottabad) by defining Hybrid warfare as a cruel, evil and protracted hybrid war.

For instance, the audacious attack on GHQ Rawalpindi in 2009, by a group of 16 terrorists was a cruel ^{clear} example of display of Hybrid warfare, aspiring from a narrative that how come the nuclear programme of a country be safe where even its military head quarters are not safe and accessible by terrorists. The propaganda campaigns that followed did more harm to international security outlook of Pakistan than the actual attack.

Another example, could be a series of externally provoked identity conflicts in geo-~~strategic~~ strategic transit provinces - Balochistan, KPK - has faced a cruel cycle of violence against certain communities in the region.

For instance, the persecution of Hazara community in Balochistan has been arousing hard feelings among the discontented inhabitants for long, as they have been questioning the measures state is taking for their protection. The abduction and killing of 11 Hazara coal miners in 2021 by the IS Group, increased tension between the federal government and aggrieved community over the security issue of Hazara people in Pakistan.

Similarly, Basu terrorist attack on Chinese Nationals in 2021, destroyed the Pakistan's intentions and promise of providing top-notch

security to foreign workers, as a result of which construction of Dasso Dam halted for a considerable amount of time.

According to EU DisinfoLab in 2020, report titled "The Indian chronicles" stated that India exploited 750+ websites across 119 countries to discredit and desert Pakistan on the global level. Example to which could be the confession of Indian spy "Kulbushan Yadav" about RAW's material assistance to terrorist organizations i.e Baloch Liberation Army 'BLA' and Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP).

Adding insult to the injury is the diplomatic isolation of Pakistan by US by placement of Pakistan on FATF's Grey list to undermine Pakistan's economic security.

Data breaches and cyber attacks are done to disrupt day to day function of Pakistan state. e.g. one ^{major} attacks on Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) in 2021, risked the financial security of Pakistan.

Strategic approach needed by Pakistan to lessen the effects of Hybrid warfare

Unfortunately, despite evident risks, the national response to the hybrid warfare, remains outdated. There is only a limited understanding of security issues. Strategies like Cold start doctrine (CSD) and Proactive Strategy (PSA) is only in terms of military security and geographic terms.

There is a need of fresh approach to respond

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to the hydra headed monster of hybrid warfare.

There is a crucial need of mistake driven learning programs " like "Virtual Reality Training Simulator. Center for the Protection of National Infrastructure, (CPNI), FIA (Financial Intelligence Unit) has proved to be protective security method to counter attacks on state institutions and national assets.

Pakistan is left with no other options than to act swiftly and take ^{security} measures at the earliest.

