

Q #01

1. Introduction:

"Our enemies know that they cannot beat us fair and square and have thus subjected us to a cruel, evil and protracted Hybrid War." Gen Qamar Bajwa
PAF COAS (R)

A very potent threat of hybrid warfare challenges Pakistan's traditional security framework that needs to draw ^{on} fresh lines of battle. The emergent trend of irregular warfare compounds security woes of Pakistan whose current outlook on the security dynamics still revolves around traditional concepts of Cold Start Doctrine (CSD) and Proactive Strategy (PAS). As Hybrid warfare amalgamates conventional and non-conventional strands of war strategy, the defensive and offensive measures need to be similarly fortified to take the battle to enemy or take it down in case of aggression.

2. Deconstructing the Term HYBRID WARFARE:

"Hybrid warfare is a military strategy that employs a blend of kinetic operations and subversive efforts to destabilize adversary."
William Murray.

3. The Means Through which Hybrid Warfare is being Fosted on Pakistan:

A. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

(ceding space to onslaught on national sovereignty)

A economically fragile state makes for an ideal and easy victim of hybrid warfare. If Pakistan continues to rely on external financial ventilator symbolic of bilateral, ~~and~~ and multilateral lenders, its defensive and offensive capabilities will suffer.

EXAMPLE

1. 1965 War, Arms Embargo

While both warring parties were slapped with American arms embargo in 1965 war, it was Pakistan that suffered, since it was party to SEATO and CENTO security pacts. It was denied relief nonetheless. Yet India was able to secure arms from its Communist ally: Soviet Union.

2. Reseration of Gulf allies over Pakistan joining Malaysian summit

In 2019, Pakistan was again reminded of its economic dependency as it was coerced

to keep at bay from the summit.

B. INFORMATION WARFARE

Growing net of social media and with its anarchic control structure, information warfare has acquired speeds of German blitzkrieg. The strands of Hybrid warfare are built upon 'credible' psy ops themes. It erodes legitimacy and denounces capacity of national leadership in combating the evolving threats to the polity.

Example

1. Foreign commentators calling CPEC a new East India Company have sought to sow seeds of dissidence.
2. Et Indian claims of Surgical strikes

C. Internationally TARNISHED IMAGE

The array of challenges multi-dimensional threat of Hybrid warfare poses are ~~together~~^{exacerbated} when state is termed "irresponsible state" as "sponsor of state terrorism," as it derails efforts of Pakistan in combating terrorism.

D. WATER POLITICS

Being a lower-river country, Pakistan faces the challenge of securing its water resources from Eastern rivers where it is a

threat of hybrid warfare.

A. SOFT INTERVENTION

As National Internal Security Policy (2022-2026) acknowledges, Pakistan needs to incorporate soft interventionist measures of education, awareness and poverty elimination. An empowered population gains a higher ground since war today is fought not only by soldiers in fatigues but also citizens.

B. ENHANCED INTELLIGENCE SHARING

It is one of preemptive measures that can foil enemies cyber or physical advances.

4. Conclusion

Thus, the evolving threat of hybrid warfare is a call to Pakistani authorities to also evolve from bombs to bytes, past war experiences to unforeseen dangers creeping. Pakistan must utilize its huge resources timely.