

## CLASS TEST #2. PAK. AFFAIRS (Security Issues)

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Ques:

Unlike the past where wars were fought on battlefields and the participating groups either won or lost and claimed their winning, wars now have evolved into a broader and multi-dimensional instruments of power including covert and overt means extending beyond the military realm.

### WHAT IS HYBRID WARFARE.

Hybrid warfare refers to the coordinated use of various instruments of power aimed at exploiting the opponent at all levels of governance in order to achieve certain strategic objectives.

It may include military or non-military means, disinformation, cyber attacks, economic pressure, civilian information, deployment of irregular armed groups etc to destabilize a state to achieve synergistic goals.

# HYBRID WARFARE CHALLENGES TO PAKISTAN: A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY

In the current world, the emerging technological advancement and evolving nature of warfare has prompted the countries to engage in the race of state-of-the-art strategies and techniques against the adversaries. In the context of Pakistan, hybrid warfare has been an ongoing issue due to the country's geo-strategic location, nuclear ability, internal imbalances and numerous external security threats.

Pakistan has been facing a number of challenges including terrorism, insurgency, sectarian extremism and economic instability which has posed as a predominant threat to the stability and security of the country.

## Major Contributors to the Security Challenges of Pakistan.

- 1) Use of Hybrid Warfare strategies in the Foreign Policy of the country has majorly contributed to the current

security situation. This has been evident majorly in the context of India - Pakistan relations, where India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of supporting terrorist groups that carry out cross-border attacks. The Indian Foreign Minister in the 2023, SCO meeting with FM of Pakistan, Bilawal Bhutto stated that **Pakistan is the Industry of Terrorism.**

More than 750 websites have been linked to India with the intention of isolating and de-legitimizing Pakistan internationally.

In addition to this India has alleged multiple times that the security forces of Pakistan have a nexus with networks of Al Qaeda, Quetta Shura and The Haqani Group. The ultimate aim of this tactic is to keep Pakistan politically as well as economically unstable in the region of South Asia.

**2) Using FATF to undermine Pakistan** has been a consistent tool used by India. India has launched multiple false propaganda campaigns against Pakistan in the last years to build a negative perception that Pakistan aids militant groups in the region. The main purpose of these tactics is to label Pakistan as a terror sponsoring state and blacklist the country in the Financial

action Task Force (FATF). The persistent false flag operations have been an evidence of their propaganda, which includes: Swami Temple attacks, the Pathankot attack 2016, Samjhota Express attack, Indian Parliament attack and Pulwama attack, 2019. However Pakistan managed to exit the grey list of FATF in 2009 by giving a "high level commitment in 2010 on all the 34 points.

3) The rise of extremist and militant groups in the North Western region of Pakistan is another major contributor to the security challenges of the country. The conflict of the North-West region dates back to 1980s when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. However, in the past years Zarb-e-Azab in North Waziristan, Khyber operations in Khyber Agency, Raah-e-Nijat in South Waziristan and Rad-ul-Fisad across Pakistan have proved to significantly reduce the terrorist threats and defeat the terrorist organizations in the country. But in the past two years there has been an unprecedented increase in the rise of terrorist attacks in across Pakistan. There has been an alarming rise in the rise of TTP (Tehreek-e-Taliban, Pakistan)

in North and South Waziristan, South Bajaur and other merged districts of KPK.

There are increasing number of attacks by the ATP and ISKP not only in the merged districts but across Pakistan as well. These attacks have posed an imminent threat to the national security of the state.

4) The Baloch Insurgency is also another major contributor to the threat posed to the security of Pakistan.

The Baloch insurgency has multiple internal and external forces that contribute to its expansion in Pakistan. The economic and geo-strategic evolution of CPEC has generated an unfounded fear as well competition in the rival ports across the Gulf region.

Multiple powers in the Arab region have been reported to have given assistance to these Baluch insurgents with the sole purpose of disrupting the work going on at the Gawadar Port.

With India and other international powers pursuing the strategy of destabilizing the region as the CPEC would transform Pakistan into a "Transit Corridor".

5) The Sectarian Extremism groups in Pakistan such as Lashkar-e-Tehrik, and Sipah-e-Muhammad have been responsible for the multiple sectarian violence attacks across Pakistan. The major hotbeds have been. Para Chinar, Hangu, D.I. Khan, Sukkur, Hyderabad etc. These areas remain as the worst affected of sectarian violence since the 1980s. The nation gets sharply divided on the sectarian lines which paves a way for such sectarian extremist groups to influence the masses and infiltrate the as well disrupt the internal security of the country. Support to the sectarian militant groups from Saudi Arabia and Iran has facilitated the sectarian mad seminars which have prompted sectarian hate literature across the country. Pakistan needs to strike a balance in its foreign policy regarding the two above mentioned nations in order to protect its national security.

### WAY FORWARD:

Pakistan despite the threats and challenges has the strength and capability to counter the challenges posed by the West-Indian nexus. The adversaries have been trying to undermine Pakistan for a long time. Pakistan should improve:

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governance and counter the pro-paganda  
campaigns launched against it.

Pakistan needs a uniform and  
comprehensive counter strategy to resolve  
and overcome such challenges for  
through long-term stability and  
security.