

Amna -044- Rwp  
29872-044- Amna

Q The ascending potency of hybrid warfare being foisted on the state of Pakistan is adding to security woes of the country. Elaborate with examples.

Ans Hybrid Warfare is a theory of military strategy, first proposed by "Frank Hoffman". It is the use of combination of conventional and irregular methods, diplomacy politics

Army Chief General Bajwa in 2018 rightly said that "Our enemies know that they cannot beat us fair and square, and thus, they have subjected us to a cruel, evil, and protracted hybrid war." The threats emanating from the quandary of hybrid warfare has bogged Pakistan down into a pernicious state of affairs with regards to its internal and external security prospects.

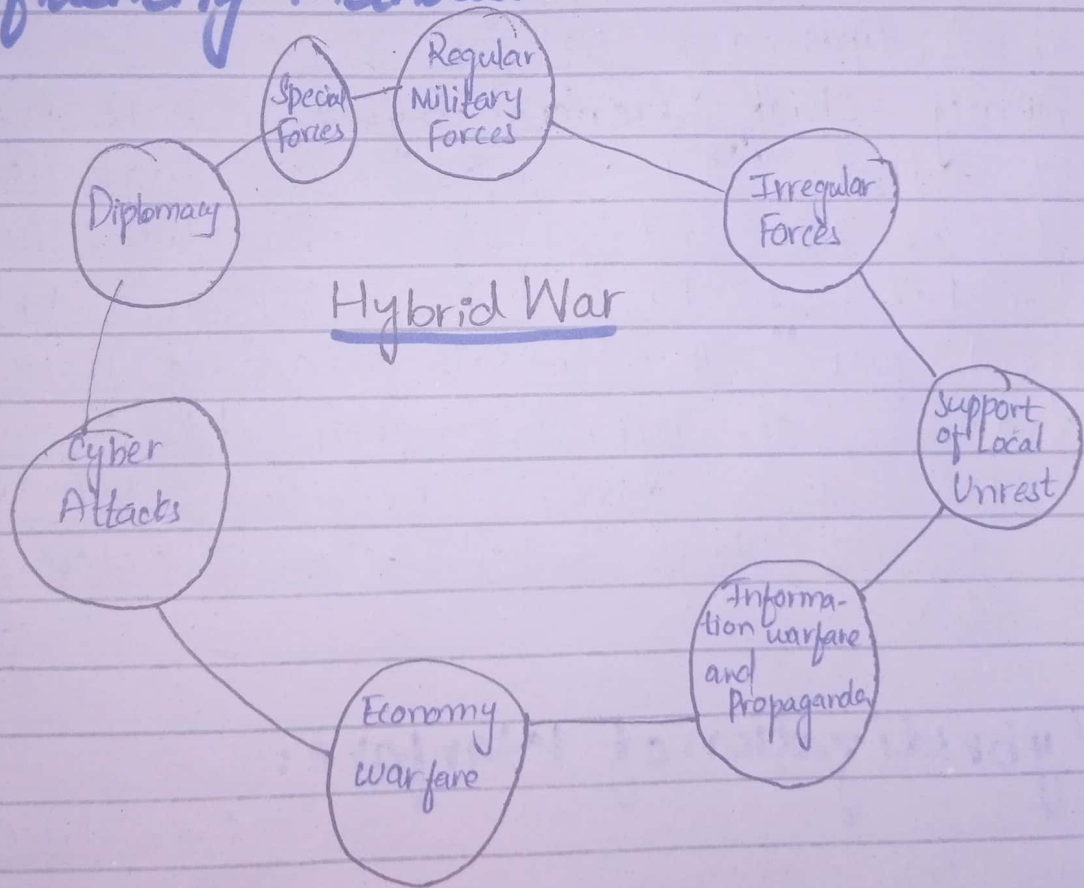
## Hybridization of Warfare:

Ever since the Stone Age, technology and scientific innovation have played an important role in ushering in successive waves of revolution in military affairs. The theatre of warfare has drastically expanded from its pre-established definitions due to the introduction of 'virtual' battle spaces. The discourse on warfare is now more technologically driven



than before. This has led to elimination of physical barriers and has empowered hidden forces that can manoeuvre and defeat the adversary without fighting an actual battle. It has become a mind game. Scholars refer to this transition as the 'hybridization of warfare'. Hoffman asserted that hybrid threats fundamentally comprised simultaneous usage of conventional competencies coupled with other asymmetrical tactics, which portray a stride of criminality.

### Influencing Methods:



In this age of hybrid warfare, it is instructive to study how social media influences the minds of the citizens of a country. According to the Pew Research Centre, in USA alone, the percentage engaged with social media usage has increased from a minimum low of 5 percent in 2005 to a

massive 69 percent in 2018. Pakistan, particularly the youth has major inclination and association with an ad nauseam use of social media website.

Cyber warfare has increased the asymmetrical threat to a nation's databases and its decision making mechanisms. The most distressing feature of hybrid wars and the one that adds manifold to the challenge of effectively deterring them is the damage that it causes on the nation's psychological level.

## Cyber Attacks And Data Breaches:

As calamitous as any other tool of hybrid warfare could be, cyber attacks and data breaches are more than capable to disrupt the day-to-day functions of the state. A baleful series of cyber-attacks on Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) in 2021 deranged the financial security system of Pakistan and private data of millions of citizens.