

# QUESTION # 01

## ANSWER:

### INTRODUCTION:

The unenviable rise of hybrid warfare in 21<sup>st</sup> Century have threatened the national security of Pakistan resulting in severe consequences. The hybrid warfare poses great concerns for sovereignty of the state as it involves several non-traditional methods along with traditional ways. Pakistan is currently facing such security concerns amid various social, economic and political problems.

It pushes the security of the country to the walls with far-reaching effects on regional, state and international level. The era of Globalization poses dangers for the whole world, where economic, political and social integration invites cross-border terrorism, pandemics, climate crisis, cyber attacks and several humanitarian concerns. Pakistan should adopt integrated approach to intertwined hybrid war's concerns and offer diplomacy on international forums to combat it.

# HYBRID WAREFARE ADDING WOES TO SECURITY OF PAKISTAN

## I. ON REGIONAL LEVEL:

### i. Ethnic Concerns:

Pakistan is the country with various ethnicities, cultures, languages and historical backgrounds. Over the course of time, it has proved that sole basis of religious ideology have not installed the nationhood in the inhabitants of Pakistan. The rise of hybrid war further fosters this problem, due to which the security of the country is at the brim of collapse.

Example: Since the independence of Pakistan, Pashtuns have raised their voice for a separate state, which have strengthen in modern era. The Baloch separatists, Sindh separatists and several other groups are being manipulated to rebel against the state through online and print media. These groups puts pressure on the state's which is surrounded by many enemies inside and outside the boundaries.

### ii. Religious Manipulation :

The online ~~are~~ social media have provided an open-field for religious extremists to escape regular security checks and reach general masses. Lack of legislation and proper regulatory checks on internet hinders Pakistan's security. Many religious clerks gain personal benefits through gullible people. It gets very difficult for security officials to stand against religious extremism due to their huge blind following.

#### Example :

Recent example of several demonstration all over the country demanding closing diplomatic relations with french embassy and removing its ambassador from the country is clear example of threats to security of the state. During the days, the country faced huge economic losses amid many communication's blockage for many days. Furthermore, recent tweet by a famous representation of Afghan Taliban statement which states:

"Twitter is very good platform for freedom of expression"

This shows that manipulation on digital platform can poses serious threat to security of Pakistan.

## ON STATE LEVEL:

### i. National Disintegration:

Past few decades, Pakistan is facing several separatist movement threatening national integration. Foreign funding, illegal transactions, and digital platforms supports national disintegration. Furthermore, several confrontations between different racial, cultural and political ideologies have weakened the security stronghold of the country.

#### Example:

Pakistan's security is trying to put an end to several insurgent groups such as:

- Pashtun Tahafuz Movement
- Balochistan Liberation Army
- Sindhudesh

The above mentioned insurgent groups disintegrate national security by challenging traditional countering methods through militancy and non-traditional methods through digital warfare.



## ii. Economic Instability:

Due to economic crisis in the country, low funds are allocated to counter hybrid war tactics. Pakistan is facing severe challenges on economic front, which pushes it to the door of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank after every other year. The lack of sufficient monetary funds hinders the efficiency of state's security.

### Example:

In 2022, many security officers and soldiers were held hostage by TTP (Tehrik-e-Taliban Party) in Bannu district and local security officials were unable to counter this menace. After almost two days, special security force (SSF) was called to put an end to operation. Afterwards several controversies regarding lack of facilities and ammunition, training ~~and~~ sparked rage in the country. Furthermore, the recent budget of 2023-24 almost 60% of ~~the~~ funds were allocated to loan returns, leaving security crisis in pending.

iii, Human Rights Abuse:

Pakistan has seen recent surge in many human rights violations such as human trafficking, illegal migration, and drug abuse. The integrated approach of hybrid war has strengthened illegal pathways to dent sovereignty of Pakistan.

Examples:

The recent event of illegal migration to Greece, which resulted in almost 400 deaths (>100 were Pakistani), demonstrates severe human right abuses within the state. Many international agents manipulate people to migrate through illegal pathway. These ways which are difficult to track through conventional methods endures woes to security of Pakistan.

iv, Political Meyhem:

The political crises in Pakistan since many decades fosters national turmoil and threaten security of the state. Many adversaries interferes in internal political methods of the

countries which clearly hinders national security.

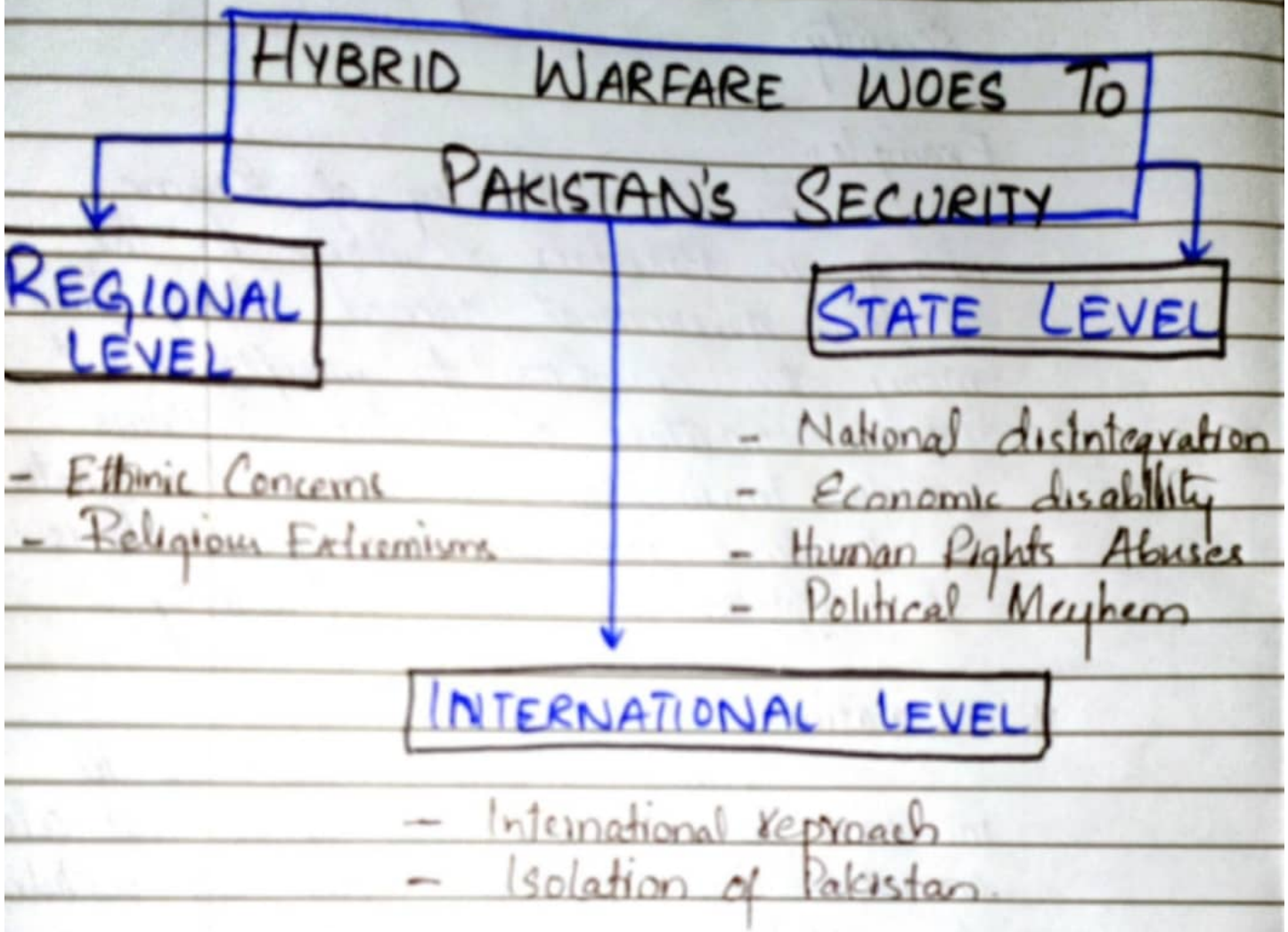
Example:

Recent controversy of Regime change in Pakistan resulting in the coalition government opened door for many other countries to interfere in internal matters of state. Ex-Prime minister Imran Khan accuses United State to threatened national security, which is clear violation of state sovereignty.

v. Isolation:

Amid many crisis due to increasing hybrid war, Pakistan is left alone on international platform. After US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan has seen surge in cross-border terrorism and rise in militant attacks.

Example. The increasing relations of United States and India makes Pakistan isolate to deal with Taliban's all alone. Moreover, Pakistan is also facing severe harsh responses on international platform as seen on verbal confrontation between prime ministers of Pakistan and India on Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.





## WAY- FORWARD:

### i. Integrated Policies.

Pakistan should integrate many policies of different subjects related to hybrid warfare such as digital platform, international image, propaganda opposition, terrorism counter mechanism.

### ii. Diplomacy.

Pakistan should focus on positive diplomatic relations with every state and avoid any kinetic measures. It should try to negotiate on conflicting concerns and reach mutual results.

### iii. Top to Bottom Approach.

Pakistan should focus on structural reforms in various reforms from top to bottom as well as horizontal level, so that every hindrance related to hybrid security can be menanced.



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## CONCLUSION:

Pakistan is facing huge loss related to security amid hybrid war. Although it has initiated many positive reforms related to digital and social media platforms, countering terrorism and propaganda. Recent amendments related to Security Bill, PECA bill 2023 can prove favourable in hindering hybrid war threats and lessen pressure on security subject of the states. Further integrated policies, diplomatic relations on international platforms can strengthen state's position against this threat and pave path to peaceful state.



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