

Pakistan Affairs Test - 1

Name: Alina Tabiy

Batch: 051

LMS ID: 29058

Question - 1

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.

Answer

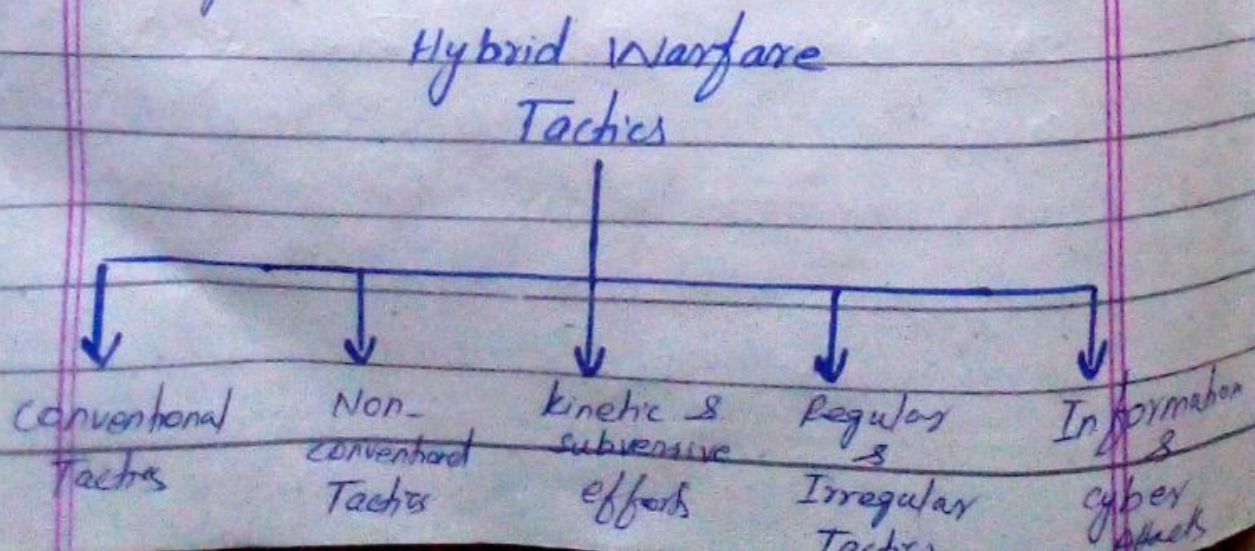
Introduction

In his speech at the passing-out parade of Pakistan Army Military Academy (PMA), ~~current~~ chief of Army staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa said, "Our enemies know that they can't beat us fair and square and have thus subjected us to a cruel, evil and protracted hybrid

war." Hybrid warfare is a military stage that employs a blend of kinetic operation and subversive efforts to destabilize an adversary. Objective of hybrid warfare is not to secure an adversary's immediate defeat. It is actually to erode adversary's morale, disrupt the economy, isolate it diplomatically, and soften it up before a full scale invasion.

1) Ascending Potency of Hybrid Warfare in Pakistan

Hybrid warfare in Pakistan has exhibited an ascending potency through various tactics.



i) Conventional Tactics

Conventional tactics is increasing the potency of hybrid warfare in Pakistan.

It involves traditional military operations, which are often used in combination with other methods to achieve strategic goals. For example the Pulwama crisis in February 2019, involving a suicide bombing and in return subsequent airstrikes in Balakot by India showcased the interweaving of conventional military action. Hence conventional tactics within the framework of hybrid warfare underline the evolving nature of modern conflict.

ii) Non-conventional Tactics

Non-conventional tactics are also a cause of ascending potency of hybrid warfare in Pakistan. It includes strategies that do not adhere to standard rules of engagement, such

as the use of proxy groups and unconventional weapons. For example Pakistan's alleged support for proxy groups like Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan and similarly Lashkar-e-Taliba has been linked to attacks such as 2008 Mumbai Attacks. These groups are advancing Pakistan through unconventional means.

iii) Kinetic and Subversive Efforts

Kinetic and subversive efforts is one of the major cause of exacerbating potency of hybrid warfare in Pakistan. It involves both kinetic actions, which include physical attacks, and subversive efforts aimed at destabilizing a target country from within. As Balochistan insurgency in Pakistan has witnessed both kinetic attacks, such as bombing and assassinations and subversive efforts that aims to undermine state authority and create unrest. Thus

Kinetic and subversive efforts increasing the potential of hybrid warfare.

iv) Regular and Irregular Tactics

Regular Irregular Tactics are also contributing in increasing the potency of hybrid warfare in the country. Regular Tactics involves structured and organized military actions, while irregular tactics involve guerrilla warfare, insurgency and symmetric strategies. For example the ongoing conflicts of tribal areas and mob's attack with the name of blasphemy on Sirilankar manager, Balochistan teacher and church-burning incidents. These cases highlight the use of regular and irregular tactics, that influence the potency of hybrid warfare.

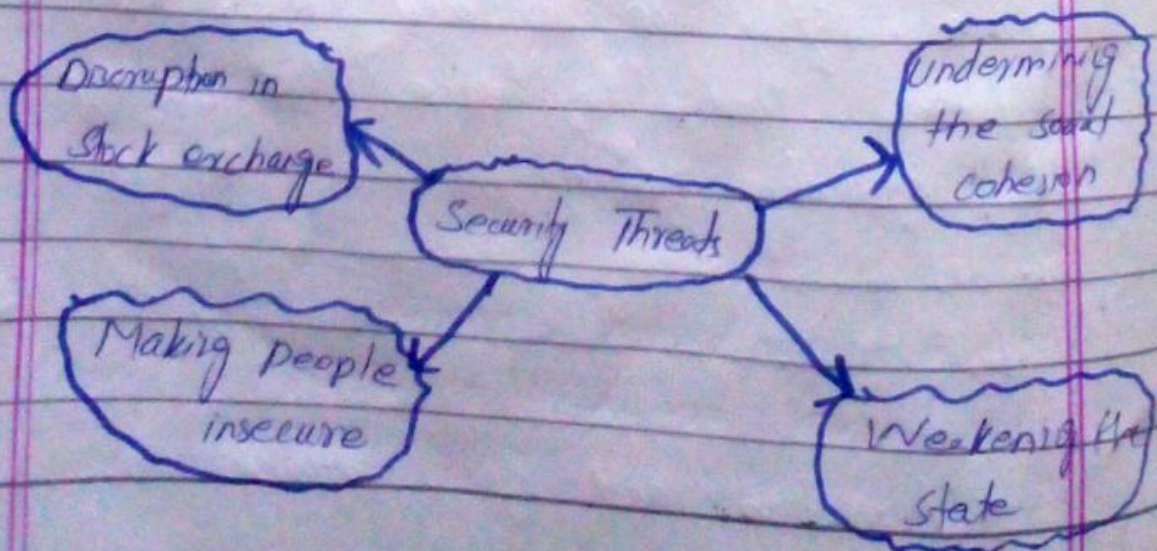
v) Information and Cyber Attacks

Information and cyber attacks are

also a major cause in increasing the potency of hybrid warfare in Pakistan. They involved the dissemination of propaganda, and cyber attacks to manipulate public opinion and disrupt communication systems. For example, audio leaks of various ministers from Prime Minister's house in 2023. In summary, information and cyber attacks are evident in its utilization of wide array of tools which lead to enhancing the potency of hybrid warfare.

2 Hybrid Warfare as a Security

Threat for Pakistan



i) Disruption in stock exchange

Hybrid warfare can target a country's economic stability and cause a security threat for it.

It undermines the financial systems such as stock exchange. For example in Oct 2019, Pakistan's stock market experienced a sudden and dramatic decline in benchmark index. While the exact cause was not definitely determined. Hence, it raised concerns about the potential role of hybrid tactics.

ii) Making People Insecure

Hybrid warfare seeks to create a sense of insecurity and hence cause a security threat. It creates fear among the population through various means including terrorism, propaganda and social unrest. For example APS (Army Public School) attack

in Peshawar in 2014, aimed to create a climate and fear of instability. In summary, these attacks not only in tragic loss of life but also had psychological and social repercussions sowing doubts about the government's ability to ensure security.

iii) Weakening the state

Hybrid warfare often aims to undermine a country's governance and institution, which leads to security threat. It weakens the ability of a country to respond effectively to challenges. For example the Balochistan separatist movement in Pakistan, with alleged support from external actors, seeks to weaken the state's authority by promoting insurgency and separatism. Hence, hybrid warfare not only challenges Pakistan territorial

integrity but also divert resources and attention away from other critical issues.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the ascending potency of hybrid warfare in Pakistan is evident in its utilization of a wide array of tactics. Hybrid warfare presents a multifaceted security threat to Pakistan. Pakistan must strengthen its defensive system.