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Q. 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.

HYBRID WARFARE

Hybrid Warfare combines conventional and unconventional methods, including military operations, cyber warfare, disinformation campaigns and economic pressure. This disrupts the fine lines of combatants & civilians, or between times of war and peace.

Hybrid warfare relies on provoking historical, ethnic, religious, socio-economic, and geographically different fault lines in society. Its tools include information warfare, proxy warfare, propaganda, terrorist activities, political & Diplomatic coercion, economic strangulation etc.

Hybrid Warfare in Pakistan.

Like many other states Pakistan has several vulnerabilities: identity conflict, ethnic & sectarian divide, unequal economic opportunities, political instability, weak or non functional institutions etc. These have been further aggravated by poor governance and failure to implement rule of law and provide justice to the aggrieved. These vulnerabilities have been exploited by Enemy States & Non-State Actors further dismantling our infrastructure.

Security Crisis of Pakistan.

The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) are two terrorist organizations that India continues to support financially that further aggravates delicate socio-religious fabrics. For example, Balochistan and KPK have seen an ongoing cycle of terrorism and externally sparked identity conflicts such as the January mosque bombing in Peshawar and the grievances of the Baloch Hazara Tribe.

Diplomatic maneuvering to isolate Pakistan

India has consistently tried to isolate Pakistan from the international community by portraying it as a rogue state. India has tried to get Pakistan blacklisted on Financial Action Task Force (FATF) but the objective could not be materialized and Pakistan successfully managed to exit the FATF grey list.

Propaganda warfare

In 2020, EU DISINFO Lab exposed India in its investigative study called 'The Indian Chronicles', which claimed that India has used 750 websites in 119 states to defame Pakistan globally. The diplomatic isolation of Pakistan being played out by the US as a pressure tactic to bend Pakistan to its will in certain matters.

Kabul Taliban providing safe-havens for TTP.

Militants including TTP have benefitted enormously from havens made available to them by Afghanistan since the Taliban's takeover in 2021. The Afghan Taliban's reluctance to act against the TTP stems from the fact that it views the outfit as a useful tool against the Pakistani state. By giving the TTP shelter, the Afghan Taliban can assert its own strategic autonomy vis a vis Pakistan's security establishment.

Cyber-crimes.

Cyber attacks and data breaches are more than capable of upsetting the regular operations of the state. In 2021 a string of cyber attacks on the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) messed up Pakistan's financial security system and put millions of people's private information in danger of being compromised.

Conclusion.

Compared to other countries under hybrid danger, Pakistan is most vulnerable.