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Pakistan Affairs Test 2

Question NO 1

Answer:

- Introduction:

Pakistan is facing a myriad of external and internal challenges since its inception. These ^{threats} have taken various forms sometimes risking Pakistan's security from its territorial integrity to launch of an assault to its ideological borders. Hybrid warfare is one of the latest and a potent threat to Pakistan's security.

Hybrid warfare is a term that is coined to refer to non-conventional strategies to weaken a state involving cyber attacks, disinformation, propaganda and discrediting a state on global forums.

This has created seismic waves in the backdrop of new emerging multipolar global order.

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Threats and challenges in context of Pakistan:

Hybrid warfare was also affected Pakistan like overall world.

The problem with this type of strategy is it is so elusive at times and one can't know the source of misdeed. Pakistan, being a significant geo-political position in world, faces states, proxies of states and non-state actors that pose significant challenges in this latest mode of warfare.

Modes of hybrid warfare:

- Breaching cyber security

Many important credentials and data of Pakistani citizens is on risk due to emerging attacks on cyber front. For example, there has been a recent example of hacking of ^{biometric} NADRA's data. in 2021.

- Spreading disinformation:

Another tool in this model of war is

spreading false news for the purpose of propaganda. There has been recent examples of that which proved to be detrimental to Pakistan's national image.

- giving economic aid/strategic support to proxies

Another aspect is giving fiscal and strategic support to proxies. In context of Pakistan, there is evident proof in form of Kalbhoshan Yadav for India's interference in Balochistan and her links with Baloch-separatists i.e. Baloch Liberation Army (BLA)

- Economic warfare

Another tool constituting hybrid warfare is economic sanctions. These have the potential to adversely affect country's citizenry. By blocking trade of essential goods, it can push a state into humanitarian crises.

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Why Pakistan is more vulnerable to hybrid warfare?

owing to regional and current socio-political realities, Pakistan is particularly susceptible to hybrid warfare for these reasons:

firstly, Pakistan and India relations are on a nosedive. From August 5, 2019 there has been little to no bilateral cooperation or talks. India seeks to undermine her adversary in all possible dimensions i.e. political, economic

secondly, ^{due to} the Belt Road Initiative and CPEC, Pakistan has ~~faced~~ gained a particular strategic importance and with it come threats.

Addressing hybrid warfare; way forward:

There are few ways through which Pakistan can address hybrid warfare. These including:

- 1- Proactive diplomacy
- 2- Indigenizing security frameworks for ^{data} protection

3. Halting financing of terrorist organisations

Conclusion:

In essence, Pakistan is vulnerable to hybrid war threats at various fronts. There must be policy

reformulation that cater to this latest challenge to national security.

National security policy of Pakistan 2022-2026 is a good step in this vein.