

## Pakistan Affairs (Test-1)

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.

Ans) Outline :-

- 1) What entails hybrid warfare?
- 2) Strategies of Hybrid war
- 3) Aims of Hybrid war
- 4) Pakistan's fight against hybrid threats
- 5) Current Situation
- 6) 5<sup>th</sup> Generation War - War against the Unknown
- 7) Pakistan and its battle on 5<sup>th</sup> Gen. War front.
- 8) Wayforward

1) What entails hybrid warfare?

By definition hybrid warfare is 'a military strategy that employs the use of a mix of kinetic operations and other subversive efforts to destabilize an adversary.'

It is a strategy of the current era where all out war is avoided and efforts are made to unshackle the adversary without fighting an open war.

## 2) Strategies of Hybrid War :-

Hybrid war is a blend of several strategies including -

- i) Conventional tactics
- ii) Non-conventional tactics
- iii) Kinetic and subversive efforts
- iv) Regular and irregular tactics
- v) Information and cyber-related tactics

A state may employ one of these or a combination of these to destabilize its adversary at one time.

## 3) Aims of Hybrid War :-

In an era of rapid nuclearization, a direct confrontation between Nuclear weapon states (NWS) is just not an option. However, guerilla strategies and hybrid war tactics can certainly serve the purpose -

Unlike a direct war where a total defeat or subjugation of an enemy is possible, hybrid war doesn't offer such clear and rapid results. Nevertheless, it can ensure that the adversary is weakened from within, its morale is degraded, infrastructure is damaged and its command and control weakened.



Other aims that hybrid war can achieve are:-

- 1) deligitimization of the government
- 2) demoralizing of economy
- 3) creation of fault lines between government and the public etc.

#### 4) Pakistan's fight against hybrid threats :-

Former COAS Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa at the Military Passing Out Parade, Kakul 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. Over the last two decades, Pakistan has been subjected to a range of hybrid threats, the details of which are given below"

#### 5) Current Situation:-

The malicious agenda of Pakistan's enemies was launched the day Pakistan came into being, however we started to see these threats clearly once Pakistan attained nuclear assets -

- a) Pakistan's nuclear bomb was termed as 'Islamic bomb' and concerns regarding its safety and security were raised.

- b) In the cold war era, Pakistan had to face coercive diplomatic gestures to stall to its missile technology.
- c) In the era of war on Terror, Pakistan was continuously subjected to the mantra of "Do More" by USA and Indian lobbies. Recently, the onus of USA's failure in Afghanistan has also been dumped on Pakistan.
- d) India has constantly tried to undermine the legitimacy of Kashmir's cause by staging false flag operations time and again.
- e) Using the platform of Intergovernmental organizations like Amenity International, the military of Pakistan (especially ISI) has been maligned. They have been accused of causing human rights violations in Balochistan.
- f) Since the initiation of CPEC projects in Pakistan, US and India have been conspiring to sabotage the progress through several overt and



Covert efforts - CPEC has been dubbed as a debt trap for Pakistan to scare away the public and undermine Pak-China relations.

9) Lastly, India has been trying to damage the law and order situation in Pakistan through several channels - These include operating cross-border terrorism efforts from Iran (Crahbahar) and supporting violent non-state actors (NSAs) in erstwhile FATA and Balochistan.

6) 5th Gen War - War against the unknown.

This is a hybrid war which is conducted through non-kinetic military actions especially through the use of social media & cyber world - The aim is to spread false news and propaganda.

7) Pakistan and its battle on the 5th Gen. Warfront

Pakistan has been tackling the efforts to undermine the sovereignty of Pakistan on 5th generation war front - The discovery of 'Indian Chronicles' highlights how India has

been using social media platforms to spread fake news against Pakistan for several years.

## 8) Wayforward

The best way forward for Pakistan to tackle the threats posed by hybrid war is to have up-to-date technology and expertise to deal with 5th Gen war threats - Moreover, the public needs to be made aware of the weapons and tactics that are often employed in hybrid war so that they can be on the guard.