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Conceptualizing Hybrid Warfare: India's Tactics Confronting Pakistan's Security

Abstract

"The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting." (Sun Tzu, 2000)

The 21ˢᵗ century is marked with the introduction of the concept 'hybrid warfare' in the international politics, however, the use of its tactics is not a novel phenomenon. In this asymmetric warfare, multi-modal strategies including conventional and non-conventional have been used blurring the distinction between military, insurgency and terrorists activities. Multiple actors are mobilized in this warfare including state and non-state to achieve a targeted political objective that is to subdue the enemy. Due to the globalization, unprecedented technological advancement and artificial intelligence, the hybrid adversary is adaptive and flexible in shifting strategies and tactics. The aim of this paper is to explore conceptual contours of hybrid warfare and India's employment of hybrid warfare strategies confronting Pakistan's security. The study concludes by proposing recommendations about the need to formulate a comprehensive response strategy by Pakistan to deter hybrid warfare challenges of its adversary India.

Key words: Hybrid warfare, traditional, asymmetrical, India, Pakistan.
Introduction

Hybrid warfare is a conflict involving a combination of conventional military forces and irregulars (guerrillas, insurgents, and terrorists), which could include both state and non-state actors, aimed at achieving a common political purpose (Mansoor, 2012). It is fought in a grey zone. It denotes an environment between war and peace in which conventional forces, coercive influence and criminal activities have been employed (Yadav, 2019). Russian action in Crimea and Ukraine makes it clear that the hybrid conflict is no longer taking place on conventional ground alone but non-conventional dimensions are also involved (Clark, 2020). In the new-generation warfare, information and cognitive domains are the key foundations for victory (Chekinov & Bogdanov, 2013). The battlefield has changed now. War is played in the minds of people. The journey from machine-power to information weaponization took a decade. It has now moved from 'weapons of mass destruction' to 'weapons of mass disruption' (Farrukh, 2020 Nov 22). U.S. General McChrystal is convinced that "shaping the perception of which side is right or which side is winning will be more important than actually which side is right or winning." (Singer & Brooking, 2018 October 2)

The use of tactics and strategies of hybrid warfare against Pakistan by its adversary India started since their inception. India's employment of new strategies rather than conventional warfare has been a cost-effective and a preferred policy, posing an active threat to Pakistan's homeland security. Tahir & Ejaz (2018) asserts that Pakistan is confronting many challenges that come under the category of Fourth Generation Warfare. Violent extremist organizations are operating in Pakistan backed by nationalist, sectarian, ethno-lingual, and *mujahidin* (jihadist) lines. They are often supported by external forces. Moreover, Pakistan's physiography has enmeshed it with various challenges. External challenges emanating from its immediate neighbor India have threatened its survival. Iqbal (2018) avers that multilayered threats emanating from internal and external forces aim to deteriorate Pakistan by attempting to balkanize the state into several parts.

India's rivalry with its inborn enemy Pakistan is as old as the formation of both states. They both witnessed a conflicted relationship due to their baggage of history and a turbulent past of violent partitioning of sub-continent India with one million people dead and ten million displaced (Dalrymple, June 22, 2015). For more than seven deacdes, they have gone through many overt wars, several conflicts and confrontations. Moreover, India keeps

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LOC (Line of Control) and working boundary active by cross border and indiscriminate firing to spread mass terror and justifies its action as preventing the penetration of the militant outfits from Pakistan's side of the border (Jaspal, 2017 November, 2). In 1971 war, India used hybrid warfare strategies against Pakistan by playing a decisive role and supporting the internal liberation struggle, Mukhti Bahini, to exert pressure and embroil Pakistan's army on the inner front. India's strategy of all times is to split Pakistan into several parts. This strategy is completely in line with its 'Cold Start Doctrine' (Khan & Khalid, 2018). Therefore, Pakistan, since inception, always remained India-centric. India's overt nuclearization led towards Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear technology.

Currently, India perceives China's global presence, its geo-economic vision, development of closer ties with more countries of the world and initiation of projects like BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) and CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor), as a global political agenda and a threat to its economy and refused to participate (Sharma, 2019 October 14). However, the completion of these projects will prove to be a fate changer and a beacon of success not only for China, Pakistan and the entire region but far beyond. Therefore, the successful implementation of CPEC must be ensured at all costs in order to ensure the success of BRI.

Moreover, India's covert action of employing terrorism against Pakistan in the cover to catch or kill terrorists is revealed by Indian Defence Minister, Manohar Parrikar's statement *"kante se kanta nikalna"* (removing a thorn with a thorn). Ajit Duval, India's National Security Advisor (NSA) attempted to damage control by playing down Parrikar's statement, "it could mean having skills, equipment, tactics, it can have many meanings" (Sehgal, 2018 October 18). In reality, this statement clearly manifests India's employment of hybrid warfare tactics against Pakistan.

Generations of Warfare

As Clausewitz stated, "Every age has its own kind of war, its own limiting conditions, and its own peculiar preconceptions." (Clausewitz, 1989) In international politics, it is generally a continuous and evolving phenomenon. Over a period of centuries, due to unprecedented technological advancement in weapons, tactics and strategies, it has undergone a major transformation. Even war zones have evolved. Moreover, the traditional warfare apparatus is not only costly but causes heavy causalities and infrastructural damage on both invader and invaded states. The concept of hybrid warfare has entered into pragmatic shift from the strategic thinking (Nisar, 2018). Now, long-term objectives against the enemy can be achieved through hybrid warfare.

The period of first generation warfare (1GW) started after the 'Treaty of Westphalia' (from mid of 17th century and lasted till the latter half of 19th century). This warfare refers to massed man power fighting battles in uniformed regular militaries in column, phalanx and line tactics governed by the states. The example of this generation warfare is Napoleonic Wars (Lind, 2004).

Second generation of warfare (2GW) still maintained the lines of warfare. In the 19th century, technological development, radio communication, creation of trench warfare and advanced artillery such as machine gun, breach loaded rifled musket and indirect firing meant long range, accurate and fast rate of firepower. Massed man power replaced massed fire power. During the WWI, French army sought a solution in the fire power. "The artillery conquers, the infantry occupies" became the doctrine for the artillery, infantry and tanks in a "conducted battle". This generation of warfare lasted till the Biltzkreig highlighted the flaws of static firing, slow moving infantry and heavy death toll (Lind, 2004).

Third Generation Warfare (3GW) marks the end of linear warfare. With the development of the helicopter and advanced missile technology, distant adversary can easily be attacked. Tanks, artillery and fighter aircrafts are the weapons of war. The employment of Blitzkrieg during German attack on France showed the power of speed and maneuverability over static artillery positions and trench defenses. During the time period of 300 years, war has been moved from firepower to machine power (Lind, 2004).

Fourth Generation Warfare (4GW) is introduced by William S. Lind used interchangeably to hybrid warfare. The concept "Hybrid warfare" is introduced by Frank Hoffman in a paper published by Joint Forces Quarterly in the context of war between Athens and Sparta (Hoffman, 2009). As stated by Hoffman, Hybrid threats incorporate "a full range of modes of warfare, including conventional capabilities, irregular tactics and formations, terrorist acts that include indiscriminate violence and coercion, and criminal disorder. These multi-modal activities can be conducted by separate units, or even by the same unit, but are generally, operationally and tactically directed and coordinated within the main battle space to achieve synergistic effects in the physical and psychological dimensions of conflict." (Hoffman, 2009)

There is no consensual definition of hybrid warfare. The abstractness of term means it is used to include all conditions of non-linear warfare. This asymmetrical warfare blurs the distinction between war and politics, civilians and combatants and state and non-state entities. Lind proposed a simplest definition of hybrid warfare in which a state does not act rather the non-state actors are involved in terrorism, insurgency, organized crimes, internal radical movements and guerilla warfare aiming to achieve a desired political objective and are often backed by external

actors. The aggressor used undercover actions to avoid retribution (Lind, 2004). However, the non-state actors are better equipped and use technologically advanced weapons system (Hoffman, 2009). The population of a state is often targeted. The non-state actors within the state system act as proxies having their independent political goals. The war between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006 and civil war in Syria fall in the modern age warfare (Lind, 2004; Deep, 2015). Russia, a state actor, is involved in waging a hybrid war in Ukraine although Russia, in 2014, denies its involvement Ukrainian conflict (Deep, 2015).

In this non-linear warfare, a simultaneous attack is performed on all grounds such as land, sea, air, information and cyber space (Hoffman, 2009). Therefore the battlefield is everywhere (Naz, 2021). The irregular warfare is considered a long, complex and low intensity war and its strategies are always evolving. The asymmetrical tactics include diplomacy, false information, terrorist activities, indiscriminate violence, identity crisis and criminal activity as a unified strategy before it goes into conventional battlefield (Hoffman, 2007; Jasper & Moreland, 2014). Hybrid warfare employs a coordinated military, political, economic, civilian and informational (MPECI) instruments of power to exploit domestic vulnerabilities across political, military, economic, social, informational and infrastructural (PMESII) tools of power that extends far beyond the military realm (Reichborn-Kjennerud & Cullen, 2016). Media manipulation, propaganda, cyber warfare and diplomatic pressure are used for 'informatization' to 'intelligentization'. Fake-news websites are used to spread false information (Farrukh, 2020 Nov 22) aiming to build perception and its propagation.

A hybrid adversary is flexible, adopts new strategies very swiftly, deploys modern weapons system and other disrupting tactics. When the US started aerial bombing on IS faction, they quickly reduced the use of checkpoints and began to disperse among the population (Mawy, 2014 Sep 30). In Israel-Hezbollah war, Hezbollah was armed with state of the art military weapons such as precision-guided missiles, short and medium range rockets and aerial drones to gather intelligence (Deep, 2015). "They communicated with encrypted cellphones and digital networks, and watched Israeli troop movements with thermal night-vision equipment." (Deep, 2015)

Russian armed forces modernized and developed their tactics other than military means by building broader coalitions, increasing political pressure and fighting a war on information and cyber domains. Therefore, military approach is no more sufficient and traditional forces find it difficult to thwart these threats that take place in a grey zone. On the other hand, US has a direct military role and uses kinetic force/hard power in various geographical regions of the world. Hybrid warfare challenges the US conventional military approach. Therefore "one size fits all" strategy won't be an effective deterrence (Ball, 2019 Jun. 10). This warfare has been critiqued because it is "nothing more than repackaging of the traditional clash between the non-state insurgent and the soldiers of a nation-state." (Banuri, January 15, 2019).

In the fifth generation warfare (5GW), a hidden exploitation of networks, institutions, actors and states have been done to achieve desired political objectives through social, economic and political means. Non-state actors fight the states due to sheer frustration having no clear political objectives. The 5GW has been explored since the 9/11 incident. Al-Qaida, IS (Islamic State) and other non-state actors are conducting violent activities against the states (Nisar, 2018). As stated by Shannon Beebe, US Army Staff, "this kind of warfare is motivated by frustration rather than any material or ideological objective." The regions of this generation warfare are Middle East, Africa and South Asia (Janjua, 2018 March 19).

Domains of Hybrid Warfare

The utmost challenge in hybrid warfare does not come from a single state opting a single strategy rather multiple states functioning in multiple domains, employing multiple technologies and combining them with modern ways and means to meet their strategic objectives.

In conventional physical domain, force moves through time and space in both conventional and sub-conventional means. Military action starts during peacetime. War is undeclared (Nisar, 2018). Since, NATO is militarily involved in different regions of the world. It can be assessed that hard power is insufficient and collective military response is ineffective. Moreover, Indian forces' unprovoked firing along the LoC is a clear instance of its use of kinetic force against Pakistan.

Due to globalization and unprecedented technological expansion, battlefields are not the only sites to launch attacks against adversary. Propaganda and psychological warfare are gaining ground. Foreign Policy and informational domain have been increasingly used to effectively disseminate a state's narrative to domestic and international audiences. On the other side, fake and fabricated news and misinformation against the government and its institutions have become the currency of the conflict and are used to shape public opinion. Media is an important stakeholder in setting the agenda that is generated, manipulated and disseminated. Its realm includes the cyber domain that has now entered into national security constructs (Nisar, 2018). India exploits Pakistan's informational domain. It is trying to project Pakistan as a state sponsoring terrorism and isolate it diplomatically. For Pakistan, in order to offset India's attack, a complete understanding of tactics and enhancing its capabilities are essential.

Intent, doctrine, techniques, tactics and procedures rest in cognitive domain. As Messner highlights the Russian perception, the modern warfare is based on the concept of waging war with people's minds consequently leading towards implementation of information and cognitive influence on broader range aiming to achieve the majority in morale sphere and leading to psychological problems in armed sub-units and civilians (Banasik, 2015).

The social domain is comprised of all essential components of human enterprise such as culture, religion, attitudes, beliefs, values, economy, and diplomacy and where political decisions connected to the "will of community" are made (Nisar, 2018). Russia imposes a hybrid warfare in Ukraine in 2014. Russia's main focus remained the polarization of society aimed at destabilizing the state.

The hybrid conflict passes through four stages in order to reach a hybrid war.
   i. At first stage, a strategic narrative may be fabricated.
   ii. At second stage, a hybrid conflict may surpass under a strategic narrative. The insurgents' activities, terrorism and cyber threats deteriorate the state structure.
   iii. At third stage, the structure of the state may be fragmented. The public lacks confidence on the state and its institutions including military.
   iv. At fourth stage, all elements may achieve coherence under one strategic narrative. The state structure may be intimidated on core issues blatantly.
   v. The fifth stage converts a hybrid conflict into hybrid warfare that may worsen internal and external hostilities and move towards kinetic actions leading to internal collapse and ensuring a partial or a complete failure of the state and its institutions (Centre for Global & Strategic Studies, 2018).

Proponents of 4th Generation Warfare

William S. Lind is one of the first proponents of Fourth-Generation warfare theory. As per Lind, over the last four decades, the world has progressively entered into a "post-Clausewitzian state". The battles are tacit, the combat zones can be anywhere, the uniforms are optional, and the fighters and the targets are mostly "civilians". Traditional armies have often attempted to use technology to confront new challenges, but even the most advanced technology has provided short-term victories and has been rendered futile in months, if not weeks. The state loses its monopoly over war. Currently, non-state entities are fighting the state militaries in different regions of the world such as al-Qaida, Hamas and Hezbollah (Lind, 2004). The insurgents' factions or the non-state actors try to establish their order that results into disorder as the state surrenders.

Another proponent, Russian General Valery Vasilyevich Grasimov conceived a "Grasimov Doctrine". As stated by Grasimov, military, technology, information, diplomacy, economic, culture and other tactics of war are combined in this warfare. Grasimov maintains that 'the very rules of war' have changed. The role of non-military tools to achieve political and strategic goals has grown (Gerasimov, 2016). The borders between war and peace are fading away and all actions are performed under the cover. The wars are undeclared and simply started. Grasimov named it the 'War of a New Generation'(Grasimov, 2013).

Dr. Francis G. Hoffman stated that the blurring of modes of war, the blurring of who's fighting and the blurring of technologies have increased the complexity of hybrid warfare. The multi-modal activities are performed by multiple actors. The employment of regular and irregular tactics as a unified approach is "compound wars" (Hoffman, 2007).

Hybrid Warfare Tactics of India against Pakistan

The target of this non-linear warfare is not the rapid conquest of adversary. It is exactly what India is doing against its immediate neighbor and inborn adversary, Pakistan. India's desired objectives againt Pakistan are to: 1) disintegrate the country and for this purpose, it supported the separatist elements in East Pakistan that resulted in the partining of Pakistan into two and Bangladesh coming into being in 1971 (Hussain, 2019), 2) destabilize its political system by providing diplomatic and material support to Baluch dissenters and insurgents in Gilgit Baltistan (Abbasi, 2020, Hussain, 2019), 3) malign its image as a state sposonring terrorism by attempting to isolate it internationally and get it on FATF (Financial Action Task Force) blacklist (Nadeem, Mustafa & Kakar, 2021), 4) disrupt its communication infrastructure by subverting CPEC (Haider, 2016 April 13), 5) and impose economic damage by withdrawing the MFN (Most Favoured Nation) status granted to Pakistan in 1996 (Srivas, 2019 Feb 15).

India from the very beginning did not accept the existence of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This ideology is deep-rooted in India's politics and its foreign policy. India considered Pakistan a part of "*Akhand Bharat*" (Greater India) and Muslims as defectors of Hindu religion. India aspires to create an environment suitable to achieve this legacy. The conflicts of Junagarh (1947), Hydrabad (1948) and Kashmir (1948) are clear manifestations of this hatred. Moreover, minority religions in India including Mulsims have faced persecution and discrimination from right-wing Hindu extremist factions. Alongside, Indian leadership is of the view that it merits international status by virtue of its size, military, economic potentials, population and most importantly its world's largest democracy

(Hussain, 2019). India projects itself a modern liberal democracy and is failed to ensure Kashmiris' their right of self-determination. On the other hand, militarization led human rights violations have been carried out in the Vale. Raping women is systematically and strategically used as a potent weapon to degrade, humiliate and coerce people into submission and suppress their spirit of struggle (Raazia, 2020). In order to gain advantage, India is performing covert actions against Pakistan. As revealed in Davul doctrine, India's foreign policy is always anti-Muslim and Pakistan-centric. India's false surgical strike against Pakistan in 2016, Pulwama's false flag operation and India's revocation of 'special status' and autonomy granted to Kashmir under Indian Contitution's Articles 370 and 35 A and aggressive assimilation of the Vale is the manifestation of this doctrine (The Nation, Nov 30, 2020).

In order to destabilize Pakistan, India is trying to exploit its political, social, economic, sectarian and religious fault lines. RAW is involved in creating disorder in Karachi by facilitating various militant wings and criminal gangs. India has started an anti-CPEC campaign by creating trust deficit between provinces, instigating Baluch sub-nationalist movements and creating controversies among native people in order to sabotage the project and deprive Pakistan to reap its benefits (Ahmed, 2018 July 11). India is feuling and financing insurgencies in Baluchistan and GB (Gilgit Baltistan) (Hussain, 2019) and providing arms, ammunition and training to TTP (Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan) and LEJ (Lashkar-E-Jhangvi). India is trying to convey the image to international community that Pakistan controlled Kashmiris and Baluch separatists through oppressive means by carrying out grave human rights abuses (Ahmed, 2018 July 11). Moreover, Kulbhushan Yadav, a serving Indian Navy officer, was detained from Baluchistan during a counterinsurgency operation by intelligence agencies of Pakistan, who entered into Chabahar with a visa stamp on a fake passport. It unearths the fact that a spy network is functioning in Pakistan (Sehgal, 2018 October 18). Yadev confessed that "India is providing support to militants and Baloch separatists to carry out subversive activities and terrorist attacks to sabotage and disrupt Pakistan's security apparatus and CPEC." (Dar, February 18, 2019) In 2013, Indian Army Chief General Vijay Kumar Singh admitted that after the 2008 Mumbai attacks, a TSD (Tactical Support Division) was established to carry out terrorist attacks in Pakistan and provide material resources for Baluch dissenters (Abbasi, 2020). Therefore, Pakistan and China are making cooperative and coordinated efforts to avert the threats of hybrid warfare and work uninterruptedly in collaboration for the successful implementation of CPEC. Moreover, RAW supported, funded and organized public protest movements against the state machinery. PTM (Pashtun Tahafuz Movement) is one such instance whose connection with RAW is revealed (Naz, 2021; Raza, 2019 April 14).

On February 14, 2019, Pulwama terrorist attack was carried out killing at least 40 CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) at Jammu and Kashmir which triggered escalation between India and Pakistan. JeM (Jaish-e-Mohammad) banned in Pakistan, allegedly claimed the responsibility. Pakistan's ex-Premier Imran Khan stated that Pakistan will cooperate on "actionable intelligence" with India and to "take action" if India provides proof of Pakistan's involvement, which India failed to provide. In Pakistan, it is deemed as a false flag operation happened just before India's general elections. As per Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda, "it is not possible to bring such massive amounts of explosives by infiltrating the border." (Abdullah, 2019 February 22). In the aftermath, India tries to put international pressure to diplomatically isolate Pakistan and attempts to blacklist the country in FATF. It made a plea that Pakistan is not taking effective measures to choke terror financing. Since 2015, India continuously refuted to play cricket series with Pakistan and discouraged other international players as well. India's boycotting SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) summit to be held in Pakistan in November 2016 was followed by Bangladesh and Sri Lanka's refusal resulted in the cancellation of the conference.

India's enmity against Pakistan has found a new warzone. India has launched an aggressive cyber warfare as it is well-equipped and made huge investment in this domain. As per the investigation of EU DisinfoLab, India has launched a massive disinormation campaign against Pakistan. Hundreds of fake Indian media outlets spread across the world that have been operating to undermine Pakistan since the last 15 years within the European Union and the United Nations (Kauchay, 11 Dec 2020). Indian media has adopted policies that attempted to twist the image of Pakistan's national institutions, its ideology based on 'Two Nation Theory' and joined the drive of Islamophobia. As well as, it makes an effort to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. An army of Indian trolls has been employed to project anti-Pakistan narrative on social media (Raza, 2019 April 14). India maintained that separatist movements in Indian Occupied Kashmir are Pakistani sponsored and tried to equate them with terrorism. Incorrect Kashmiri maps are available online on most of the international websites. Moreover, Indian hacktivists have tried numerously to hack important Pakistani databases. Following the Pulwama attack, websites of Pakistan's Foreign Office were hacked and put out of service (Raza, 2019 April 14). For Pakistan, it has become increasingly difficult to disseminate its rationale of policies. Pakistan's intelligence agencies must be provided with advanced surveillance and data collection techniques in order to identify terrorist outfits operating in Pakistan and neutralize future black ops or infiltration operations planned by India. Pakistan must advance its cyber capability in order to defend its crucial command and control systems against adversary's offensive strike (Akram, 2018 December 09).

International lawfare must be comprehended by Pakistan to exploit the issues such as FATF, EU DisinfoLab, Kulbushan Yadev and Kashmir (Naz, 2021).

India is exerting a combination of diplomatic pressure and international sanctions against Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear weapons. India projects that nuclear-free Pakistan would be socially peaceful, economically strong, and politically stable. For numerous times, India has launched a propaganda campaign against Pakistan for sharing nuclear technology with other countries (Naz, 2021).

Moreover, India is trying to win the support of Islamic states in Middle East such as KSA (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Iran and UAE (United Arab Emirates) through economic engagements, technological support and favourable ties (Hussain, 2019). India is also making inroads into Afghanistan by investing billions of dollars in varied projects to undermine Pakistan's security (Kiran, 2009).

On November 19, 2018, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa said, "We are now confronting hybrid conflict where the focus is shifting to subversion on religious, sectarian, ethnic and social issues. This needs a comprehensive national response." (Anis, November 20, 2018) A closer look at Pakistan's homeland security policy reveals that law enforcement agencies are not just conscious about the menace of hybrid war but are on the same page to counter these threats and protect the state and society from adversaries' attacks.

Conclusion

In conventional domain, Pakistan has developed credible deterrence in nuclear and arms competition against India's attack. Traditional militaries in both states attempt to outdo each other. However, Pakistan remains vulnerable to hybrid warfare strategies. Therefore there is no 'one-size-fits-all' policy or 'all-inclusive approach' or traditional military approach to thwart these attacks. The cognitive domain is the most significant and effective tool to manipulate information through cyber space and is often foreign-funded. India achieves efficiency in IT, cyber domain and media projection for dissemination of its narrative and false information and allegations. Numerous cyber-attacks against Pakistan are the manifestations of India's hidden propaganda. Pakistan needs to develop a whole-of-a-government as well as a whole-of-a-nation approach alongwith a step by step implementation mechanism. Moreover, Pakistan needs uplift its image globally and comprehensively respond to hybrid threats in all domains.

Recommendations

1. The government of Pakistan must revamp its national security policy, a DDR approach (Detect, Deter and Response)[1] to avert these threats and defend the territorial integrity that require a comprehensive national security policy, strong political will and a synergic national effort.

2. To realize a stable, secure and prosperous Pakistan is a way forward. A counter- strategy revolves around defending the entire state and society by 1) alleviating the vulnerabilities, 2) preventing external forces from manipulating its democratic structure and accountability process, 3) achieving all elements of national power such as effective governance, efficient intelligence system, strong civil and military leadership and building coordination and harmony between all state institutions and agencies.

3. Pakistan must not let the anti-state elements to exploit the historical, ethnic, religious, socio-economic and geographical affiliations of people that give way to political divide and identity separatism. By addressing the grievances of people of Baluchistan and Gilgit Baltistan the state must not let the hostile elements disrupt the CPEC infrastructural project that is the economic lifeline of Pakistan.

4. Pakistan's commitment to fight the menace of extremism and terrorism often go unanswered in academia. The intellectual void in narrative building is evident. It is important to win the ideological battle therefore an alternative set of ideas must be generated to counter the discourse of the adversary.

5. India is anticipating the benefits it could reap by bandwagoning and making alignments with the extra-regional states and countering a contiguous and emerging global economic power, China and regional connectivity that will adversely impact the economic development of not only India and Pakistan but the entire region. NATO coined the term 'Smart Defence'[2] that means increasing connectivity between nations to complement mutual capabilities in a harmonized way. It refers to

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[1] Muhammad Shfiq (December 1, 2021) in his article India's hybrid warfare: against Pakistan published at *Pakistan Today* employed the DDR approach (Detect, Deter and Response) to avert the hybrid threats.

[2] Zdzislaw Sliwa (2017) used the term "Smart Defence" in a paper, Hybrid Warfare – The Military Security Domain's Consideration published at ENDC Occasional Papers.

ensuring greater security with less money by doing more and doing together, pooling and sharing capabilities and setting the right priorities. Therefore, India must resolve all its differences with its immediate neighbours and must join CPEC towards its fruition for regional economic and other gains. CPEC provides a win-win synergy to realize the strategic and economic potentials.

6. Pakistan's armed forces have launched numerous military offensives to eradicate terrorism with all its manifestations and obliterate safe havens from tribal region and to abolish the clandestine sleeper cells of terrorists from entire country. The formulation of NAP (National Action Plan) is aimed to inclusively counter hybrid threats posed by the adversaries. Recently, in order to settle geographical, ethnic, religious and sectarian differences, eighteen hundred scholars form all schools of thought issued a fatwa, 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' that spread the progressive and tolerant Pakistan.

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