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**EMERGING THREATS OF INFORMAL WAR
BY
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**ORGANISED BY CENJOWS
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Informal wars are commonly associated with the concept of unconventional warfare, including acts of subversion and insurgencies. China's belligerence remains a good example as to how it has been able to "blur the line" between conventional and unconventional warfare. Gen Hooda stressed on how 'Grey Zone Warfare' consists of two components; one is ambiguity and two deniability which have come to define the modern warfare. He cited the example of China's fishing fleet that is protected by China's Coast Guards and how it has been able to cause disturbances through this militia in the South and East China Seas.

Further, Gen Hooda cited 'Russia's Annexation of Crimea' in 2014 as the most classic example of grey zone warfare owing to reasons such as how massive information propaganda assisted the Russians in building good relations with pro-Russian forces in Crimea while also mobilising their own forces. This information campaign launched by Russia created a diabolical situation for both the US and NATO to act decisively on the matter. This ultimately led to Russia emerging victorious in annexing Crimea after the referendum was passed on 6th March 2014.

Additionally, Gen Hooda also explained the tactics that are relatively employed by India's two adversaries; China and Pakistan. On the China front, he mentioned as to how they have been successful in carrying out incursions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The skirmishes exchanged between China and India in Galwan Valley in 2020 is the result of 'incremental advances' that the former had devised to change the status quo. Similarly, Pakistan has been leveraging proxy war that are presently undermining India's internal security vis a vis Jammu and Kashmir.

With the unprecedented rise of unconventional challenges, it remains imperative for India to deter such threats with 'whole of a nation approach'. Towards this, Gen Hooda elucidated as to why India's foreign policy and defence strategy must share convergence in trajectory, followed by an adoption of a consolidated National Security Strategy that would define and further guide the government to a particular approach

in tackling the same. He also stressed as to why there remains a pressing need for 'doctrinal thinking' to emerge within policy makers marking a cultural shift for the military to understand and defend the threats emerging from such warfare. Gen Hooda also reiterated the significance of adopting a emerging 'Doctrine and Strategy for Grey Zone Warfare' that would enable military leaders and the forces with a doctrinal thinking paving way for removal of ambiguity and striking the adversary with a clear combat strategy.

India must also leverage its international influence in combating these threats. The use of international forums remains a key component towards this. A notable example would be as to how India's strong propositions forced the 'Financial Action Task Force' (FATF) to blacklist Pakistan. Gen Hooda concluded the talk by prompting a need to develop 'positive narrative' using strategic communications and building positive narrative that would help India combat any unconventional threats emanating from China or Pakistan.