



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

14th JUNE, 2024

53/1, Upper Ground Floor, Bada Bazar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi -110060

www.tathastuics.com

9560300770, 9560300554

enquiry@tathastuics.com

S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	CHINA'S 'GREY-ZONE' WARFARE TACTICS AGAINST TAIWAN
2.	JAGANNATH TEMPLE IN PURI
3.	CLOSING THE WOMEN'S HEALTH GAPREPORT- BY THE WEF AND CONSULTANT MCKINSEY

CHINA'S 'GREY-ZONE' WARFARE TACTICS AGAINST TAIWAN

China's 'grey-zone' warfare tactics against Taiwan

What are the coercive measures China has imposed on Taiwan?

Anushka Saxena

The story so far:

Since the new Taiwanese president Lai Ching-te has assumed office, all eyes have been on the rocky start to his tenure. While China's belligerent response to Mr. Lai's "pro-independence" and "secessionist" statements was striking, it has now resorted to a sophisticated ploy to respond to Mr. Lai's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). This is often referred to as 'grey-zone' warfare, which comprises elements that frustrate Taiwan in a sustained manner.

What has China done?

China's preparedness to invade Taiwan and fight a high-intensity war over the island is a much debated subject. Training drills in the People's Liberation Army Eastern Theater Command (PLA ETC) are targeted precisely at demonstrating China's ability to fight and win. However, a more cognitive tool that Beijing is

deploying to demonstrate this ability is simulated audiovisuals. On May 24, for example, the PLA ETC Weibo account released a 3D animation video depicting how in an invasion scenario, land-and-warship-based ballistic missile launchers would fire tens of missiles at one go, striking areas in Taipei and Kaohsiung.

Moreover, since 2020, the X account of the Taiwanese Ministry of National Defence has turned into a repository of reportage on daily sorties conducted by PLA fighter jets, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), strategic fighters and early warning aircraft. While such sorties do not engage the island's defence forces directly, they exert sustained pressure on them. Further, these UAVs also conduct intelligence work in the areas surrounding the island. The long term presence of such mobilisation induces wear-out within Taiwanese forces, even before there is kinetic combat.

What about ideology?

To build a favourable image for itself,

Beijing often deploys narratives within Taiwanese territory that thrust ideological choices upon its citizens. For example, sometime on May 25, just under a week after Mr. Lai assumed office, internet users in Taiwan observed a Youtube video of a Chinese citizen operating a drone to drop cardboard boxes on Kinmen island.

When investigated by the Kinmen Defence Command on May 26, the boxes unveiled fliers written in simplified Chinese, stating "Both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to one China, one Chinese nation. Taiwan independence is a dead end. Lai's Taiwan independence is a dead end." Some other fliers warned, "Don't sacrifice your life for Taiwan independence, do you understand?"

The Kinmen Command stated that this was "a typical cognitive warfare tactic" deployed by China, because it initiates public discussions on social media, and garners attention for the Chinese cause.

What are political tactics China uses?

In its 'carrots and sticks' approach

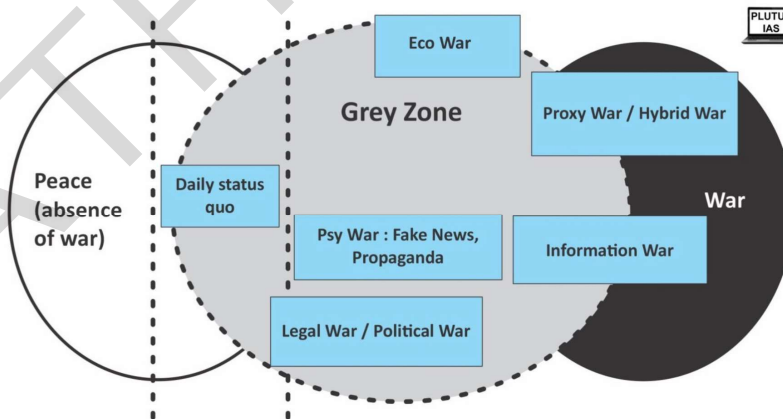
towards Taiwan, Beijing deploys sticks for the DPP and carrots for its primary opposition party, the Kuomintang (KMT). Well known for its relatively pro-mainland views, the KMT continues to engage with Communist Party (CPC) officials, even as any meaningful communication between the DPP and the CPC has stalled since Ms. Tsai became President of Taiwan in 2016. DPP legislators have often described these engagements as KMT's "collusion" with the CPC. In fact, KMT officials have, in the past, been investigated by the Tsai administration under the 'anti-infiltration law' after their visits to China.

China's 'sticks' against the DPP entail coercive economic measures, which leverage the cross-strait trade and business interdependence to seek concessions. One such example is China's unilateral suspension of preferential tax rates for chemical imports from Taiwan, granted under the only trade agreement to exist between the two sides – the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA). Beijing announced that such a suspension, applicable to 134 items imported from Taiwan, is retaliation against Mr. Lai's propagation of "separatist" sentiments in his inaugural speech, as well as Taipei's own restrictions against imports of over 2,000 goods made in China.

As 'grey-zone' warfare tactics become a subject of deliberation, Mr. Lai will have much to grapple with during his tenure.

Anushka Saxena is a Research Analyst at Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru.

Grey-Zone Warfare



- ❖ At the Raisina Dialogue 2024, military leaders including India's Chief of Defence Staff discussed the rise of gray-zone warfare, exemplified by actions in the South China Sea and along India's northern borders.
- ❖ Grey-zone warfare refers to a form of conflict characterised by actions that fall below the threshold of conventional war but are intended to achieve strategic objectives through ambiguity, deniability, and coercion.



- ❖ In grey-zone warfare, adversaries employ tactics such as cyberattacks, economic coercion, and proxy conflicts to achieve their goals without directly engaging in open warfare.
- ❖ It blurs the lines between peace and conflict, posing significant challenges to international security and stability.
- ❖ Grey zone warfare refers to a form of conflict that operates in the ambiguous space between peace and war. In this intricate domain, state and non-state actors employ a range of unconventional strategies to achieve strategic objectives without triggering a traditional military response. This article delves into the nuances of grey zone warfare, examining its characteristics, tactics, and implications for international security.

UNDERSTANDING GREY ZONE WARFARE:

- ❖ **Blurring the Lines:** Grey zone warfare is characterised by its ability to exploit the ambiguity between peace and war. Unlike conventional conflicts
- ❖ with clear delineations, grey zone tactics involve actions that fall short of open hostilities but are aggressive enough to influence the targeted entities significantly.
- ❖ **Unconventional Tactics:** The toolkit of grey zone warfare is diverse, encompassing cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, economic coercion, proxy warfare, and more. These methods allow aggressors to achieve their objectives while maintaining plausible deniability, making it challenging to attribute actions to specific actors.

THE AMBIGUOUS NATURE OF GREY ZONE CONFLICT:

- ❖ **Subtle Aggression:** Grey zone warfare is marked by its subtle and covert nature. Adversaries engage in activities that create ambiguity, making it difficult for the international community to discern whether a particular action is an act of war or falls within the realm of peaceful activities.
- ❖ **Ambiguity in Attribution:** One of the key challenges in responding to grey zone tactics is the ambiguity in attribution. Determining the responsible party behind cyberattacks, information operations, or proxy activities becomes a complex task, often hindering effective countermeasures.

TACTICS EMPLOYED IN GREY ZONE WARFARE:

- ❖ **Cyber Operations:** Grey zone actors leverage cyber capabilities to infiltrate, disrupt, or manipulate targeted systems. Cyberattacks on critical infrastructure, espionage, and ransomware campaigns are common tactics employed in this domain.
- ❖ **Unconventional Warfare:** Employing non-traditional military strategies like guerrilla warfare, sabotage, or asymmetric assaults through the utilisation of smaller, specialised units or unconventional military forces is a component of Irregular Warfare.
- ❖ **Strategic Legal and Diplomatic Tactics:** China exercises caution in capitalising on legal or diplomatic ambiguities, utilising international institutions, or manipulating alliances to diminish the targeted country's standing on the global stage. Simultaneously, China provides justifications for its actions based on established principles and conventions of law.
- ❖ **Disinformation Campaigns:** Manipulating information and spreading false narratives play a crucial role in grey zone warfare. Disinformation campaigns aim to sow discord, influence public opinion, and destabilise political systems without resorting to overt military actions.
- ❖ **Economic Coercion:** Economic tools, such as sanctions, trade restrictions, and financial manipulations, are frequently used to coerce and pressure adversaries. These actions can have far-reaching consequences on a nation's stability and well-being.



- ❖ Proxy Warfare: Grey zone conflict often involves indirect or proxy actions, wherein states support nonstate actors to achieve their objectives. This allows aggressors to maintain plausible deniability while exerting influence in a region.

IMPLICATIONS OF GREY ZONE WARFARE:

- ❖ Challenges to International Security: Grey zone tactics challenge traditional notions of security, as they exploit vulnerabilities in political, economic, and social systems. This form of warfare requires a holistic understanding and response that goes beyond conventional military frameworks.
- ❖ Erosion of Norms and Rules: Grey zone warfare blurs the lines of established norms and rules governing international conduct. This erosion of norms poses challenges to the existing international order and institutions, raising questions about the effectiveness of current frameworks.
- ❖ Persistent State of Conflict: The subtle and prolonged nature of grey zone warfare contributes to a persistent state of conflict. Without clear triggers for traditional military responses, affected nations find themselves engaged in an enduring struggle without a formal declaration of war.

CHINA'S GREY ZONE STRATEGIES VIS-À-VIS INDIA:

- ❖ Maritime Actions in the South China Sea – China utilises both naval and civilian vessels to assert dominance in the South China Sea, creating tensions with neighbouring nations, including India.
- ❖ Development of Infrastructure in Border Regions – China engages in the construction of infrastructure and the establishment of villages near India's borders, reinforcing territorial claims and securing strategic advantages.
- ❖ Financial Commitments to Digital Technologies – China channels investments into applications, media, and diverse digital platforms within India. This involvement in the digital realm has the capacity to shape public opinions and narratives.

CASE STUDY: GREY ZONE WARFARE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC:

- ❖ Territorial Disputes: The Indo-Pacific region has become a hotspot for grey zone activities, with territorial disputes among nations leading to unconventional tactics such as maritime coercion, cyber intrusions, and disinformation campaigns.
- ❖ South China Sea Scenario: China's actions in the South China Sea exemplify grey zone tactics. The construction of artificial islands, military presence in disputed waters, and assertive maritime activities demonstrate the use of subtle aggression to advance strategic interests without triggering a conventional conflict.

Questions:

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Grey Zone Warfare:

- 1 Ransomware campaigns are one of the common tactics used in grey zone conflict.
- 2 The erosion of norms and rules is the key implication of it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)



Q2. What is the key objective of disinformation campaigns in grey zone warfare?

- (a) Promoting peace and understanding
- (b) Destabilising political systems
- (c) Encouraging military conflict
- (d) Enhancing international cooperation

Answer: (b)

Mains Questions:

Q1. In a world where social media manipulation and disinformation campaigns are prevalent, how can India safeguard its national security and social fabric against these tactics employed in grey zone warfare? (150W/10m)

Q2. How can traditional diplomatic tools and international legal frameworks be adapted and leveraged to address the challenges posed by grey zone warfare in the Indian context? (150W/10m)



JAGANNATH TEMPLE IN PURI



All four gates of Jagannath temple in Puri reopened

All four gates of the 12th-century Jagannath temple in Puri were reopened for devotees on Thursday morning in the presence of Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and his Council of Ministers. The previous BJD government had kept three of the four gates shut since the pandemic. Devotees had been facing inconvenience as entry was allowed through only one gate. Opening all the temple gates was a key promise in the BJP's election manifesto. Mr. Majhi said the Odisha government had also decided to set up a ₹500-crore corpus fund for better management, maintenance, and development of the temple. PTI

About Puro Jagannath Temple:

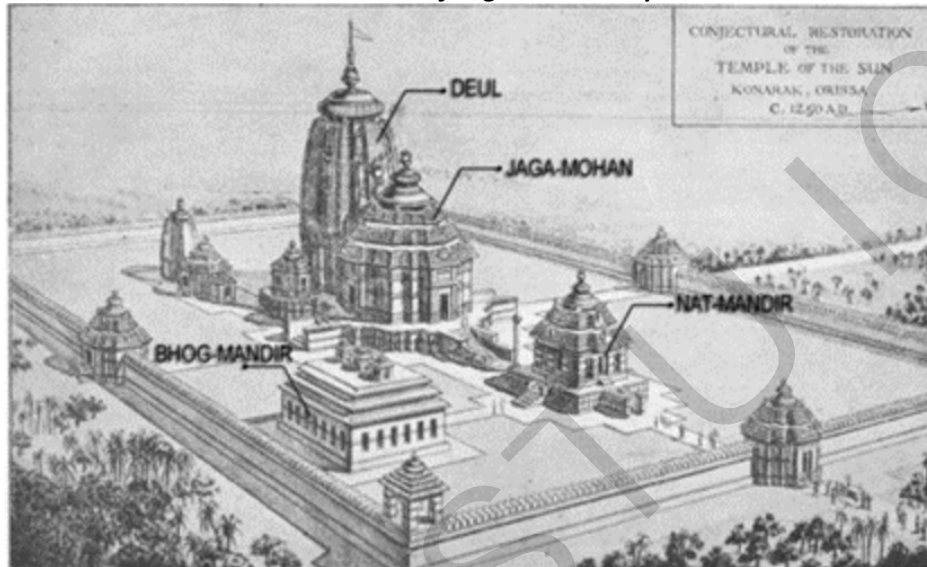


- ❖ The Shree Jagannath Temple of Puri is an important Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Jagannath, a form of Vishnu, in Puri in the state of Odisha on the eastern coast of India.
- ❖ The present temple was rebuilt from the 10th century onwards, on the site of an earlier temple, and begun by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva, first of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.



- ❖ The Puri temple is famous for its Annual Ratha yatra, or chariot festival, in which the three principal deities are pulled on huge and elaborately decorated temple cars.
 - ☛ These gave their name to the English term Juggernaut.
- ❖ Unlike the stone and metal icons found in most Hindu temples, the image of Jagannath is made of wood and is ceremoniously replaced every twelve or nineteen years by an exact replica.

Architecture of Jagannath temple



- ❖ The temple is built in the Kalinga style of architecture, with the Pancharatha (Five chariots) type consisting of two anurathas, two konakas and one ratha.
- ❖ Jagannath temple is a pancharatha with well-developed pagas.
- ❖ 'Gajasimhas' (elephant lions) carved in recesses of the pagas, the 'Jhampasimhas' (Jumping lions) are also placed properly.
- ❖ The perfect pancharatha temple developed into a Nagara-rekha temple.
- ❖ The temple is built on an elevated platform, as compared to Lingaraja temple and other temples belonging to this type.
- ❖ This is the first temple in the history of Kalingan temple architecture where all the chambers like Jagamohana, Bhogamandapa and Natyamandapa were built along with the main temple.
- ❖ There are miniature shrines on the three outer sides of the main temple.

Previous Year Questions:

Q.1 The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the new Circuit House near Somnath Temple Veraval. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Somnath Temple? (2022)

- 1 Somnath Temple is one of the Jyotirlinga shrines.
- 2 A description of Somnath Temple was given by Al-Biruni.
- 3 Pran Pratishtha of Somnath Temple (installation of the present day temple) was done by President S. Radhakrishnan.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1,2 and 3



**Q.2 With reference to Chausath Yogini Temple situated near Morena, consider the following statements:
(2021)**

- 1 It is a circular temple built during the reign of Kachchhapaghata Dynasty.
- 2 It is the only circular temple built in India.
- 3 It was meant to promote the Vaishnava cult in the region.
- 4 Its design has given rise to a popular belief that it was the inspiration behind the Indian Parliament building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 4
- (d) 2, 3 and 4



CLOSING THE WOMEN'S HEALTH GAP REPORT- BY THE WEF AND CONSULTANT MCKINSEY

A comprehensive immunisation schedule for women is ready

The Hindu Bureau

The Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) recently unveiled a comprehensive immunisation schedule for women that provides a list of essential vaccines that adult women should receive, and the recommended frequency of each vaccine. Actor and women's health champion Kajal Aggarwal unveiled the immunisation schedule at an event in Mumbai recently.

The importance of immunisation and vaccine preventable diseases in women cannot be overstated. A recent report highlighted that women spend 25% more time in poor health compared to men. Vaccination can help change this and safeguard women from vaccine-preventable diseases, contributing to an improved quality of life. The report, jointly written by the World Economic Forum and consultant McKinsey, 'Closing the Women's Health Gap: A \$1 Trillion Opportunity to Improve Lives and Economies',



Women spend 25% more time in poor health compared to men. AP

showcases how the narrowing of the women's health gap would allow 3.9 billion women to live healthier, higher-quality lives.

Preventive health care
Jaydeep Tank, President of FOGSI said, "The launch of FOGSI's updated immunisation schedule for women represents a significant milestone in preventive health care for women. This resource will provide a clear actionable roadmap for both women and doctors, resulting in an in-

creased awareness about vaccination. Immunisation is critical in protecting women against vaccine-preventable diseases and thereby helping reduce its burden in India. I firmly believe that this schedule will make a substantial contribution to the overall health and well-being of women in India and benefit society as a whole."

Explaining how vaccination is not merely for children and that it is recommended at different points of time in life to prevent or protect against infectious

diseases, Hrishikesh Pai, immediate past president of FOGSI and currently trustee (Asia-Oceania) at The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics Trustee, added that adult vaccine coverage in India is almost negligible and this needed to change. "There is an urgent need to sensitise people and health care providers on adult vaccination as it can help save millions of lives in India. Initiatives like the revised immunisation schedule can go a long way in changing the situation and

protecting more people in future."

The tendency of women to play down their own health concerns is a factor that must be acknowledged and prepared for, when looking at adult vaccination. Actor Kajal Aggarwal said: "As a mother, my priority is to always be there for my children. And that can only happen when I prioritise my own health. Women should take proactive steps to protect themselves from preventable diseases like cervical cancer. But the challenge often lies in not knowing where to start. I urge all women, regardless of age or stage in life, to take control of their health and consult their gynaecologist today to learn more about the right vaccines for them."

Vulnerable period

A vulnerable period for women is after child birth, when the woman's body changes. After birth a woman's immune and hormonal system undergo changes which increase the risk of infection. "For example, 31% of women are at a high-risk of an HPV infection after birth. Thus, vac-

ination plays a crucial role in a new mother's health. The immunisation schedule specifically highlights vaccinations that are of utmost importance to new mothers," explained Madhuri Patel, secretary general of FOGSI.

In this venture, FOGSI and MSD Pharma have collaborated to raise awareness about women's immunisation and help prevent vaccine-preventable diseases across India. Priya Ganeshkumar, Chairperson of the FOGSI oncology committee and Co-ordinator for FOGSI Mahila Kavach Kendra, pointed out how studies have shown that increasing physicians' knowledge and awareness on vaccines significantly improves vaccination rates. "FOGSI has therefore decided to provide their member gynaecologists the FOGSI Handbook on Prevention & Management of Cervical Cancer and has also recently launched FOGSI FOCUS PLUS on Adult Women Vaccination, which will build confidence amongst the gynaecologists to counsel their patients on the available vaccines."