

Q: Discuss the strategic contours of Indo-US evolving partnership and how will it impact Pakistan-US and Pakistan China relations.

Indo-US Relations and their Implications (For Pakistan)

Introduction.

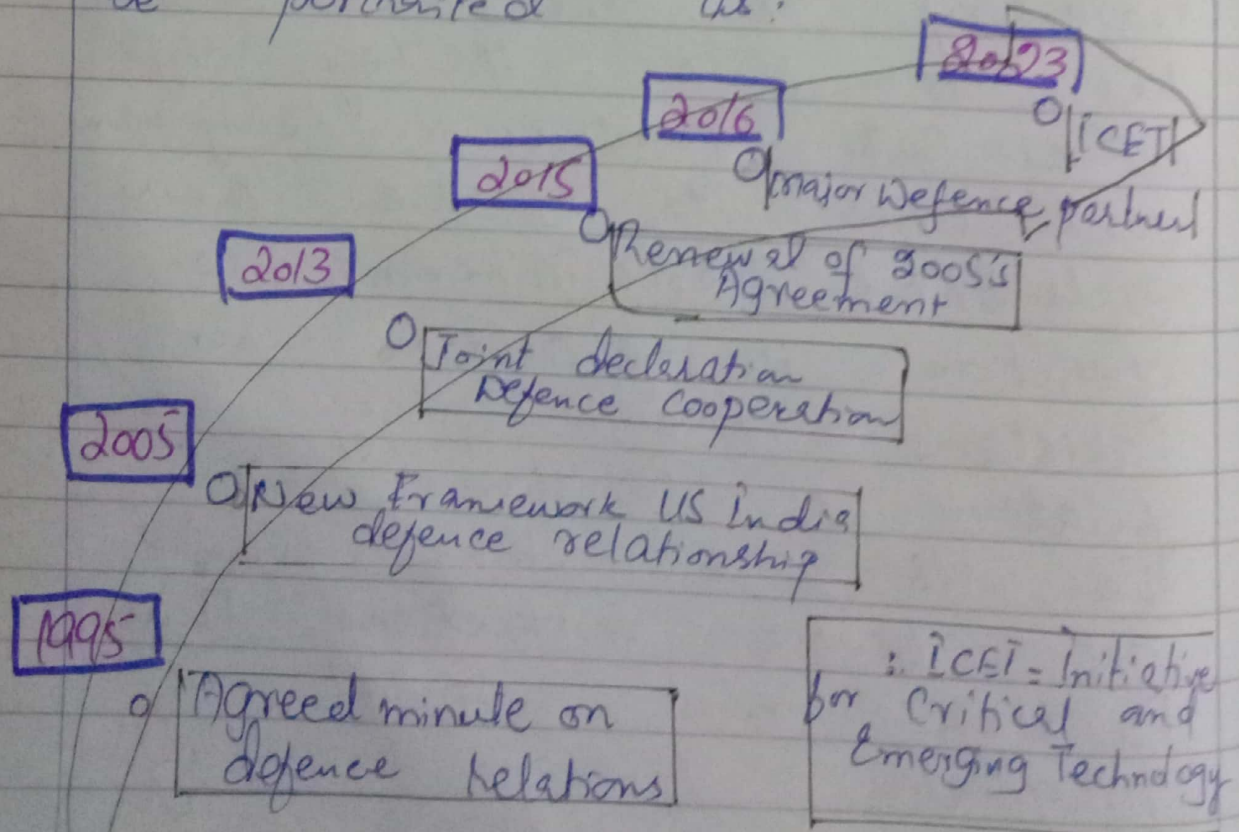
There is a strategic basis of changing US-India partnership. Their relations have evolved from defence agreements to cooperation in modern and advanced technologies. Such upward trajectory of Indo-US relations has its deep strategic objectives. Both countries rely upon each other to pursue their goals. Their strengthening cooperation is of concern for Pakistan's foreign policy. The relations of Pakistan with the US and China could get severe implications. Thus, Pakistan must sought a pragmatic foreign policy

to face challenges emerging from increasing Indo-US relations

Facets of Evolving Indo-US Partnership.

Since 2000's, the cooperation of India and the United States has strengthened in various means. The relations have evolved from signing mere defence agreements to agreeing upon advanced multilateral objectives.

The upward trajectory of Indo-US partnership can be portrayed as:



Strategic Contours of Indo-US Evolving Partnership

The emerging 'strategic partnership' between the US and India is based on shared view for democracy and security concerns. The aspects of Indo-US strategic partnership are discussed as below:

1. Containment of China.

Both countries see China as their competitor. Since the post-cold war period, China has emerged as a major economic power at the global level. It causes India to consider China as its 'strategic rival' and the US as its 'strategic competitor'.

"The relations between the US and India became warmer in 1960s, when rising Chinese diplomacy became a threat

to the Indian hegemony in the South Asian Region."

(Indo-US Strategic Partnership: Implications for Pakistan).

2. The Indo-Pacific Strategy:

It aims to promote security ties among like-minded partners in the region and beyond. It is shift of the US Asia-Pacific policy to the Indo-Pacific Strategy. For this purpose, the US and India are collaborating with each other under the domain of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). Besides these two countries Australia and Japan are also parts of Quad, initiated in 2007.

3. The US-India Joint Military Exercises.

Both countries hold joint exercises in military domains. The joint exercises in all military services are:

→ Malabar Exercises in Navy.

→ Cope India air exercise in

Airforce
→ Vijay Praker in Army.
These exercises in all three services pose a greater threat to the region and beyond.

4, 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

In 2018, India and the US held their first Ministerial Dialogue. In this significant development, both countries reaffirmed their strategic cooperation in defence, security and technology in the region and beyond.

5, Bilateral Defence Trade:

The US accorded India a status of its Major Defence Partner in 2016, it marked the defence trade as a major component of Indo-US Strategic partnership. According to the US department of State, it is

The Defence Trade	Year
Near to zero	2008
USD 20 billion	2020

This shows an increase in

bilateral trade between the US and India.

Implications For Pak-China Relations.

The strategic contours of Indo-US evolving partnership pertain impacts for Pak-China relations. The partnership could be opportunity as well as challenging for Sino-Pak relations.

Opportunities: Towards increased Cooperations.

In the keel of strong US-India relations, Pakistan and China have fostered their cooperation in multiple fields:

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

CPEC is the 'flagship project' of China's 'Belt and Road Initiative'. Being launched in 2015, the project is based upon an

increasing Chinese role in the region. The project is set to balance Indian influence by increasing Pakistan's and Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean.

Extending Diplomatic Support to Each Other

Both China and Pakistan have supported each other diplomatically. China extended diplomatic and political support to Pakistan in the 1965 and 1971 wars.

Pakistan had also played its role. She denounced the 'Two China Policy' of the US in 1965. Furthermore, Pakistan has also reaffirmed China's 'One China Policy' during the recent Taiwan crises in 2022.

Pak-China Defence Ties

"Military ties between the two neighbours have deepened against a shifting

geopolitical backdrop, evident from Pakistan's increasing military procurement from China and joint military exercises." - Reuters

Furthermore, the impact of increasing US-India defence cooperation was observed in 2020. When China signed a defence pact with Pakistan in response to an information sharing pact between India and the US.

Challenges: Attempts to Undermine CPEC.

There are possible threats to Sino-Pak relations related to China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Both ~~Ch~~ the US and India have openly criticised and opposed the CPEC. As China has competition for influence with both India and the US. Indian interest in the development of Chabahar port of Iran in 2018 and Build Back Better World (B3W) by the US here efforts

attempted to counter CPEC by both India and the US.

Implications for Pak-US Relations

1. Closed ties with China.

The strengthening relations between the US and India have resulted in closed ties of Pakistan with China. As China is a big competitor of the US, Pakistan takes challenges for foreign policy. It has become difficult to balance relations with both the US and China.

2. Preferring India over Pakistan.

The US prefer India over Pakistan in its Indo-Pacific policy. As the US sees India as a major actor in countering Chinese influence, "The US India partnership is a cornerstone of a free and open Indo-Pacific."
-Pentagon