

Q. Modi's visit to USA and further expansion of Indo-US strategic partnership is real challenge for Pakistan. Discuss the strategic, political and economic implication of this unholy alliance particularly with respect to Pakistan Pak-China relations.

SOL:

INTRODUCTION:

Modi's visit to the US and the further expansion of the Indo-US strategic partnership are matter of grave concern for Pakistan. This unholy alliance carries economic, political, and strategic implications for the region in general and the Pak-China relationship in particular. Strategically, the alliance may disturb the balance of power and lead to an arm-race in the region. Politically

India could play an aggressive role in South Asian forums, and render them ineffective by leveraging the US-strategic alliance. Economically, there is a risk that India may actively sabotage the CPEC and cause economic instability in Pakistan. Thus, Modi's visit to the US could have geo-economic, political, and strategic implications for the South Asian region.

Framework of Indo-US Strategic Partnership

The Indo-US strategic partnership, epitomized by the Quad, stands as a multifaceted alliance bolstered by key agreements. The QUAD, comprising the United States, India, Japan, and Australia, collaborates on security, economic development, and humanitarian efforts in the Indo-Pacific region. Foundational military pacts like BECA, facilitating

geospatial information exchange, and LEMOIA, enabling logistics support, enhance operational efficiency. COMCASA ensures communication, fostering interoperability during joint operations. The I2U2 platform reinforces intelligence sharing and analysis, focusing on counter-terrorism and cybersecurity. Additionally, India's pursuit of ANUSC membership and G4 representation aligns with US support, underscoring the partnership's global significance. The framework not only disturbs the regional power balance, but also a grave implication on the Pak-China relations.

RECENT DEVELOPMENT during Modi's Visit:

It's unrealistic to expect India, which is focused on its own interests, to help the US

in the South China Sea. However, the US is cleverly forming new partnership to contain China. The visit of Modi to Washington, many ~~developed~~ developments has occurred. India received significant investment from Google and Amazon. India will also buy drones - MQ-9B, from the US. A fighter jet Deal, 2023, also signed between the two allies. GE's F414 engine technology and manufacturing will be transferred for India's Tejas jet by the US. Consequently, these development and the aforementioned strategic ties carry political, economical and strategic ~~framework~~ implications ~~on~~ for the Pak-China relationship.

Implications of Unholy Alliance for Pakistan:

A. Strategic Implications:

1. Increasing Arm Race

The cooperation between the US and India, especially in defence and military matters, could be a threat to the security and stability of the border region between Pakistan and India. India will buy MQ-9B Reaper which could be used along India's border with Pakistan and China, and the power shift towards India. Consequently, Pakistan would have one option to ~~counter~~ counter the India strategically, and that is the more weaponisation of nuclear arms. Thus, the US-India strategic relationship has triggered a nuclear arm race in the South Asia.

2. Strategic Instability ~ Regional Security Dilemma

The strategic ties between the US and India has ignited the

regional security dilemma. The US makes strategic alliance with India to contain China in the Indo-Pacific. China being an emerging economic has found the shortest ~~the~~ ^{the} and the safest route to the warm water through Pakistan. Pakistan-China strong relationship is a hindrance to the US-containment policies. Therefore, the US makes strategic ties with India to create instability in Pakistan, and control India Ocean. Thus, the US-India security ties causes regional ~~set~~ security dilemma.

3. Rising Military Containment of China

China, which follows the model of cooperation, has initiated many steps to bring peace in the world and proved itself a skillful power player in the International politics after Saudi-Iran rapprochement. However,

such achievements of China has been perceived as a huge setback for Washington. Consequently, to stop the further influence of China in the Global South, the US has opted for containment policies like QUAD, I2U2 and AUKUS. These containment policies are aligned with India which is a rival of Pakistan. Creating instability in Pakistan can be successful only if it leads to the deterioration of the relationship between Pakistan and China. Consequently, the instability in Pakistan can stop the functioning of CPEC and deteriorate the Pak-China relationship. Thus, the containment policies of the US to contain China may lead to the deterioration of the Pak-China relationship.

4. US Pivot to Asia

The US always keeps its focus on Asia. However, before the Russia-Ukraine war, the US withdrew its attention from the Asia for a while. The China, by taking advantage of the opportunity, brokered a deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia. After this development, the US ~~again bring~~ has again brought its attention towards Asia and has been trying to contain China at multiple front, especially through strategic agreements with India which can be a significant player for the US to contain China in Indo-Pacific. India has already been provoking the insurgence group in Pakistan to sabotage the BRI's flagship CPEC to stop the emergence of China. Thus, security dilemma can create an unfavorable situation for both Pakistan and China.

5. Hindrance in Way of Open Sea Lanes of Communication

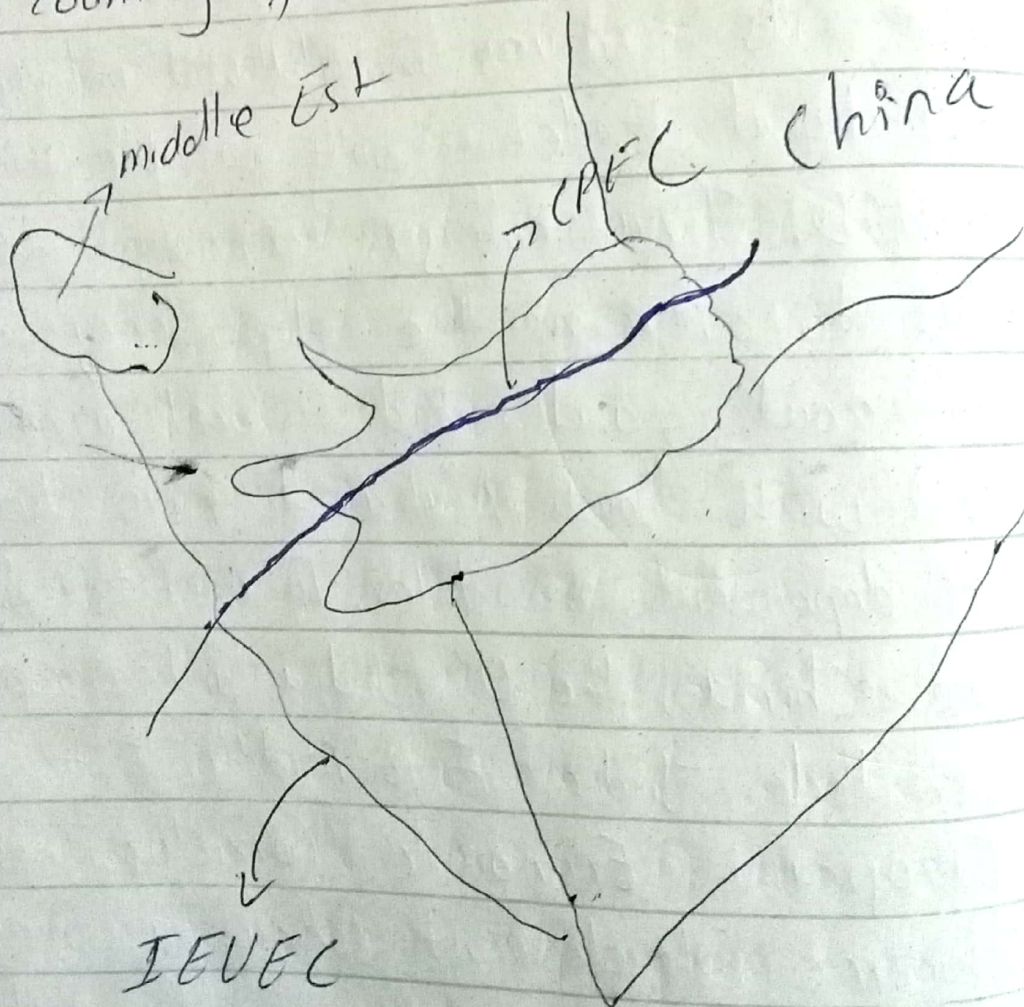
The US has been creating hindrances in way of open sea lanes of communication to China by conducting freedom of navigation operations in areas like the South China Sea, and challenging China's expansive territorial claims and ensuring open access for all nations. Consequently, China has perceived it as a direct infringement on its sovereignty and security. China relies heavily on trade via global maritime chokepoints. To reduce vulnerability, China has initiated the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and CPEC is a component of BRI. Thus, the hindrance in way of open sea lanes of communication has brought ~~the~~ Pakistan and China closer.

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

Containment of China (Cold War-2)

The Modi visit to the US and Indo-US strategic partnership have many political implications. One of the political implications is the Cold War-II. The US is the world largest economic power, as it controls the sea routes, every country takes its reserves in dollar, and the international trade is only possible through the USD. China, emerging economy, initiated BRI to overcome the dependency of sea route, and made local currency deal with Saudi Arabia to make itself less dependent on dollar. To counter weight the China, the US, India and Europe initiated India Euro Middle East European Economic Corridor. These changing development show a new Cold War has been started and India has been playing a pivotal

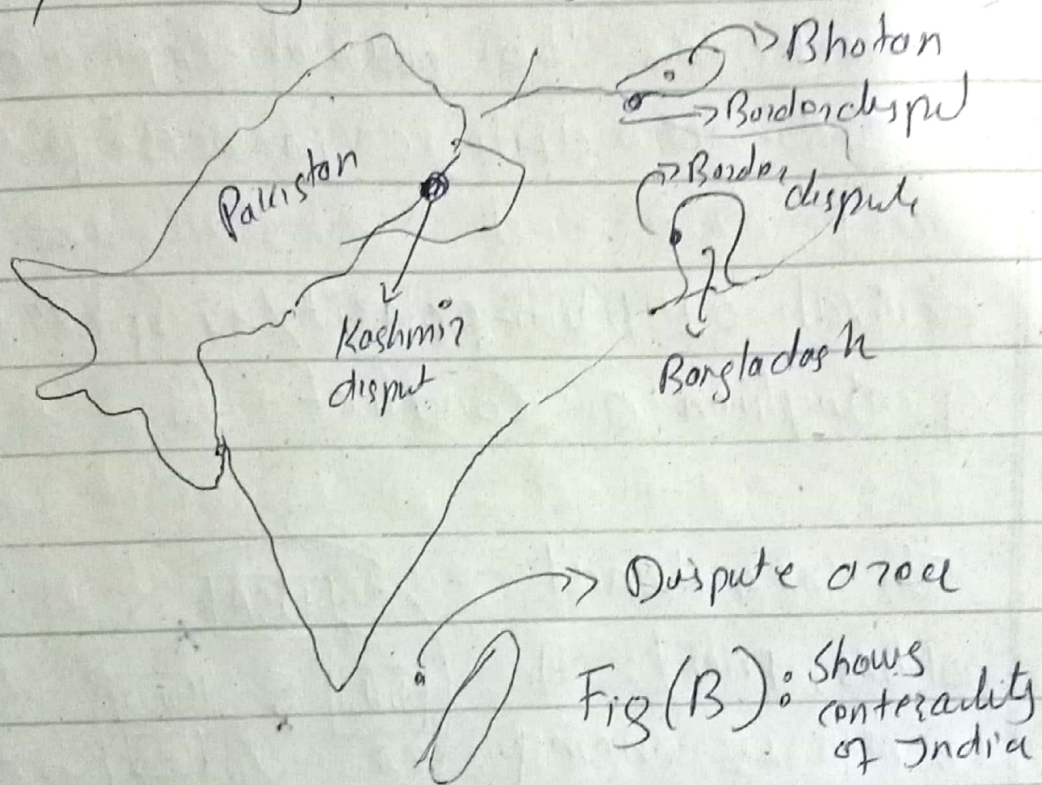
role by becoming strategic ally
of the US. Pakistan, which is neigh-
bour of India, has historic
relationship with ~~India~~ China, and
Pakistan has under influence of
these development. India is instigating
terrorist activities in Pakistan to
make it vulnerable and China
wants Pakistan to be a stable
country for the success of CPEC.



Fig(A): CPEC —
IEUEC —

Indian Hegemony in Region

Being a strategic ally of the US, India has hegemonic policies in the region (Asia). India has aggressive policies towards its neighbour countries by taking advantage of its centrality

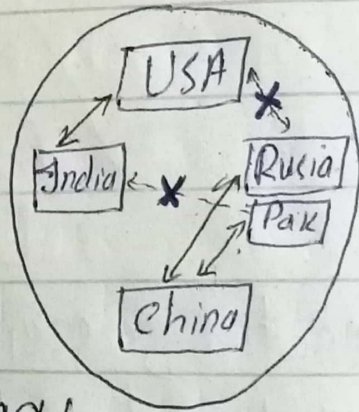


Due to geographic centrality, the India has always been trying to make the multilateral forum ineffective, like SAARC, BRICS, SCO. For instance, SAARC is ineffective due to the India hegemonic and aggressive policies. In the last summit of BRICS, India tried to stop its

expansion by purposing a conditional
to become BRICS member. However,
multilateral forums like G20 in which
the US is also member, India projects
itself a soft power ~~and~~ by purposing
cooperative model. Thus, India's hegemony
approach is the political implication
of Indo-US strategic partnership.

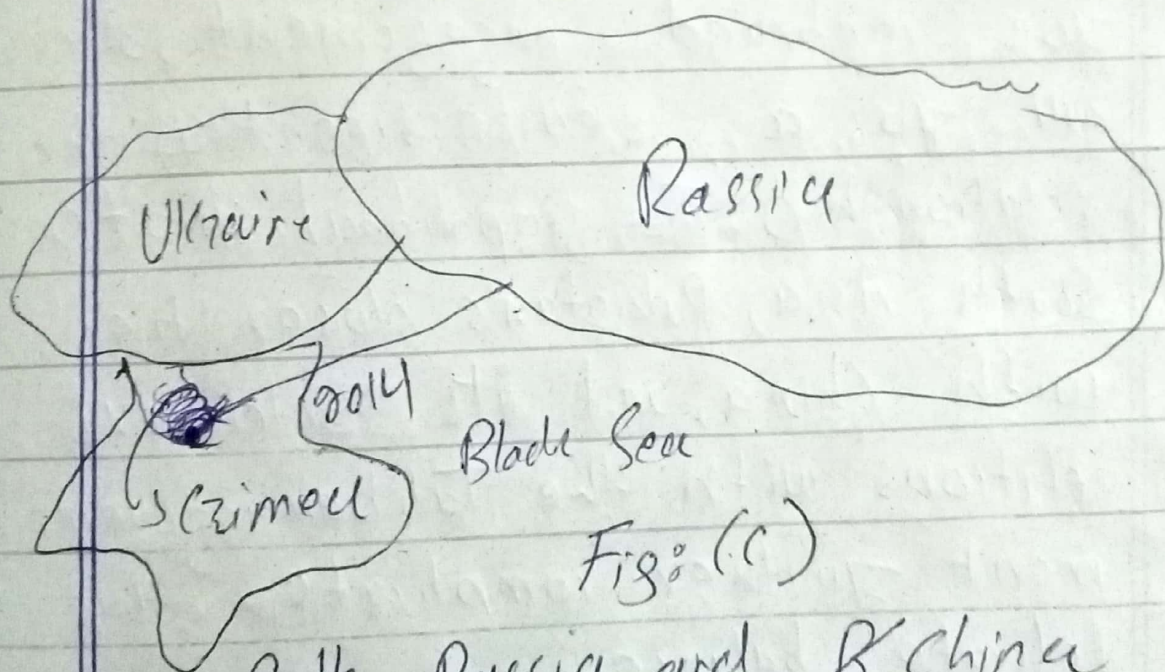
Revival of Multi-polarity ~ Sphere of Influence Conflict

In international
politics, friend of
enemy is enemy
and enemy of enemy
is friend. After 1991,



the disintegration of USSR, the US
has become the world super power.
However, the threat of war on
Terror after 9/11 gave time to
Russia to build its military might
and China to become economic giant.

Consequently, Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, and attacked Ukraine on 24 April, 2022. Many world emerging economies did not condemn the Russian invasion to Ukraine - which shows the world is heading towards multipolarity. China surprised the world by brokering a deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran and proved itself a skillful player in the world politics.



Both Russia and China through BRICS platform are leading the world towards multipolarity, while India through the US-strategic partnership trying to stop it.

Sovereign Ties & between the US: the Polarization of the Region

The strained relationship between the United States and Pakistan has been exacerbated by various factors. The withdrawal of the US troops from Afghanistan in August 2021 highlighted Pakistan's ambiguous role in the War on Terror. While some US officials advocate for continued engagement, others call for a reassessment of the relationship. The geopolitical shift in South Asia, Pakistan's closer ties with China, and its contentious relations with the Taliban government further complicate this delicate balance.

Economic Implications

A. Threat to BRI and CPEC

The US-India alliance poses a threat to CPEC and challenges China's regional influence. As economic ties strengthen, questions arise about the viability of China's CPEC. India's alignment with the US signals a shift, potentially undermining Beijing's strategic ambitions in the region, impacting the economic success of the corridor and reshaping geopolitical dynamics.

India European Economic Corridor
Vs China Pakistan Economic Corridor

While CPEC is going to provide a shortest and safest route to China to access Indian Ocean, the US, EU Middle East and India has proposed new plan, ~~to~~ India-Middle East-European Economic Corridor to make the CPEC ineffective and engage the

Modi's visit
In conclusion, Modi's visit to the US and the further expansion of Indo-US strategic ties have economic, political and strategic implications on the world in general and the Global South in particular. Political implication would be that India play hegemonic and aggressive role in the regional organisation. Economic implications might be that India will try to sabotage the BRI and CPFC, and create hard hurdles in Pak-China Relation. Strategically, the balance of power may disturb and the power would ~~lean~~^{prone} towards India. Thus, the US-India nexus has great impacts on the region.

