

Q: US-India growing strategic partnership is mainly to contain China but it has massive negative implications on Pakistan. Recommend policy option for Islamabad to follow.

A series of bilateral agreements show that Washington is tilted towards India when it comes to regional disputes.

Joe Biden has rung new era of friendship between America and India by rolling out White House red carpet for

Narendra Modi in June, 2023. President Joe Biden said that bilateral ties are "stronger, closer and dynamic than ever in the past. Mr. Modi said "Amongst

global uncertainties, America and India as trusted partners, will create secure, reliable resilient global ^{supply} chains and value chains"

In recent visit of India in US, both countries had decided to revive long-standing trade partnerships. Washington sees India as strong ally to curtail China's global influence.

- Glance at dwindling relations of Indo-US
The history of relations between India and US has veered between amity and enmity.

since the beginning. In 1949, Harry Truman dispatched a plane to transport Nehru from London to Washington. The red carpet treatment by Truman administration signalled how badly Washington wanted to woo Indian leader. Nehru being true democrat and heroic figure was valuable guest, - exactly a friend Washington needed to expand its influence. These deeper hearts were broken when state secretary ~~in~~ Dean Acheson invited Nehru as home guest and later passed remarks "Nehru is the toughest person, I have ever had to deal with". Further, in Cold war era contrary to American expectations of taking their sides Nehru adopted Foreign policy declaring "India wants pursuit of peace not through aligning with any major power, but through independent approach of resolving disputes" (Michael Schulman, What stops US allying India over China, 2023). India's tilt towards Russia is another irritant in Indo-US relations. Contemporarily, India abstained from voting against Russia in UNSC again hit the American's expectations.

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- **Biden-Modi meeting - Flurry of deals.**

Recently, Joe Biden and Narendra Modi met in Washington and signed flurry of deals. General Electric (GE) has signed deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) to produce power engines of combat aircrafts in India for Indian Airforce. This is the first time that USA has shared critical F414 technology with non-ally.

- **Space Cooperation deals.**

India has accepted US invitation of joining NASA-space exploration joint mission 2024.

Moreover, both share agreement BECA (Basic Exchange Cooperation Agreement) under which both countries will share spatial intelligence.

- **Semiconductor technology boost deals.**

In recent deals, US has decided to boost India's Semiconductor industry by US based Micron Semiconductor technology investing \$800m in Semiconductor Centre for Commercialization and Innovation in Modi's hometown Gujarat.

(Aljazeera, 2023)

- **Defense Cooperation deals.**

India will use US General Electric Engine called F414 to empower its new developing jets "Tejas 2". Prior to F414, India has

been using its predecessor in "Tejas" air craft.

Moreover, India will use US μ MQ-9B

Seaguardian Drones. US has also supplied nuclear submarines to India. Under **LEMOA** agreement both countries will do ^{joint} military operations. Both countries share **COMCASA** agreement under which India can import hi-tech defense assets from States.

(Zafar Nawaz, Indo-US strategic relationship and Pakistan's security, 2023)

• Indo-US strategic partnership - QUAD.

To curtail China's influence in South China sea another Indo-US alliance is Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or QUAD. Under QUAD, both countries do annual Molabar joint

naval exercises to influence the region. In recent meeting of QUAD in May 2022, QUAD leaders ^{stressed} on

Resistance against unilateral attempt to influence of Indo-Pacific" and to stop China's influence also stressed to follow United Nations Convention of Law of Sea (UNCLOS)

• India-China Standoffs.

India and US share the common interests against China. Biden sees China as "Global Competitor" and China is India's "Neighbour enemy". China and India share territorial disputes resulting in the war of 1962. Both countries The

rivalry has increased over the past years including 2017 Himmalyas standoff in which apparently China was building road in "Dorkam" territory which Beijing claims including Bhutan Kingdom which is ally of India. In 2020, both countries experienced Ladakh standoff in which apparently India was accused of road building which resulted in death toll of twenty Indian soldiers and four chinese combats.

(Vikram Singh, US - Indian deepen strategic ties, 2020)

Recently, India - China are facing each other in Indo-Pacific region.

• China - Pakistan friendly ties - Worry for India

Pakistan and China shares common enemy India, so both these countries enjoy strong economic ties with each other.

Importantly, China's international infrastructure bonanza Road and Belt Initiative of

which Pakistan is important member sharing

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

which also passes through Islamabad administered Kashmir. Both countries protect each other against India's haegemonical thoughts.

China is a staunch supporter of Pakistan as in "Kashmir Issue". Recently, China

has not attended G-20 conference held by India in Indian occupied Kashmir. China is the main global investor of Pakistan which worries India. To keep an eye on China and to counterbalance China-Pak friendship, USA shares strong attachment with India.

India's growing hegemony in Global South

India is rising as largest democracy with 1.4bn people. With its rise, India is emphasizing on its hegemonic designs. The recent example of which is India's rejection of coming to Pakistan to play "Asia Cup 2023" disturbing and disrespecting past Pakistan's Cricket ties.

India held 2022, "G-20 summit in Indian administered Kashmir", port portraying to the world that disputed area is in good hands. Indian Modi wants to portray image of India as "Global Power" as a competitor of Beijing in Global south. Undoubtedly, India is rising middle power but it shall not violate the human rights.

• Recommendations for Islamabad.

→ Islamabad shall remain in good books of America.

The distorted image of Pakistan in the eyes of America needs to be amended. Pakistan shall redevelop good ties with America and shall crack strategic, economic deals with superpower. All the irritants including political instability blaming "America for interference" shall be resolved. Pakistan

cannot afford to offend the long-standing economic supporter, and shall not leave the spot for any other power that might get used against it.

- Pak-China Friendship shall always remain "evergreen".

China is Pakistan's friend in highs and lows. From UNSC halls to Kashmir grounds, China has always stood with Pakistan. To curtail India's influence, Pakistan needs a global power like China to be on its green side. China is the largest foreign investor in Pakistan providing billion dollars of aid to strengthen its falling economy.

"China is a friend, Pakistan needs for its survival" according to analysts. Pakistan-China alliance is necessary to counterweight India-US alliance.

- Amidst global race, Pakistan needs to strengthen itself to counter India.

Pakistan is in deep crisis which according to World Bank "Pakistan is facing severe economic crisis, reflecting years of weak infrastructure and governance". Pakistan needs political and economical stability to strengthen itself. A largest democratic

neighbour, India is rising in world order cracking strategic deals, hosting famous G-20 summits, making India-Middle East-Europe economic corridors to counter China-Pakistan CPEC and BRI and Pakistan is begging IMF to deal with budget deficit. Islamabad definitely needs strong political and economic measures to cope up with global race which neighbour is winning.

- Pakistan shall develop strong ties with other regional bodies.

To counter India, Pakistan shall not just rely on China. It shall develop ties with other regional countries to strengthen its aura in the region.

- To counter South-Asia imbalance of power, Islamabad needs to increase defense arsenal.

With the tilt of USA, Indo-US strategic partnerships have created imbalance of power in South Asia, increasing power of India.

Islamabad needs to enhance its defense assets by cracking deals with defense partners.

Ballistic, and cruise missiles, nuclear submarines, effective ~~de~~ air combats like F414 are needed to counter India.

• Conclusion.

The strategic environment of sub-continent makes it crystal clear that Washington-Delhi partnerships increases Pakistan's security and necessity of balancing response. Credible ~~neces~~ deterrence is necessary for Pakistan's security including developing military arsenal. Realistically, there are limited strategic and foreign policy options for Pakistan. Learning from past, Pakistan shall not put all the eggs in one basket and chalk out strategic balance. On diplomatic front, Pakistan shall not undermine relations with China, should not irritate USA and above all improve bilateral relations with its neighbours. In military sphere, Islamabad shall make pragmatic approach to solidify its defensive capabilities without jeopardizing economic progress.