

Analyze the various power tussles going on in the Indian Ocean with special reference to US.

1. Introduction: The New Great Game in Indian Ocean

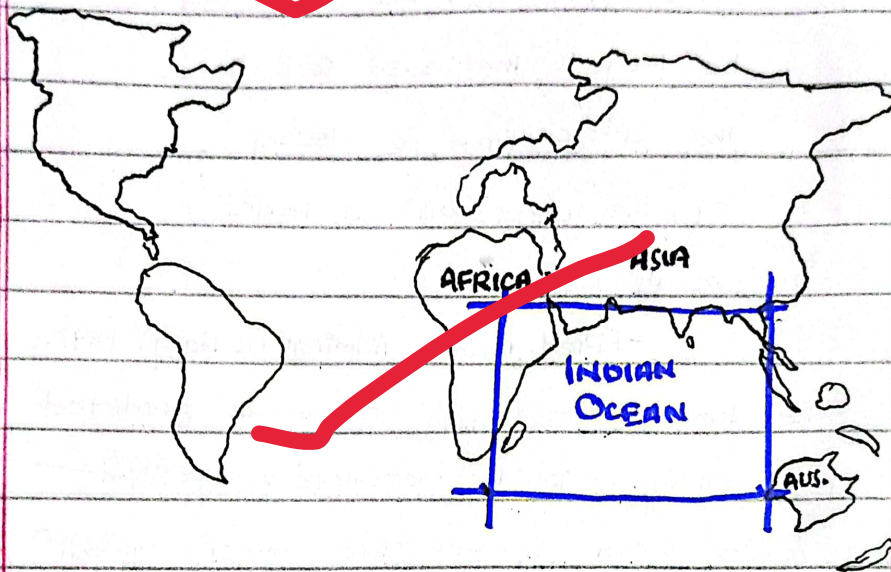
"Whoever controls the Indian Ocean will dominate Asia. This Ocean will be key to the seven seas in the 21st century. The destiny of the world will be decided on its waters."

- Alfred Mahan, Admiral US Navy, 1897.

The dominance of Indian Ocean was predicted over a century ago. The geostrategic position of the ocean is such that major global powers have their conflicts for a long time now. From fighting over energy routes to having a military dominance in the region, super- and emerging powers are in a tussle to have a stronghold in the region. Of all the countries, the United States appears to be the most interested in the ocean. Despite not being a littoral state of the water, the interest of United States is both economic and strategic.

II. The Indian Ocean Region and its Significance

The Indian ocean encompasses world's 20% of water, connects the continents of Asia, Africa and Australia, is surrounded by 38 states and spans over 6200 km miles (1351).



The Indian ocean holds crucial importance in global geoeconomics and geopolitics.

Admiral Starbuck, US Navy said:

"Pacific ocean is the mother of oceans;

Atlantic Ocean is the cradle of colonialism;

Indian Ocean is the future sea."

III. Great Power Rivalry in The Indian Ocean

The oceans is of immense significance,

And thus major actors are in a quest to hold dominance in the region. Following are the countries who are highly interested in the region:

A. The United States and its Interest in the Indian Ocean Region

US has both strategic and economic interest in the region. It is contending for dominance for two particular reasons:

i) The containment of China

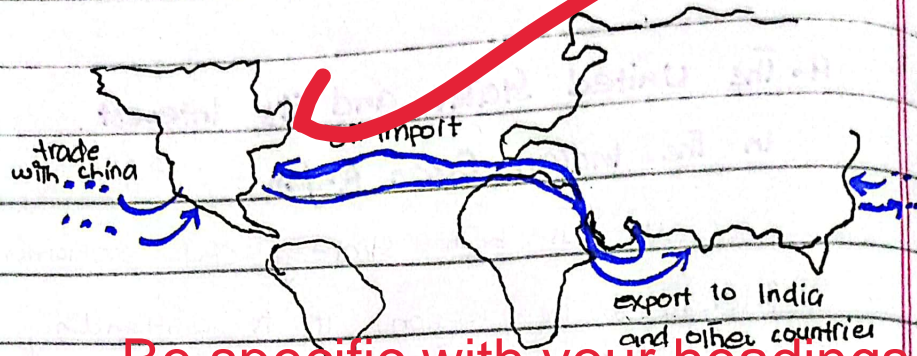
As an aspiring hegemon, China is the biggest threat to the power dominance of the United States. Thus, the North American country is trying to contain the growing influence of China in the region. It is doing so by two ways:

a) Supporting the influence of India, China's arch rival, in the region.

b) Establishing bases at various coasts in the Ocean.

ii) To secure its economic assets in the Ocean

India and China are the biggest markets for the US exports. moreover, more than 10% of US oil imports come from the middle East (OPEC)



Be specific with your headings

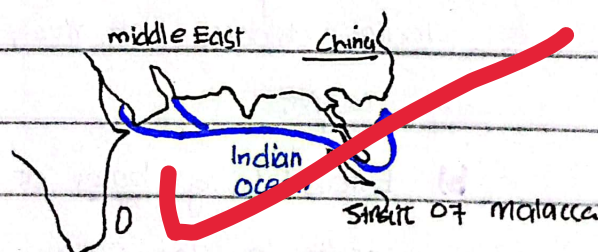
B. China's Indian Ocean Strategy

China too has major stakes in the Indian ocean.

i) China's Energy imports

China imports 47% from the middle East via Malacca Strait.

It is a reason why US stronghold around the Strait is a geo-economic threat to China.

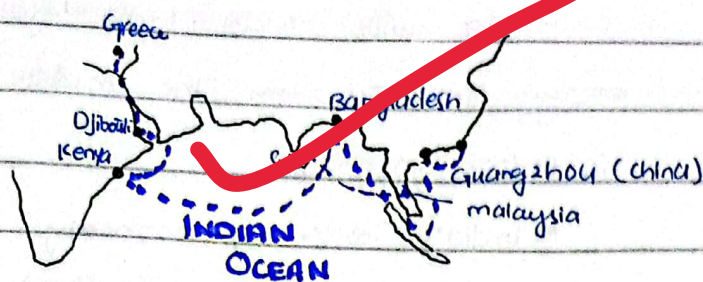


ii) The Road of Built Road Initiative

China's BRI project has half of its routes from the sea

Attempt these by giving subheadings

majorly from Indian Ocean.



iii) String of Pearls : China's military strategy

The much claimed String of Pearls with Chinese bases and ports spread across the Indian Ocean, more or less contain India or US bases.

C. India: The Biggest Littoral Indian Ocean State

India's claim on Indian ocean is such that, its representatives are often found calling it "India's Ocean". India has both strategic and economic interests in the region.

i) Necklace of diamonds: China India's response to 'String of Pearls'

India has begun making bases in countries across the oceans to contain China.

ii) Economic Interests of India in the Region

Along with trade, India gets its energy imports from the middle East via Indian Ocean.

"India's 10% of economy depend on energy resources which are imported from Persian Gulf"

—Jai Shankar.

D. Pakistan in the Indian Ocean

Framework

Pakistan has three options in this scenario:

i) Balancing: To build up its capability to counter growing powers.

ii) Bandwagoning: To align with the greater power in hopes of reaping strategic and economic dividends.

iii) Hedging: To cooperate with two rival powers simultaneously.

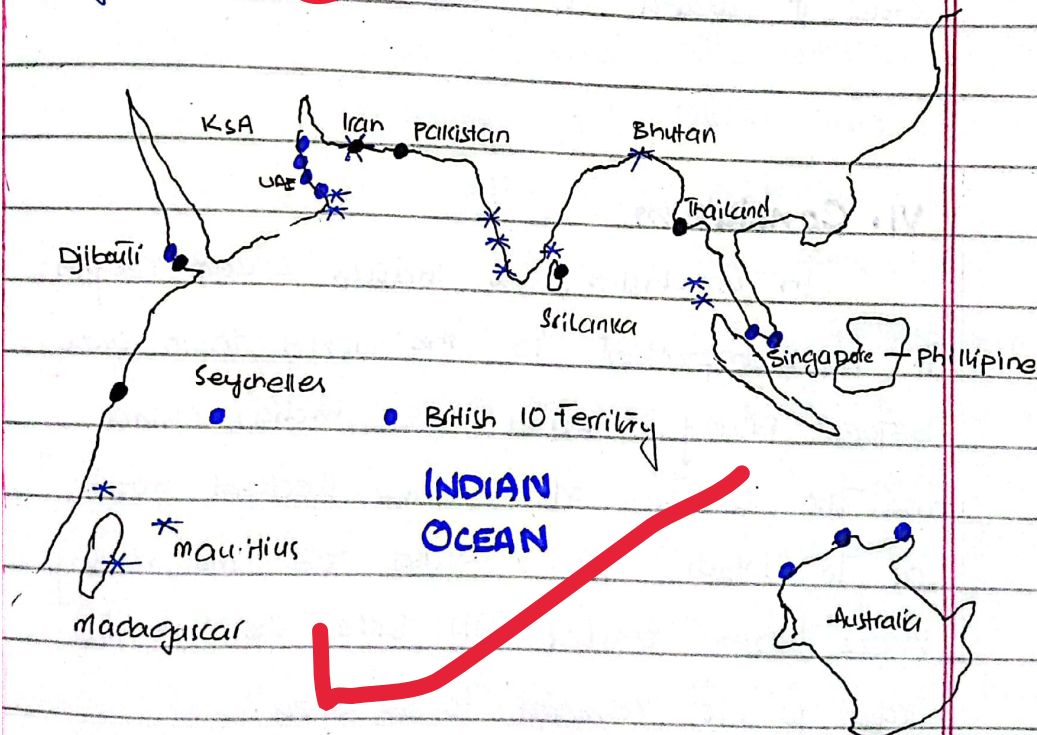
Pakistan has adopted the hedging approach and it is the most viable.

It is manifested with through Pakistan holding CPEC and its economic cooperation.

with the United States. Moreover, the Gwadar port will be a gamechanger in the Indian Ocean for Pakistan.

IV. The Indo-US Alliance : US' Quest to Contain China

Both United States and India are building their presence in the Indian Ocean region to counter the growing dominance of China. With ~~GAD~~ QUAD, they also have bases and ports across the region, with India US having the greater number of bases in the region.



- US Bases
- Chinese bases + BRI ports
- * Indian bases

Add more arguments

V. Critical Analysis

The Indian Ocean has a growing significance in the global great game. Major actors like the United States are interested in the region although it does not have geographical attachment to the ocean. The major reason is that the country wants to uphold its dominance against China. Moreover, since global trade is concentrated in the region, the United States is even more interested since the North American country is the largest economy at the moment and it wants to hold that dominance.

A 20 marks answer should have around 15 subheadings

VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Indian Ocean region is more important to the world than ever before. Many countries like India, China and the United States have locked horns as to which one would be the strong. Where their tussles will take the world order to, it remains to be seen.

"Our area goes from Bollywood to Hollywood, and polar bears to penguins."

- Anthony Spadaro, US Indo-Pacific Command.

Attempt and upload a single qs for a evaluation

Narendra Modi has won third historic victory in elections recently. What are the anticipated impacts of this third term on relations with Pakistan particularly over Kashmir issue?

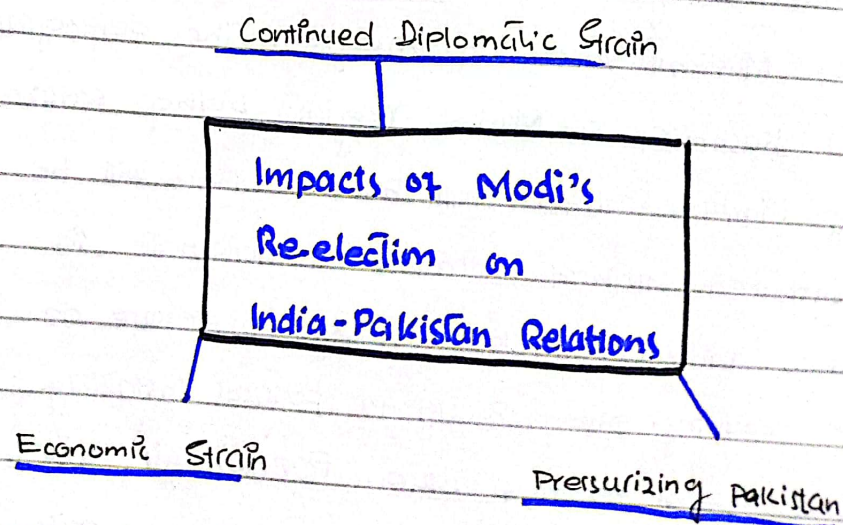
1. Introduction

The ultra-nationalist Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) headed by Narendra Modi, won the 2024 elections. The third term victory will have impacts on Pakistan-India relations, particularly over the Kashmir conflict. He is the second premier after Jawahar Lal Nehru to have won a third consecutive term. His anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan rhetoric during his campaign was a harbinger of sour relations with Pakistan. He vowed to establish a true 'Hindu state' undermining over 250 million population of Muslims. This also threatens the demography of Kashmir, a Muslim region being saturated by Hindu settlers. With Pakistan, there will be continued strained relations, a stalemate in trade, and attempt to insue global pressure on the country given Pakistan's political instability and global terrorism issues. For Kashmir, actions similar to abrogation of Article 370 may arise. Moreover, India's increased security involvement

In Kashmir it also expect. Mo Ali, BJP's bellicosity on Kashmir issue may prove to be a future conflict if the instigation threatens Pakistan's integrity. However, given the changing geopolitical dynamics, an improvement or at least neutrality between the two countries is also expected as the Hinduva government takes the seat.

II. Impacts of Modi's Re-election on Indo-Pak Relations

One of the underlying reasons of Modi's re-election was his anti-Pakistan rhetoric throughout the election campaigns. This is not a good omen for the prospective relations between the two neighbours.



A. Continued Diplomatic Strain

The two countries do not have very cordial relations. Modi's anti-Pakistan stance has remained intact since his first term in 2014. In fact, on the eve of 2019, the Indian Prime Minister launched air strikes inside Pakistan. Retaliatory action by Pakistan Air Force brought the two countries at war.

Moreover, the inauguration of Ram temple on the ^{ruins} of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya a few months before the polls was not a good omen for Muslims in general and Pakistan in particular.

B. The Trade Stalemate to Prolong

The tattered trade between the two saw a complete pause following the 2019 Balakot incident. The neighbours which ADB calculated to have over \$ 20 billion of bilateral trade potential on an annual basis are reluctant to resume the trade. There have been signals ~~but~~ from the

Eastern side of stitching the severed ties. However, the Indian government shows no sign of camaraderie.

Recently, when Pakistan hosted the Shanghai cooperation organization (SCO) summit, the Indian representative, Jaishankar very sternly expressed the impossibility of bilateral talks.

C. Prospective Pressure On Pakistan Using Its Allies

India has a record of using its allies to put pressure Pakistan by exaggerating small issues or by sidelining Pakistan for significant problems. This is seen when Western forces meddle in Pakistani politics. For instance, the recent meddling in internal matters by US Congress was indeed not an independent unilateral act. Similarly, Pakistan's enlisting in Financial Action Task Force was a result of Indian influence. Moreover, India played a crucial role in sidelining Pakistan in BRICS summits. In November 2024 as well as in 2023.

III. Implications of Modi's Victory for Kashmir

As Narendra Modi assumes the seat of premiership for a third consecutive term, the sword on Kashmir swings even more decidedly. It was during his second term that he meddled with the demography of Kashmir, the increase in security in Kashmir along with his bellicosity may trigger worse conflicts.

A. A Modified Kashmir May See More Modifications

On 5 August 2019, the Modi government abrogated Article 370. This revoked the status of Kashmir, under Indian control. The illegally occupied Kashmir lost its sanctity and the Modi government engineered the change of demography of the disputed territory. Given the fact that Modi has a more stern Hindutva narrative this time, similar or even worse acts against Kashmir may happen. Kashmir may prove to be a nuclear flashpoint given both neighbours are nuclear powers, with

Chinese stakes involved in Kashmir and the Sino state is a nuclear power as well.

B. Potential Increase in Militarization of Kashmir and Subsequent Surge in Tensions

The Indian ~~to~~ Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is one of the most militarized regions in the world. About 700,000 Indian troops are deployed in the region. (Government of Pakistan).

As a comparison, the total military personnel are 150,000 in Iraq. A significant increase in deployment was witnessed after the 2019 fight.

History is the witness, militarization increases revolt and tensions. With Modi in power again, an increase in the militarization may culminate into revolt and subsequent instability in the region.

C. BJP's Growing Bellcosity and Increasing Apprehensions

BJP leaders are now threatening

to take over Azad Kashmir. In a recent interview, the Indian defense minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, boasted that India could easily annex Azad Kashmir, which was also a part of BJP's election manifesto. He had issued similar statements in the past.

"Kashmir and Ladakh are set on a new path of development and prosperity. This is just the beginning. The mission will complete only when Gilgit-Baltistan and areas of Kashmir reunite with India."

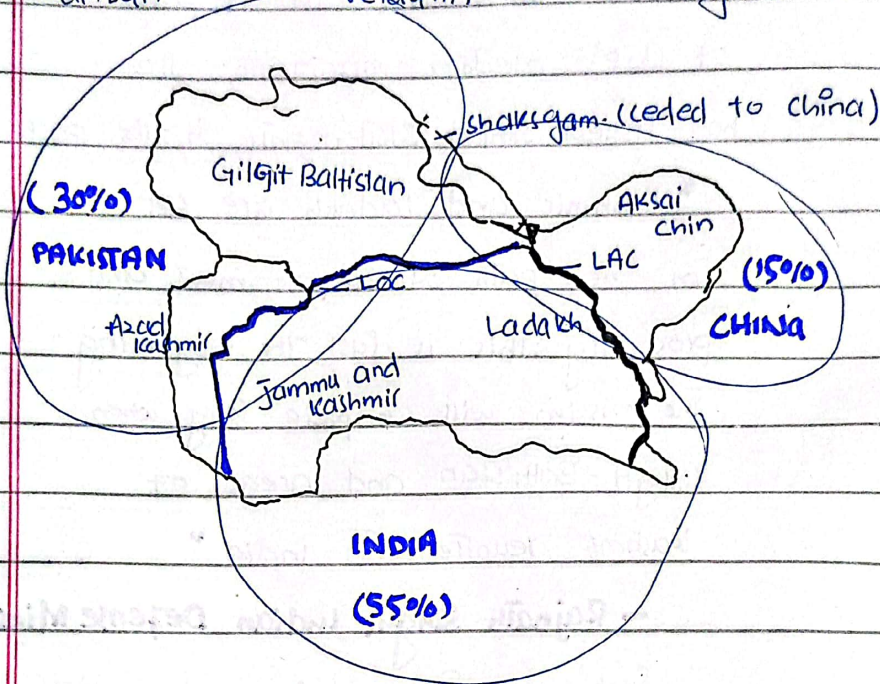
- Rajnath Singh, Indian Defense Minister

Such provocative claims demonstrate the BJP's growing belligerence.

iv. The India, Pakistan, China Trinity on Kashmir After Third Term of Modi

The Kashmir is a disputed region between three countries: Pakistan, India, and China. It is sorted between Pakistan and China when Pakistan ceded the Shaksgam Valley to China in 1963. However, India-China and India-Pakistan disputes continue.

Although "Temporary Demilitarized Zones" have been reinstated between India and China, such initiatives were taken and reversed in the past showcasing Modi's inability to maintain cordial relations in the region.



Control Over Kashmir By The Countries

VA Conclusion

In conclusion, the victory of the Hindutva party is a watershed moment for the geopolitics of South Asia. With Modi's ultra-nationalist agenda, the question of Kashmir hangs dangerously. The government in power has been radical in the past showing the prospective of similar trends in times to come particularly regarding the Kashmir issue.