

Date: 11-01-2025 Day: _____

MEMOONA ARSHAD

BATCH - 211

Write a note on fluctuating relations between Pakistan and US.

Introduction:

The relations between Pakistan and US are complex based on cooperation and disengagement. These -Patron-client- type of relations fluctuate and shaped by shared common interests and evolving foreign policy of both Pakistan and US. It involve strategic alliance and divergence followed by trust deficit, economic engagement, counter-terrorism and security concerns, balancing regional influence and diplomatic engagement. However, US-China rivalry, internal stability and Indian factor serves as a major challenge for Pakistan to establish good relations with USA.

Context of relations between Pakistan and US.

Strategic alignment and divergence:

Relations between Pakistan and US fluctuated over time. Pakistan was a close ally of US in cold war against Soviet Union and later on, Pakistan also participated in "US war on terror". Currently, relations are in phase of renewed engagement in different sectors.

However, the relations between both countries lead to disengagement due to trust deficit from 1990-2001 followed by nuclear sanctions on Pakistan. Later on, in 2021, trust erode when US withdrawn its troops from Afghanistan.

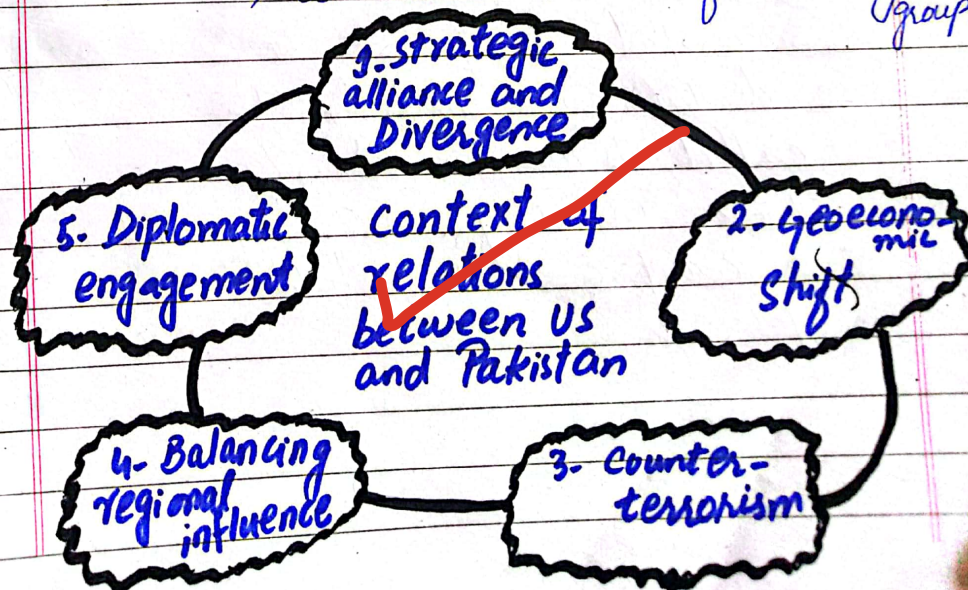
Geoeconomic Shift:

Pakistan has evolved its foreign policy from security to geoeconomic towards US. US and Pakistan are emphasizing on trade and investment. It involves expanding cooperation

in IT, agriculture, climate change, health, education and mineral sector. US has always provided economic support to Pakistan, but it was conditioned or suspended on the basis of evolving nature of relations.

• Counter-terrorism and security concerns

US and Pakistan cooperate in countering terrorism by joint military exercises. Moreover, US provides Pakistan with military aid and weapons. While, Pakistan always collaborated US in its counter-terrorism strategies, first in cold war and then in "US war on terror". US seeks Pakistan's cooperation in combating militant groups. However, in past, US accused Pakistan for harboring militant groups.



Regional stability and balancing regional influence

The common interest of Pakistan and US for engaging is regional stability and to balance regional influence. Stability in Afghanistan is main concern for both US and Pakistan to ensure stability in the region.

Moreover, both countries are cooperating to counter the influence of their rival states i.e., for Pakistan is India and for US is China.

Diplomatic engagement

Both Pakistan and India US show diplomacy at the time of conflict with others. Pakistan showed diplomacy for the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan through successful negotiations between America and Taliban. Similarly, US resolved conflict between Pakistan and India in May 2025 by brokering a ceasefire among both nuclear states.

Challenging factors

There are some challenges for Pakistan to improve relations with US. The one is Indian factor, whose alliance with US and now it can cause distancing relations between Pakistan and US. Likewise, Pakistan's closeness towards China through CPEC and other agreements can cause complexity in Pak-US relations. Pakistan must need to balance its relations with both regional powers i.e., US and China. However, internal instability also results in fluctuating relations between Pakistan and US.

Conclusion:

The relations between Pakistan and US always have been complexed and fluctuating based on alliance or disengagement. Both countries cooperated and are cooperating for their shared common interest in various sectors. To establish good relations, both countries need to address and overcome the challenges.

add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments and be on 7-9 pages.

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