

Current Affairs MockQuestion 7

Ans: India US strategy

The United States alongside its allied countries, is actively pursuing a comprehensive strategy aimed at encircling China in the Indo Pacific region. This strategy involves strengthening military partnership, establishing forward military bases, conduct joint exercises and patrols near China's maritime periphery.

Additionally US is forging the security alliances and partnerships with regional countries, providing military assistance and engaging in diplomatic efforts to curb China's assertive behaviour. Through this multifaceted approach US and its allies seek to

counterbalance China's growing military and economic power.

Implications for Pakistan

1) Strategic implications

From a strategic point of view, the partnership causing an imbalance of power between India and Pak. Critics argue that India-US nuclear deal undermines the US non-proliferation policy and raises concerns about India's status as a non-signatory of NPT.

Additionally, it is suggested that deal could obstruct the confidence building measure and hinder the resolution of pending issue between India and Pakistan.

This partnership promotes the narrative of Indian exceptionalism supported by US for its own ulterior motives.

Furthermore, Washington's foreign policy highlights its mercurial nature and the preferential treatment given to India over Pakistan despite latter's fight against terrorism and its status as major non-NATO ally.

2) - political implications :

India-US Partnership causes regional instability. The Pakistani government expressed its concerns to Bush Administration in 2005 about the negative consequences of India-US strategic partnership, particularly regarding the induction of new weapon systems such as missile system which could destabilize the strategic balance in the region and trigger the arm race.

US maintains that its co-operation with India is

not aimed at influencing China India
PAK dynamic but rather at containing
China - However, PAK does not agree
on this statement and views the India -
US cooperation as empowering India
to counter China's influence in Indian
Ocean region. PAK fears that it
will be left marginalized while
India assumes a significant role in
regional affairs.

3) Economic implications:

This deal will significantly benefit
the Indian economy by opening the US
markets and facilitating the exchange
of industries and professionals.

This will lead to development
of industries and stronger Indian
economy. Pakistan will be
left behind in terms of the
economic benefits and
technological advancements. It
argues that the cooperation will
create the asymmetric situation.

where India gains a blatant advantage and access to the latest technologies.

Recommendations for policy options to follow:

1) China-Pakistan defense and economic cooperation

Since the US had refused to provide Pak with advanced defense technology in past, as it is evident from its repeated:

Suspension of the sale of F16 Pakistan turned to China for help.

The hallmark of their joint defense cooperation has been the co-production of JF-17 Thunder Jet fighter aircraft by Chinese Chengdu Aircraft Industrial Co-operation and Pakistan

Aeronautical complex.

China agreed to sell eight nuclear capable submarines to Pakistan in 2016, half of which

would be coproduced at Karachi Shipyard engineering work. Besides, critics has also claimed that china has been helping pakistan in the production of indigenious drones.

Another point is their joint military exercises, engagement in economic areas also.

2) Pak - Russia co-operation:

Through most of the cold war, Pakistan and Russia remained unfriendly due to divergent security interests. However geostrategic realities led to adjustment in their foreign policies.

As result, both countries engaged in multilateral frameworks for regional security cooperation arrangements such as Dushanbe Four, SCO, Moscow conference on international security.

3) Restoring strategic balance through Nuclear Deterrence

Pakistan began its military programme after 1971 war. Pakistan learnt lesson that neither it could match India's conventional superiority nor could it depend on external military help in future crisis. Therefore, developing strategic deterrence became a priority.

Pakistan nuclear ~~pot~~ deterrence is 2109 the determinant of strategic stability in South Asia.

Conclusion:

In sum, Pakistan has not objected to the US strategic Partnership with India. What concerns the most is that US is pursuing discriminatory policies in providing India with high end dual use defense technology. The increasing acquisition of military power through such advanced

defense weaponry has made India aggressive in its relationship with Pakistan. Thus, exploiting its strategic partnership with US, India has worked to diplomatically isolate the Pakistan through projecting it a state sponsor of terrorism and refusing to engage with Pakistan in regional organisation such as SAARC.

Question no 2:

Ans: China's brokered deal

The changing world order is becoming increasingly evident in the middle east, as demonstrated by this recent ^{signals} reapproachment deal that shift in Riyadh's policy towards the region and beyond. Traditionally, aligned with US, Saudi Arabia's decision to sign a Chinese brokered deal while its foreign minister was in Russia marks a significant departure from its previous stance. Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi has vowed to prioritize the country's regional interests and has successfully enlisted China's help in mediating between itself and its long standing rival.

China itself has positioned itself as a key power broker in the region, leveraging its soft power to secure economic, strategic and diplomatic benefits from deal. The implications of this agreement between US ally Saudi Arabia and adversary Iran, brokered by China for adversary for US's future in the region remains uncertain.

Impact on Middle East

Cooperative development and good faith adherence to agreement could lead to regional peace and stability, as well as economic integration both within and between regions while it is too early to determine the potential positive outcomes, some have outlined here.

The government may foster

trust and respect between hostile parties and could result in reduced violence - and proxy wars in the region, with Yemen being a notable example -

Although the UN secretary General and US have expressed hope for an end to the war in Yemen it may be overly optimistic to expect an immediate end to Iran backed militias while Iran relies on these groups to safeguard its interests against US and Israel. Their use against Riyadh may be curtailed.

Additionally this deal may serve as foundation for revival of JCOPA, as analysts suggest that any deal between Saudi and Iran would require

guarantees from Iran regarding its nuclear programme. Iran pledge to increase inspections of its nuclear sites by the IAEA is a positive indication in this regard. This also presents an opportunity for Iran to have an important regional ally and minimize threats from the US and Israel.

Impact on Pakistan

Stable relation b/w between Saudi and Iran benefits Pakistan's efforts to promote regional integration and increase domestic economic development.

As Iran and Saudi attempt to resolve their differences through negotiation, improved regional peace and stability may increase the Pakistan's commercial potential with middle east and Central Asia.

Iran is an important neighbour and Saudi employs almost three million overseas Pakistanis and provides financial support. In times of need, Pakistan can use this opportunity to seek crucial investments from both countries to ensure the China-Pak economic corridor.

Support for multilateral forums

This agreement may also support multilateral forums such as Shanghai Cooperation a platform for regional countries to discuss the security and economic issues. Pakistan and India are members of SCO, Iraq recently joined it and Saudi agreed to participate.

increased collaboration between
Iran and Saudi Arabia within SCO
could create an opportunity
for Pakistan and India to
engage in constructive dialogue.
For instance, in a recent
positive development, Pakistan's
foreign minister agreed to join
the May 2023 SCO
foreign ministers meeting in
India.