

(Part-II)

Q.2

US-India growing Strategic Partnership:

Introduction:

The strategic partnership of US and India is escalating from past several year particularly after Modi's government. Both countries are trying to contain China in Asia by increasing their influence in Indian Ocean Region. Such partnership is for China but it has far reaching effects on the interests of Pakistan. This strategic alliance will put Islamabad in a dilemma to balance its relations with China and USA. Both countries are important for Pakistan and it cannot choose one country by leaving other. Islamabad has to maintain its relations with the Western countries and China. Otherwise, any imbalance in its relations will prove a set-back for Islamabad.

Impacts of US-India partnership on interests of Pakistan

Pakistan's external policies and relation with several Western countries will be compromised

due to this strategic alliance. Pakistan and USA have been ally in many crisis such as Soviet invasion of Afghan and USA War on terror are most important. After the withdrawal of USA from Afghanistan, USA is changing its alliance - from Pakistan to India. This partnership will have impacts both on internal and external affairs of Pakistan.

Pakistan's close relation with China

Pakistan and China are enjoying good relations from several decades. Their partnership has strengthened after Belt and Road Initiative Project. Pakistan is a part of China's BRI project through China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). China has invested \$25 billion in Pakistan through CPEC.

China has initiated many development plans in Pakistan. This partnership can be challenged or threatened by USA. In order to contain China, Pakistan can be forced from USA to compromise its relations with China. Pakistan will be in a dilemma. Because both the super powers are necessary for Pakistan.

A dilemma for Pakistan: Either China or America

Pakistan holds strong ties with both countries and choosing only one country will be very difficult for Pakistan. China has helped Pakistan in every difficult situation. Furthermore, Pakistan imports and bilateral trade is most important. There are friendship and cooperation treaties, free trade agreements and energy cooperation agreements. Some agreements in Public domain after 2009 include agreements for radio and media collaboration and the upgradation of Karakoram Highway from on a concessional loan from 2015, an MOU relating to the Silk Road economic Belt initiated in 2017, an agreement of the upgradation of ML-1 and the Havelian dry port 2017 and MOU on marine research cooperation (2019). All these agreements show China and Pakistan's huge engagement with each other in almost every sector of public affairs. Pakistan cannot make a choice between China and USA, this puts Pakistan in an anxious situation, which could be detrimental for interests of Islamabad.

Pakistan's relation with the West can be compromised

After the close ties between USA and India, USA will no longer need Pakistan. This indifferent behaviour can escalate the situation and relation between Pakistan and US. As Pakistan cannot go against China, so USA is keeping itself away from Pakistan. Pakistan exports about \$68 billion of products to the Western nations. This trade can be compromised due to the pressure of USA on the Western countries. Not only trade ban, USA can urge its Western allies to put sanctions against Pakistan. If this happens, it will be deterring for the interests of Pakistan. Pakistan is also facing many political and economic challenges, then it has to face the wrath of the Western nations. This could prove a set-back to the economy as well as to the survival of Pakistan. Pakistan's relations with other countries of the world could be at stake. So, the strategic alliance of US and India is changing the geo-politics of the Indian Ocean.

Escalation of relations with India

The foreign relations between two countries are not good after the India's stance over Kashmir issue. Both countries are facing many escalations in their relations. The strategic alliance of India with USA gives India an upper edge over Pakistan. India is a member of **QUAD** - which has member countries of USA, Japan, India, Australia - whose aim is to contain China's influence in Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Pakistan's relation with India will become more severe due to China-India rivalry and Kashmir Issue.

Conclusion:

The partnership between two countries has many adverse impacts on the interests of Islamabad. Pakistan's bilateral and multilateral relation can be compromise due to this strategic alliance. Pakistan can face an imbalance and hegemony of India in South Asia. This can disrupt the normal functioning of countries generally and Pakistan particularly. Pakistan's relations with China and USA can be at a stake.