

# Pak Affairs

## Question no 6: Introduction:

Ans: Pakistan relations with India are hostile largely due to India. Its relations with Afghanistan are strained because of strategic short sightedness. Its relations with Iran are dubious because of US diplomatic and leverage over Pakistan. But Superpower can play an important role <sup>in peace</sup> given to their influence and capabilities. Decisions made by them have far-reaching consequences over region.

## 2) Pakistan's Security concerns due to Afghanistan:

Pakistan's ties with Afghanistan under the Taliban have become increasingly fraught and testy. Dealing with Afghanistan has <sup>pre</sup>occupied the government at a time when relations have hit a new low because of Afghanistan's willingness to act against the terrorist groups, TTP, which continue to carry out cross border attacks from its Afghan sanctuaries. Endless rounds of talks between the two neighbours have yielded a little, forcing Islamabad to adopt a tougher stance towards the

<sup>Kabul</sup>  
Pakistan's

## 3) Strained Relations with Iran:

On 16 Jan 2024, Iran conducted



air strikes on Pakistan territory claiming to have hit anti-terror terrorists. Pakistan claimed two minors lost their lives in Panjgur attack. It is easy to dial up tensions but it would not be in the interest of either country. Pakistan claims that Baloch separatists shelter in Balochistan while Iran claims extremist groups such as Jaish al Adh operate from Pakistan. Both countries lost their security officials in border clashes. A robust mechanism needs to be discussed in order to prevent soil of either country to be used against each other.

### 3. Navigating Diplomatic Complexity: Arduous path to Reconciliation in Ind-Pak relations:

Managing the troubled relations with India will arguably <sup>be</sup> the most vexing foreign policy challenge. Relations were ruptured when India ~~at~~ illegally annexed Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, and absorbed it into Indian Union in brazen violation of UN Security Council resolutions. Former dialogue was suspended by Delhi even earlier, and trade <sup>too</sup> was halted.



The path to normalisation of relations, however, remain strewn with formidable challenges given Delhi's actions in Occupied Kashmir and refused to talk to Islamabad about the dispute. Both should focus on managing tensions and consider how to put in place an agreed framework to manage tensions in order to prevent the spinning out of control.

#### 4) Balancing Acts: China's Ascendancy and Navigating US Relations post Afghanistan withdrawal:

The reality is that China is Pakistan's overriding priority. CPEC is Pivot of China's Belt and Road Initiative, whose timely progress requires close coordination and addressing Beijing concerns in this regard. With US, relations has been in flux since American military withdrawal from the Afghanistan in 2021. The US is source of FDI, a global power with significant influence especially over financial institutions, who assistance Pakistan's crisis prone economy constantly needs.



## Superpowers Role in stability of region:

superpowers due to their geopolitical influence and capabilities shape the international dynamics, either contributing to stability or escalating conflict. The decisions made by superpowers such as diplomatic efforts, mediation attempts and response to conflict, can have far reaching consequences for global peace.

## Implications for Pakistan of US-India Partnership:

complicating a reset in ties  
US Washington's top strategic priority of containing china - As Pakistan cannot be part of any anti china coalition. This limits the space for Pakistan-US relationship - As does Washington's growing strategic and economic relationships with India. Its patch pastures of choice in region is its strategy to project India as counter weight to India. The implications for Pakistan of US India partnership are apparent from Washington's



blind eye to Delhi's illegal actions in occupied Kashmir and its augmentation of India's military capabilities. This latter has aggravated the strategic imbalance and magnified Pakistan's security concerns.

### India's dilemma of aligning closer with the US against China and its consequences.

India objects an importance of being a de facto non-NATO military ally of US because India prizes its own status as emerging great power, which chooses its own strategic options and ironically a closer strategic alliance with US actually reduces India's options for regional harmony in South Asia. This is because China would be compelled by the India-US military alliance to dramatically raise its own strategic profile in India Ocean and among all member neighbours of India. Even with US assistance, India does not have capacity to overcome the such Chinese challenges.



## Potential outcomes of detente within China-India relations and implications for Pakistan's strategic isolation.

India's strategic planners know that India's efficient path towards hegemony in South Asia is detente with China rather than an option-limiting strategic alliance with US against China. Such a detente would incline China to view India's hegemony in South Asia with less harm and allow it to concentrate on countering US hegemony in East Asia. Once a detente would develop between India and China its momentum could carry it forward towards a possible entente cordiale and Pakistan would be strategically isolated.

### Conclusion.

The stability of hinges on delicate balance between Pakistan's relationship with its neighbours and regions' major powers. Addressing historical tensions, fostering dialogue, and prioritizing regional cooperation are essential steps towards