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"America has no permanent friends or enemies, only interests" — Henry A. Kissinger.

United States has long been amending ties with countries for its own ulterior motives. Not so long ago, Pakistan and US relations were at an all time best because Pakistan was the front line state for America's war on terror. Now as global politics have evolved and America faces a genuine competition from China for global hegemony, we see an increasing tilt of the former towards India. A glimpse of these growing ties between India and US is as under:

### US - India's growing strategic Partnership

a) Basic Exchange Cooperation Agreement 2020

As per this agreement, India would allow US to access its geospatial and topographic

data. Such stats and information can be crucial for US to keep a close eye on China.

### b) India - US Defense Industrial Cooperation Road Map (2023):

According to this agreement US & India can collaborate in co-production of advanced defense systems, collaborative research, testing and prototyping of projects.

### c) US - India Trade Forum:

US and India have established a trade forum which would enhance the trade between both the countries. The forum would also serve as a dialogue platform for both countries in case where a <sup>trade</sup> dispute emerges.

#### d) Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology 2023 :

According to this agreement both the countries would collaborate in ~~the~~ Artificial Intelligence, quantum computing and semi-conductors.

#### Implications of growing US-India partnership for Islamabad :

#### a) India Appeasement Policies adopted by US :

Since India has turned out to be a big player in containing China, America will devise policies carefully so that India is not antagonised.

Since India has always remained hostile towards Pakistan, America's anti-Pakistan policies should come as no surprise. A recent statement of president Joe Biden reflects the changing US Policies towards Pakistan where in the

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President of ~~the~~ America said: "It (Pakistan) maybe one of the most dangerous nations in the world."

### b) US support for India on Kashmir Issue

Another severe implication could ~~be~~ ~~it~~ be America's support for India on Kashmir Issue. Kashmir has long been a bone of contention between India and Pakistan. ~~Both~~ countries have made claims to. US support in this issue would grant India an advantage. It is because of this support that the international community has turned a blind eye towards India's ethnic cleansing in Kashmir and other gross human rights violations.

### c) India's Growing Military Might:

As previously mentioned US - India have

made several strategic agreements. Not only does these agreements allow India to buy advance weapons from US, but also involve the production of the system to be done in India. This has increased and modernise the military capabilities of India which poses a threat to Pakistan.

d) Harder to secure bail out packages from IMF:

US is the largest share holder of IMF and therefore wields considerable influence over it. Since America's ties with Pakistan are deteriorating, the latter will no longer have the support of America in securing bail out packages. This was also witnessed in 2022, where the country has to struggle for more than a year to secure a staff-level agreement for a mere \$1bn loan.

### e) Pakistan's Isolation in Global Political Arena :

India's growing ties with US can diplomatically isolate Pakistan in global politics. India is viewed as the blue eyed boy of America. This is why it is well received in Europe and elsewhere. This is a serious issue for Pakistan as India could leverage these ~~the~~ growing relations to isolate Pakistan and shape western opinion against it.

### f) India could be admitted as a permanent member in United Nations Security Council

There have already been talks to introduce reforms in United Nations. Many countries like Germany, Brazil, India have proposed and extension to the number of members in United Nations Security Council. Now

that US-India ties are at all time best, there is a strong possibility of this happening. This would lead to serious repercussion for Pakistan as it would grant India the power to veto resolutions that oppose its interest.

## Recommendations For Islamabad

a) Engage in diplomacy with United States:

US-Pakistan relations went south after the former's withdrawal from Afghanistan. US has repeatedly ~~blame~~ blamed Pakistan for its defeat in Afghanistan. However, this is high time for Pakistan to step up its efforts to improve relations with US. US is a global power and the move vacuum Pakistan creates would be filled by India.

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b) Strengthen ties with China to modernise military:

China's military might is second to none. The country has rapidly modernised its military ~~over~~ in the last decade. Since Pakistan is already of vital significance to China due to CPEC, it can ~~to~~ further strengthen the relations to seek advance weaponry from China in order to keep pace with the Indian military.

c) Use Global Platforms to highlight India's human rights violations

Pakistan can utilize global platforms to bring to light India's ongoing ethnic cleansing and other human rights violations. The country can point out India's support to terrorist organisations operating in Pakistan and ask global

leaders to pressurise India into stopping it.

### Conclusion

There remains no doubt that the growing US-India ties will have devastating repercussions for Pakistan. However, Pakistan is not left without recourse. The solutions embodied in this answer can go a long way in tackling the problems the country faces.

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The US withdrawal and the ~~the~~ Taliban emerging as victors was lauded in Pakistan. Even the Prime Minister at the time was euphoric over this development and ~~said~~ quoted it as:

"breaking chains of slavery".  
The country expected the ~~the~~ ~~newly~~ Taliban to cooperate in eliminating cross-border

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terrorism and ~~other~~ on other bilateral issues. Little did it know what dark fate awaited it. In order to better grasp the issue, it is essential to have an overview of what happened after the return of Taliban in ~~the~~ Power.

## Brief Overview on the resurgence of Terrorism in Pakistan

~~After~~ Much to the dismay of Pakistan, the insurgency increased in the country following the return of Taliban in power. Pakistan has witnessed several terrorist attacks in 2023, and despite expressing its concerns over the use of Afghan soil for carrying out these attacks, little was done to prevent it. After the grievances of Pakistan went unaddressed, and with no sign of terrorist activities abating, the decision of expelling all Afghan refugees from Pakistan was set

in Motion.

## Pakistan's decision to send back Afghan Refugees

On 3rd October 2023, Pakistan ~~is~~ announced that all Afghan refugees would be send back. The dead line of 1st November 2023, was formally announced for the refugees to leave, after which the country stated that it would. The country also warned that those who refuse to leave on their own accord will have to suffer from the seizure of their property. Moreover, the Pakistanis that are found abetting the refugees would also ~~have~~ ~~to~~ be punished as per the law. Before the dead line of 1 NOV, around 200 000 Afghanis has already left. The govt plans to send all Afghans, whether documented or not, back to Afghanistan before the end of this calendar year.

## Rational behind sending Afghan Refugees back

### a) To Stop insurgency in Pakistan

Pakistan suffered many terrorist attacks in the last year. Damage of unprecedented proportions was inflicted, so much so that Global Terrorism Index ranked Pakistan at 6<sup>th</sup> place for countries most affected by terrorism. To add to the country's surprise, it was later discovered that Afghan ~~refugees~~ refugees were behind  $\frac{1}{3}$  of all the terrorist activities. Moreover, these undocumented Afghans are more difficult to trace down since there is no record of them. Keeping these factors in mind, Pakistan decided to send these refugees back in order to control terrorism.

## b) Economic Reasons:

The country's economic outlook has been bleak. The Afghan refugees were seen as a burden on the economy. Not only did they get jobs which were meant to be for the locals, but the cross-border smuggling inflicted heavy losses to the country's economy so in order to provide some relief to the ~~veeling~~ <sup>wreeling</sup> economy, it was decided to send them back.

## Pakistan - Afghanistan Relations after the decision to send back Refugees

### a) Open Threat by Afghanistan's defense Minister - Mullah Muhammad Yaqoob:

The decision to send back refugees did not go well with the Taliban. It was already

anticipated that the Afghan Taliban would not respond kindly to it. A glimpse of Taliban's antagonisation can be discerned by a statement made by their defense minister who openly threatened Pakistan saying:

"As you sow, so shall you reap"

b) Pakistan's Interim Prime-Minister Anwar-ul-Kakar responds to Afghan threats

Pakistan's Prime Minister, while responding to Afghanistan's threats, ~~at~~ blamed them for the surge in terrorism in Pakistan. He also called this surge in terrorism to be the reason for the expulsion of Afghans. He further added that there was a 60-90% increase in suicide bombing since Afghan Taliban grabbed the reins of power.

## Analysis

Given the current situation, Pak-Afghan relations will continue to deteriorate. Whether ~~the~~ Pakistan's move will stem the tide to terrorism remains to be seen. But one thing that is crystal clear is that Pakistan will ~~take~~ not take terrorist activities on its soil lightly, and extreme measure will be taken to rid the country of this menace. The Afghans will also develop hostility towards Pakistan, but the ~~chance~~ of reconciliation is in their court. If they want to improve relations with Pakistan, they must show commitment in ensuring that Afghan soil is not used to conduct cross-border terrorism.