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QUESTION #03

Introduction

US-India strategic partnership has a broad scope, encompassing regional and global implications. US-India strategic partnership can be observed through multilateral organizations, like **QUAD** and **G-20**, defense agreements of **COMCASA** and **BECA**, and joint naval exercises in Indian ocean and Asian Pacific, ^{in particular} as a whole. The central goal of partnership is to contain China. China is a regional enemy to India, competing for **energy** race, while globally, China is challenging the **status quo** of the United States. Although primary objective is to contain China, but resultantly, this partnership also has implications for Pakistan. The allies are containing China by sabotaging **BRI** and **CPEC**, which has adverse implications for Pakistan. Also, India's nuclear deal is a threat for Pakistan. The ultimate irony for Pakistan is to have **dependence over enemy's friend and friend's enemy**.

Islamabad should extend its relationship with China and Russia.

US-India Strategic Partnership

The United States and India's strategic partnership is based on mutual benefits and common objectives. The US considered it as a suitable option to have its influence in the Asia Pacific region. While India is a growing economy which considers itself as a **swing state**, in contrary contrast to the **non-Alignment** movement, which for several decades influenced India's foreign policy. US-India strategic partnership can be observed in the following dimensions:

(a). Defense Deal

US has been significantly enhancing India's defense capabilities. In 2018, Trump's administration allocated more than **\$66B** for defense agreements with India. In later on the US also concluded on agreements like **COMCASA** and **BECA**. These agreements clearly reflect the growing defense relations between the two countries.

(b). Naval Relations

The strategic relationship between the countries are predominantly visible from naval collaborations. Both countries have been involved in joint naval exercises, some bilaterally, and others through QUAD. The US is strengthening India's naval capacities to counter China's influence in the Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean.

China's containment is the basis of US-India strategic relationship

The primary foundation of this strategic relationship is to minimize China's growing influence. China is a regional threat to India and a global threat to the hegemony of the United States.

(a). China as a regional threat to India

China is a regional threat to India, primarily due to the energy race. According to the World Energy Outlook Report, 2018, China has the highest energy demand, with India as 3rd

highest. The report also predicted that by 2025, China's demand would be highest and India's demand as second highest.

(a). Countering BRI is a must for India

If Chinese dragon of BRI becomes successful, it would create 'energy crisis' for India. One of the underlying objectives of BRI is to invest in energy sector, and create an alternate route to reduce dependence from Strait of Malacca. China's biggest goal is to have control of warm waters, which can be seen from 'String of Pearls' strategy in the Indian Ocean. India considers Indian Ocean as a strategic point, where Chinese presence is unacceptable.

(b). China, as a global threat to US hegemony

China is a global threat to US hegemony. China is challenging the status quo of the United States in every possible dimension. US and China

have also been engaged to track war during Trump's administration.

Chinese model of Global South Cooperation

The global south significantly lags behind in economic sphere. China is aimed to uplift the region through various economic investments. The rise of China as a global south leader is a threat to US hegemony.

China

~ On the way to becoming the largest economy

By all indicators, China is seen going to be the world's largest economy. US is facing economic crisis owing to its significant debt. This is the reason why Trump enforced protectionist measures.

Thucydides Trap

This phenomenon advocates that after some time the 'status quo' power uses its power due to cross indulgence in extra affairs. And the second largest power soon becomes the largest power. No 2 position is a psychological trap

Implications for Pakistan

(a). Security threats to CPEC

One of the best ways in which US and India can contain China is by sabotaging BRI and CPEC. As per this framework, India is creating instability in Pakistan by supporting insurgency in Balochistan. India's defense capacities have increased due to its partnership, creating threats for Pakistan.

(b). Nuclear threat for Pakistan

The nuclear deal between US and India has raised concerns for Pakistan. This deal has increased uranium capacities of Indian nuclear weapons. As an historical enemy of Pakistan, this has created national security concerns for Pakistan.

(c). The irony of dependence over enemy's friend and friend's enemy

Pakistan is substantially over the United States in multiple

dimensions. The US has entrenched its influence on Pakistan's democratic institutions. The United States is a global enemy to the China, and a close ally to India. Owing to Pakistan's dependence over the US, the country's policy would be influenced by the US in an unadvantaged way.

Options for Islamabad

The policy option for Islamabad after increasing US-India strategic relationship is to extend strategic relations with China and Russia. There is no room for confusion of Islamabad's foreign policy after this growing relationship between India and the US. The country needs to overcome its dependence over the US, and extend relations towards China and Russia back.

Conclusion

US-India strategic relationship which can be observed from defense and nuclear, joint naval exercises, and collaboration of QUAD, has both regional and global implications. Both countries

are strategically contesting China's growing influence in Indian Ocean and across the globe. This partnership aims to sabotage BRI, which has threats for Pakistan's CPEC. The partnership is also enhancing India's uranium and defense capacities, creating concerns of Pakistan's national security. As a counter-response, Islamabad should relations with China and Russia.

QUESTION #02

Introduction

Pak-Afghan relations have further strained after repeated attacks by TTP and ISKP from Afghanistan, and Pakistan retaliation by pulling out Afghan refugees. Historically, these countries had various conflicts, for instance, Pakhtunistan and western border issue. TTP has been responsible for a number of terrorist activities in Pakistan for many years. TTP, a sub-branch of TTA, has increased terrorist attacks after the formation of Taliban.

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government in Afghanistan. The recent attacks by TTP and ISKP from Afghan land are manifestations of ITA's approval over these attacks. In retaliation to these terrorist attacks, Pakistan decided to send back millions of Afghan refugees, either willingly, or by force. As a consequence, the relations have further strained. The future relations look even darker, unless external mediator like China resolves the disputes.

Historical overview of Pak-Afghan relations

Historically, the both countries had tough relations with each other. At the time of Pakistan's independence, Afghanistan was the only Muslim country that voted against Pakistan in the United Nations. Later on, the both countries had a number of conflicts, mainly the issue of Pashtunistan and disagreements over Western border. Also, Afghanistan has also accused Pakistan on several occasions for interfering in her internal matters. These

Facts suggest that the two countries did not have much positive relations in the past.

TTP responsible for causing terrorism in Pakistan

TTP has been actively involved in causing terrorism in Pakistan for several years. These attacks have been on security forces in Balochistan, along with suicidal bomb attacks in other provinces of Pakistan. TTP has been a persistent threat to National security, also supporting separatist movements in Balochistan.

TTP, a sub-branch of TTA

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan is a sub-branch of Tehreek-e-Taliban Afghanistan. TTA has leadership influence over TTP.

TTA blocked dialogue between TTP and Pakistan

In the past, both Pakistan was involved in multiple dialogue with TTP, which were

brokered by TTA. Pakistan demanded from TIP to abstain from violence and terrorism. A series of dialogues took place but with no results.

Recent attacks by TIP and ISKP from Afghanistan

The recent attacks by TIP and ISKP from Afghanistan in Pakistan has exacerbated tensions between the two countries. These attacks have targeted a number of security enforcement agents. Pakistan has blamed Afghanistan for these attacks.

An increase in terrorist attacks ^{since} ~~since~~ consolidation of Taliban government

Pakistan's security forces have observed that terrorist attacks have increased after Taliban government in Afghanistan. TIP and ISKP are safe heavens & Afghanistan is a safe heaven for TIP and ISKP, from where they can comfortably carry out militant activities in Pakistan. Pakistan has therefore called upon

Afghanistan for addressing terrorist activities.

Attacks from Afghan land is a sovereignty breach

Since the recent attacks of TTP and ISKP are carried from Afghan land, Pakistan considers it as a sovereignty breach. Attacks from Afghan land are considered as attacks from Afghanistan.

Pakistan's retaliation by pulling out Afghan refugees

In response to Afghanistan's failure to control terrorist attacks from Afghan land, Pakistan decided to pull out millions of Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. These refugees ^{had been} were living in Pakistan for several decades. They are sent back to Afghanistan using force.

Growing Tensions and Future Prospects

As a result to these back and forth events, the tensions between the two countries have substantially increased. In the absence of external mediation, the relations would not get any better. However, there is a possibility that China may work as a mediator to address growing tensions. China, with respect to CPEC, has interests in both countries.

Conclusion

In conclusion, attacks by TTP and ISKP from Afghan land, and Pakistan's decision of pulling out Afghan refugees have further strained the relations between two countries. Without any external mediation, from a country like China, the relations between two countries cannot improve in the light of contemporary conflicts.