

Q: US-India Growing Partnership and Implication for Pakistan:-

I). Introduction:

In order to check the astronomical rise of China, the United States decided to adopt the policy of increased strategic partnership with India. As a result, India and US grew much closer in defense, technological, economic, strategic and climate related issues. The main reason for this partnership being containment of China, ambitions of India and economic benefits for both countries. India being the archrival of Pakistan, these developments have some serious implications for the latter. Important policy measures ~~are going~~ to must be adopted to mitigate the negative impacts of the Indo-US partnership.

II). Partnership between US and India:-

The partnership between US and India has increased significantly in recent years. The areas covered under this partnership include:

1. Defense Partnership:-

The US and India have signed a number of defense pacts which have significantly increased India's military capabilities. Some of these pacts include:

- Indo-US civilian nuclear agreement 2008
- US-India Defense Technology Trade Initiative, 2012.

- Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement, (LEMOA), 2016.
- Basic Exchange Co-operation Agreement (BECA), 2020
- Indo-US defense industrial co-operation, 2023
- India-US defense acceleration ecosystem (INDUS-X)

The pacts have enabled Indian military to gain an immense boost.

2) Technological Partnership:-

The United states and India have also started co-operating in the technological arena. They have signed different pacts, some of which are:

- Initiative on Critical & Emerging Technology, 2023
- NASA and ISRO cooperation to facilitate human spaceflight.
- Advanced Training to Indian astronaut astronauts by NASA
- Semi conductor supply chain and innovation.

3) Economic Partnership:

Being an emerging economy, India has a lot of potential. The US and India have healthy economic relations which have increased manifolds in recent years. Some of the developments are:

- Bilateral trade between US and India crossed \$191 B in 2022, which is approximately double from 2014.

- Economic and Financial Partnership Dialogue between US and India in which both countries advance areas of mutual interest in insurance sector.
- India-US Commercial Dialogue to expand co-operation in areas of talent, innovation and inclusive growth.
- India-US trade policy forum.

4) Strategic Partnership:-

The strategic partnership between US and India has also increased tremendously. There are multiple platforms in which both of these countries are have membership, for example, QUAD alliance, I2U2, IMEC etc. The United States also supports admission of India in UN security council.

5) Partnership in Energy Transition and Climate Change:-

The United States and India have also increased partnership in policies related to energy transition and climate change. Some of these policies include:

- U.S - India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030.

- Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP)

- US - India New and Emerging Renewable Energy Technologies Action Platform.

In short, U.S and India have increased their partnership significantly in recent

years which have serious implications for Pakistan.

III). Implications For Pakistan:-

1). Disturbing the Balance of Power in the region:-

The partnership of U.S. enjoyed by India, specially in defense and strategic areas, has severely disturbed the balance of power in the region. The power of India has significantly increased due to its partnership with U.S. Pakistan is going to have to cope with this power disbalance and try to increase its power.

2). Exacerbating Arms Race :-

The attainment of new military tech by India from U.S. because of their defensive pacts is going to force Pakistan to advance its military capabilities as well. This could easily lead to arms race between the two arch rivals.

3) Deteriorating Pakistan-U.S. Relations:-

The increased partnership between U.S. and India could lead to worsening of relations between Pakistan and U.S., as the enemy of a friend is an enemy. U.S. supporting for India is going to inadvertently affect Pakistan eventually.

4) Depletion of Development Funds:-

To obtain balance of power with India, Pakistan might have to divert the limited funds it has towards military, which could negatively affect the development process of Pakistan.

5) Diplomatic Isolation of Pakistan:-

As the diplomatic might of India is increased due to its partnership with the U.S, it use this power to isolate Pakistan diplomatically. It has already happened when Pakistan was put in FATF greylist due to diplomatic lobbying of India.

6) Strengthening Indian ambitions to Suppress Kashmir:-

The U.S. has started to turn a blind eye towards Indian blatant violations of human rights in Indian Occupied Kashmir due to its partnership with India. This could give India the impetus to strengthen its hold over IOK.

7) Portraying CPEC as debt trap:-

Since this partnership is mainly to contain China, all projects related to China are going to be blamed by these countries, including CPEC. CPEC is of utmost importance for Pakistan and India won't miss the opportunity to spoil it in anyway possible.

iv) Policy Options for Pakistan:-

To tackle the problems arising from the Indo-US strategic partnership, Pakistan must adopt immediate policy measures, some of which are as follows:

1). Enhance its Strategic Partnership with China:-

As India is increasing its strategic partnership with U.S. to contain China, Pakistan could do the same and increase its partnership with China.

2). Modernizing Military through Partnership with China and Russia:-

Due to the enmity between China and Russia, Pakistan could grow closer to Russia. This would give Pakistan an opportunity to modernize its military with the help of the military superpower, Russia.

3). Inclusion in regional corridors to enhance economy:-

Pakistan has immense geo economic potential of being a trade transit. It could achieve its goals by being included in regional trade corridors including IMEC, BSW, Middle Corridor, Greater Eurasian Partnership, etc.

4). Pursuing active diplomacy to avoid isolation:-

India is trying to isolate Pakistan diplomatically, which Pakistan should avoid by pursuing active diplomacy and improving its relations with powerful nations especially the United States.

5) Capitalizing on its membership in SCO:-

Pakistan can play an active role in SCO and achieve its strategic interests. SCO can restrain India as it is also a member of SCO.

Conclusion:-

India and U.S have grown much closer together in order to contain China. This development has led to defensive, strategic, economic and technological partnership between the two countries - Consequently, Pakistan is faced with serious implications -

There is an urgent need of implementing policy measures by Pakistan to mitigate the negative implications of this partnership.