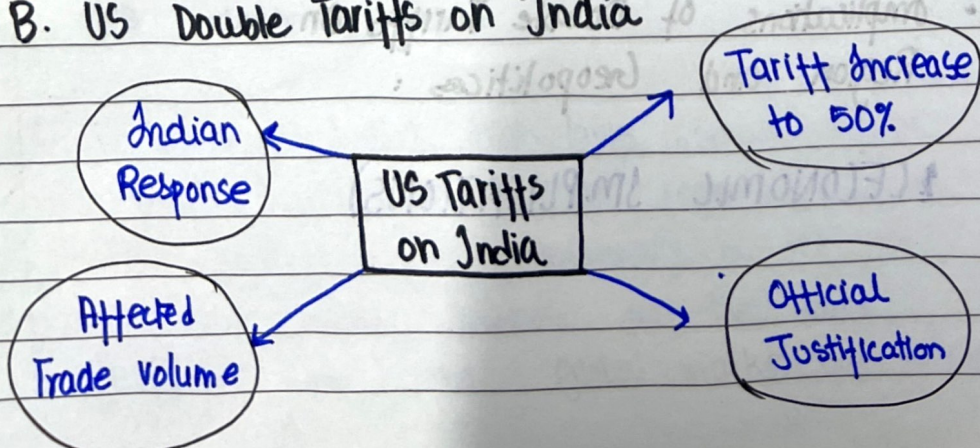


Q1 US has imposed double tariffs on India. Critically evaluate its economic and geopolitical implication on regional and global power politics?

A. Introduction

The US decided to impose tariffs on India with starting from 10% and then the total amount rising to 25% in August 2025. Due to India's purchase of Russian oil and ongoing Russia - Ukraine crisis, US also realized large trade deficit and India's high non tariff barriers in the ~~and~~ US market. Due to such aggressive tariffs by Donald Trump, India's economy has witnessed shutdown and ~~may~~ it paves the way for smaller South Asian players like Pakistan and Bangladesh to fill the gap. This also increases inflationary pressure for the US consumer and disrupts supply chain. As far as the geopolitical impacts are concerned, India sees itself with improved diplomacy with the other world power i.e China. Restrained relations with US in the region could bring instability but also an opportunity for rivals.

B. US Double Tariffs on India



1. India's Economic Disruption and Export Decline :

Since tariffs, India has seen a major export decline as USA was a major market for India's export goods

- ♦ India's export has caused 37% export decline and job losses in the working sector

-Global Trade Research (2025)

2. Inflationary Pressure in US : Global Supply Chain Disruption

Higher tariffs raise import costs for US firms and that results in global price hikes, causing US manufacturers to shift to cheaper options for supply of raw materials, resulting in expensive goods

- ♦ Warning of increased retail price globally as a result of tariffs

- Moody's Analytics

3. Opportunity For other Small Players in Region To fill economic gap :

As a result of India's high tariffs, small players and rivals in South Asian region can come forward and expand economically to fill the gap. Players who compete for the same commodities in the global market can leverage

this opportunity

- ◆ Countries like Pakistan, having 19% tariff rate can expand itself economically ◆

(GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS)

1. Strain in US-India Strategic Partnership:

India questions US's reliability as a strategic partner after high tariffs as it undermines their closeness in political ties as well as economic alliances.

- ◆ India termed US Tariff move as inconsistent with the spirit of Strategic partnership ◆
- Economic Times

2. China Gains Diplomatic Leverage As Modi seeks support of Xi - Jinping:

As relations between US and India erodes, the Prime Minister of India sees itself seeking approval of another world power. This can give China's a diplomatic leverage to partner up with the South Asia giant.

- ◆ Modi visits China in SCO summit 2025 after years of tensions with China ◆

3. Shift in India's Foreign Policy

India may tilt towards a multi alignment approach balancing between Russia and China as the Indian Media condemns US's moves as an unstable Strategic partner in the global arena.

♦ "India will not be a pawn in US-China rivalry" ♦

- Hindustan Times (2025)

D. Critical Assessment : Who Really Gains OR losses?

Indian exporters and manufactures may be short term losers with US consumers also bearing high prices. Moreover, exporters in Bangladesh and Pakistan can gain strategic opportunity in expanding their exports in a big market like USA. India may move its market share towards other powers and reduce its dependency on US, gaining more strength without US. While the "America First" move for US can give breathing space to US manufacturers and industries struggling to compete in home country. The overall move could trigger a geopolitical shift, pushing India to deepen its strategic alliance with other powers.

E. Conclusion

The US' aggressive move on taxing countries can erode its strategic alliance with long term

partners like India. India while countering Pak-China relations seeks US approval to balance geopolitics in the South Asian region faces an economic decline at the hands of US. Though this move can urge India to seek ties with China and Russia, but Donald Trump will never let go off Modi to ~~cont~~ because only India has the power to contain China in the region, whether through instability in Pakistan or giving China an economic competition.

Q.3) How Pakistan could balance its relations after the recent engagement with US and strategic partnership with China.

A. Introduction

Pakistan since its inception has shown its tilt towards USA but saw restrained ties after the war on terror. Throughout years, it has partnered up with its best friend in the South Asian region, "China". The 'Iron-Clad' romance of Pakistan and China depends upon technological, economical and defense ties with China giving all support to Pakistan. Moreover, during recent times, Pakistan has deeply ~~gone~~ strengthened its ties with USA with greater and improved tariff deals and leveraging its mineral diplomacy. With China on one side of border

offering numerous economic benefits and Donald Trump on the other side offering a hand for improved ties, Pakistan sees itself on the edge of diplomatic challenges and pleasing the two superpowers in the global arena.

B. Pakistan Balancing Act Between US and China

Pakistan witnesses balancing acts, maintaining its Strategic Partnership with China while reviving engagement with United States. Both the countries have found their interests in Pakistan.

CHINA TOWARDS PAKISTAN	≈>	1. CPEC : Flagship Project of BRI
		2. Economic Investor
		3. Defense Supplier

Ties with China have been multidimensional, from CPEC diplomacy and China offering great support in economy with Beijing being the largest investor in Pakistan's economy as well as providing defense support ~~with~~ and exporting ~~arms~~ defense supplies. It also supports Pakistan in deterring India.

USA TOWARDS PAKISTAN	≈>	1. US' Role in Indian conflict ceasefire
		2. Mineral Diplomacy
		3. Tariff Deals

Pakistan has also seen Donald Trump offering a hand for friendship ~~and~~ by mediating the recent may conflict where the President

appreciates Pakistan's role. Moreover, it also highlights US interest in Pakistan's minerals as 'Reko Diq' deal is confirmed between US and Pakistan. US while imposing higher tariffs on India, amounting to 50% while 19% for Pakistan also showed cooperation and ease of trade.

C. Strategies For Balancing Two Superpowers:

Pakistan could do the following diplomatic tactics and adopt various approaches to balance its ties with both of the countries:

1. Adopting a Multi Alignment Foreign Policy:

Pakistan, instead of choosing sides and picking obvious sides could maintain a flexible engagement with cooperating with both the countries.

2. Compartmentalizing Relations with US and China:

Pakistan must compartmentalize relations based on different projects and deepen relations with both countries by different means

♦ Strengthening ties with China through CPEC,

While US with Mineral deal, Reko Diq ♦

3. Leveraging multilateralism and Active Participation :

Pakistan should show interest in ~~both~~ US backed platforms as well as China backed platforms. It must maintain a neutral position on different diplomatic fronts

- ♦ Increased participation in SCO,
- While diplomacy in UN
- to increase ties with both ♦

4. Adopting a Non - Ideological Foreign Policy :

Pakistan must focus on its economic and security interest and avoid aligning itself with any ideological blocs or depend on any power to safeguard its position in the global arena.

- ♦ "In an era of polarized politics, survival lies in Strategic autonomy, not allegiance" ♦

- Foreign Affairs (2025)

5. Leveraging Climate and Technology Diplomacy with US and China :

Engaging US under the Green Alliance Framework and in climate tech cooperation alongside seeking energy diplomacy with China's CPEC project, Pakistan can maintain ties on both the diplomatic fronts.

D- Conclusion

The best way for Pakistan in the tug of war is to maintain its position as a mediator and a peace oriented state, avoiding conflict and sides. As both of these countries provide Pakistan with numerous benefits in economic and financial sectors. Pakistan must take care of its ties and not compromise one for the other. It should seek CPEC diplomacy to strengthen ties with China and continue its efforts on improving ties with the US.