

Q1

(1) Introduction

In the 21st century, most of the countries have shifted their policies from traditional warfare to technological and economic war. In this regard, US ~~is~~ continues weaponizing trades and sanctions to seek geopolitical leverage. Recently, US imposition of double tariffs on India has both economic and geopolitical implications. The tariffs aimed to pressure India to deviate from Russian oil imports. These tariffs will reduce competitiveness in U.S market, narrow trade volume between U.S and India, and push India towards diversification of dependency on ~~from~~ U.S. The tariff war creates opportunity for Pakistan and Bangladesh to ~~a~~ leverage U.S markets. Additionally, there are geopolitical implications, such as tensions between China and India may diffuse, India may increase its hedge towards Russia, and strengthen multilateralism in the world.

(2) Understanding double tariffs of U.S on India

U.S had already imposed 25% tariffs on Indian commodities as a reciprocal step to

pursue its protectionist policy. Then in ~~Aug~~ 2025, Donald Trump imposed additional 25% tariffs on India as a punitive measure. The reason behind punitive tariffs was India's continuous import of Russian oil despite sanctions. In 2021 India imported \$3 billion Russian oil, which increased to \$96 billion in 2024. Despite U.S.'s concerns India continued its imports. Subsequently, America imposed double tariffs on India.

(3) Economic Implications of Double Tariffs on India in regional and global arena

(a) Reduction in Exports between U.S and India

United States is the largest trading partner and export market of India. The tariffs may reduce this export market. India export textiles, pharmaceuticals, footwear, sports and engineering goods to U.S. The tariffs reduce competitiveness of Indian goods, pushing India to explore other markets.

(b) Inflation and slow growth of Indian economy

As the tariffs compel India to diversify its trade. The exploration of new markets, identifying value chains costs both time and

and money. In addition to this, India can't find the market as large as ^{that of} U.S. easily. So, it may slow down India's growth, highlighting immediate shocks.

(c) Shift from narrow economic dependency to diversified markets

India may explore other regions like Gulf states, Central Asia, Russia, China, and European Union. BRICS is the second largest market for India after U.S. Trade with BRICS members may also prove strategically beneficial. Hence, India may now reduce its sole dependency on America to prevent sudden shocks from U.S.

(d) Growing opportunity for Pakistan and Bangladesh in U.S. markets

Other than India, China is also one of the largest trading partner of U.S. China is already tariffed, and now India is facing double tariffs (50%). This backdrop creates opportunities for both Pakistan and Bangladesh. Pakistan can increase exports of textiles, sports goods, and other commodities to U.S. and leverage this chance.

(4) Geopolitical implications of US' Double Tariffs on India

(a) India's pursuance of National Interest and political autonomy

India may continue to pursue its economic interest and prioritize its political autonomy in the economic weaponization by U.S. As the tariffs affect India's economy, compelling it to increase import of Russian oil to serve its economic interests.

(b) Increasing collaboration with Russia

The punitive tariffs of America have eroded trust and strategic partnership of India. Now, India may enhance integration with Russia. India may start exporting its goods to Russia. Additionally, India recently denied to buy U.S jet called F35. It may buy Russian jet, Su35, this indicates a geopolitical shift of India towards Asian partners to counter American tariffs.

(c) India's diffusion of tensions with China

Alongside Russia, India may diffuse tensions with China. The main issues between China and New Delhi are of border conflicts.

and water issue. Additionally, U.S. uses India to counter Chinese influence in the Indopacific Ocean. The tariffs imposed by Donald Trump may shift inclination of India from western dependency towards China. Hence, this shift may isolate U.S. in the game of hegemony.

(d) Trust Deficit in the strategic partnership of America and New Delhi

The strategic partnership ~~is~~ include civil nuclear reactors of U.S., and regional alliance QUAD. Additionally, defence units of America, such as Boeing and Lockheed Martin are installed on land of India. It is the second largest buyer of U.S. weapons. The double tariffs undermine trust and confidence of India in America as a credible partner. Hence, tariffs induce trust deficit and erode strategic partnership between both countries.

(e) Consolidation of multi-lateralism agenda

The double tariffs of America on India solidify the paves the way for enhanced multi-lateralism. As the India shifts its dependency on Russia and China, increasing their influence in South Asia.

Additionally, India may now support dedollarization policy of BRICS and use this platform against G7 and Global North. The new currency and dedollarization will fade the hegemony of American dollar.

(5) Conclusion

To conclude, double tariffs of US imposed on India to compel it to halt import of Russian oil has both geopolitical and economic implication. The tariffs will reduce trade volume between US and India, decrease competitiveness of Indian goods in the West, and hinder ^{its} economic growth. It also creates chance for other countries like Pakistan to explore US markets. Additionally India may diversify its economy and increase integration with Russia and China. In this way, tariffs of America strengthen multi-polarity and counter US hegemony in the world.

(1) Introduction

China has been strategic partner of Pakistan whereas U.S has remained a transactional friend historically. The recent high level engagements with U.S is an opportunity for Pakistan to increase its influence in the world. However, Islamabad needs to pursue a pragmatic policy to leverage this opportunity alongwith maintaining ties with china. Balancing both global leaders is a challenge for Pakistan. ~~Islam~~ It should continue diplomatic meetings on both sides. Pakistan should adopt a transparent and limited engagement with U.S on counter-terrorism, critical minerals, trade and commerce. In spite of short term policy, both countries should sign long-term deals benefitting in the long run. Simultaneously, Islamabad should assure China regarding CPEC security, defence engagement. Additionally, Pakistan must improve its domestic governance, reduce corruption, and strengthen institutions. It will improve Pakistan's bargaining power among global leaders. In this way, the country can balance China and America and ~~ensure~~ serve its national interest.

(2) Strategic partnership with China and

Recent engagement with U.S

China is all time friend of Pakistan with long-term projects like China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Alongwith CPEC, there are also diplomatic meetings, defence partnerships, training programs, and mutual trust between both partner. Pakistan is a critical ally of China to connect with central Asia and Middle East regions. On the other hand, U.S has been a transactional partner of Pakistan. They had increased collaboration during Afghan-Soviet war and War on Terror (WOT). After U.S withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan-U.S engagement immensely reduced. Recently, there has been high-level meetings and talks on critical minerals and trade, creating a challenging situation to balance both global powers.

(3) How Pakistan can balance its relations with both U.S and China

(a) Adopting a pragmatic foreign policy to pursue its national interest

Pakistan should adopt a clear, and strategic foreign policy to send a clear message regarding its stance. It should

engage with U.S. with limited trade and counter-terrorism programs. Those agreements must be transparent to reduce Chinese suspicion. Additionally, Pakistan should continue its strategic engagement with China on CPEC 2.0, defence collaboration and commerce.

(b) Quick diplomatic engagements with both countries to avoid alienation of any partner; After ^{every} high-level meeting with U.S. leaders, Pakistan should engage with China as well. In this way, Pakistan will assure trust and confidence of China being a credible partner.

(c) Prevent one-sided alliance that can counter either China or America

As the recent U.S. engagement with U.S. is a great opportunity for Pakistan to serve its economic and security interest. Hence, Pakistan should remain vigilant in this regard. It should avoid alliance with any group or organization that works against China or America. The alliance with neutral partners by Pakistan can serve its national interests strategically.

(d) Transparent engagement with U.S in a limited arena

The agreements signed between Pakistan and USA should be made public. In this way, Chinese suspicion can be countered. All the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) should be clear, and without political conditionalities. It will reflect a pragmatic and realistic approach of Pakistan.

(e) Leverage partnership with U.S

As U.S leaders have high interest in critical minerals and trade on hydrocarbons in Pakistan. Hence, it should utilize this opportunity to increase exports, attract foreign direct investment and initiate an economic long-term partnership. Additionally, Pakistan should adopt policies that complement with China instead of competing it.

(f) Operational compartmentalization to prevent espionage

While maintaining deep ties with China, Pakistan must compartmentalize its security, defence and other engagement to prevent future spillovers. The intelligence and security dealings with China should be separate

to prevent surveillance or chances of confrontation.

(8) Improve domestic governance in Pakistan

As Pakistan ~~faces~~^{has} weak governance, with corruption, lack of accountability, weak institutions, and security issues. The country should endeavor to reduce corruption, address terrorism and militancy, ensure socio-economic equality, and bring transparency, without internal stability, Islamabad can't utilize external opportunities. So, to improve its standing and enhance bargaining power in the global powers, Pakistan should improve its domestic governance.

(4) Conclusion

To sum up, strategic partnership with China and rising engagement with U.S is a critical opportunity for Pakistan. It can balance relation between global powers through clear, transparent dealing and pursuing its national interest. Instead of limited engagement, the country should sign economic agreements to avoid zero-sum results as happened in past. Pakistan should engage with United States on critical minerals, trade and counter-terrorism measures. Simultaneously, it should maintain

deep ties with China. As China is a long time and credible partner of Pakistan, so the country should never undermine Pakistan and China relations in this dilemma.

