

## Q No=1 U.S. tariffs on India

### Introduction

Trade relations between United States and India have always changed with global political trend. There were always seen a shift between cooperation and conflict. After India's 1998 nuclear tests, the U.S imposed sanctions on it, but ~~after~~ by 2005 both countries rebuilt trust through the civil nuclear deal. Here began a new era of partnership. However, recently U.S decision to impose double tariffs on Indian exports has created fresh tensions. Although, this move is officially aimed at protecting U.S industries and reducing trade imbalance. It also reflects strategic concerns over India's growing ties with Russia. This step has brought economic challenges for India and wider geopolitical effects, influencing both regional dynamics in South Asia and the global balance of power.

## ② Economic Implications

Here are

some Economic implications on regional and global power Politics.

### A Regional Economic Impact

→ The increase

in U.S. tariffs, raising duties on Indian products like textiles, leather, jewelry and seafood to almost 50%. This has placed heavy pressure on India's \$120 billion export sector. U.S. imports from India fell nearly 37% between May and September 2025. This sharp decline shows immediate strain on India's trade performance.

⇒ In the regional context, countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam may gain some short-term advantage by taking over export orders diverted from India.

However, India's economic slowdown will likely disrupt South Asian trade networks and weaken supply chains. This is reducing the overall pace of regional trade and economic growth.

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## Global Economic Impact

At global level

The U.S. decision to double tariff on Indian goods has wider economic consequences.

① Threat to "China + 1" supply-chain strategy

There is a threat to slow down the ongoing "China + 1" supply-chain strategy, which is encouraging many companies to shift production from China to India.

② Foreign investors may divert their investments with higher tariffs now making Indian exports less competitive which results in foreign investors may divert their investments to other emerging economies like Vietnam, Mexico or Indonesia. This could weaken India's position as a major manufacturing hub under its "Make in India" initiative.

③ Growing wave of global Protectionism

The tariff increase also adds to the growing wave of global Protectionism where countries use trade barriers to protect their

own industries. Such policies undermine the role of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and increase uncertainty in international trade.

④ Slow down ~~Global~~ Economic growth

Moreover,

Since both US and India are key players in the Indo-Pacific region, this prolonged trade tensions between them could slow global economic growth and reduce cooperation against China's expanding economic influence. In short, this not only harm India's export competitiveness but also will disturbing delicate balance of global trade and investment patterns.

## ② Geopolitical Implications:-

Here

are geopolitical implication on regional and global power politics.

~~Regional implications of geopolitics~~

### ① Geopolitical implications on Regional Politics

① Pressure on India due to closeness to Russia

The US tariff decision has

Created new tension in South Asia and Indo-Pacific politics. India is trying to balance its relations between the U.S. led Quad alliance and the Russia-China-supported BRICS group. However, Washington views India's purchase ~~from~~ of cheap oil from Russia and its neutral stance on the Ukraine conflict as signs of political ~~distance~~ from ~~the~~ west. By doubling tariff, the U.S. is ~~sending~~ a message of economic pressure to push India closer to western positions.

## ② Shift of Regional Powers

for India

This move is seen as economic coercion that challenges its strategic independence. As a result, India may look to strengthen ties with Russia and China through platforms like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). This could shift regional power balances and weaken joint efforts within Quad to counter China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific.

## Global Geopolitical Implications.

### ① Weaponization of trade

The U.S tariff hike shows <sup>how</sup> trade policy is being used as an instrument of global influence - by imposing double tariffs, Washington is signaling that countries following neutral or independent foreign policies, like India, may face economic consequences. This marks a shift from cooperation to strategic economic pressure in international relations.

### ② Impact on India's Foreign Policy Orientation

Instead of forcing India closer to the west, this move may backfire by strengthening India's desire for strategic autonomy. India is likely to continue balancing ties with both western nations and non-western blocs such as BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). This shows India's commitment to multipolar foreign policy that resists one-sided alignment.

### ③ Strain on western unity

The tariff decision also exposes divisions

among western allies. While U.S takes a hard economic stance, countries like Japan and members of European Union prefer to maintain strong trade and investment relations with India. They view India as a key partner to balance China's growing power in the Indo-Pacific, not as a rival to pressure

#### ④ Acceleration of Multipolarity

Overall, the tariff disputes contributes to the global shift toward multipolarity, where power is shared among several major countries rather than dominated by a single superpower. It reduces coordination among major democracies and creates space for emerging powers, like India, Brazil and Indonesia, to play a more independent role in shaping the global order.

### Conclusion

The U.S decision to double tariffs on India goes beyond a tariff dispute. It reflects a deeper struggle for influence in global politics. Economically, it has hurt India's export,

Slowed regional trade and added pressure on global supply chains. Geopolitically, it has created mistrust between two major democracies and weakened cooperation in Indo-Pacific. Instead of aligning India with the west, it is more likely to push New Delhi toward a more independent and multipolar approach in world affairs. For long-term stability, both nations must resolve these differences through dialogue and strengthen their strategic partnership to maintain balance and peace in global power structure.

# Pakistan's recent engagement with U.S and Strategic Partnership with China

## ① Introduction

Pakistan today faces a sensitive foreign policy challenge: how to strengthen its improving relations with the United States while maintaining its long-term strategic partnership with China. For decades Pakistan's ties with China have been strong, especially in defense cooperation and through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Recently, however, Pakistan has also tried to rebuild its economic and diplomatic links with Washington, particularly during 2024-25. Balancing both sides requires smart diplomacy, along with keeping strategic independence, gaining economic benefits from each partner and carefully managing internal political and security pressure, so that one relationship does not harm the other.

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## Historical Background

Pakistan's

foreign relations with both China and U.S. have gone through several phases. During the cold war, Pakistan was a close ally of the U.S. by joining defence alliances like SEATO and CENTO to counter Soviet influence. However, relations weakened after the 1980s, especially following U.S. sanctions over Pakistan's nuclear program. In contrast, Pakistan's ties with China steadily grew stronger, beginning with military cooperation in the 1960s and expanding to economic and strategic projects such as CPEC launched in 2015 under the Belt and Road initiative. By 2024, China had become Pakistan's largest trading partner with trade worth over \$23 billion. At the same time, Pakistan has also begun improving its relations with the U.S. especially through renewed trade talks and cooperation on economic reforms and counterterrorism.

## ② Current Challenges in Balancing Relations

Pakistan's main challenges are following

- ① Geopolitical Rivalry Between the U.S. and China

Pakistan's biggest challenge is maintaining neutrality amid the intensifying U.S.-China power rivalry. The United States views China as strategic competitor, while China regards Pakistan as its "iron brother" and a vital partner in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Any sign of Pakistan tilting toward one side increases the chance of mistrust and diplomatic strain with other

- ② Economic Pressure from both sides

Economically,

Pakistan faces dual pressure. On one hand, CPEC promises long-term benefits through infrastructure, energy and industrial growth. On the other hand, U.S. and western investments offer access to technology, trade and global markets.

- ③ Political Expectations and Strategic Demands

The U.S. expects Pakistan to align

with Western-led policies on democracy, counter-terrorism and regional security.

In contrast, China seeks Pakistan's cooperation in regional connectivity and strategic stability, especially concerning South Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

#### ④ Domestic Economic and Security Constraints

Internally, Pakistan faces economic instability, rising debt and security challenges that make foreign partnerships essential. However, excessive reliance on either Washington or Beijing can expose Pakistan to external pressure, political conditions or debt dependence which could weaken its policy autonomy.

#### ⑤ Strategies for Balancing Both Relations

##### ① Strategic Neutrality and Issue-Based Cooperation

Pakistan should continue its policy of non-alignment and engage with both countries on separate issues.

With China, it can focus on defence cooperation, infrastructure and regional connectivity. With US, it can prioritize trade, investment, education and technology transfer. This "compartmentalized diplomacy" can help Pakistan benefit from both relationships without choosing sides.

## ② Economic Diversification and Regional Integration

Pakistan must diversify its trade and investment sources. Besides China and the U.S. it should expand ties with European Union, Gulf states, ASEAN countries and Turkey. Broadening economic partners reduces dependency on any one country and enhances Pakistan's resilience. Strengthening regional connectivity through CPEC and Central Asia can also make Pakistan's a bridge between East and West.

## ③ Transparency and Institutional Reforms

To attract foreign investors from both blocks, Pakistan must ensure that all economic projects, whether

funded by China, the U.S. or multilateral institutions, are transparent, accountable and locally beneficial. This includes clear procurement processes, revenue-Sharing and environmental safeguards.

Transparency builds domestic trust and international credibility.

#### (4) Diplomatic Engagement and balanced Communication

Pakistan should maintain regular high-level dialogue with both Beijing and Washington, using neutral and cooperative language. Diplomatic messaging must emphasize Pakistan's development priorities and regional peace rather than military or bloc politics. Participation in multilateral forums like SCO, SAARC and UN can reinforce its balanced global image.

#### (5) Domestic Strength and Policy Continuity

Foreign policy success depends on domestic stability. Pakistan needs economic reforms, political unity

and institutional continuity to project a consistent image abroad. A stable internal environment strengthen its bargaining position with major powers.

### ⑤ Examples of Balanced Engagements

#### ① Reko Dig Mining Project

Pakistan has attracted interest from US and Canadian companies like Barrick Gold, along with financing discussions involving international institutions, while continuing cooperation with China on CPEC. This shows a practical example of balanced economic engagement.

#### ② CPEC Phase II

Pakistan is now inviting third-country participation and private-sector investment, making the project more open and less dependent solely on Chinese funding.

#### ③ IMF Engagement (2014-20)

Pakistan's successful negotiations of a new IMF program, supported indirectly by US influence, has stabilized

its economy without undermining its commitments to China.

## Conclusion

Balancing relations with both United States and China is Pakistan's central diplomatic challenge in today's multipolar world. Rather than choosing ties, Pakistan must follow a policy of strategic balance and national interests. It includes deepening economic and defense cooperation with China while expanding trade, technology and diplomatic ties with the U.S. through transparency, consistent diplomacy. Pakistan can convert great-power competition into a source of opportunity with diversified partnerships. If managed wisely, this balanced approach can ensure economic growth, regional stability and true strategic autonomy for Pakistan in the years ahead.