



INDO-US STRATEGIC NEXUS: A THREAT TO PAKISTAN'S SECURITY

Fariha Jabeen

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Politics and International Relations

University of Sargodha

Punjab - Pakistan

aameefaro@gmail.com

Dr. Asia Saif Alvi

Assistant Professor

Department of Politics and International Relations

University of Sargodha

Punjab - Pakistan

asalvi457@gmail.com

Abstract:

The Indo-US strategic nexus, made up of different ways that India and the US work together, will upset the balance of power in the region, pose a security risk to Pakistan, and start an arms race between India and Pakistan, which are nuclear rivals. This recent alliance will disturb the balance of power between the two Atomic Powers, India, and Pakistan. It also suggests that strategic cooperation between India and the US will change the balance of power in South Asia, which would be bad for Pakistan's safety. The Indo-US alliance may affect military capabilities, regional influence, and ongoing wars. Pakistan would automatically make alliances with other powers like China and Russia to protect itself and not give up on its security concerns. To address Pakistan's security concerns and create a safe and cooperative environment in South Asia, the USA should first stress the importance of open communication, measures that build trust, and regional activities that include everyone.

Keywords: Indo-US Strategic Partnership, South Asia, India, Pakistan, Security Dilemma.

Introduction:

The growing Indo-US strategic nexus, also referred to as the Indo-US strategic partnership, has received a great deal of attention around the world. However, there were many advantages and prospects behind this alliance and some worries about Pakistan's security. To figure out why people are worried about the Indo-US strategic nexus and how it might affect Pakistan's security, Pakistan needs to keep a close eye on these changes, which have happened in defense, trade, and regional cooperation, among other areas. Pakistan did not need to downplay the benefits or minimize the importance of good relations between



India and the US. Instead, Pakistan's rightful goal was to improve its relationships with other countries and understand what was happening.

The Indo-US strategic nexus is praised as a platform for advancing regional peace, economic development, and counterterrorism initiatives. It is crucial to recognize the serious security concerns that may materialize. On the other hand, it will make Pakistan's policymakers worry about things like military developments, regional influence, and how it will change the current balance of power. It will also highlight the significance of open communication, confidence-building measures, and inclusive regional activities to address Pakistan's security concerns and promote a more cooperative and secure environment for all concerned countries. Pakistan worries about the growing strategic cooperation between India and the United States. India and Pakistan have a history of disagreements and are currently rivals. They think the balance of power has changed, making things worse between the two countries. Pakistan sees the developing strategic convergence between India and the United States through the prism of its national security due to its location in a volatile neighborhood with ongoing security problems.

Historical Background

Before the partition, the United States had little direct contact with the Indian subcontinent. Indian culture, history, and spirituality piqued the curiosity of American missionaries, academics, and journalists. They helped promote cultural interchange and raise awareness of India in the US. 1947, after recognizing India's independence, the United States made diplomatic ties with the country. When India gained its independence, there was initially goodwill toward the country, and Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, visited the US in 1949. Due to Pakistan's strategic location and support for US objectives in the region, the US enjoyed tighter ties with it during this time. Throughout the Cold War, India operated under a non-alignment policy under Nehru's direction. As it sought to unite nations against the Soviet Union and its supporters, the US viewed this program with mistrust. However, the US maintained diplomatic ties with India and did not actively attempt to undermine its non-alignment policy. 1962's Sino-Indian border dispute strained US-Indian ties. The US gave India some military support during the conflict, but not enough to change the outcome. After losing, India reexamined its security requirements and tightened ties with the Soviet Union. Despite the pressures brought on by the Sino-Indian War, Indo-US relations made some progress in the 1960s. The US helped India economically and with its growth, and there was cooperation in several areas, including agriculture, education, and space exploration. The Indo-Pak War of 1971, which caused much trouble between the US and India, led to the creation of Bangladesh. India was further pushed toward the Soviet Union throughout the conflict since the US was believed to be helping Pakistan. In 1971, India and the Soviet Union formed a robust strategic alliance by signing the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation.

Indo-US ties underwent a tremendous transition after the Cold War, developing into a strategic partnership. Global dynamics changed after the Cold War, and India and the United States attempted to reevaluate the priorities of their foreign policies. While the United States sought to extend its influence



in Asia beyond its usual allies, India began economic liberalization and market reforms. The core of Indo-US ties became economic collaboration. Both nations worked to strengthen economic connections through investment, technology transfer, and the reduction of trade obstacles as bilateral trade rose significantly. India's leading trading partner and a substantial source of foreign direct investment is now the United States.

World politics underwent a paradigm shift throughout the 1990s. There were hints that the US was starting to lean toward India. India and the US were conversing with one another and realizing that their interests were overlapping more and more. Even though India and the US were just starting to work together strategically, they were getting closer. Conversely, the US completely withdrew from Pakistan in the 1990s. Most aid was cut off, and a wave of penalties followed. The US was also raising further concerns about Pakistan's nuclear development. Pakistan was hit with more sanctions after it did nuclear tests in May 1998. Following the overthrow of General Pervez Musharraf in October 1999, additional sanctions were imposed, which limited the use of bilateral funding and financial aid to Pakistan. Nevertheless, on September 22 and October 17, 2001, when Pakistan joined the US fight against terrorism, these sanctions were lifted. (Haidar, 2002) In particular, Pakistan was hammered hard and relegated to the margins due to the post-Cold War fundamental shifts in American foreign policy toward South Asia. The shifting regional and global environments made it much simpler for Indo-US interests to coincide, which significantly strained Pak-US relations. Following the end of the Cold War, India greatly benefited from U.S. efforts to strengthen its political and economic ties with India. In the 1990s and after the September 11 attacks, India and the United States signed a defense agreement. It purchased a sizable amount of military gear from them since the U.S. intended to replace Pakistan with India regarding security.

After the Cold War, bilateral exchanges in science, education, and culture grew significantly. The American Indian diaspora was crucial to fostering closer ties between the two countries. Students, professionals, and academics from different fields interacted to promote mutual understanding and collaboration. Following the end of the Cold War, Indo-US relations evolved into a complex strategic alliance. The partnership grew to include defense, security, technology, people-to-people interactions, and economic and diplomatic collaboration. Both nations recognized the importance of enhancing their relations and working together to address their shared global issues. India and the U.S. found common ground on several international and regional challenges, increasing their strategic alignment. They worked together on maritime security in the Indo-Pacific area, backed a secure and peaceful Afghanistan, and cooperated on anti-terrorism initiatives. The U.S. acknowledged India's importance in preserving the balance of power and regional stability.

The other two countries—Pakistan, the U.S., and India—have the most influence on relations between any two of the three. During the Cold War, Pakistan had the upper hand regarding U.S. policies toward South Asia. In the post-Cold War era, Pakistan's strategic relevance has fallen. India increasingly impacts U.S. ties with and policy toward Pakistan as the U.S. and India forge a strategic partnership. Also, this would affect Pakistan's security in the region and worldwide. Aside from China, Pakistan has



consistently improved its defense through American financial support and military hardware. However, the U.S.'s post-9/11 tilt policy towards New Delhi has compelled America to favor India, putting Pakistan's security interests at risk.

On January 17, 2001, Secretary of State Colin Powell told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "There is another country... that should become increasingly important in our foreign policy. That country is India. As the world's largest democracy, India, with its rapidly growing population, could play a crucial role in maintaining peace and stability in the vast region surrounding the Indian Ocean and its peripheries. We must approach our relationship with India with greater wisdom and prudence. We need to work harder and more consistently to assist India in this endeavor while not neglecting our friends in Pakistan." (Rabbi, 2017, p. 162).

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, US policymakers viewed India as a rising global power and accorded it a higher strategic priority on their regional agenda. In contrast, Pakistan was seen as a weaker, more unstable nation with less importance than India. In response to China's rise in Asia, the Bush administration's move to work with India was designed to solidify US preeminence. Washington regarded India as a pivotal ally to act "as a critical source of geopolitical balance against a rising China" because of its size, enormous population, developing economic structure, and military might. "This coming century will see democratic India's arrival as a force in the world," Bush said in November 1999. He emphasized that as India "opens to the world," the United States must give special attention to trade and investment with that country. In addition, we must work with the Indian government to ensure that it is a force for peace and security in Asia. (Tellis, 2008).

Indo-US Strategic Partnership:

The term "Indo-US strategic partnership" describes the strengthening and widening of ties between India and the United States in several spheres of shared interest. The growing understanding of similar values, interests, and goals between the US and India is reflected in the strategic alliance between the two nations. It signifies a change from the previously limited involvement to a multidimensional cooperation that covers numerous industries and addresses both local and global issues.

Indo-US strategic partnership started after an initiative taken with the name the 'Next Step in Strategic Partnership' (NSSP) in 2004. The purpose of the strategic partnership was to increase the bilateral relations between the two largest democracies of the world. For, the statement issued after the agreement told about the areas that were chosen for the cooperation. Under the NSSP, the United States and India agreed to expand cooperation in three specific areas: civilian nuclear activities, civilian space programs, and high-technology trade. In addition, the two countries agreed to broaden their dialogue on missile defense. These areas of cooperation were designed to progress through a series of reciprocal steps being built on each other (Ereli, 2004). "Indo-US strategic partnership" refers to the deepening and expanding ties between India and the United States in multiple areas of shared interest. The US and India's growing understanding of similar values, interests, and goals is reflected in the strategic alliance between the two



nations. It signifies a change from the previously limited involvement to a multidimensional cooperation that covers numerous industries and addresses both local and global issues.

In 2004, an initiative titled Next Step in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) led to the formation of the Indo-American strategic alliance. The purpose of the strategic partnership was to increase bilateral relations between the two largest democracies in the world. (Baru, 2008).

The statement issued after the agreement detailed the areas chosen for cooperation. The NSSP outlines the plan for increased collaboration between the United States and India in three distinct areas: civilian nuclear activities, civilian space programs, and high-technology trade. Moreover, the two countries have committed to extending their discussions on missile defense. These areas of cooperation were designed to progress through a series of reciprocal steps built on each other (Ereli, 2004). This initiative resulted from the tough negotiations between the two senior members of both governments, Strobe Talbot and Jaswant Singh, for more than two years to shape this partnership and create clear possibilities.

Both nations remained in opposite camps during the Cold War and never reached a point where they could become partners and support each other. For instance, the USA was leading the world and wanted to establish peace in the South Asian region; it never supported the Indian point of view on regional issues like Afghanistan and Kashmir.(Ahmed et al., 2021) It also established a close relationship with Indian rival and neighbor Pakistan during the Cold War years. That is why India moved to the other camp but never officially became an ally of the USSR. India raised the banner of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) but also got military support from Russia.(Ahmed, 2022)

Additionally, India needed to maintain its position in the China-dominated regional theater. Only on the occasion of the war with China in 1962 did the USA support India with small weapons and other needed equipment, but that support was only during the war. During the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971, India never got the support of the USA. After the Indian nuclear explosion in 1974, the USA, the leader of nuclear non-proliferation, imposed sanctions on India. The USA has developed many laws and regulations to control nuclear proliferation at home and internationally.

After the Cold War, Indo-US relations took a new turn, and both nations started to reconsider their relations, especially in security and defense. As India needed modern equipment and the USA required a new market, the convergence of interests brought the two nations closer to each other. In 1995, the first step was taken for improving defense cooperation, known as 'Agreed Minutes of Defense Relation.' Under this agreement, a defense policy group' and 'a joint technology group' were established, which provided greater cooperation among civilians, scientists, and militaries on both sides.(Sharma, 2012)

Nevertheless, the differences remained between arms sales and technology transfer. At the same time, the US never wanted to lose its traditional ally in South Asia, i.e., Pakistan. Therefore, the US administration believed that no arms or technology transfers would be made at Pakistan's expense; Pakistan remained the most critical factor in US-India relations.



The 1998 Indian nuclear explosions reversed the progress made between the United States and India before the explosions. The United States ceased all military and economic cooperation with India and imposed sanctions on arms sales and other defense-related equipment. After the end of the Cold War, the main focus remained on the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Therefore, the United States and its allies took a harsh stance and regarded India as a violator of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Indo-US relations started getting back on track after President Clinton visited India in 2000. The dialogue between Talbot and Sing opened a new way for cooperation in defense, economy, and nuclear technology. The NSSC in 2004 and the signing of the New Framework for Security Cooperation (NFSC) in 2005 opened new ways of cooperation. They brought the defense cooperation of the two nations closer to each other. Considering the Indo-Pak rivalry history during the Cold War and the brutal realities of the Balance of Power, the USA considered defense ties with India as the main feature of her strategic partnership. American diplomats rated military links and defense trade among the most important aspects of transforming bilateral relations in the 21st century. President Bush stated on 22 February 2006, "We have an ambitious agenda with India." Our agenda is practical. It builds on a relationship that has never been better. India is a global powerhouse and a trustworthy ally. My trip will remind everybody about the strengthening of an important strategic partnership. We will work together practically to promote a hopeful future for citizens in both nations. (Jaspal, 2007).

The United States viewed security cooperation with India through the lens of common principles and shared national interests, such as combating terrorism, preventing the proliferation of weapons, and preserving regional stability. (K. Alan Kronstadt S. P., 2012).

Those growing defense ties were a source of concern for South Asian nations and upset the regional equilibrium between Pakistan and India. President Bush wanted the United States and India to work together "to promote our democratic values and strengthen legal institutions in South Asia and beyond. We should also be working hand-in-hand to tap into the creativity and dynamism of our entrepreneurs, engineers, and scientists to promote the development of alternative clean energy sources. Imagine the laboratories and industries of our two democracies, India and the United States, working together to find innovative solutions to today's energy problems. I want to build that kind of new partnership with India as President." (Jaspal, 2007).

Nuclear Cooperation:

It is imperative to recognize that the signing of the US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement in 2005 was a defining moment in the relationship between India and the US following the Cold War. This pact recognized India as a responsible nuclear power and authorized bilateral civilian nuclear cooperation. The US policy towards India underwent a substantial change. As a result, it opened the door to more nuclear cooperation. The historic 123 Agreement, also known as the US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, was signed in 2005 and went into effect in 2008. This pact recognized India as a responsible nuclear power and authorized bilateral civilian nuclear cooperation. It ended India's nuclear isolation and made



working together on projects including nuclear energy, research, and development possible. The 123 Agreement, or Indo-U.S. Civilian Cooperation Agreement, was the most significant aspect of the growing strategic cooperation between the two countries. "Promoting nuclear power and achieving energy security" is the deal's objective. (K. Alan Kronstadt S. P., 2012)

In 2008, the NSG granted India a waiver to conduct civil nuclear trade with other NSG members. This waiver was a critical step in enabling nuclear cooperation between India and the United States and opening up worldwide sources for nuclear fuel and technology for India.

To encourage the use of nuclear energy for peaceful reasons, the United States and India have collaborated. Cooperation has been emphasized in nuclear safety, security, and nonproliferation. American businesses have invested in India's nuclear energy industry, helping to increase the country's nuclear power capacity.

India and the United States jointly undertook nuclear research and development projects. Joint initiatives, scientific exchanges, and collaborations have occurred in nuclear fusion, reactor design, and enhanced fuel cycles. These partnerships seek to foster innovation, science, and the responsible use of nuclear energy.

India and the United States have discussed and taken steps to improve export control and nonproliferation measures. This collaboration aims to ensure the safe and secure use of nuclear technology and to advance global nuclear security by avoiding the proliferation of nuclear weapons and materials.

India and the US have worked together on global nuclear programs. They have collaborated in different settings, including the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Both nations have promoted responsible nuclear behavior, boosted nuclear security measures, and aided international nonproliferation initiatives. It is significant to highlight that India and the United States cooperate in the nuclear field, emphasizing civil nuclear energy and research rather than military applications. The objectives include enhancing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, promoting clean energy production, and stepping up anti-proliferation efforts.

The United States and India reiterated on March 2, 2006, their aim to lay the groundwork for a long-lasting defense partnership that would continue to support their shared strategic and security interests. They decided to work toward the following goals.

1: Cooperation on maritime security: The US and India are dedicated to a thorough, coordinated effort to provide a secure maritime domain.

2. Counterterrorism: The US and India are collaborating more on bioterrorism and cybersecurity as part of their counterterrorism efforts.



3. Military logistics support: An agreement between the United States and India will soon be signed to make it easier for both countries to provide one another with logistics support during joint training, drills, and disaster relief operations.

4: Defense Trade: The United States reaffirmed its intention to assist India in meeting its defense requirements and to provide India with the critical technologies and capabilities it seeks.

5. Nonproliferation Treaty: Both nations back measures to stop the spread of enrichment and reprocessing technologies.
(Jaspal, 2007).

Defense and Security Coordination:

After the Cold War, defense and security cooperation between India and the US considerably increased. Joint military drills, defense technology exchanges, and defense cooperation occurred between the two nations. The two nations negotiated defense agreements to strengthen their collaboration in counterterrorism, maritime security, and intelligence sharing. The United States became one of India's key defense suppliers. The strategic partnership's defense and security coordination has become a fundamental tenet. Defense trade, joint military drills, and defense technology transfers are all conducted between the US and India. Defense collaborations have increased to cover counterterrorism, intelligence sharing, maritime security, and defense research and development. The expansion of defense and security cooperation between the United States and India throughout time reflects their growing strategic partnership. The following are some significant areas of defense and security cooperation between India and the United States:

One of the significant providers of defense equipment to India is the United States. Both nations engage in defense trade, including acquiring and jointly producing cutting-edge defense systems, aircraft, and other weapons. India's defense capabilities and interoperability with the US and other partners have improved due to this cooperation.

The United States and India regularly conduct naval, aviation, and land-based joint military drills. These drills encourage interoperability, the sharing of best practices, and military-to-military collaboration. They help to increase mutual trust, enhance operational coordination, and solidify bilateral defense ties. The US and India collaborate on cooperative research projects and defense technology initiatives. The Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) are venues for cooperation in developing and co-producing defense products. The main topics are advanced technology, unmanned systems, cybersecurity, and international collaboration in space.

India and the US work closely together to combat terrorism. They collaborate on counterterrorism operations, communicate information, and trade intelligence. The cooperation covers various topics, including border security, developing counterterrorism capabilities, and fighting against radicalization



and violent extremism.

Given their shared interest in maritime security, the US and India have increased their cooperation. To improve maritime domain awareness, advance freedom of navigation, and combat piracy and other maritime threats, they conduct joint naval exercises and participate in information-sharing and capacity-building efforts.

The United States and India regularly engage in defense-related conversations and discussions on multiple levels. During these sessions, defense officials can address strategic issues, defense policy, regional security issues, and other facets of defense cooperation. The two countries foreign and defense ministers participate in the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, an essential forum for high-level discussions.

To improve defense cooperation, both nations have signed several agreements. These agreements cover information exchange, geospatial cooperation, secure communications, and logistical support. They make it easier for joint exercises, operational coordination, and the efficient execution of defense cooperation activities.

Collaboration in the Fight against Terrorism:

India and the US work closely together in this area. They collaborate in the fight against terrorist threats, share best practices, and exchange intelligence. Both nations know the value of international collaboration in reducing terrorism and boosting international security. Their counterterrorism efforts have been an integral part of their strategic partnership. Both nations understand how crucial it is to cooperate in the fight against terrorism and its threat to the world. The following are some essential facets of India and the United States cooperation in counterterrorism:

The US and India share information and intelligence regarding terrorist operations. Sharing of valuable intelligence, analysis of terrorist risks, and details on terrorist networks, funding, and recruitment are all included in this. Cooperation in intelligence sharing attempts to improve counterterrorism activities' efficacy and stop terrorist acts.

The United States helps the Indian security forces build their capabilities and conduct counterterrorism operations while providing training in intelligence analysis, border security, and crisis management. This collaboration intends to strengthen India's law enforcement institutions, counterterrorism capabilities, and capacity to respond to and lessen terrorist threats.

To improve their operational cooperation in counterterrorism activities, the United States and India participate in joint military and law enforcement exercises. These drills include exchanging best practices, enhancing interoperability, and running simulated terrorist incident response drills. They help the security forces of the two nations work together and coordinate more effectively.

The US and India cooperate on counterterrorism legislation and legal frameworks. This involves



exchanging knowledge on anti-terrorist legislation, extradition procedures, and legal safeguards against the financing of terrorists. The collaboration aims to improve legal systems and make it easier to successfully prosecute terrorists and those who aid them.

To combat international terrorism, the United States and India work together in multilateral forums and initiatives. In forums like the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), both nations actively exchange experiences, knowledge, and best practices for combating terrorism. They collaborate to promote information exchange, nation-to-nation capacity building, and international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

The US and India work together to fight radicalization and stop the spread of extremist ideology. This includes initiatives to encourage neighborhood involvement, youth empowerment, and awareness campaigns to address the underlying reasons for radicalization. Additionally, the nations collaborate to combat online radicalization and terrorist propaganda on social media.

Regional Instability due to the Indo-US Strategic Partnership:

Even if the Indo-US strategic relationship can potentially deliver security and prosperity to South Asia, some actors are vexed that it could exacerbate local unrest. Considering the situation in South Asia, the Indo-US strategic alliance might be considered a contributing element to the instability in South Asia. Some nations in the region, including Pakistan and China, believed that India and the United States' alliance had a larger plan to encircle them or assert dominance. This view raised tensions and possibly sparked an arms race, which would be detrimental to regional stability. The expanding Indo-US strategic relationship may have repercussions for ongoing regional conflicts, including the India-Pakistan conflict in Kashmir. (Abbas et al., 2022) The United States increased military assistance to India could be seen as favoring one side and escalating already-existing tensions.

The Indo-US strategic alliance might encourage an arms race for nuclear weapons in the area. India's continued development of its nuclear arsenal could lead other nations, especially Pakistan, to seek parity or strengthen their nuclear arsenals. Increased military cooperation and capability between India and the United States could exacerbate regional proxy wars and escalate tensions in this rivalry, endangering regional peace. For instance, it was considered that the alliance might embolden India to adopt a more forceful position, resulting in more involvement in neighbors like Afghanistan or igniting insurgencies in areas like Baluchistan that could enhance tensions. Those circumstances created intensified situations in South Asia and jeopardized regional stability.

The Indo-US Strategic Partnership Leads to an Arms Race:

The Indo-US strategic partnership was the direct cause of an arms race in South Asia because it increased defense cooperation and military connections between India and the United States. India has been working to modernize its military for a long time, even before forming a strategic alliance with the



United States. It was mainly due to domestic national security concerns. India aggressively sought assistance to modernize its armed forces and enhance its military capabilities to handle different regional security issues.

A complex set of regional security dynamics, such as historical disputes, geopolitical rivalries, and strategic considerations among surrounding countries, impacted the region's arms purchases and military development. Other regional nations' actions partly shaped the regional security environment. Therefore, for security purposes, India maintained defense alliances with several nations, including France, Russia, Israel, the United Kingdom, and the United States. (Panda, 2013) India continued to work with a wide range of nations to suit its defense needs, even though the United States was one of its primary defense suppliers. India had long espoused a non-alignment and independent foreign policy. Despite strengthening the Indo-US strategic partnership, India made defense purchase decisions independently and aligned its national security objectives with various allies.

Balance of Power

The Indo-US strategic cooperation impacted the power dynamics between India and Pakistan. India's military capabilities may be improved due to defense cooperation between India and the United States. This cooperation caused a perception of a change in the balance of power because India might have cutting-edge tools and technology that might potentially surpass Pakistan's military prowess. The strategic alliance increased India's stature internationally and in the region especially. The US backing for India might give it more clout in regional affairs, which could alter the balance of power in South Asia and possibly eclipse Pakistan's role.

Both India's and Pakistan's nuclear arsenals contribute significantly to preserving the balance of power. Pakistan might increase its nuclear weapons development to ensure deterrence and preserve the balance of power in light of the Indo-US strategic relationship and India's expanding military capabilities. Pakistan may see India and the United States' growing alliance as a danger to its security. The apparent change in the balance of power could raise security concerns and impact regional strategic planning. The strategic alliance between India and the United States may impact local disputes, particularly the Kashmir dispute. Pakistan might be worried that the alliance could tip the scales of power in India's favor, making it harder to resolve the long-standing disagreement and possibly jeopardizing regional stability.

A threat to Pakistan's Security:

While the Indo-US strategic cooperation had the potential to be advantageous and provide opportunities, some Pakistanis saw it as a possible security threat. Pakistan believed that India and the United States were encircling or containing Pakistan due to their growing relations, past hostilities between India and Pakistan, and regional geopolitical dynamics influenced the perspective. It was believed that India and the US military cooperation and technology transfers were causing a military imba area. Pakistan



was worried about the potential effects of India's improved capabilities on its security. Pakistan is concerned that the strategic alliance between India and the US negatively impacts current regional problems, particularly the Kashmir dispute. Pakistan claimed that further military assistance would encourage India to adopt a more aggressive posture, thus escalating tensions and impacting the security situation over the Kashmir issue.

Pakistan's nuclear resources are critical to the country's security calculations. The strategic cooperation between India and the US and India's nuclear developments raised questions about how this would affect regional strategic stability and the possibility of an arms race. Pakistan might say that the United States and India had a more favorable relationship as evidence of prejudice or favoritism. In this case, it might harm Pakistan's security interests and relationship with the United States.

Conclusion

The expanding alliance and cooperation between India and the United States in a variety of fields, such as defense, security, and geopolitical objectives, is referred to as the "Indo-US strategic nexus." With both nations participating in joint military drills, intelligence sharing, and defense technology transfers, this alliance has become stronger over time. The regional power dynamics have changed due to the growing closeness between India and the United States, tipping the scales in India's favor. This change would lessen Pakistan's regional influence and damage its strategic position. India already has a significant military presence in the area, and cooperation with the US strengthens this position. This might lead to an imbalance of power, raising concerns about Pakistan's possible military disadvantage. A long-standing bone of contention between India and Pakistan has been India's authority over the disputed territory of Kashmir. The strategic alliance between India and the US may give India more clout and international backing in its stance on Kashmir, further undermining Pakistan's posture. The growing Indo-US alliance could spark a weapons race in the region. To maintain a balance of power, Pakistan would feel obligated to strengthen its military, which could strain its resources and heighten tensions. In short, even while the Indo-US strategic nexus may cause some security worries for Pakistan, it is crucial to comprehensively analyze the issue and consider the more prominent geopolitical factors at work. Given the complexity of the relationship between Pakistan, the United States, and India, efforts should be made to resolve shared problems through communication, diplomacy, and measures that boost confidence.

Hence, the alliance between India and the US, known as the Indo-US strategic nexus, has caused concerns for Pakistan's security. This partnership could disrupt the regional balance of power, leading to a potential security risk for Pakistan and possibly initiating a nuclear arms race between the two countries. Such a power shift could affect Pakistan's safety, causing them to seek alliances with other countries like China and Russia for protection. (Ahmed, 2022) The USA can help promote a safe and cooperative environment in South Asia by focusing on open communication, trust-building measures, and inclusive regional activities. Pakistan's concerns are rooted in its history of disagreements and rivalry, and they see the strategic convergence between India and the US as a threat to its national



security.

Policy Recommendations

Pakistan has to meet four options to counter Indo-US strategic partnership.

1. Pakistan has to make a strategic partnership with China.
2. Pakistan has to ally with China and Russia to counter the Indo-US alliance.
3. Pakistan has to develop the indigenous capability to develop Nuclear and missile programs to balance India in untraditional means. However, it is challenging to match them through traditional means.
4. Pakistan has to develop good relations with Europe and the USA and try to get more alliances with the USA. However, it looks difficult after QUAD.(Panda, 2013).



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