

## US-India Defense Partnerships and Its Impacts on Pakistan

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### ABSTRACT

US-India relations opened new chapters of discussion in global politics and international relations. India's tilt remained towards (ex USSR) Russia till the 1991. Suddenly, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi began to shift his propensity towards America. Within the passage of time bilateral relations became better. Regime transformation in US also transitioned its foreign policy and international relations got new topic for debate and analysis. Defense partnerships and alliances of Indo-US caused serious threats to the peace and security of Asia. US-India defense relations are a huge threat for the masses of South Asia and Indo-pacific in general and specific for the Pakistan. Being arms importer, it will produce and sale the ammunition and arms with coordination of United States of America. Pakistan has to manage the balance by focusing on defense production and safety plus security of its people.

**Key Words:** US, India, Indo-Pacific, South-Asia, Balance of Power, Defense Agreements, Bilateral, Peace, Security.

### Introduction

There is a shift in American policy which turned its propensity toward India during the Trump and Modi regimes. South Asia is the main region which attracts the foreign policy maker of US. Because they know the geostrategic importance of this region by sitting there, they can watch and control whole Asia due its connectivity through land and water. In addition, US remains always in search of to discuss and talk against any state. Being in South Asian states like Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar it can rule and monitor the Indo-Pacific region which is the world trade route and US also have its naval bases in this region. US official Tillerson told that there was a competition and naval race in the Indo-pacific which might cause conflicts, violences and wars in the region. However, they want peace and security of the states and people of that region. That is why it remains in Asia by making alliance with one or another South Asian state. We have seen its presence in Afghanistan and Middle East in various conflicts and wars like war on terror and topple of Saddam Hussain's government(Mahmood & Askari, 2023; Singh, 2021).

USA and India signed multiple defense ties and deals to strengthen their cooperation and boost economy. Defense trade increased by 71.08 to 76.06 US Billion \$ from 2019 to 2021. India remained the largest importer of weapons in Asia from 2017 to 2021. In 2008 there was no trade and defense cooperation between India and USA, but in 2020 it increased to \$ billions of dollars. Both US-India not only signed military but also the naval and air-force including cyber-security partnerships. US-India signed QUAD and with Australia and United Kingdom signed AUKUS to ensure the security in Indo-Pacific Ocean. Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) deal signed between India and US which will improve the military capability of India. This is how US-India enhanced their military and defense partnerships in the term of two nationalist leaders Donald Trump and Narendra Modi (Inglehart & Norris, 2017).

(D, 2022) USA wants India as counterweight of China. China is emerging hegemon and it's a direct threat to the existing hegemon. India is the most populous state, the largest democracy 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy of the world and could be the alternative of China (Askari, Saeed & Mahmood, 2024). That is why US changed its foreign policy motives and established warm defense relations with India. In this way US may contain China, because India is being represented by the US as regional Hegemon (Khanum, 2020).

The defense trade and cooperation between India and USA put serious threats to Pakistan security and defense at large. USA is disturbing balance of power in South Asia by empowering India in military and defense departments. Defense have various variations like air defense, naval and military defense America is supporting India in all defense domains by providing money, equipment and technology. Not only granting India aids but also justifying at regional and global level. Asia is a very sensitive continent because it owns 5 nuclear states. Being a super power and proponent of world peace and security, it should not challenge the security and peace of Pakistan and South Asia as well. Peace and security have broader view but USA is continuously violating the peace and security postulates. In such way, peace and security is in alarming condition. Pakistan should maintain balance of power by extending its defense budget and signing new strategic and defense MoUs with China, Russia and other emerging powers. In addition, Pakistan has to manage balance of power by cutting human security allocations like Education, Health, Human Rights, Food and Water (Rehman, 2009).

## **Literature Review**

Before the regime of American President Donald Trump India was not so close the Washington that it could be the partner of United States in military, navy and air-force. After becoming President Donald Trump changed its foreign policy objectives toward India and Asia. The strategies and deals about India were in the considerations of Barack Obama Administration while he was serving as the US President. It could not be wrong to say that former President Obama set the landscape for the defense and strategic partnerships with Indian premier Narendra

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Modi and newly appointed President Donald Trump gave practical shape to the previous government policies. Indo-US relations were at middle ground neither too bad nor so good before the Republican President Donald Trump. As the Trump took the office, speed and closeness could be seen between the two big states. Bilateral partnerships between the US-India started in 2017. Mutual trade, weapon and arms deals, joint exercise and diplomatic meetings and channels were operational between the world's largest economy and democracy, but in passive mode(Weitz, 2020).

American Foreign policy and diplomatic acumen are very smart and unbeatable. The policy makers always search the new enemy and ally in the international relations. US considers the India as an alternative of China in the context of power and population. This might be one of the reasons to bring India near to the Washington. India militarily and economically very far behind from the China. Emergence of China as a world hegemon is another cause to new beginning of US-India defense partnerships. China is flexing its diplomatic, economic, technological and space advancement muscles, which posits direct threat to the existing Super Power. America signed multifarious ties, pacts, agreements and partnerships with India, Japan, Australia, United Kingdom to manage this threat. QUAD and AUKUS were signed to contain China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region(Yadav & Kirk, 2023).

US overtly supporting the India through strategic and defense alliances and business deals. These cooperation and partnerships threatening the whole region and human security of the most populous region of the world. Pakistan will also bear the consequences of these agreements and arms deals and licenses. The collaborations of India and US may imbalance the balance power of in the region. By signing these kinds of deals, US open the gates of arms and ammunition race between the two nuclear states of South Asia. Pakistan has serious type of grudges on defense and arms cooperation of US-India. US compromising the security of Pakistan by empowering India in defense productions and providing arsenal and army equipment(Konwer, 2020).

### **Literature Gap**

Very vast literature has been reviewed and analyzed deeply to find the literature gap relevant to the US-India defense partnerships and its impacts on Pakistan. A lot of work has been done on conventional security. Provided literature discussed the arms race, military power, air and naval means of defense in details. But the non-conventional security area is untapped and undercover. US-India defense cooperation and alliance wage non- traditional threats on Pakistan. It also creates the gap in balance of power in South Asia(Tan & Soong, 2023).

These are the two gaps traced to explore through research work. National security and sovereignty are the concerns of state and its existence. If a state attacks on the sovereignty of the other state the later has the complete right to counter the attack and its response. The purpose of this research is to uncover the

hidden area of research which is the —Human Security|| in Pakistan. US is the world hegemon and trying to maintain its super power status. India is a suitable partner for her to counter China and ally in the South Asia(Fair, 2008).

US-India defense partnerships are the biggest threat to the —Human Security|| in Pakistan. The government makes sure the safety and security of the state by military, navy and air-force by allocating high spending in the budget. But the case is that, when the huge chunk from budget is spent on defense at the cost of —Human Security|| then the public security, food security, water security, human rights security, political security, economic security and education security will be ignored and compromised. It has been happening for decades in Pakistan. This research work has highlighted the gap and will try to fill the gap(Sameer Lalwani, 2019).

### **Indian Perspective on Defense Partnerships with USA**

American President Donald Trump and Indian Premier Narendra Modi are ultra nationalist leaders and their like mindedness melted the ice between the two states relations. Both have same mindset and ideology Wright Wing Populism and promoted the slogan of Greater America and India respectively. In the Donald Trump presidential term United States of America and India broke the ice and come close to each other. China is the common enemy and threat to the USA and India's hegemony at global and regional level. To balance this condition USA and India decreased their distances and revised foreign policy to contain the common enemy. Washington proposed multiple incentives, cooperation and defense accords to make New Delhi more powerful socio-economically and militarily. America is the champion of Democracy and India is the largest democracy in the world. Both states have same national interests to build a vacuum in South Asia and in such a way they would be able to sustain balance of power and threat in this region. During the term of Modi India built economic, political, technological ,trade and maritime alliances with the Hegemon(Thellis, 2018).

Prime Minister Modi acquires a vision to present India as a defense and tech exporter by 2025.His area of focus is to enhance its space, cyberspace, artificial intelligence and quantum computing under the flagship of Atma Nirbhay Bharat Abhiyan (self-reliant India campaign). Modi gave the task to the defense ministry to generate \$ 26 billion till 2025 and also increase its defense export over \$ 5 billion. As per the record of Stockholm International Peace and Research Institute (SIPRI) India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest importer of weapons and defense equipment after Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which imports 9.5% of global arms across the globe(Behera, 2021; Thellis, 2018).

In the present-day world, importance of sea routes cannot be ignored. India is also exploring sea route trade and defense opportunities with the collaboration of USA. India is situated in very worthy region which is known as Indo-Pacific and it is the land of multicultural and multi-polar region. India's location is strategically very significant it is placed at the chokepoints of oceans which connects African

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coast and West Asia to South East Asia and beyond in to the Pacific Ocean. Gulf and central nations are also in the sea range of Indian ocean and near to the India sea range. Its emphasis on the security and defense of India. Additionally, it means strategic stretch from the Eastern coast of Africa to that of Americas which includes the South China Sea. Indo-Pacific contains 60 % world GDP and 65% of its population. India's 90 % trade by volume and 70% by values is done through the ocean. South China sea also an important sea route in context of trade world 11% trade passes through the South China Sea UNCTAD (D Dhanuraj, 2023).

USA and India are defense and strategic allies. USA included the India in quadrilateral treaty which is the USA's naval and marine security dialogue in the Indian ocean to counter the influence of China and protect the interests of allies like India, Japan and Australia. In this way India saving its trade, shipment and security challenges as well. This is how India and USA defense and security ties getting improve (D Dhanuraj, 2023).

India is also increasing its spendings on science, technology, defense, information, artificial intelligence and space technology and it was started in the Era of Modi and Trump. It was the main reason behind the India – USA new beginning. India came more closer to USA in Trump tenure because they have common interest in South-Asia and Indo-Pacific region. USA wants a frontline line ally to keep an influence over the Asia and Indian Ocean. In this way Washington can give tough time to Beijing and Moscow. The main focus of Indian policy makers to enrich and develop the research and development sector. India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest importer of arms and ammunition to ensure its security it signed the \$ 20 billion contracts with U.S.A., UK, Israel France, between 2008-2020. USA empowering India in various fields of defense and security like military naval and air defense. USA is always remained in search of its puppet and enemy as it used Pakistan against Russia during Afghan Invasion and used different tools like social political and economic support and aids. This is the case with India, USA is repeating history to make India ally and using the New Delhi against the emerging hegemon China (D Dhanuraj, 2023).

The shift in India's arms policy and import to export indispensable without the full fledge support of USA. Before the Donald Trump and Narendra Modi India relied on UK, USA, France and other states for the arms import but now the things have been changed. India and USA are working together for the arms coproduction. India has signed multiple agreements based on communications, compatibility and security agreement (COMCASA). Washington authorized \$20 billion defense trade to New Delhi in 2020 through the U.S – India Defense Technology and Trade Initiative. This agreement will boost the India defense capability and production. Additionally, it will be catalyst to the Indian economy when it comes to coproduction of arms and military equipment. Before the 2017 it was not practicable and perceptible due to cold relations between the two(Siswasih, 2007).

But the Trump foreign policy dynamics brought close the like-minded leaders and nations to the USA. More, India is the —Major Defense Partner of USA also

elevated the India's status to Tier I of the Strategic Trade Authorization (S.T. A) license exception in 2018. This is how India got advance technology in defense production and upgradation. Naval and marine technology is transferred to the India now it owns P-8I anti sub-marine warfare aircraft and the MH-60R naval helicopter. India-U. S have been engaged in many dialogues and treaties but it got more pace and heights in the term of Donald Trump term as 2+2 Dialogue is defense cooperation of Indo-U.S. Both nations working jointly on uncrewed aerial vehicle as a part of the frame work on DTTI. Indian authorities used the US intelligence sources during the conflict with China in disputed territory in recent years. In June 2020, India joined the USA founded Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence to meet the Artificial Intelligence in the age of AI (D Dhanuraj, 2023).

### **US Stance over Indo-US Defense and Strategic Alliances**

US policy towards South Asia changed in the time of Trump regime. India became its main focus and Indo-Pacific region as well. Russia and China are two main competitor of US in Asia and it needed the antidote for both rivals. India is the largest democracy and population and geographically placed in the world's most important region. US required the counterweight of China which would replace the it by population and geostrategic location including economically. India was the golden opportunity for the west and US to balance the power in Asia and Indo-Pacific region. Trump Administration welcomed the India's rise as regional power in that words US —welcomes India's emergence as a leading global power and stronger strategic and defense partner.||

Asia remained the key factor in making and toppling the super powers. US scared of that its influence diminishing by rising China so that it prepared India to contain China. Deputy Assistant Secretary Alex N. Wong admitted that the rise of India is in the favor of US interests and as well as in the interests of the region that India plays a vital role in the region (Askari & Mushtaq, 2025). China prevailing its culture and beating US in science & technology space technology, artificial intelligence and economically as per record China-US bilateral trade was about \$680 billion in 2017 which posed greater threat to USA that it may become economic giant. This fear pushed the US towards Asia and Trump Administration revised the South Asia policy(Perkovich, 4392).

Trump Administration continued the previous cooperation like Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA) and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) which enhanced the military, defense technologies trade between USA and India. Washington signed further defense and strategic ties with India under the National Defense Authorization Act and proposed advance defense cooperation which bounded the both Us-India in joint exercises, operations, patrols, and mutual defense planning (Khan & Askari, 2023). There was a consideration to improve Indian defense industry with the latest technology by supplying armed drones and Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) for the naval purposes.

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Security and defense will be assured in Ocean and regional level by strengthening India in naval and military fields. Because India and USA have threats from China in Indo-Pacific and at regional fronts. Washington also signed a deal in which India would be able to get F-18, F-16 fighter jets and willing to provide India Boing's F/A-18E/F aircrafts and to setup a fighter jet's manufacturing plant(Paul, 2019).

### **Donald Trump and Narendra Modi Visions about Global Politics**

US-India relations went through multiple transitions like security, strategic, defense, trade and economic. But Trump looked on India with different lenses to him India is a big political actor at regional and global level and it would be great power at both fronts. In the Trump term, India was presented as international giant with the full-fledged support of Washington. Defense and strategic ties which were under process in the time of Obama administration took practical measures in the forms of agreements and cooperation. The ice had broken between the largest economy and democracy while Barack Obama in the White House and Trump gave boost to the warm relations by bilateral visit and accords. Both states came more closer to one another when Modi went to see Trump on 26 June 2017 at the White House(Relations & Relations, 2021).

Besides so many other things, both populist leaders signed defense and strategic ties to give practical shape to the previous US president vision. Trump in his speech claimed that —the friendship between the United States and India is forged on the shared values including our shared commitments to the democracy|. Additionally, he affirmed that —the security partnership between the United States and India is incredibly important. The White House released the statement that —visit reinforced the close ties between the US and India that have strengthened both great democracies|. These statements and speeches clarified that the Washington and New Delhi on the new beginning in both international and national fronts. US explicitly strengthening India militarily, economically and politically (SHINN & EISENMAN, 2023).

### **India not the Counterweight to China**

India is the most populous state in the world and also the largest democracy, but very far behind from the People Republic of China in many fields like technology, military, navy, Airforce, artificial intelligence and space race. China is more modernized in defense and technology than India. China is also a permanent UNO security council member but India is only member of UNO General Assembly. India only beat the China in the population field, it means New Delhi acquires more mouths to feed and provide shelter and other basic facilities. Population is not a strength but liability to feed more people. If a state is self-sufficient in food, housing, health, education, employment, and social security's then the population becomes its strength otherwise it makes mess and law in order situation in the

country. US-India cooperation does not project the rise of India and containment to the China(Moschella & Atkinson, 2022).

Joint military exercises of India and US nothing more than political and military stunt for the China which owns latest military and defense equipment. China is more powerful at regional and international level than India, it may use hard and soft power measures against India. Moreover, Beijing may use all kinds of hacks against New Delhi economically and politically at regional and international level by using the forums of Shanghai cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS and UNO. India mere able to facilitate the US in Indo-Pacific region and South Asia just cooperate with US at the time of war or conflict versus China but not in the positions to engage in direct war or competition with China. —*Anticipations are always greater than realizations*|| In 2018 US Pacific Command Admiral Harry Harris stated that the US-India strategic partnership continues to advance at a historic pace and has a potential to be the most consequential bilateral relationship of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.|| According to this prediction, US-India agreements may take a permanent and influential mode in future. US has made alliances with other regional states in the Indo-Pacific region like Australia, Japan and NATO alliances and these countries may support the US to take any kind of action against the emerging Hegemone(Mahmood et al., 2024).

### **US-India Defense Partnerships Implications on Pakistan**

US-India bilateral relations are an awakening call for the Islamabad. Pakistan will have to ponder something else than US or bilateral approach to multi-lateral diplomatic ties and relations. Historical overview of Pakistan foreign policy uncovers the tilt of Islamabad policy which remained towards the US. Undoubtedly China stood with Pakistan in the best and worst of time, but Pakistan need to improve its relations not only with China but also Russia, Iran Germany Australia and other super powers. US diplomacy is the most successful in the world, area focus of the US remained its national objectives and interests. Taking in consideration the rise of China through Belt and Road Initiative, (BRI) Silk Road, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its trade route policies in the South and east China sea US found its counterweight India. US began to support India to ensure its hegemon status in the world and trapped India into its complicated and sharp net of diplomacy(Ali, 2020).

The Trump administration defamed Pakistan and its cooperation during the War on Terror and in the flashback of 80's Russian Afghan War. Pakistan has strong relations with China and it was impossible for the Islamabad to take stance against People's Republic of China according to the American policy containment of China. US began to use harsh and rough language against its front-line ally war on terror and non-NATO ally. In that way India came close to Trump administration. By briefing USA strategy on Afghanistan policy in August 2017, Trump in his speech stated that —Pakistan often gives safe haven to agents of chaos, violence and terrorl and, moreover, —the United States has been paying

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Pakistan billions and billions of dollars at the same time they are housing the very terrorists that we are fighting<sup>1</sup>. Further, In January 2018 Trump tweeted and coded Pakistan —lies and deceit<sup>1</sup>. The whole criticism and character assassination of Pakistan just for the sake of new ally and competitor for China in South Asia. When Trump discussing the Afghan policy alongside he called for —further partnership with India<sup>1</sup> in the verry same speech in which he denounced and alleged Pakistan for giving asylum to the terrorists(Bukhari, 2015).

## **Research Questions**

1.How US-India Defense Cooperation Impacts the Human Security of Pakistan?

### **What is Human Security?**

Contemporary world is the most insecure place for many people, which poses multiple threats to humanity and peace in the present time. Anarchy, conflicts, disputes, genocide, transgression, natural disasters, persistent poverty, food insecurity, environment insecurity and individual insecurity are on the increase across the world. As coded in the United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/290 —human security is an approach to assist Member States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people.<sup>1</sup> It calls for —people centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people<sup>1</sup> (Goucha & Crowley, 2009).

Human security came into the considerations of International Relations after the end of Cold War era. It challenged traditional means of security and turned the focus of International Relations towards the human security which consist on economic, political, personal, health, education, community and food security. Firstly, Human Security described by the Mahbub ul Haq in the United Nations Development Program's 1994 Human Development Report. After introducing the term of human security international organizations and thinkers started work on it and defined the dimensions of human security. Human security is the liberal concept of peace and criticism on the realism and neo-realism agenda of peace in the International Relations. Realism caused more problems and conflicts instead of peace and security in the world. Security deals dispute with lenient and peaceful ways(Turner, 2011).

### **Education Security in Pakistan**

US-India defense partnership compromises the education security in Pakistan. US-India defense ties increase the military and defense capabilities of the later which disturbs the balance of power in the region. Pakistan and India are the arch rivals since the inception of Pakistan(Fair, 2008). Defense cooperation between India and US poses direct threat to the sovereignty of Pakistan. Pakistan has to counter the India in the field of defense by increasing its defense budget. Defense budget

takes large chunk of amount from the national exchequer which ignores the non-traditional means of security like education insecurity on the increase in the Pakistan. The government do not possess the enough sources to upgrade the conditions and infrastructure of the schools. People do not earn enough money to send their children to the school(Siddiqui, 2021).

As per the UNICEF record Pakistan acquires the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest standing numbers out of the school in the world. Approximately, 22.8 million children aged from 5-16 not attending the school. Education is the fundamental right of every individual as per the UN Human Rights and Pakistan constitution. Defense spending continuously increased since 2016 to 2020 due to the US-India military cooperation. Education budget is the 1.5 % of the GDP while Defense budget is 1.7% of the GDP of Pakistan 2024. Pakistan might use this share of budget on education to ensure the education security of its masses(Rehman, 2009).

### **Human Rights Security in Pakistan**

Human rights security conditions in Pakistan are vulnerable. Political and economic crisis open the gates of human insecurity. US-India defense partnership created economic mess in Pakistan and human insecurity is one the its impacts(Ahmad, 2024). The government has to take strict actions and implement policies to ensure the peace and security of the state. Owing to ensure traditional security non-traditional security is set aside by the government (Kanwel et al., 2024). The correspondents, news anchors and general people are abducted due to threats of national security at the cost of human security. Imran Riaz khan, Asad Toor and so many other media persons are the living examples of human rights violations in Pakistan. Pakistan's ranks 123/140 in Human Rights Index(*Human Rights in Pakistan* :, 1999).

### **Threats to Health Security in Pakistan**

Health security conditions in Pakistan are poor due to heavy spending on defense and traditional security. The government has to maintain the balance of power to maximize its military power and arms which lead to health security challenges at local level. The cost of defense is too high which forces the state to compromise the health security of a common man. Government allocates money and expenditures in the budget for every domain and department. Health expenditures increased by 1% than last year (2023). Health budget continuously decreased 100% in 2020 and 2021 as per the Macro Trends think tank. US-India security partnership created the security dilemma for the Pakistan which cut the health budget. Pakistan ranks 124<sup>th</sup> out of 169 states across the world as per the World Health Organization Index. Pakistan should improve human security conditions in all dimensions like education, health and human rights(Issn et al., 2024).

## **Implications on Food Security in Pakistan**

Being an agricultural state, Pakistan faces the food security threats. Pakistan in the trouble of food security. Each year, it has to import basic food commodities like wheat and rice from the other states. India-US conventional security deals pose serious fears to the non-conventional security implications on Pakistan. US-India both are economic giants and can bear the defense and heavy expenditures but Pakistan since 1947 economic stricken country. That's is why, if it spends more on the arms, missiles, aircrafts, marines, cybersecurity and military human security would be at stake. This is happening due to military and arms race between Pakistan and India. According to the stats proven by the United Nations World Food Program 36.9% population faces the food insecurity in Pakistan. Recently, interim government purchased the wheat in huge quantity to meet the domestic demands. (Acute et al., 2024).

## **Impacts on Water Security of Pakistan**

Water security is the serious concern of Pakistan. Nobody can deny the challenges to water security in Pakistan. Water is the ultimate sources of life, agriculture and industry. There would be no life and activity without water on this planet. Water insecurity increasing day by day in Pakistan. Pakistan is the 10<sup>th</sup> most vulnerable water scarce country in the world and by 2050 it would be in extreme shortage of water as per the data of World Bank(Khoso et al., 2015). To overcome the water insecurity, there would be well structured mechanism and infrastructure which requires the huge amount and share in the budget allocation. Conversely the formal security is the prime goal of state but it pushing behind the informal security which closely attached with national interests of the state(Maqbool, 2022).

### **Theoretical Framework**

#### **How US-India Defense Cooperation Disturb the Situation of Security in Pakistan**

Securitization theory developed within the Copenhagen School of International Relations by Barry Buzan, Ole Weaver, and Jaap de Wilde provides a useful framework for understanding the security dynamics between Pakistan and India. This theory explores how certain security threats are arising for Pakistan, which has been the security state since its inception in 1947. US military relationship exacerbates Pakistan's security dilemma. Pakistan perceives the growing military cooperation between its rivals as a direct threat to national security. This perception leads to a spiral of insecurity, potentially prompting Pakistan to increase its military spending and acquire more advanced weaponry, further escalating regional tensions. The lack of trust and ongoing conflicts between India and Pakistan amplify this dilemma. The economic dimension gravitates situation of security in Pakistan due to the arms race and its trade. These economic factors

can further reinforce or undermine the security dynamics. In terms of non-state actors, the framework should account for the role of non-state actors, such as terrorist groups in shaping the security perceptions of all three states. The presence of these actors can further complicate the dynamics and potentially fuel the securitization process. Further, it is compromising the regional security of the whole South Asia region. The securitized India-US relationship can contribute to regional instability. Pakistan may feel compelled to seek alternative alliances or adopt more assertive foreign policy stances to counter the perceived threats. This could lead to increased cross-border tensions, proxy conflicts, and the potential for miscalculation and escalation.

## **Conclusion**

In a nutshell, US-India partnerships disturbed the balance of power in south Asia. It contains two nuclear states Pakistan and India. Traditional defense alliances between the two big states wages severe threats on 3<sup>rd</sup> and weaker state. In the presidency of the Trump, New Delhi broke the ice and laid the foundation of US-India defense cooperation. These partnerships, engendered the environment of insecurity and challenged the sovereignty and security of the Pakistan and region as well. Pakistan has grievance over the US-India military-based accords because it has to maintain balance of power by increasing defense spending and budget allocations. When the government makes policy to counter the India in military and armed race Human Security is compromised. To beat or become equal to India is not an easy task in defense spending and expenditure stats. It creates the situation of fear and instability for the Pakistan, then it cut the non-conventional security allocations at the cost of human security(Ashley, 2006).

India is dreaming of becoming a regional hegemon and permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. In such a way, it will have to work on military and defense to minimize the threats of wars and attacks by competitors and enemies. India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest importer of weapons and other military pieces of equipment after Saudi Arabia across the globe. It signed defense and other strategic ties with world hegemon in the term of Donald Trump and also focused to multiply the armed and defense spending in the budget. According to an estimate, the defense budget of India is \$71.1 billion which accounts for 2 % percent of its GDP in 2021-2022. On the other hand, Pakistan owns a smaller budget as compared to its neighbor India. Pakistan is a small economy and has little defense budget as per its capacity. Approximately it spent \$11 billion on defense which accounts for 3.6 percent of its GDP(No, 2020).

Pakistan engaged in counter-terrorism and intelligence operations which are costly activities and squeeze the national exchequer. Security dilemma is the concern of Pakistan but it focuses on the one side of the picture which is unfair to ignore the other side. Economic security, personal security, food security, water security, human rights security, health security, and education security are the concerns of human security that are being set aside from the main scenario due to

defense and military security preferences. The government might take human security under consideration besides traditional security(Nan tian et al., 2024).

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