

## **Basic Exchange Cooperation Agreement between India and the US 2020: Security Implications for Pakistan**

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Received:  
Dec 25, 2023

Published:  
Dec 29, 2023

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### **ABSTRACT**

The Basic Exchange Cooperation agreement of India and US develops so many strategic imbalances that might put the region in arms competition and alliances between the two great powers i.e., United States and China might dwindle further. For to its own national interest Washington has used Pakistan since the Cold War, (now the tide has turned towards India). This agreement will make India to develop highly advanced defense equipment's for its military modernization, which will lead to the creation of security dilemma between Pakistan and India. The study is based on the theory of 'structural realism' which is composed upon two features: offensive and defensive realism. India will play a defensive role against China because US see India as a masterly balancer of China, and on the other hand Offensive against Pakistan. Through this agreement Pakistan will look to change their foreign policy agenda from western towards Eastern and will fill the gap to make a change in structure and join the block of regional countries for example Russia, China and Iran. This study will focus on the Indo-US strategic partnership with regard to its implications for Pakistan.

**Key Words:** BECA, GSOMIA, COMCASA, AUKUS, QUAD, Balance of Power.

### **Introduction**

Owing to the rise of China, the US is looking for partners in the Asian region in its pursuit of offshore balancing aimed at China. India is one such country with capability-though not equivalent to China-that gets fit into the grand design of the USA in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Recognizing the significance of the Indo-US strategic partnership both India and US signed the military agreement in 2020. Since 2002 the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) is the fourth military agreement between the two countries. The US as a global power in world politics always uses South Asian region for its vested interest, since the Afghan War and

War on Terror. Both are having a cordial relationship in the Indo-Pacific Ocean. Since the 1950, US supported Pakistan in defense technologies to curtail India from which Pakistan feels a constant threat of irredentism, presently Washington has shifted its attention from Islamabad towards New Delhi. Now at this time, due to the growing hegemonic dominance of China in the world particularly in the Indo-Pacific Ocean, US wants to counter China which will adversely affect Pakistan due to their cordial relations. BECA is the last of four fundamental Military agreements with India which was signed on October 27, 2020 during the 2+2 India-US ministerial dialogue after a decade long negotiation. Before BECA, both United State of America and India had already signed three (3) agreements. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) which was signed in 2002. The Logistic Exchange Memorandum of agreement (LEMO) in 2016 which was for allowing both US and India to use the military basis during times of tension. The agreement of Communication Compatibility and Security Arrangement (COMCASA) enhanced the interoperability between the military of US and India which was signed in 2018 (Purayil, 2021).

BECA is basically an intelligence-sharing agreement signed between defense minister of India and Geospatial-Intelligence Agency of the US Department of Defense. The BECA agreement will allow advanced satellite and topographic to conduct Geodetic, geophysical, geomagnetic, and gravitational data, along with maps and nautical and airline forecasts information. Further a quality GPS system for defense purpose will be used to investigate precisely the missiles with real time intelligence. During a discussion the BJP government strongly opposed the agreement because it will give a full strategic autonomy to US which is the violation of the sovereignty of India but now support this agreement because from this, they will get more in defense technologies which will be used against their opponent in the region for example Pakistan. BECA will give a quantum jump to the position of India's geographical information system. It will strengthen the military capacity of India which is perceived by Pakistan as strategic threats in the region and increase the threat of conventional weapons asymmetry between Pakistan and India putting the whole region in difficult situation of arms race (JASPAL, 2020).

In the context of the competition and rivalry between China and US, the technological advancement and economic dominancy of China is alarming the later. In 2030 China will be emerging as a largest economic power at global level. China will definitely establish hegemony owing to its ground-breaking innovation, effective technologies, artificial intelligence, and improved military and naval capabilities. In the light of strategic competition between United States of America and China the Biden administration realizes that containment of China is not easy to be handled by a single state. US consider China as the biggest enemy in the Indo-Pacific region. China has strengthened its economic and naval capabilities throughout time to the point that it has surpassed the US and now holds the largest fleet in the world. To restrain the Chinese hostility in the Indo-Pacific region and to combat the expansion of China the US needs to maintain a balance of power

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(Gull & Hussain, 2021). Through a strong naval presence in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, China seeks to extend its powers and interests beyond its maritime borders. To stop and control China, the US has made alliances and agreement like QUAD, AUKUS and the BECA in Indian Ocean region. Due to the growing tension between China and US in the Indo-pacific region there is a possibility of cold war in the region which will drive the world again to bipolarity and alliance system as was in the era of cold war between the United States of America and former USSR.

Currently, the US is extremely critical of China. It is establishing powerful agreements for that matter in order to curb the rapidly expanding influence of China, at present time the best option with US in the region is India. China and India are already in conflict from the very beginning and fought several wars with each other. Basic Exchange Cooperation Agreement will advance the India defense system in the region by transferring advance satellite and high GPS system through which India will be able to keep their eyes on whole region especially on nuclear installation of Pakistan and that's why any regional country will not be able to counter India in a same way that they did in past especially against Pakistan. The agreement (BECA) will push the region towards new arms race, strategic and security instability in south Asia. Beside this, BECA will push India to a number of hurdles which will be immaculately hard to tackle. By signing this agreement India is jumping on a slippery slant. Within few years the US will start demanding more facilitation. The more India aligns to US the more they take itself away from the other regional blocks like SAARC, ASEAN, SCO and BRICKS. On the other hand, the India that heavily relied upon Russian defense weapons, expecting more weapons in future makes it doubt full for US. US expressed concern on installation of Russian air defense system in India. It creates a sense of insecurity to US defense system in light of sharing secret information about US defense platform with Russia. US notified India that such transaction will lead to imposition of sanction on India particularly on military cooperation (Cheema, 2020).

In case of Pakistan and India with accordance to BECA there is a sever security implications on Pakistan. BECA will enhance the military system of India and its weapons forecasting system which will make India to carry on preemptive strikes on Pakistan. The agreement was signed in context of Chinese hostility and was intended to ensure India's military expansion with the intention of taking on a "strategic role" in the Indian Ocean but ultimately will have implications for Pakistan. India has no interest of conflict with China under US strategy they just want to get enough military strength to counter Pakistan. With the help of this agreement India will be able to keep close watch on Pakistan's nuclear installation through high quality satellite and radar system. India will be able to keep cross border eyes to precisely monitor the Pakistani troops and position their own military in that particular position and area during the time of war. As we know that India persistently blames Pakistan for any criminal activity in the region so by

the help of such technological advancement, they will conduct easy surgical strikes like they did in Balakot. with the help of satellite imagery India will keep watch on the ongoing project of CPEC from which India feel a geographical threat in south Asia (Mukhtar, 2020).

Pakistan must create an all-encompassing strategy for its relations with China that addresses both countries' economies and military weapons. The growing concerns in the region require attention and that all parties involved must agree on how to evaluate these challenges and where they are coming from.

## **Discussion**

To challenge and contemplate the growing influence of China in the Indo Pacific Ocean, the US is going to make a multiple alliance system in the Indo Pacific Ocean region to stop the rise of China. Both China and India having a dispute on boarder like the issue of Doklam on the Himalayas near the junction of Bhutan (Ganguly, 2017). India now faces a new geopolitical reality where China is a definite and constant enemy as a result of the Ladakh dispute. The Line of Actual control (LAC) will continue to be more highly militarized and violently inclined since for India the political relationship is now characterized by antagonism and mistrust. China looks to have avoided serious harm at the same time. Its military's stronger financial resources could better withstand the material expenditures of mobilization (Tarapore, 2021). The US has also empowered the "Quadrilateral Alliance," (which consists of India, Australia, the US, and Japan) to acquire the capability to contain and confront China in the so-called Indo-Pacific Ocean. This is done in order to control important straits and choke points like the Strait of Malacca and Hormuz, which are pivotal for China's trade and oil imports. As a result of Obama's administration policy of "Pivot to Asia," in 2012 after being reelected for the second term (Birgbauer, 2022). The US maintains bases in the Persian Gulf, the Pacific, and the Indian Ocean. It has also launched invasion in the South China Sea and the East China Sea.

To further increase the US influence in the Indo-pacific region, the AUKUS agreement was signed on 15 September 2021 between the US, Australia and the UK. AUKUS encompasses sharing data and technology in a variety of capacities, notably intelligence and quantum technology, as well as the purchase of cruise missiles, with the goal of strengthening defense technological cooperation (Patalano, 2022). This agreement gives new dimensions to the Indo-Pacific region in the ongoing arms race. For a decade the US was involved in different regions of the world as a game changer like Vitamin, Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran. But now this time the US has shifted from the twenty first century alliance system in which the US faced so many casualty and failures. The AUKUS is strategic based alliances to counter China. AUKUS is the vision of open and free Indo-Pacific construct. Through AUKUS the three powerful countries will be able to strengthen the strategic powers in the Indo-Pacific and will be able to balance the growing hegemony of China in the region. Besides this, AUKUS will strengthen Australia

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to challenge China in the region. To maintain and slow down the shift in the maritime balance of power by fortifying the military ties with Australia and the UK, the AUKUS is the game changer for the Indo-pacific (Panda, 2022).

The ongoing military agreement (BECA) of the US and India is the fourth such pact. Before BECA both countries had the most notable agreement signed between the US and India is GSOMIA (General security of military information agreement) which was signed in 2002, another one is LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of agreement) in 2016 and in order to improve secure communication and to exchange military logistics both countries signed the (COMCASA) in 2018. This bilateral agreement will advance both the countries in different ways especially in the air defense system. BECA is the last of four fundamental Military agreements with India which was signed on October 27, 2020 during the 2+2 India-US ministerial dialogue after a decade long negotiation. From almost very little in 2008, the bilateral defense trade and technology cooperation increased to almost \$16 billion in 2018. It's a win-win situation for Washington and New Delhi, but it is highly dangerous for Pakistan, which no longer obtains any military support from the United States (Mati, 2020). The India-US strategic and defense relation is likely to reach previously huge levels through the help of BECA. It is one of the agreements that the US often makes with its closest allies since it enables the sharing of sensitive information and enables military cooperation. Through high quality GPS system for defense purposes will facilitate India to keep watch on the Indian Ocean and their neighboring countries especially Pakistan. The insisting nature of US to help India in becoming a credible, reliant and substantial regional power can be clearly assessed through the civil nuclear cooperation agreement which obviously resulted as a pretty lucrative development for India. US went from amending domestic laws to be able to engage in civil nuclear cooperation agreement with a non-NPT state to compelling or in other words convincing other states to allow the formal and full addition of India as another member of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) With respect to this agreement of BECA. The region of south Asia will face so many strategic and security challenges which will lead to the creation of power imbalance. With high quality GPS satellites and other intelligence satellites, India will keep their eyes on Pakistan military chock points, the ongoing CPEC projects of China in Pakistan that is a severe security risk for Pakistan and China. The existing hostility between Pakistan and India from a decade could get more intensified by the US and India sharing a secret and sensitive information about this region (SCHWEMLEIN, 2019). By the help of this military agreement India could get the hypersonic missile system that could be carried by a recently tested hypersonic technology demonstrator vehicle (STDV) with higher speed and precision. As a result, these weapon systems would be more effective due to their short flight time; hypersonic weapons could also be a useful targeting mobile launcher like the Nasr missile system, which Pakistan is likely to use as part of its full spectrum deterrence stance to counteract India's limited war fighting strategy.

In order to reduce the possibility of manned aerial airstrikes and achieve its moderate political goals without risking the military's reputation, as was the case during the Balakot crisis. The information which could India get from the sophisticated and advance satellite system of US would be used for drone strikes on LOC against Pakistan which will put in risk the territorial integrity (Kazmi, 2020).

As the growing hegemonic nature of China in all aspects especially in economic and technological advancements pose a multiple threat to the sole super power US. As expected, China will exceed its GDP in 2030. It has been a factual asset that China will preferentially avoid war with any one and will be striving to achieve more advancement in economic and technological sectors. In order to tackle US having multiple counter balancing alliances to contempt the rise of China in the world. The US negotiated the BECA agreement between India and the US in order to contain China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific and South China Sea. All of these strategic and military developments in co-operations and agreements between US and India portray India's deliberate and measured security maximization preference against China's regional prowess and influence. Such security maximization steps lead us to defensive realism, which India has transitionally adopted against China (Jaspal, 2020).

## **Research Gap**

After studying the literature on the ongoing fourth step of strategic agreement between US and India, the researcher read about different dimension which pose a threat to the region of South Asia and particularly to Pakistan. Through this agreement India will get highly technologically advanced and will give a quantum jump to India's strength but on the other hand such agreements will create a number of hurdles in the region like the India will get isolation from the south Asian countries like ASEAN which will be difficult for India in the future.

This study not only researched about its implications to Pakistan in the region through the Basic Exchange and Cooperation agreement but also some solution which are given by different researcher after critical analysis of BECA agreement. Such defensive overtures in strategic co-operations by India with the US might tentatively be regarded as against the threats that both of them perceive from the rising China but, for Pakistan, it can vehemently prove to be offensive at India's end. Pakistan being at the crossroad for managing to balance India in both conventional and non-conventional paradigms since its inception will have to, once again reevaluate and configure ways for balancing the equilibrium which India with the help of US might seriously try to alter.

The somehow static and preserved equilibrium of balance of power in the region between Pakistan and India could be heavily altered by the intervening role of US, and the weights in the equilibrium might be shifted towards the Indian end. This may cause subliminal threats to Pakistan as well as the power trajectory of the region. The tangible dimensions of such developments occurring in the region

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might specifically challenge Pakistan's security at different yet crucial levels, the nature of the change that might occur in possibly vulnerable dimensions and the required efforts in response is what Pakistan may try to percept and then struggle to reciprocate the divergence.

### **Research Questions**

1. What are the security implications of BECA for Pakistan?
2. What foreign policy option should Pakistan adopt to counter the threat that arises from Indo-US strategic partnership?

### **Theoretical Framework**

To respond this security issue which Pakistan faces, the best suitable theory will be the neo-realism/structure realism; According to neo-realism/structural realism version that claims that the global order is chaotic due to the lack of any superior. As a result, states act logically since they are aware that no power can save them. The international system's anarchical nature forces them to either minimize or maximize their power and security. Structural Realism also includes two more presumptions: Offensive Realism and Defensive Realism.

By nature, offensive realism is pre-emptive, emphasizing on more and more power maximization. It relies on being aggressive and expansionist in its demeanor. While at the other hand, defensive realism is preventive and requires enough power but believes in constant security maximization. It urges diplomacy as the means to settle disputes and is politically non expansionist.

In this study the structural realism is best suitable theory which explains the phenomena of power struggle between India and Pakistan. The international structure which is Anarchical in nature compelled the states to go for security maximization and power maximization in the form of offensive and defensive approach. With respect to this military agreement of BECA between India and US, it is the international structure which compelling both states to make such agreements for power and security maximization in different perspective. At one side India is going to increase their security to defend them against China with which India having a border dispute and fought a war in 1962. Through Basic Exchange Cooperation agreement US have the intention to contain the growing Chinese influence in the Indo-Pacific and also in south Asia. All of these strategic and military developments in co-operations and agreements between US and India portray India's deliberate and measured security maximization preference against China's regional powers and influence because of the Ladakh dispute of India with China where China is Offensive towards India. Such security maximization steps lead us to defensive realism, which India has transitionally adopted against China. On the other side the growing defensive approach of India against China is indirectly proving as offensive against Pakistan in the region. India's hostile

actions, including its 2019 invasion of Pakistani airspace shows India Offensive approach towards Pakistan which they traditionally adopted against Pakistan. Pakistan while comprehending upon the steps taken by India against China to maximize its security and enhance its defensive capabilities might start to find alternatives to re-balance the growing gap between their powers.

China being a revisionist state caution the United State to goes for such military and strategic agreements with countries like India in the form of BECA, the Creation of New QUAID and most recently the creation of AUKUS in 2021 with Australia, Japan and UK same wise the China infrastructure projects BRI and CEPEC will make sure the China excess to south Asia and central Asia. These all are the international structure which gives rise to creation of different military and strategic agreements and alliances.

## **Methodology**

During this study on the basic Exchange Cooperation agreement between US and India from which India will get technological advancements in air space and arms race and get legitimacy in the NPT, while at the other hand the US will get long term advancement in their strategic depth policy in south Asia particular in Indo-pacific region to contain the China growing rise in the region from which US having a greater threats for their hegemonic dominancy in future. This research is qualitative in nature through deductive approach. Data for this research have been taken from secondary sources, such as, books, articles, newspapers and different websites. This research by nature is the case study between United State of America and India which is having a purposive study of different think tanks perspective of this agreement. In the case study between US and India defense agreement in which India will get more technological advancement in defense, which will put the whole South Asia and particularly Pakistan under security threats is the main objective of this research. The research questions and objectives are broadly being used as the basis for analyzing the data. Firstly, the data was systematically arranged and transcribed. Secondly, the large amount of data was arranged in orderly manner according to the research objectives. A proper code was set to compress the tremendous amount of data into categories and patterns to help in gaining in-depth insight into the data collected to make informed decisions. It is exploratory which includes secondary sources of research, so for this purpose, governmental reports, organizational reports, books, Journals, Newspaper, research papers and websites like JSTOR and Google scholar are utilized.

## **Discussion**

The signing of fundamental agreements with the United States which have expanded the scope of Indo-US military cooperation shows that the Indian military is actively participating in military diplomacy. India's main objective is to achieve



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strategic importance, strengthening the Indian forces, the military power upgrading and counter force capabilities.

India's hostile acts, including its 2019 invasion of Pakistani airspace, subsequent clashes with Chinese forces in the Dokhlam region, and most recently its 2022 unintentional missile landing on Pakistani soil which clearly shows the real intention of India to counter both Pakistan and China.

The longstanding rivalry between Pakistan and India, the two most important powers in the region, has always been a key characteristic of South Asia's threat landscape. The nature of the interactions between these two states is what determines the region's whole security framework. It is intended that the destabilization of the region will result from one of them becoming a regional power. Pakistan has expressed outrage over the United States collaboration in developing high-tech defense equipment, which could lead Pakistan to seek for cutting-edge weaponry technologies. Such pressures could pave the way for the regional strategic balance to become unstable. Due to defense collaboration between both India and the United States, Pakistan is already worried about India's ability to dominate conventional warfare. Pakistan needs to make alliances with powerful nations to strengthen military capabilities and nuclear deterrent to counter India's conventional dominance.

To answer the question that what foreign policy options should Pakistan adopt to balance the region and deter the threats which arise from the high technological and strategic base approach agreements between the US and India which once again outing the whole region in threats and arms race.

Pakistan should need to adopt the multilateral approach on international level to make strong alliances with a likeminded country such as Türkiye and high technological advance States like Japan which will pave a way for technological improvement of Pakistan. The high sophisticated weapons, the modernized F16 with the Türkiye and as the same way the advance technology of Japan will help Pakistan in different technological and energy sectors which will able Pakistan to counter the high technological advancement of India. The regional countries like Russia, China and Iran are very significant in international politics. From the very beginning India has remained very dependent on Russia for defense equipment's but after the recent agreements between US and India showing distrust between both States. Before its late it's better for Pakistan to make alliance with Russia from which it could get more technological advancement in all sectors especially in energy and defense.

The Basic Exchange Cooperation agreement of Indo-US main concentration is to counter the China growth in the region. BECA, COMCASA, and LEMOA will give India a special opportunity to replace China as the US's biggest strategic ally in Asia. India and the US are working together in space to counterbalance China's growing space power status. But at the same time also use to pose the threats for the Pakistani space. As a result of India's space capabilities brings a pre-emptive strike on Pakistan. The fact that India is a part of these regimes and deals has led to

a power imbalance in the region, a continuous arms race in South Asia, and Pakistan working with other space faring powers to improve its defense and space capabilities (Khalid, 2021). Now at this critical time it necessary for Pakistan and China to collaborate in all sectors and deepen cooperation. Pakistan should look at improving its space cooperation with China in order to fill this widening gap in the space sector. As part of the SUPARCO (Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission) project, China has agreed to launch a number of Pakistani communication and observation satellites. Pakistan should think about concentrating on its civilian space development programmed as it would be beneficial and vital. Strategic links between Pakistan and China should be expanded to cover high-tech military capabilities, artificial intelligence (AI), cyber security, outer space, and all other areas where Pakistan remains behind India. In the new era of conflict, this is where our attention must now be directed. The only option with Pakistan is that of China in the region which is very important for strategic policies (Bano, 2020).

The sever implications of Basic Exchange Cooperation between US and India target the China dominancy in south Asia. China needs to adopt a strong and all perspective policies in the region to contain India's technological advancement which is posing a direct threat to China in the future. China and Pakistan will not remain silent on these agreements, both signed the military memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the main objective to counter the US-India advancement in defense cooperation. The terms of the MoU include requirements for sharing technology and intelligence to monitor Indian troop movements along the common border (Haider, 2022). China has progressively increased its military presence in Bhutan and is currently settling there, having built at least three new villages there. Any attempt to push China back becomes very challenging after military garrisons are created, working all year long, and communities are built. This shows that how China will manage other regions in Ladakh along the LAC. China wants to pressure India to accept the Chinese position on borderland and then return to border dialogue that remains for years and is unproductive (song, 2021). The China's ongoing project, CPEC in Pakistan is proving more and more concerning for India in the region. The India and China tension giving great opportunities to Pakistan to get benefits not only in economic sector but also to easily adopt own defensive approach against India from which it is having an existential threat. Both China and Pakistan could easily counter the rise of India in the region through mutual cooperation and collaboration. The security of Pakistan is very essential for China because From the BECA agreement the CPEC project of China and Pakistan is under stress.

Moreover, President Xi Jinping launched BRI, the cornerstone of China's foreign policy, in 2013 with the goal of fortifying links with the world through infrastructure, expansion, policy, and cultural ties to attain both land and sea connectivity. The maritime Silk Road sought to connect to the North Sea due to the presence of American and Indian traders.

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China engages in greater infrastructure projects in south Asian countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan which is encircling India in the region from which the influence of India will be decreased to a greater extent. China has significant capabilities owing to the geographical terrain and geostrategic location of Sri Lanka. Colombo Port City and other infrastructure projects totaling about \$15 billion were funded by China. For Sri Lanka, the GDP sent to China is between 5 to 6 %. Due to China being the only lender of such investments, foreign reserves have decreased over a 99-year period. India, unable to assist, withdrew from the Hambantota port, which leads to China's entry. India is more concerned about China's growing regional influence. Even China is in search to make infrastructure projects in Afghanistan through which their access will become possible to Central Asia. Bangladesh joined the BRI in 2016, and because China's symbolic Padma Bridge has become increasingly significant, Bangladesh and India share 54 rivers that are surrounded by India on three sides. This makes BRI an ideal platform for Bangladesh. In the case of Nepal, the BRI agreement was signed in 2017 China pledges to construct the Koshi Corridor, the Gandhak, and the Madam Bhandari UST for trans-Himalayan connection. Nepal's acceptance of the "One China" policy has improved relations between the two nations. China accounted for 90% of all FDI in Nepal in 2020. The Maldives, which have 1200 tiny islands, are notable sea lines from a geographical standpoint in the Indian Ocean. Having close bilateral ties with India until 2012, but after Nasheed's removal by Yameen, various contracts were awarded to Chinese-owned enterprises, and relations between the two countries grew stronger. Influence in the region is increased by China-Maldives relations. China invests more on infrastructure of road, airports and tourism. The motive behind such infrastructure of China in south Asia region is to make sure their hold and thus we say that China proving an Offensive approach towards India.

The Indo-US strategic agreements will have some sever Implications for the security of Pakistan in internal and in external level. Indian aggression and preemptive strikes against Pakistan were launched as a result of its improved space capabilities and space situational awareness/intelligence. Through high quality GPS system India will be able to keep their eyes on Pakistan military check points especially on LOC. The security threats in the region will increase in the region which might lead to strategic imbalances in the region. Pakistan for defense equipment and for stability to counter the Indo-US strategic deal will go towards regional countries especially China and Russia. Both countries spend huge sums on military confrontations, which badly damages the states' economies and development in other sectors like health, education, tourism and climate change.

## **Conclusion**

Based on meager literature the ongoing Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement between US and India from which both countries get benefits at the

level of defense to long term polices. US must establish a more comprehensive bilateral relationship with India, one that is not totally reliant on defense and security ties. This requires for taking into account changes to the dialogues current structure as well as a broader effort to collaborate with India as a key partner in addressing global concerns including health security and climate change. The US engagement with India that includes strong economic and people-to-people links will benefit the American people. It also has the advantage of making the increasingly prominent U.S-India defense partnership, which at times runs against to India's traditions of nonalignment, more acceptable to the Indian public. The United States must be able to prove that the relationship with India has the potential to be mutually advantageous and strong. Along with this, the United States would need to exercise discipline in determining and allocating resources to its Indo-Pacific goals, especially in pursuing successful rivalry with China and preventing the development of new reliance on Pakistan.

However, the new administration would have to be realistic about India because India has strong ties with Russia and has dependence on Moscow for defense equipment from a decade. US expressed concern on installation of Russian air defense system in India. It creates a sense of insecurity to US defense system in light of sharing secret information about US defense platform with Russia. The greater rely country for India in the region creates a Sino-Russian condominium which having repercussion on India. If we look to the regional countries that are very important for international politics like Russia, China, and Pakistan, they will form strong alliances in the future. Before the Russia-Ukraine war the prime Minister of Pakistan Imran khan visit to Russia and the growing support of China to Russia particularly during the Russian-Ukraine war is alarming for the regional countries. Despite heavy objections from India, Russia wants to increase trade in military weapons with Pakistan. However, Russia is only tentatively opening up to Pakistan. Last but not least, both India and the US need to understand that a strategic relationship between the two countries would cause them to turn away from their traditional allies and increase the rivalry between them that already paralyses the region.

To minimize any potential risks, Pakistan needs to adopt a multilateral approach. Pakistan should consider new strategic alliances with Russia. Pakistan for defense equipment and for stability to counter the Indo-US strategic deal will goes towards regional countries especially China and Russia. The strengthen ties between Pakistan and China in the region and the Ladakh dispute of India with China they definite identify as a threat which will lead to take up defensive approach by India against China and on the other hand as an offensive posture against Pakistan because of Air surgical strikes of India against Pakistan which is considered the violation of territorial sovereignty of Pakistan. Similarly, the ongoing CEPEC project of China in Pakistan constantly poses a threat to India in the region, which will create strategic imbalances in the region and escalate the arms race in South Asia. So, there is a need of mutual understanding for both

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countries Pakistan and India to work for mutual cooperation rather than further investment on defense in which both countries invest almost much.

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