

## US Indo-Pacific Strategy: Implications for Pakistan



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**Abstract:** *The term Indo-pacific strategy is used to contain China in the Indo-Pacific Ocean region. The combined partnership between US and India is named as Indo-pacific strategy. India can be a counterbalance for US in the region but it would be an immense security threat for Pakistan. India is in a strong position to play a role of US ally in order to counter China in the region by keeping an eye on China in the region. The United States is backing India in its economic activities, health, and infrastructure and as well as supporting its growth in maritime security. With the patronage of US, if India got status of hegemonic power in the region, it might throw Pakistan's stability under threat. Through this research article, the researchers will try to find out, how US-India partnership will affect Pakistan especially, its naval security? The paper explores impact of Indo- US alliance on CPEC. What could be the possible measurements taken by Pakistan, in order to counter the partnership in the region? Historical, descriptive and exploratory approaches have been used for the research. Pakistan needs a comprehensive strategy to counter the US Indo-Pacific Strategy.*

**Keywords:** CPEC, China, Indo – Pacific, Pakistan, US

### Introduction

Indo-Pacific is not a new phenomenon itself. Actually, two oceans are connected through this geographic strategy, one is the Pacific Ocean and other is Indian Ocean. Firstly, the United States used the concept in the name of Asia-Pacific but During Trump era Indo- pacific name replaced as the name of Asia - Pacific. (Detsch, 2021) Indo-Pacific strategy was discussed in the Department of Defense's documents of 2019 by highlighting the US vision and policy in emerging contemporary global order with a focus on Indo-Pacific region (The Department of Defense, 2019). US invited other major powers in the Indo-Pacific strategy especially, Japan and Australia. Currently, the attentions of US in the region are reflected from the Indo-

Pacific strategy. (Chen, 2018) The United States wanted to observe Power shift from Europe to Asia especially in Indo- Pacific region. The main concern of the United States, which comes to nerves, in the region is China because China appeared as a great power in the world and especially in the Indian- Pacific region in last two decades. India also presented itself as a great power in the region by developing economy, improving demography, infrastructure, and modernizing security in the region (Ozer, 2022). The fundamental causes that motivating in initiating the Indo-Pacific strategy are geopolitical culture, new strategic culture and balance of power in the region. The Indo-Pacific strategy is extension and revision of Asia-pacific rebalance strategy in this region. The

main focus of this strategy is to contain China in this region. So, the rise of China came with the serious concern of major countries in this region. In the wake of that concern, they initiated to advance their security, their Alliances and communication in this Indo – Pacific region.

The core motive of US in the region is establishing of security order. US have an alliance with Canada, Australia, India and Japan, and all are in the middle of the region. They wanted to enhance their capability, and contribution for dealing with regional security issues. On the other hand, US also wished to establish cooperation with them on the grounds of climate change, free movement in international water and humanitarian crisis and also improve the naval capacity of all these in the region. Naval capacity in Indo-Pacific will decide how will be the next maritime power in the region?

In modern day, we are living in unipolar world. It has been observed from last two decades that many under developed countries have appeared as great powers in world politics like China, India and South Africa. The first thing they need, just after changing their status, is to improve their security and develop alliance with other state in Indo-Pacific regions. This has observed in the case of China. As it emerged as great power, it has started further to improve its economy, demography and security. The major improvement in economy and security is the development of the Chinese dream project, Belt and Road initiative in global world. There is dire wish of China to connect the BRI with Eurasia, Africa and Oceania. Through this project the connectivity in region will be increased and national policies of the states would be coordinated. People to people connection will increase the trade and cultural exchanges between the states.

BRI is the project having worth of the 250bn US dollar in this globe. According to the many scholars, BRI is a project of geo-economic and geo-strategic project that would exert impact on the economic system of the world. It has been observed in the post-cold war era that many of the great powers have shifted their policies from security to geo-economic power. BRI is the best

example that has capability of the both geo-economics and geo-strategic power in the region. BRI is launched in reaction to the scheme of Trans-Pacific partnership, given by the Obama administration to contain the China in the region. Rising of the China in region came as big threat for the US alliances such as India, Japan and Australia. These alliances are based on the Geo-strategic and Geo-economic issues in the region. (Kaura, 2019) Using these alliances US is trying to contain the China by supporting India in Indian Ocean so that its capability would be increased. Moreover, India is advancing its Air and Naval Force with the patronage of US in Indian Ocean which would be rendered as the looming threat for CPEC in Pakistan as well.

The extension of BRI is CPEC which is a project, comprised of billion dollars in the region. It also has geo-economics as well as geo-strategic importance in the region and especially for the Pakistan. The regional security paradigm, in the Indian Ocean, is going to be shifted because of the long term geopolitics and geo-strategic plans of China. India is aligning itself with the like-minded states and also aligning itself with the US. It is enhancing its naval power by adding nuclear component and also establishing the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) with the help of US that patrol on Persian Gulf, Sea of Oman, Arabian and Red sea. Due to these developments, India is becoming a considerable naval threat in the Indian Ocean. There is apprehension in US military establishment as China is modernizing its defense forces mainly the Naval Force. In order to counter China in the region, US found India as potential power that can be counter balance for US. These developments find great threat for Pakistan. (Hahmi, 2022) Balance of power is much needed in the region to restrict India. Pakistan is revisiting its alliances and military engagements mainly its naval defense to balance the mounting threat from India. For that purpose Pakistan started naval exercises in Arabian Sea with the patronage of Russia. (Deb and Wilson, 2021)

### **Hypothesis**

The geopolitical, new strategic culture, balance

of power, and alliances are the motivating factor for the creation of the Indo-Pacific strategy. It is induced to contain China's economic and military influence in the region by enhancing the military capability of India, casting a serious threat to Pakistan.

### **Theoretical frame work**

Balance of power is key theory of International Relations. It is the fundamental concept to study the relations of states. The main features of the theory are survival of state, military competition and economic wealth which could be converted into military power among the major powers. This could be done by forming the alliances among states. The secondary and tertiary states are aspirant to join more powerful states. According to this point of view, theory of balance of power can be discussed in this research paper. (Lobell, E., 2019)

Geopolitical landscape in the twenty first century is transformed altogether with the rise of the China. In the wake of that rise, the term Indo-Pacific strategy was coined to contain Chinese influence in the region. United States and allies have rendered it as the balancing act against China in the region. The rise of the China pushed the major power like US, Australia, Japan and India into grim competition and portrayed China as big security threat for the region. China and major powers are trying to balance each other by enhancing their security through alliances. For example, China is enhancing its influence through BRI and other economic development projects in the region. On the other hand, to counter the China in region various regional security dialogues are initiated such as Quadrilateral Security Dialogue and AUKUS. All these developments are carried out to foster the peace in region through the balancing act.

### **Indo-Pacific Region**

Geographical demarcations and political boundaries are the two ways through which world can be perceived in cartography. In geographic demarcations world can be perceived through land, seas, oceans, water, plateaus and peninsulas. Similarly, in political boundaries world can be perceived through states, continents, territorial seas, Island,

continental shelves and exclusive economic zones. Indo-Pacific considered a connection between Pacific oceans and Indian oceans but it has been inflated from Africa to US shores because the world is connected through these two Oceans.

The politics, economics, infrastructure and connectivity of the world made Indo-pacific central to globe. Indo-Pacific strategy dissolved the old boundaries and created new boundaries in the region and might be all for to meet the demands of energy of the populous countries of the world. Many of the under developing countries appeared as the major power of the world so it might be said that the pattern of the world has changed from bipolar to multipolar. For example, China, Japan, India and South Africa are popping up as major powers in the world. The actual competition in this region is among India, US and China.

Regional connectivity is increased and it can be seen China is the main beneficiary of connectivity as it is enhancing its power through connectivity and infrastructure by boosting its economic activity. Connectivity leads to major countries becoming trade partner of China. China is also gaining control over South China Sea. Through BRI China has connected itself not only with Indian Ocean but rest of the world as well. CPEC is an important part of BRI it not only connected China with Indian Ocean, middle east and Africa but also provide a *Gawadar* Port as strategic depth for the China in region. US have great apprehensions regarding CPEC and rising influence of China in region so there is dire wish of US to restrict the way of rising influence of the China by manipulating its major allies such as Japan, India and Australia. These allies are working on infrastructure, security and economic development with the patronage of the US such as Quadrilateral security dialogue and AUKUS. The core purpose of these security developments is to enhance the naval power in the regions. US and India both find themselves persistently in joint naval engagements to advance the naval security. (Miller, 2021) The approach of security and growth for all regions (SAGAR) has been used in hunting of China (Sarangie, 2019). So,

balance of power is much needed in the region in order to retain the peace and peace is inevitable for the developmental infrastructure and economic prosperity.

### **The US and the Indo- Pacific strategy**

In the foreign policy of the US, Asia has central place. Before the Indo-Pacific strategy the previous government used to call their policy toward Asia as Asia-Pacific but as the president Trump sworn of office he gave a new shape to region and rephrase their policy toward Asia in the name of Indo-Pacific strategy. Trump used to say, it is “free and open Indo-Pacific in the region (Harding, 2019). The sole purpose of this immediate reactionary approach was to counter China and North Korea in the region. Both the pretending the big threat to America and its allies. North Korea compromised the security of Japan and South Korea as well (Singh, 2023). This approach had also been observed in the quadrilateral security dialogue including Australia and India. Trump wanted to take on board all major powers of the region and used the policy of free and open Indo-Pacific. According to him, policy might be beneficial for the US and its allies. Trump focused the relations with India. He believed that both, US and India can foster great prosperity and security with the aim of the free and open Indo-Pacific (Harding, 2019)

A statement from the Trump was recorded in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in 2017 that this region is full of diverse culture and has acidic features for development. During the reign of Trump, the US was clear in containing China, a rising threat for the US. So, following that, he imposed economic sanctions on China in Asia-Pacific region by increasing tariff on Chinese product or going to suspend the economic activity of China in US (Ford, 2020). The center of focus in containing China was maritime issue, rule of law and economic development led by private sectors. Following that, Quadrilateral efforts and multilateral mechanism was foster to achieve their motives by phrasing it free and open Indo-Pacific. Free means all the nations can exercise their liberty and have ability to protect their sovereignty and open means all the nations can enjoy their free

seas, open to resolve their territorial and maritime issues in the regions. Similarly, all the nations can equally enjoy the environment of free trade, open investment and improve their connectivity in the region. So, this policy was very successful for US as the pleasure response from its allies has been recorded about this Free and Open policy. (Harding, 2019)

In recent time, the contemporary government of US also pursuing the same policy as of the Trump administration and wanted to restore American leadership role in the Indo-Pacific region. Biden stated that US wanted to modernize and longstanding allies that strengthen partnership and also working jointly on climate change. Biden administration started to cooperate with the member countries of the five regional treaty alliances such as Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Thailand and Australia. Moreover, they are also hoping for the enthusiastic relations with Pacific Island, Vietnam, India, Mongolia, Malaysia, Taiwan and New Zealand. Only India has potential in this region to contain the China. So, the US has been persistently engaged with India in various fields that might have raised the India as major power. (Freeman, Markey and Singh, 2022)

### **India and Indo- Pacific strategy**

History is full of literature that maritime domain is of much important while shaping regional dynamics and large security structure by any emerging power. Every power wanted to get full access and control on maritime structure that leads to the competition among them. This competition brought Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean together through the Indo-Pacific strategy which is the new reality of the twenty first century. The major countries of the region are considering the role of India is crucial. Rise of the China in the region has found India in insecurity because of it border clashes with China and Pakistan as well. So, Indo-Pacific strategy has changed the Indian approach and is forming the new strategic environment in the wake of the rise of China. In order to contain the China India has revisited its policy in region by aligning itself with the interest of the US. India is enhancing its partnership with US to address the new security complex. (Malhotra, 2022) In

the view of US the strategic cooperation with India would have been a balancing act to counter the China in region. After conclusion of the cold war, the strategic competition in the region has vanished. It produced an opportunity for India to construct its new policy and alignment. For that purpose western powers have helped India to address the gaps and approaches in policy toward the Island nations. Through that method India is enhancing its collaborations with Island like Sri-Lanka, Seychelles, Mauritius, and Maldives. In other words we may say that India has expended its diplomatic channels across the Indo-Pacific region. The establishment of relations with these countries is based on solely of economics and military expansion in the sea. India is also improving its relation with other countries of regions like Brunei and Philippines as well that are the need of hour in the enhancement of security in the region. The role of the India in new global security architecture is cleared by its actions and movements in the region. (Baruah, 2020)

#### **U.S and India strategic partnership in the Indo-Pacific**

The indo-pacific policy of US was initiated by the trump era and similar is pursued by the Biden administration which is equally will full to work with India in this region on various fields like economic development, infrastructure and climate change.

British Empire had large influence in Indian Ocean region after the conclusion of the Second World War. When India and Pakistan became independent state, then Singapore had become the key point, from where Britain was controlling the politics of the India and East Asia. During that time Britain was also controlling the politics of the various Gulf States of Middle East. When center of power was shifted from Britain to America then America has become the major influencer of the region. In 1966 the America was permitted to enter in the Island of British Indian Ocean Territory Diego Garcia. American started naval construction in this region so that the politics of the region can be controlled. So, it is considered the main door in marching of America from Persian Gulf to the Bay of Bengal.

Post-cold war has found various major powers in the Indo-Pacific region. For example in the presence of US in Indian Ocean China and India both appeared as the major power who have started to participate in the politics of the region. There has been a wish of India to contain China. US and India both have started to align themselves in new pattern to counter the rising threat from China. The pattern is to enhance the naval capacity of India and this was considering the great opportunity for India to go in the deep sea of Indian Ocean. Joint Naval Exercise has been carried out in Pacific Ocean between America and India in 1992 (Singh T., 2014).

The annual exercise involved aircraft carries, search and rescue operations and anti-submarine warfare were placing across the both Indian and Pacific Ocean. In 2015 India has also participated in joint military exercise of Japan and America in Indian Ocean. It has also participated in Malabar exercise with the help of Japan, Singapore and Australia in Indian Ocean. In 2007 a quadrilateral group was formed including of India, Australia, Japan and US. After the formation Australia has withdrew from the group because of the change in governments and later on this group was not sustained because of the immense criticism on group by stating it is anti-China (Eisentraut, 2018).

In 2017, Quad policy was initiated to manage the rising threat of China in the region. Quad is basically a multilateral collective security dialogue whose aim is solely of containment of China in region. All the member of security dialogue started to cooperation with each other so that the durability and effectiveness of the Quad could be enhanced in the region (Lee, 2020). Quad has imparted the big opportunity to these countries to curtail the rising threat from China. United States wanted bigger military role of India in the Pacific for that purpose US is equipping India so that its naval range could be increased. India has created the Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in Indo-Pacific region whose sole purpose is to carry out surveillance and collect aver informant of development and movement in the Indian Ocean. So that correct information will find a quick set of actions to secure the Indian strategic

interest. Moreover, on the basis of this information the need of new naval power has been accessed. So, the strategic cooperation between India and US is on full fledge retaining the motive of containing China in region (Singh S. , 2019).

### **AUKUS and Indo-Pacific Region**

AUKUS is considered a three-way strategic partnership between Australia, UK and US. Initially this strategic partnership was concreted to build the cluster of the “nuclear-propelled submarines” (Wintour, 2021). Later on it was agreed to work together in Indo-Pacific region to counter the looming threat of Chinese economic and military might. (Wintour, 2021) The creation of the trilateral alliance between US, UK and Australia have produced the construct of Indo-Pacific, whose sole purpose is to get strategic partnership, based on collection vision for free and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

In the contemporary world, China is emerging as global power inducing challenge to superpower United States. Aversely, to counter the China there has been emerged various regional power with the patronage of US. For that purpose, superpower trying to ensure its presence in the maritime arena so that it retain its title of the global hegemon. The approach of the Indo-Pacific has flashed the region into threat due to its geographical significance and commercial relevance.

United States had played a role in the ouster of the governments of the various countries including Italy and Germany. There were many motives behind, but one of the significant is to replace with functional democracies. Coherent political structure of these countries provides the line to US in ouster of governments (O'Rourke, 2018). But on the other hand, US always find itself in elusive situation, in the case of Afghanistan and Iraq who have no coherent political structure. So, in that sense, a shift has been seen in US approach to counter other countries. Now, America is trying to achieve its goal by the formation of alliances. These alliances have common interest, similar threat perception and mutual cooperation. The aim of these alliances is solely of global strategic needs

and not for the geographical accessibility. Moreover, the issues of collective concern, like nuclear proliferation and climate change, are under consideration. All the alliances are created in response to rising threat of China and AUKUS is one of these alliances.

The withdrawal of US from Afghanistan is a pleasure moment not only for Afghanistan but also for the region. It has provided a security lapse for US, having no permanent presence in the region, in order to observe all the activities of region. Through Indian Ocean, US wanted to focus on Middle East. For that purpose the presence of the US must be necessary in Indian Ocean. They are increasing their naval capability by supporting its alliances in order to counter the Chinese threat. AUKUS security pact might be important in sharing of information, defense technologies and nuclear submarines. Defense technologies are installing in Australia under the consultancy of US and UK leading to the production of submarine. So, AUKUS is designated as the powerful economic and strategic partnership among these countries.

### **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) and Indo-Pacific**

QUAD is formed for the collaboration in humanitarian assistance or disaster relief operations. It is traced back when Tsunami hit on Indo-Pacific region in 2004, India conducted a relief operation for itself and other neighboring countries. Later on US, Japan and Australia joined this relief operation. Its formal dialogue was initiated on the sidelines of ASEAN and East Asia summit in 2007. After a lot of criticism on Australia from US, it withdrew from QUAD in 2012. Initially, the QUAD was a geographic concept which changed to political and strategic concept with the passage of time and it perceived by various countries differently (Smith, 2021).

In the outbreak of Covid-19 this group become much important and other countries was aspirant to join the alliance. In QAUD plus three more countries were added. These were New Zealand, South Korea and Vietnam. Other stake holders like Israel and Brazil were also signed up. This alignment was come into being for the sake of China. China has controversy with India on

*Galwan* valley at Line of Actual control. Moreover, the relations of the China and US are not good. These are the actual dynamic in fostering of QUAD. China has showed apprehension on multiple times regarding the QUD as it is quickly becoming the reality in this world.

Malabar Joint Naval exercises started in Indian Ocean under the umbrella of QUAD in November 2020. These exercises are leading by India and other countries are included like Japan and Australia. These exercises are carried to foster the working relations among them in order to manage any looming threat against them in Indian Ocean. QUAD is coming on the nerves of China, specially, in maritime region. In response to that developments China started to deploy The People's Liberation Army Navy in West Indian Ocean and initiated the naval exercises. If China dares to retaliate then Quad group might be more aggressive. There are positive prospects to counter the China in region (Jash, 2021).

#### **China and the Indo-Pacific**

In the Chinese point of view, Indo-Pacific strategy is designated as agenda of attention seeking because Australia and United States have reformed the Asia-Pacific policy to Indo-Pacific. China accepted this to the extent of the reformation of strategy for inducing warm relations among great power. Similarly, China is aspiring to foster relations on equal grounds with others and equally agreed on balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region (Rumley, 2019).

China's economy is amplifying rapidly and has become the economic giant in the world. It is the largest trading partner with most of the countries of world especially, in the Indo-Pacific region. China is also enhancing its military capability according to the demands of producing balance of power in the region, enhancing naval and air force as well. For the sake of enlarging the sphere of influence, it has become the largest aid donor in region. All the developments in economy, military and enhancing the sphere of influence, brought China in competition with America, not only in region but globally as well (Doyle and Rumley, 2019).

China sees Indo-Pacific strategy as construction

of absolute entity in the region to counter the China. If this policy will succeed, China will come under threat in three aspects such as safeguard the regional important interest, cooperation in economy of region and obtaining strategic depth. After forty years of developments, China has become the second largest economy of the world. Its economic interest expanded not only at regional level but global level as well. It has become the largest importer of energy, exporter of goods. Its foreign direct investment touches to \$1.8 trillion (Shicun and Colombage, 2019) in almost 189 countries of the world. In addition to this, more than ten million Chinese people are working and studying in various countries of the world. On the other hand, US is world largest economy and threatened by the China has outbreak the ongoing "trade war". It could not be seen as single event between China and US but it is the part of all those effort that are made to contain the China. World other power, like European powers are also the part of this trade war. For example the last year meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos has discussed the most thing are the Chinese economy.

Moreover, the initiative took by China for the sake of economic cooperation in region, would have direct impact on the implementation of the Indo-Pacific strategy. In view of various American Scholars, the flagship project of China, BRI and its extension toward Pakistan CPEC, are seen as geo-economic and geo-political integration in region. US did not wanted to remain it open and taking possible initiative to produce the counter balance in region. Hence, Indo-Pacific strategy will be a hindrance in the implementation of the BRI. Investors will restrict themselves as Indo-Pacific strategy poses threat to BRI.

In addition, China is suffering with great controversy in South China Sea. Since 2012, United State is seriously interfering in conflict among Vietnam, China, Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia to determine the maritime and territorial jurisdiction. For that purpose, United State is rapidly increasing its deployment in the South China Sea in the frame of the Indo-Pacific. This act of US might be a way to contain

the Chinese extension in economy and diplomatic cooperation of region. (Shicun, W. and Colombage, J., 2019)

China is confronting with its neighbors in South China Sea. Due to this reason, the relations of China with its neighbors are cooled. Conflict with India on *Galwan Valley*, did not find better relations. China is aspirant to have warm relations with India. The using the shoulder of India by US, to contain China, has made India a main contender of China. (DEV, 2022)

### **Implications for Pakistan**

Pakistan and India are not enjoying the warm relations due to their territorial conflict since the inception of both on world map. The military line up of India in the Indian Ocean might be perilous for the sovereignty and security particularly naval security. Both have been facing terrorism and blaming each other the mastering of terrorism. This mistrust and military line up of India in Indian Ocean might be happened a big incident between two Nuclear powers. In the mean while Pakistan and China both are enjoying the friendly relations. China is investing a huge wealth in Pakistan through the CPEC. Heavy investments of China in Pakistan have made Pakistan a strategic partner of China. US is trying to enhance its sphere of influence so that it can contain China. US is supporting India with heavy weapons and advance military technology in view of containing China. These developments might be a security threat for Pakistan as two third of all weapons importing from US has been using against Pakistan. (Tahirkheli, 2022)

Pakistan is a tactical partner of US and India has emerged as strategic partner. In south Asia, US recognized India as leading power. So, US no longer, will be treating India and Pakistan as an equal competitor in South Asian region. India is going to deal five billion dollars with US to buy conventional weapons, supersonic fighter jets, highly sophisticated weapons missiles and many others military equipment. It will create imbalance in the region that might be security threat for the region and for the sovereignty and security of Pakistan as well. (Fatima and Mabool, 2022)

Indo-pacific strategy was designated to manage the rising Chinese threat in the region but it has produced security complex for Pakistan. (Fatima and Maqbool, 2002) China has large investment in Pakistan in the name of CPEC, which make Pakistan a strategic and economic partner of China, so strategy against China will definitely affect the Pakistan. India is the center of the Indo-Pacific strategy and always shows aggression on the development of the CPEC might pose a real threat to the practicality of CPEC. US, who has also expressed apprehensions multiple times regarding CPEC, may try to roll back the CPEC under Indo-Pacific strategy. Therefore Siddiqi (2018) urged Pakistan to adopt 'hedging' option strategy to maximize its return and minimize risk.

*Gwadar* port is an important point of CPEC that connects the land route with the Sea routes. It is becoming an economic hub for trade with other countries like UAE, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar. Under the Indo-Pacific strategy India is envisioned to play a leading role in Indian Ocean to curtail the developmental process of *Gwadar*. Moreover, India is working on fostering insurgencies in Balochistan to derail the CPEC. It also joined the different arrangements of Indo-Pacific strategy that amplifying its sinful activities against *Gwadar* in particular and CPEC in general. (Shaukat, 2022)

In recent times, Pakistan is facing an economic predicament. Yet of this, Pakistan is spending much more on the security and border management. But through Indo-pacific strategy India is getting military strength by incorporating the US advanced weapons in their military fleet have made the Pakistan insecure and pushed it to spend more on military and security in order to deal mounting Eastern threat ahead. For that purpose Pakistan has showed its aspiration to purchase advanced military weapon from Russia, China and Turkey (Fatima and Maqbool, 2002).

Moreover, Pakistan is confronting with issue of its balance of payment crisis and continuously dealing with the international institutions like IMF, World Bank which are working under the supervision of the US. Pakistan is not included in Indo-Pacific strategy due to its engagements

with China. So, Washington has no soft corner for Pakistan, might not suit to politics of Pakistan. The government of Pakistan and establishment always look toward US for any political engagements with other. This situation finds Pakistan in whirl of confusion and will produced far reaching effects on politics of Pakistan. (Shaukat, 2022). Malik (2023) opines that if US may include Pakistan in Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS), it will limit the china's expansion on one hand and will certainly strengthen the US position.

### **Pakistan's initiatives**

Pakistan is a strategic partner of China. Pakistan is working with China in economic corridors that will helpful for Pakistan's stability especially, economic stability. Pakistan has also been working in naval development with China to counter Indian aggression in Indian Ocean. Pakistan developed HANGOR Class Submarine that is indigenus project of Pakistan. Pakistan and China are also working some project in Pakistan. These are 08 x HONGER Class Submarine including 04 under constructions at Wuchag Shipbuilding Industry Group in China and 04 others being built at KS and EW under Transfer of Technology agreement. These Submarines are capable to undertake variety of missions as per operational dictates. (Ozberk, 2022). Pakistan is also working with RUSSIA, and TURKIYE. Pakistan started multinational Aman exercise in Arabian Sea with the help of Russia and other forty five countries. The main purpose of this exercise is strengthening cooperation, sharing experience, research and rescue operations at sea (Hunter, 2021).

### **Conclusion**

The geo – economics, strategic culture and balance of power is motivating factors for instituting the Indo – pacific strategy. This is basically a geostrategic concept that connected between two Oceans one is Indian Ocean and other is Pacific Ocean. Some new major power emerged in this region. India is emerging as major power in this region. The developments in the region are pointing towards Indian ambition of hegemon design that is a serious concern for Pakistan as one of the major powers of the

region. India's ambition to become a hegemonic power in this region can only be countered by taking counter initiative and countering measures by Pakistan through making new military alliances and new economic partnership with global powers. The main reason of these developments, apparently, seems to be countering China in this region. India is a major ally of US in this region and Pakistan is strategically ally of China. The balance of power is necessary in this region. The balance of power creates stability in the region. The stability will creates peace in the region.

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