US' Afghan Policy - Part II

Click here for Part I

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Why in news?

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U.S President recently announced his new Afghan strategy.

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What are the implications?

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- The policy was well received in India, with a promise of continued support with other partners.
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- By invoking a larger Indian role in Afghanistan, it might add to the pressures on Pakistan to cooperate with the US.
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- Pakistan is conscious of the dangers of antagonising the West, which was evident by its marked silence regarding the new policy.
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- But it also should be noted that Pakistan has got away with its misdeeds for the past 17 years.
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- So it would indeed prove difficult to turn words into action.
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- It will not be easy, however, for Pakistan to abandon its investments in cross-border terror and will urge US pressure on India to start talks on Kashmir.
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What is the way ahead?

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- A positive Indian approach would involve three elements — economic, security and diplomatic.
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- India must ramp up its economic diplomacy in Afghanistan to bring immediate benefits to Kabul amidst the deteriorating conditions in the country.
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- It must step up security cooperation with Afghanistan, especially in the training of its police and armed forces and intelligence sharing.
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- It must also remind the world of its commitment to regional cooperation with Afghanistan and Pakistan, in an atmosphere free of terrorism.
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Source: Indian Express

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