

U.S' Afghan Strategy

Why in news?

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U.S President recently announced his new Afghan strategy.

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What are the highlights of the strategy?

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- **Pakistan** - It is acknowledged the fact that Pakistan has been playing a destructive role in Afghanistan by providing support and sanctuary to terrorists.

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- **India** - India is the ninth biggest trading partner of the U.S. and India had a trade surplus of around \$26 billion with the U.S. in goods trade alone in 2016.

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- It pointed out that India makes billions of dollars in trade with the United States and in return it wants India to help US more with Afghanistan.

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- It recognized India as a strategic partner for security and economic development in Afghanistan.

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- Similar demands were made on South Korea, Japan and Germany.

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- By inviting India to be a partner in Afghanistan, it entirely overruled Pakistan's position that India's involvement to its west is part of the problem.

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- **South Asia** - It followed the previous administration's understanding of South Asia as a nuclear flash point.

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- It sees the relationship between Pakistan and India as worsening wants to prevent nuclear weapons of either of the countries from falling into the hands of terrorists.

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- **ANDSF** - It reiterated the centrality of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) in defense of Afghan values, and safeguarding the space for democratic & constitutional play by keeping the Taliban and other terrorists at bay with military and financial assistance of the US.

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- It clarified U.S' stance in Afghanistan as not nation-building but killing terrorists.

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Source: The Hindu

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