U.S.A's Asian Foray and Indian Ambitions

What is the issue?

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- U.S. recently released its security and defence doctrines which laid emphasis on Indo-Pacific region.
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What the doctrine is all about?

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- The National Defence Strategy (NDS) and the National Security Strategy (NSS) showcases U.S's strategic priorities ahead.
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- The documents show that US has shifted its focus from **Asia- Pacific** to **Indo-Pacific region**.
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- It highlighted the changing geopolitical realities in the region such as\n
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    - China's territorial and maritime advance in the Indian Ocean
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    - Regional instability due to North Korea's nuclear tests
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    - Prominence of Asian economies in international trade and commerce
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- NDS also seeks to further expand defence cooperation with India on military purchases.
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- Thus the document will serve as crucial policy indicator for India too.
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What are the stakes for India in the region?

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- **U.S. Factor** - U.S is increasingly expanding its influence in the Indo-pacific region through alliances particularly after its withdrawal from TPP.
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- It has built missile defence systems with Japan and South Korea to checkmate North Korea.
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- It has formed ‘Quad’ partnership’ to counter China’s rise.
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- **China Factor -** India’s neighbourhood countries has seen china’s investment in multiple infra-projects, which has given it a strategic presence.
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- At the multilateral level, India is checkmated by China on the issues of terrorism and membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
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- China has invested significant capital to push ahead its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
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- **Other Issues -** The region also faces security threats such as piracy and terrorism, which require a larger regional cooperative framework.
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- Economic integration and connectivity are other aspects that the neighbourhood needs to focus on for a shared prosperity.
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- Although, there is no other nation in contention, India needs to raise its stature as the chief deal maker in the region if it has to attain that converted status.
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- In the backdrop, India needs to become a consensus builder in South Asia, if it has to emerge as the “net security provider” for the extended region.
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Source: The Hindu

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