Security and Development: The Geo-politics of China-Pakistan-India Relationship

Pakistan is in the neighbourhood of the two most thriving economies, China and India. Besides extensive border, it shares rich culture, diversity of the environment, and history with the two nations. The expansion of the two economies, China and India, with their globally growing share of production and unprecedented, as well as sustained economic growth, provides excellent opportunities for development in the entire region. However, geo-politics in the region that articulates the relationship between any two of the three countries has historically been based upon the concerns for “national security”, primarily defined by respective elite groups instead of the prospects for human development. Ironically, the link between national security and human development is most of the time misunderstood. Postponing human development while taking the imagined concerns for national security as the priority not only keeps the masses in misery but also poses serious threat to national security. Consequently, neither human development nor the narrowly defined national security interests are achieved.

In the given context, this panel would explore how the bilateral relationships between the three countries primarily revolve around their “national interests”, while ignoring human development that could be advanced as a result of unprecedented economic growth taking place in the region. This panel would also explore the incongruence between the policies aimed at each country’s “national interest” and the ones needed for human development when “national interest” is given priority over human development.

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