

## **Certainly not the end of the road for the U.S.**

### **What is the issue?**

With the withdrawal of US from Afghanistan debate has abruptly shifted to the future of the United States declaring the withdrawal as the demise of America

### **What is the background of US's presence in Afghanistan?**

- The terrorist bombing of 9/11, which was a game-changing global experience transformed the geopolitics of the world
- Once the responsibility of the attack was traced to Osama bin Laden and the terrorists in Afghanistan, U.S. retaliated by overthrowing the Taliban regime and hunted out bin Laden

### **What are the benefits of the U.S. presence?**

- The U.S. presence in Afghanistan had succeeded in containing the dangers of terrorism for two decades.
- Considering that terror attacks and victims worldwide are three to five times higher annually than in 2001 (9/11), the benefits of the American presence should not be underestimated
- But the cost was high in terms of American money and lives.

### **How does the withdrawal impact the image of US?**

- Some predicts that this will bring down the curtain on the West's long ascendancy
- Others say that the damage can be limited if U.S. President Joe Biden resigns
- Some complaints that the U.S. has done the right thing in the wrong way
- Some remarks that the withdrawal may hurt U.S. President Joe Biden in the presidential election in 2024

### **What is the contrary view?**

- Mr. Biden pointed out, the decision regarding Afghanistan was about "ending an era of major military operations to remake other countries"
- As a true Commander-in-Chief, he stood by his Generals and took the blame
- The President has not even been provoked to attack the Taliban or to criticise the Afghan forces

- The free world has a responsibility to maintain the American leadership of the world till a wiser and more benign alternative is found
- Hence it looks that the demise of America as reported is greatly exaggerated.

**Source: The Hindu**

