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Pakistan and current Affairs - III

Q No: 4 Saudi Vision 2030 led by Muhammad Bin Salman will usher a new era of the Middle Eastern Socio-economic life. Critically analyse the expected socio-economic impacts of Saudi Vision 2030.

1) Introduction:

In 2017, Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman unveiled Saudi Arabia's vision 2030, a comprehensive plan to transform the country's economy, society and global standing. This vision aims to reduce oil dependency, foster entrepreneurship, empower women and revitalize the nation's culture. This plan has far-reaching implications not only for Saudi Arabia but also for the Middle East and the global community.

2) Saudi vision 2030 Led by Muhammad Bin Salman will usher a new era of the Middle Eastern Socio-economic life

(a) Reducing oil dependency: Saudi Arabia's
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economy has long been dependant on oil exports, which has led to a lack of diversification and vulnerability to fluctuations in global oil prices. Vision 2030 aims to reduce the kingdom's dependence on oil exports by diversifying the economy and investing in non-oil sectors such as manufacturing, tourism, and health care.

"According to a report by the Brookings institution, "Saudi Arabia's vision 2030 aims to reduce the kingdom's dependence on oil exports by increasing the contribution of non-oil sectors to GDP from 53% in 2016 to 70% by 2030." This shift towards a more diversified economy will create new opportunities for investment, employment, and economic growth, reducing the country's reliance on a single commodity and making it more resilient to global economic shocks.

③ aiming to foster entrepreneurship

The vision 2030 aims to foster entrepreneurship and innovation which are creating an enabling environment for ~~st~~ start-ups and small medium

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sized enterprises to thrive. The government plans to achieve this by providing financial support, streamlining regulations and investing in education and training programs.

According to a report by the World Bank, "Saudi Arabia's vision 2030 aims to increase the contribution of SME's to GDP from 20% in 2016 to 30% by 2030" (World bank, 2018). This will create new job opportunities, promote economic growth, and reduce country's reliance on foreign investment.

© Empowering Women:

Vision 2030 aims to empower women promoting their participation in the workforce and increasing their representation in leadership positions. The government plans to achieve this by implementing policies such as equal pay for equal work, providing child care services, and promoting women's education and training.

According to a report by the World Economic Forum, "Saudi Arabia's vision 2030 aims to increase the

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Participation of women in the workforce from 22% in 2016 to 30% by 2030" (World Economic Forum, 2018). This will not only promote gender equality but also contribute to the country's economic growth and development.

① Cultural Revitalization:

Vision 2030 aims to revitalize Saudi Arabia's cultural heritage, promoting the country's unique identity and values. The government plans to achieve this by investing in cultural institutions, promoting the arts, and preserving the country's historical and archaeological sites.

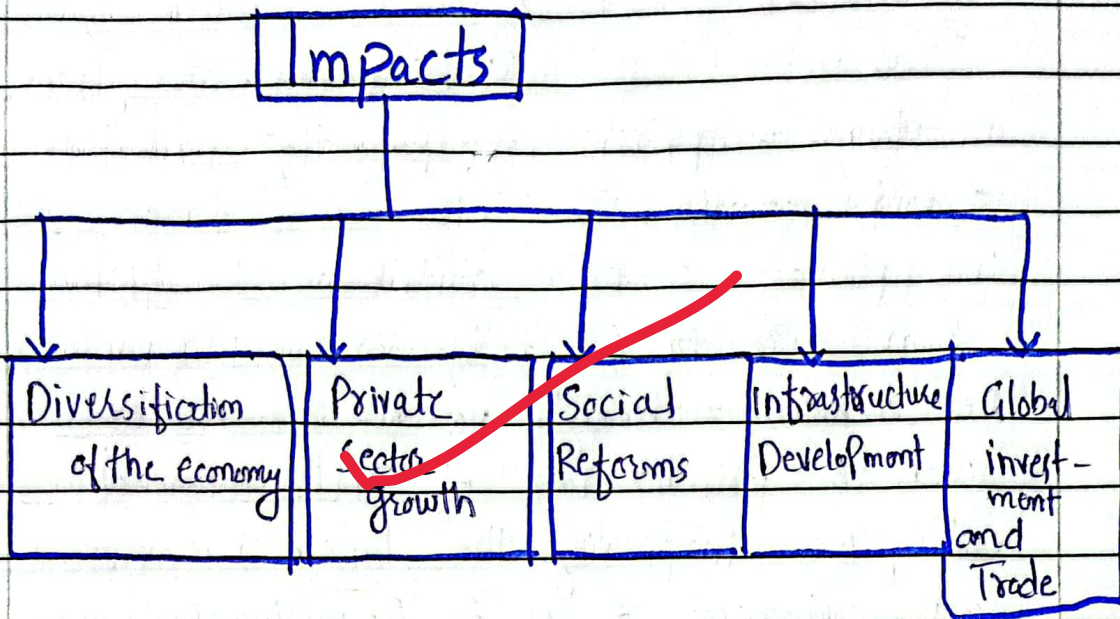
According to a report by the Ministry of Culture and Information in 2018, "Saudi Arabia's vision 2030 aims to promote the country's cultural heritage and identity by investing in cultural institutions. This will not only preserve the country's cultural heritage, but also promote tourism and economic growth.

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3) Socio-economic impacts of Saudi vision 2030



3.1) Diversification of the Economy:

One of the key expected impacts of Saudi Vision 2030 is the diversification of the economy away from oil. By developing sectors such as tourism, entertainment, manufacturing, renewable energy, and mining, Saudi Arabia aims to create new sources of revenue and job opportunities. This diversification will make the economy more resilient to fluctuations in oil prices.

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and reduce its vulnerability to external shocks.

3.2) Private Sector Growth:

Saudi Vision 2030 places a strong emphasis on promoting private sector growth. The plan aims to increase the private sector's contribution to GDP from 40% to 65% by 2030. This will be achieved through various measures such as privatization of state-owned enterprises, improving the business environment, enhancing access to financing for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and attracting foreign investment. A thriving private sector will drive innovation, create employment opportunities, and contribute to overall economic growth.

Add source against your references/stats

3.3) Social Reforms:

Saudi Arabia's vision 2030 includes a range of social reforms aimed at improving the quality of life for Saudi citizens. These reforms encompass areas such as education, healthcare, housing

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and social welfare. The plan seeks to enhance the education system to equip Saudi youth with the skills needed for the future job market. It also aims to provide universal health care coverage and improve the quality of health care services. Additionally, efforts are being made to address housing shortages and enhance social welfare programs to ensure a more inclusive society.

3.4) Infrastructure Development:

To support economic diversification and accommodate population growth, Saudi Vision 2030 emphasizes the development of infrastructure. This includes investments in transportation networks, logistics hubs, smart cities, and digital infrastructure. The plan aims to improve connectivity within Saudi Arabia and enhancing its integration with regional and global markets. It will not only facilitate economic activities but also enhance the overall quality of life for citizens.

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3.5) Global Investment and trade:

Saudi Vision 2030 seeks to position Saudi Arabia as an attractive destination for global investment and trade.

The plan includes initiatives to improve the business environment, simplify regulation, protect intellectual property rights, and enhance transparency. By creating a favorable investment climate, Saudi aims to attract foreign direct investment across various sectors. This will not only bring in capital but also transfer knowledge, technology and best practice.

Add more arguments in this part

4) Conclusion:

Saudi Arabia's vision 2030 led by Muhammad Bin Salman represents a comprehensive roadmap for transforming Saudi Arabia's economy and society. By reducing oil dependency, fostering entrepreneurship, empowering women, revitalizing cultural heritage, and positioning Saudi Arabia as a regional hub for trade and investment, the plan aims to create a more diversified, dynamic and sustainable economy. The expected socio-economic impacts including economic diversification, private sector growth,

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social reforms, infrastructure development, and increased global investment and trade. As Saudi Arabia progresses towards achieving its vision by 2030. It is likely to have a significant impact not only within the country but also regional and global.

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QNo:1 China's shock entrance in the Middle-

Eastern theatre has surprised the world.

Comment on the geopolitical shift in the gulf
with special reference to Iran and KSA.

1) Introduction

China's recent entrance into the Middle-Eastern theatre has sent shockwaves around the world. With its Belt and Road initiative (BRI) and Strategic Partnerships, China is poised to reshape the geopolitical landscape of the region. This ~~shift~~ shift has significant implications for the Gulf region, particularly for Iran and Saudi Arabia.

2) China's shock entrance in the Middle - Eastern has surprised the world.

2.1) Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

China's Belt and Road initiative is a massive infrastructure development project aimed at connecting
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China with Europe, Africa, and other parts of Asia. The BRI includes a network of railways, roads, ports, and sea routes that will facilitate trade and investment between China and other countries. The BRI has already made significant inroads in the Middle East, China is investing heavily in countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates.

2.2) Strategic Partnerships

China has also formed strategic partnerships with several countries in the Gulf region. For example, China has signed a number of agreements with Saudi Arabia, including a \$65 billion deal for Saudi Aramco to invest in a refinery and petrochemical complex in China. China also has signed agreements with the UAE and Oman, among others also. These partnerships are significant because they give China a foothold in the region and allow it to exert its influence in ways that were, previously not possible.

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3) Geopolitical Shift in the Gulf region.

China's growing presence in the Gulf region has led to a significant geopolitical shift in the area. The traditional balance of power, in the region, which was dominated by the United States and its allies, has been disrupted by China's rising influence.

One of the most notable impacts of China's entrance in the Gulf region has been the changing dynamics between Iran and KSA. For decades, these two countries have been at odds over a range of issues, including religion, politics, and energy. However, with China's growing influence in the region, both countries have been forced to reassess their priorities and adjust their strategies accordingly.

3.1) Iran and China's growing relationship

Iran, which has been subject to economic sanctions by the United States and other western

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Countries for many years, has found a valuable partner in China. China has been one of the few countries willing to defy US sanctions and continue to invest in Iran's energy sector. As a result, Iran has become one of China's largest oil suppliers, and the two countries have strengthened their economic ties in recent years.

Moreover, China's BRI has provided Iran with an opportunity to expand its own infrastructure and connect with other parts of Asia and Europe.

This has helped to reduce Iran's dependence on the Strait of Hormuz, which has long been a source of tension between Iran and the United States.

3.2) KSA and China's growing relationship

KSA, on the other hand, has also been strengthening its ties with China in recent years. The two countries have signed a range of agreements on energy, trade, and investment. And

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China has become one of KSA's largest trading partners.

Moreover, KSA has been working closely with China to develop its own infrastructure and diversify its economy, as part of its vision 2030 plan. This plan aims to reduce KSA's dependence on oil exports and create a more diversified economy, and China has been a key partner in this effort.

4) Conclusion:

China's entrance in the Gulf has brought about a significant geopolitical shift in the region. China's relationship with both Iran and KSA have created a complex web of alliances and interests. China's shock entrance in the Middle East when China started a Belt and Road initiative, Strategic Partnerships and so on. As China's influence in the region continues to grow, it is likely to have a profound impact on the geopolitics of the Gulf and the wider Middle East.

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Q No: 2 Indo-American naval build-up in the Indo-Pacific region is posing multiple challenges to Islamabad. Enlist the challenges and devise a strategy to cope up with these challenges.

1) Introduction:

The Indo-American naval buildup in the Indo-Pacific region has indeed posed multiple challenges to Islamabad. These challenges can be categorized into military, diplomatic and economic aspects. To cope with these challenges, Pakistan can adopt a multifaceted strategy that includes enhancing its own naval capacities, strengthening regional alliances, engaging in diplomatic negotiations and diversifying its economic partnerships.

2) Indo-American naval build up in the Indo-Pacific region is posing multiple challenges to Islamabad.

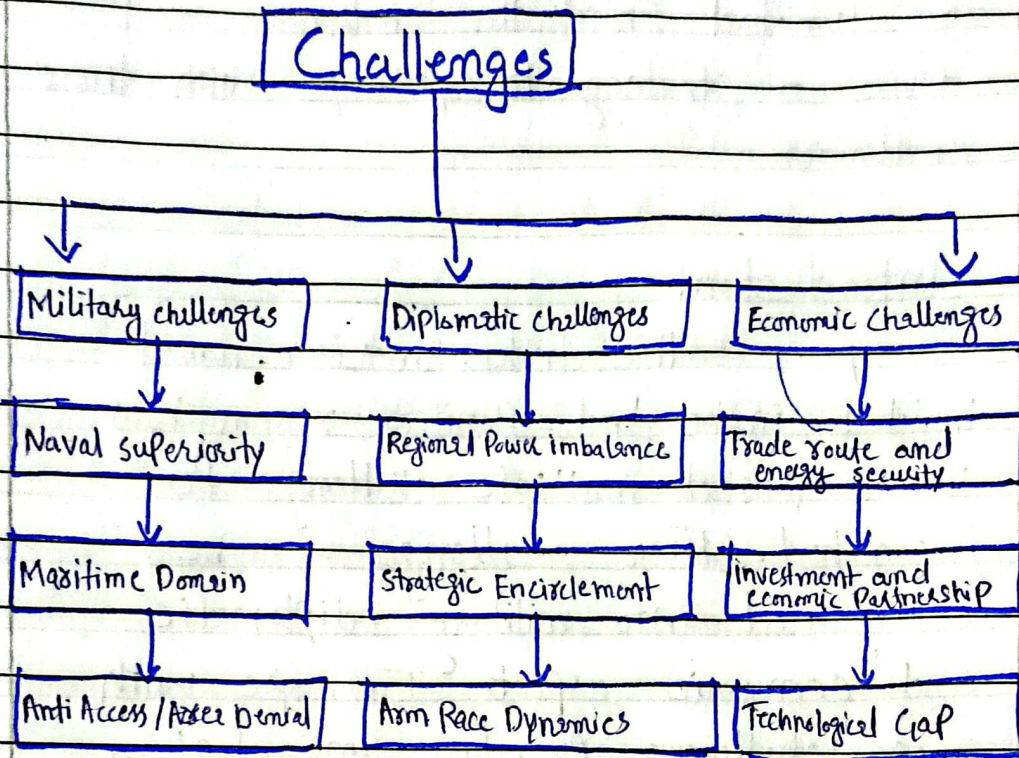
There are many challenges to Islamabad from Indo-American naval

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build up in the Indo-Pacific has created various challenges:



2.1) Military Challenges:

The Indo-American naval build-up has significantly increased the military capabilities and presence of both India and the United State in the region. This poses direct threat to Pakistan's naval security and strategic interests.

Ⓐ Naval Superiority:

The Indo-American naval
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build-up has resulted in a significant power asymmetry in the region. India and the US possess advanced naval technology, modern warships and superior maritime surveillance. This poses a challenge for Pakistan to maintain a credible deterrence posture.

(b) Maritime Awareness:

Increased Indian and American presence allows better monitoring of Pakistan's maritime activities, impacting operational secrecy and asset protection.

(c) Anti-Access / Area Denial (A2/AD)

Advanced anti-ship missiles, submarines, and aircraft carriers limit Pakistan's maritime mobility and power projection in the Arabian Sea.

2.2) Diplomatic challenges

(a) Regional Power Imbalance:

India-US cooperation creates a regional power imbalance, potentially diminishing Pakistan's influence in regional
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Forums like IORA and SAARC.

(b) Strategic Encirclement:

India's enhanced regional power projection can lead to a perception of strategic encirclement for Pakistan.

(c) Arm Race Dynamics:

The build-up may trigger a regional naval arms race, straining Pakistan's resources and diverting attention from domestic priorities.

2.3) Economic challenges:

(a) Trade Routes and Energy Security:

Disruption in the Indo-Pacific trade routes can impact Pakistan's trade and energy security through Arabian Sea.

(b) Investment and Partnership:

Increased presence of India and the U.S may divert FDI from *Salman Paper Product*

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Pakistan and limit access to economic partnerships, including the BRI.

© Technological Gap:

Acquisition of advanced naval technologies by others creates a technological gap, affecting Pakistan's maritime trade, ship building and defense industries.

3) To cope with these challenges, Pakistan can adopt some strategies:

3.1) Enhancing Naval Capabilities:

Pakistan should invest in modernizing its naval fleet, acquiring advanced technology and improving its maritime surveillance capabilities.

3.2) Strengthening Regional Alliances:

Islamabad should forge stronger alliances with like-minded countries in the region. This would help balance the power dynamics and provide support.

3.3) Engaging in Diplomatic Negotiations:

Pakistan should actively engage in *Salman Paper Product*

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diplomatic negotiations with India & the US to address concerns and promote regional stability.

3.4) Strengthening Regional Organizations:

Pakistan should actively participate in regional organizations to ensure its voice is heard and its interests are protected. It should also work towards enhancing regional cooperation on maritime security issues.

3.5) Diversify Economic Partnership:

seek trade and investments beyond the Indo-Pacific region. This would help reduce its dependence on the region for trade & investment opportunities.

4) Conclusion:

The Indo-American naval build-up in the Indo-Pacific region poses multiple challenges to Islamabad in terms of military, diplomatic and economic aspects. To cope with these challenges, Pakistan can adopt a multifaceted strategy that includes enhancing its own naval capabilities, strengthening regional alliances, engaging in diplomatic negotiations, and diversifying its economic partnerships.

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