

Pak-Saudia Defence Pact: Causes & Implications

On 17 September, 2025, Pakistan turned the long-standing security Partnership with Saudi Arabia into a Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA). It declared that the aggression on one of the nation will be considered as the attack on both. It change the security structure of the Gulf region and raises Pakistan's status as the potential security Provider in the region.

A. Major causes

1) Regional Security Challenges in the Gulf:

Recent rising escalations in the Gulf due to the Israel-Palestine conflict and Israel's aggression in Qatar, Lebanon, Iran and Syria has created security challenges for both nations which potentially lead to this deal.

2) Long-standing Security cooperation:

Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are old strategic Partners where in Past, Pakistan Played important role in

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Saudi's security architecture. There is a strong, working relationship between both of the militaries. The Pact only formalizes the informal 'special relationship' and upgrades it into a defence Pact.

3). Saudi Desire of deeper regional outreach:

Saudia

Arabia always wanted to extend its outreach and be a major regional player in the gulf region. This Pact, unintentionally, will help Saudia further that objective.

4). Nuclear Umbrella

Though the

formal agreement is not available in the written form but a careful language was used and the issue of nuclear umbrella was kept unambiguous. This unambiguity alone will play its role in recalculations of all the strategic equations and give Saudia a security and potential deterrence it needed.

5). Pakistan's Fragile Economy:

The signing

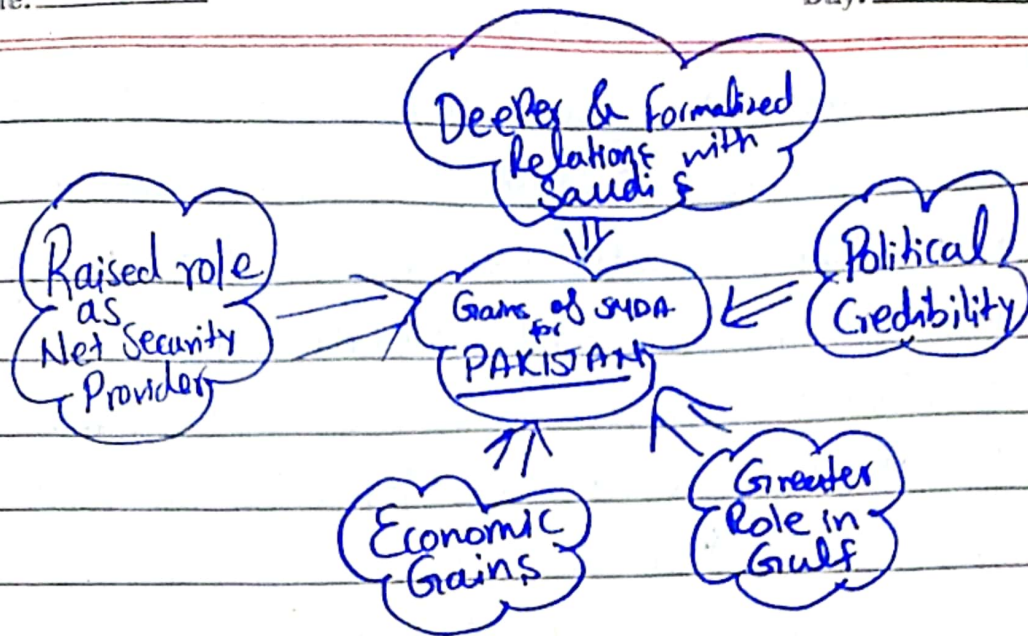
of agreement gives Pakistan an opportunity to improve its already failing economy by tapping into Saudi's oil money and raising the Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in the country. Pakistan can and is already availing the facility of deferred Payments on oil and can export even more manpower to Saudi Arabia as it depends on workers and Pakistan will get more remittances.

6) Shifting Geopolitical Balance:

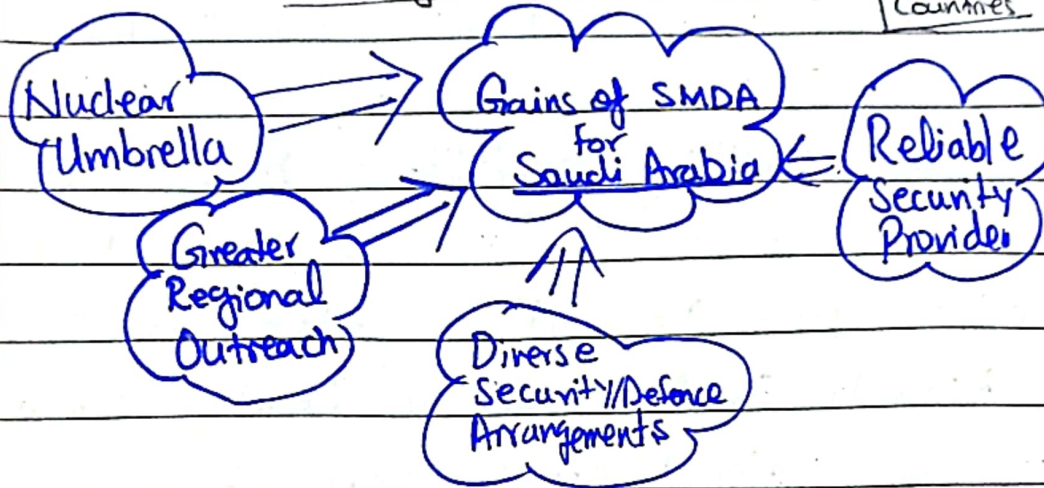
With the rise of China, the world is shifting towards multipolarity. Gulf is also recalibrating its moves by signing different trade agreements and shifting its focus from US as the sole security guarantor in the Middle East. The defence agreement with Pakistan is one such move by Saudi to diversify its options.

7). Political Legitimacy for Pakistan:

In the domestic Politics, this agreement was a big win and gave Pakistan's unpopular Political government some gains. It helped them build credibility and get some Public support domestically.



Gains of Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement for both Countries



B. Implications of the Agreement

1). Regional Deterrence and Security Posture:

As the agreement binds both the countries in a mutual defence agreement against any aggressor, it gives both countries a deterrence against any attacker. The aggressors have to re-calculate their ~~new~~ moves and review threat perception. The deterrence might include a nuclear umbrella as the

statements on this issue are deliberately ambiguous.

2. Third Parties Reaction (US, India, Israel, Iran etc.)

India has already warned Riyadh of the agreement's implication as this agreement poses a major threat to India's aggressive stance. Due to Riyadh's diplomatic leveraging and being the biggest state in the Gulf, Saudis can make India re-think of its ventures inside Pakistani territory and bring them to negotiation table. The US showed cautious acceptance and awareness of the pact before signing. Iran welcomed the pact but the Israel remained silent on it, apparently calibrating its position and response for the right time.

3. Economic Development Opportunity for Pakistan:

With this pact, Pakistan is in the right place to open its economy for investment for Saudis and do G2G agreements to unlock billions potentially. Pakistan has wide space in its mineral, oil, mining, off shore drilling, consumer goods and food sectors. Pakistan can now work towards a free trade agreement or preferably a

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4). Nuclear Non-Proliferation Watchdog:

The agreement's deliberate silence on the nuclear umbrella raises eyebrows about the ambiguity.

The eyes on both countries will increase regarding any such cooperation or technology transfer and it increases diplomatic ~~to~~ and nuclear non-proliferation concerns.

5). Opportunity to Extend the Block:

The agreement leaves a space open for other countries from Gulf or other Islamic countries to join the agreement and potentially turn into an Islamic NATO style agreement. Thus, giving Pakistan an even bigger role.

Conclusion

This Pakistan-Saudi Pact represents a recalibration of the security structure and threat perception in the region and benefits both the countries in terms of security, economy and regional influence. This agreement also raises challenges diplomatically and by the nuclear watchdogs. It also has a potential to start an arms race in the region or potential creation of more blocks for power balance.

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