

Q.8 Pakistan Saudi Arabia have signed a historic defense pact. Critically evaluate the causes and Implication of the deal.

→ Answer:

① Introduction

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia share a time-tested relationship rooted in faith, friendship, and mutual security interest. Over the decades, both countries stood for each other in times of political and defence challenges. The signing of the Pakistan - Saudi Arabia defence pact 2023 marked a new milestone in their strategic cooperation. This pact focuses on military training, production, intelligence sharing, and regional stability. The aim is to strengthen their roles in muslim world and reduce reliance on western powers and build independent security frameworks within the gulf and south asia.

② Pakistan - Saudi Arabia historical background

Since the independence of Pakistan, it was Saudi Arab. who recognized first Pakistan ~~and became~~ among Arab states. Moreover, both states relationship is deeply rooted in religion, mutual security and political alignment. To add to it, both have done several agreements in different Area.

Defence and military cooperation (1950-2025)

- 1950, Pakistan began by sending military advisers and trainers to Saudi Arabia to train their soldiers.
- 1969 - Pakistan sent their airforce pilots combat mission in support of Saudi Arab when Yemeni invaders crossed border - Pakistan defend their holy cities.
- 1970-1980 - Pakistan sent around 15000-20000 troops to Saudi Arab which are stationed at different parts to protect Saudi Area.
- 1979, Grand mosque operation, in which Pakistan neutralized the terrorist and freed the mosque from them.
- 2000-2025, The joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and counter terrorism activities happened.

even in 2018, pak joined Saudi led
islamic military counter-terrorism
coalition (IMCTC) - which later led
by Rabee al Ranaidh

Economic and energy Relations:

Saudi-Arab has also invested in economic
sector of Pakistan.

- Oil and gas, since 1970s supplied to Pakistan
on deferred payments.

- Remittances. 20 million Pakistani
workers in Saudi Arab send billions dollars in to
Pakistan.

- 2023-2025 - Saudi invested under the
Saudi-pak economic corridor (SPEC)
and plans for \$25 billion in energy, mining
and refinery projects vision 2030.
Both countries have supported each other
also in many other areas.

③ The Causes behind the pak-Saudi pact:

There are several causes which pushed
Saudi-Arabia to sign this defence pact
with Pakistan.

→ ① Israel attack on Qatar and its motives.

On Sept 9, 2025, Israel carried out

airstrikes on Doha (Qatar) by targeting senior members of Hamas leadership who were in meeting to discuss negotiation deal for cease-fire. On the other hand, Qatar was playing Third party role to reduce this tension in region.

Motives of Israel

- ① Israel claimed that Hamas leaders were planning new attack from Qatar.
- ② Israel believed Qatar was protecting Hamas and they also accused Qatar that they are talking about peace and ~~sheltering~~ still sheltering terrorist.
- ③ Israel wanted to pressure Hamas and mediators to accept the deal without any delay and conditions.
- ④ Political message to the region that Israel can attack any region if she felt threat from them.

② Declining Confidence in USA security guarantees.

The United States of America being super and most influential actor was seen as weaker in context to stop Israel and its aggression in Gulf states. moreover

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the gulf states rely on security guarantees which failed in Gatter attack as well as in Iran attack.

It is pushing gulf states to do security measure by themselves.

③ Regional security imbalance and nuclear competition.

Saudi and Iran do not have good relation. even they have conflict over Sunni and Shia ideology.

Currently Iranian ambition for nuclear capability is a rising threat for Saudi arab. Moreover, Israeli attacks over region is alarming situation that it can also attack over Saudi - so to counter threat Saudi needs powerful ally.

④ Pakistan-Saudi Arab Defence pact

On 17 Sept, 2025, pak-saudi signed the defence pact under the agreement "Any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both" Through this Saudi arbia gets nuclear power ally who provide and ensure its security.

Cooperation under the deal.

① military cooperation.

The pact transform the long-standing pakistan-saudi military partnership into a formal and institutional framework for ~~security~~ security collaboration.

Key components.

- ① joint military training and exercise
- ② exchange intelligence and counter-terrorism
- ③ military capacity program.

Benefits

<u>Saudi</u>	<u>Pakistan</u>
① Access to pakistani nuclear defence umbrella	① Increase defence export.
② strengthened defence against regional threat	② enhance defence diplomacy and visibility in gulf security affairs

(4) Technology and intelligence sharing

The pact will institutionalises sharing, especially in cyber drones, counter terrorism technology through which both will get benefit.

Benefits

- ① Saudi: get technical assistance from Pakistan in counter insurgency and threats.
- ② Pakistan: gets access in Gulf-funded technology, modernisation and intelligence sharing.

⑤ Implications of the Pact

① Regional security Realignment

The pact reshapes the Gulf-South Asia security map, placing Pakistan as a core military partner in the Arabian peninsula. ~~But~~ It strengthens Muslim led security cooperation but may ~~create~~ escalate Iran-Saudi and Pak-India rivalry by perceiving as security threat.

② Enhance Pakistan's regional Role.

The pact elevates Pakistan's status as a Gulf security stakeholder, giving its armed forces broader influence through training and joint exercise. Moreover, involvement in Gulf conflicts could strain relations with Iran. These joint training and involvement ~~can~~ can insulate Iran as well.

③ Strengthening muslim world defence cooperation.

The pact represents an effort to institutionalise defence unity in the muslim world. It may inspire muslim world to make blocs similar to NATO to reduce over reliance over USA. It can derive of the concept of Islamic military alliance which are initiated in 2015.

(4) Regional Economic and industrial Cooperation

The defence indirectly promotes economic security integration between Gulf states and the Gulf.

- encourage joint military-industry production.
- Pakistan's ~~own~~ economic recovery to Saudi vision 2030 goal.
- strengthens trade routes between the Arabian peninsula and global ports.

(5) Influence on external powers (USA, China, Russia)

The pact forces global powers to reassess their role in middle eastern security.

① US influence declines, as Saudi Arabia diversifies alliances

② China gain strategically. It will gain strategic ties with both states and secure routes for its global trade without any security issue.

③ Russia may exploit: The pact influence middle east and it will create

opportunity for Russia to sell his weapons here.

Iran and India

The pact may send message to India as a threat. Collective security and diplomatic assistance to Pakistan can push India to do either alliance with Israel against both to maintain its aggression in region. Alliance can be in military partnership to maintain their influence in region.

Iran, Iran has already several issues with Saudi Arabia and recently Iran also attacked over Pakistan. The pact can trigger security dilemma which can push Iran to make alliance with India so that Iran can counter any threat in future.

(6) Conclusion

The pak-saudi pact have potential to ensure both security and counter any rising threat against them. It has potential to ~~attract~~ attract Gulf states moreover there are several implications against this pact.