

Q#2

Q.2 Saudi-Iran negotiations brokered by China shows that Beijing is ready to adopt the role of mediator. Critically evaluate the statement and analyze why China could be a better mediator than US.

Answer

### Introduction

The ongoing negotiations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, with China stepping in as the mediator, represent a significant shift in global geopolitics. This development underscores Beijing's growing willingness to take on the role of a mediator in international conflicts. In this critical analysis, it is explored why China might be a more effective mediator in this delicate situation than the United States, examining factors such as historical context, perceived neutrality and economic influence.

By delving into these aspects, valuable insights can be gained into the evolving dynamics of global diplomacy and the potential advantages of China's mediation efforts.

### China's Brokered Deal between Iran and KSA

On 10th March, China played a role in bringing Iran and Saudi Arabia together to restore their diplomatic relations, which had been severed for 7 years. This agreement is a significant achievement

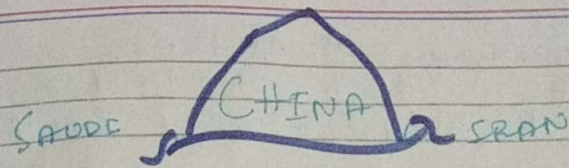
and has the potential to reduce the tensions between the two countries Saudi Arabia and Iran. **THE CHANGING WORLD ORDER** is becoming evident in the Middle East as demonstrated by this recent deal that signals a shift in Riyadh's policy towards the region and beyond. Traditionally aligned with the US, Saudi Arabia's decision to sign a Chinese-brokered deal while Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, has vowed to prioritize the country's regional interests and has successfully enlisted China's help in mediating between itself and its long-standing rival, Saudi Arabia.

China in turn, has positioned itself as a key power broker in the region, leveraging its soft power broker to secure economic, strategic and diplomatic benefits from the deal.

### 1. CHINA AS A MEDIATOR: Uncertain USA.

The involvement of China played a crucial role in speeding up the process. As a major power, China likely provided assurance to both countries, helping them overcome their hesitations and move forward.

However, the implications of this agreement between former US ally Saudi Arabia and its adversary Iran, brokered by another adversary China, for America's future in the region remain uncertain.



The diagram shows the China as a mediator between Saudi-Iran deal.

The Role of China in reshaping the regional order.

### a) Saudi-Iran Relations:

Saudi Arabia and Iran have long-standing differences, including political systems, foreign policies, and social norms. Their strained relations stem from power struggles and competition for influence in the Middle East. They back opposing sides in conflicts such as Syria, Yemen, and Iraq, with underlying tensions between Shia and Sunni Muslims and divergent regional visions.

Iran faces accusations of supporting Shia militants, while Saudi Arabia is criticized for promoting Wahhabism, a strict form of Sunni Islam.

### The Iran Saudi Arabia Rivalry

The Iran Saudi Arabia rivalry causes regional instability, proxy wars and humanitarian crises in countries like Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Lebanon. The Shia-Sunni divide deepens tensions. The rivalry divides the Muslim world and hinders peaceful solutions. It impacts the Middle East's power balance, global oil markets and international relations.

## Consequences of Conflicts:

a) This includes Economic Stalled Growth, increased military spending, and strained finances.

b) The Iran-Saudi Arabia rivalry raises human rights concerns with accusations of violations against dissenters and religious minorities. For this sake;

Resolving conflicts is for regional and global security, stability, and prosperity, emphasizing the need for lasting peace in Middle East.

## 2. China's Pivotal role in the Middle East Rivalry: Saudi Arabia and Iran.

China's pivotal role in the Middle East rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia rests on its economic connections and neutral stance, leveraging its influence. China can facilitate dialogue and reconciliation between the two nations. As a mediator with close ties, China can also promote regional economic cooperation through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) benefiting Iran, Saudi Arabia, and other countries.

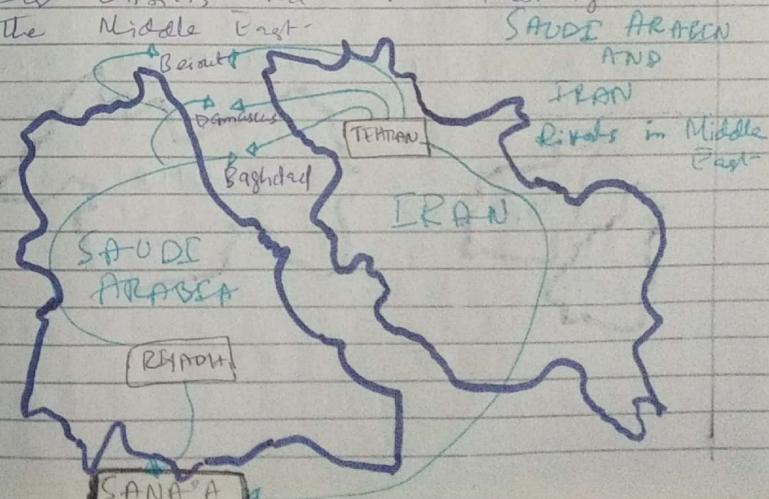
## 3. China's increasing influence in the region.

The recent Iran-Saudi agreement signifies a potential end to a challenging era in the Middle East. Both countries express a desire to move forward restoring diplomatic relations and enhancing

Security Cooperation and previous trade agreements. China's increasing influence in the region provides an alternative to Western Capitals in brokering significant regional deals. China's importance to Iran adds weight to the agreement, as breaking it could harm their relationship and the invested efforts of this tripartite agreement.

### China's influence in international organizations to promote peaceful conflict resolution.

China can leverage its influence in international organizations such as the United Nations to promote peaceful conflict resolution and dialogue between Iran and Saudi Arabia. With its economic and diplomatic leverage, China can play a constructive role in reducing hostility, supporting regional economic integration, and advocating for peaceful resolution. Through mediating role of China can help decrease tensions and foster stability in the Middle East.



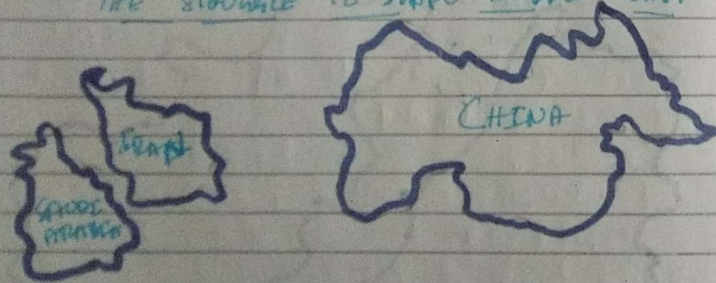
#### 4. Decoding the Deal: Analyzing the Agreement.

The Joint Trilateral statement, also known as the deal, sets a plan for restoring full diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. It includes the exchange of ambassadors. The statement was signed by important officials from Saudi Arabia, Iran and China.

It emphasized the need for both countries to respect each other's sovereignty and not interfere in internal matters. They had two months to meet and discuss the practical steps for re-normalizing relations and reopening embassies.

The deal also reaffirms previous agreements from 1988 and 2001, which focused on trade, investment, technology, science, culture, sports, youth, and cooperation between their security and intelligence agencies. However, it's just a roadmap its full significance yet doesn't provide specific details.

#### THE STRUGGLE TO SHAPE MIDDLE EAST



#### 5. "Saudi-Iran Relations: Moving Beyond Rivalry into a New Chapter"

Saudi Arabia and Iran, longtime rivals, have agreed to restore their relationship after several years of conflict, marking a significant development in the Middle East. The agreement, mediated by China in Beijing, includes promises to respect the sovereignty of other nations and refrain from interference in their internal affairs.

The countries also plan to revive their Security Cooperation pact from 2001 and renew their General Cooperation agreement from 1988, encompassing trade, economy, and investment.

After Council visits by Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi to Beijing and China Pres Xi Jinping to Saudi Arabia, talks in China culminated in a breakthrough. The agreement being point in Saudi-Iran relations, setting the stage for potential regional transformation and greater stability. The deal carries implications not only for the Middle East but also for global peace, and its continuation and momentum will be crucial for long-term impact. In this regard, Israel's former prime minister Naftali Bennett called the agreement a 'serious and dangerous' development and a 'fatal blow to the effort to create a regional alliance' against Iran.

## 6. Iran and Saudi Arabia's deal: A Challenge to the USA's Pursuit of Hegemony.

The recent agreement has brought attention to China's role as a mediator in the Middle East. While the US has traditionally been dominant in the region through various bilateral and multilateral arrangements, Riyadh has become increasingly frustrated with Biden administration's policies following the Khushoggi incident and the US's growing focus on the Indo-Pacific region. This has led Riyadh to turn towards Beijing, which has seen as an impartial mediator due to its non-interventionist stance in regional conflicts.

### The US in the region could not have brokered a similar deal.

The US, due to its involvement in the conflicts in the region and support for Riyadh, could not have brokered a similar deal. This agreement is particularly significant as it highlights China's influence in the reshaping of the Middle East, even in the face of US sanctions on Iran.

It also marks a defeat for Israel's policy of isolating Iran in the region, as other countries are likely to follow Riyadh's lead in warming up to Tehran.

However, China's increased role as a mediator does not necessarily mean the end of US influence in the region. Though US welcomed the deal as a way to address the humanitarian crisis and proxy war in Yemen, but it does challenge the US's hegemonic ambitions.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the involvement of China as a mediator in the Saudi-Iran negotiations signals its readiness to take on a more prominent role in global diplomacy. Several factors make China a potentially better mediator than US in this context. China's historical lack of direct involvement and perceived neutrality in Middle Eastern conflicts can provide a fresh perspective and build trust among the parties involved. Furthermore, Beijing's significant economic leverage in the region offers a powerful incentive for cooperation.

While the United States has a historical presence and influence in Middle East, its involvement often comes with perceived biases and political baggage, which can hinder effective mediation efforts. As this trend continues, it will be essential to closely monitor China's approach and its impact on the broader diplomatic landscape.

Q.4

Q.4 There is an unprecedented rise in militancy in the merged districts, KP and other parts of Pakistan. Critically evaluate the reasons and find the ways out.

Answer

### Introduction

In the rugged landscape of Pakistan's merged districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a disturbing specter is haunting the region—an unprecedented surge in militancy that threatens not only lives of its people but also the very foundations of security and stability. Beyond these borders, the ominous shadows of extremism are extending their reach into other parts of the nation.

In this pressing narrative, we delve into the complexities surrounding this alarming rise in militancy, examining the potent factors fueling this fire and the pivotal actions required to quell it.

### Overview of the militancy in Pakistan

Since August 2001, Pakistan has experienced an exponential surge in the violent activities by militant group, Tehrik-i-Taliban (TTP), directing its leaders to carry out deadly attacks, especially against security forces and law enforcement agencies. Despite the Pakistani state offering a wide-ranging concessions to the group, including efforts

to negotiate, liberating TTP captives, and repatriating terrorists' families, the insurgency has continued to escalate, causing a widespread fear and instability, and raising questions about the effectiveness of Pakistan's counter-terrorism policy. Given the significant challenges faced by the country in its fight against terrorism, the Pakistani government has pursued a variety of strategies, including appointment as one of the key approach to counter the outfit's activities.

**Focus on the merged districts of KP and other areas.**

### Terrorism: A posing Threat -

In recent times, there has been an increase in terrorism activities caused by group like (TTP) Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan and others supported by foreign countries in the regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan. Releasing terrorists from TTP without proper legal procedures and guarantees was not a good idea, and we are now facing the consequences. Pakistan had to face a heavy cost, both in terms of lives lost and political consequences, to tackle this foreign-sponsored threat.

Back in 1965, during the war with India it became clear that India could not defeat Pakistan in a direct attack so, they adopted a different strategy and used subversion and invaded the weakest part of Pakistan, which was East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

## Historical Backdrop:

The non-settled tribal Pakistan belt of Pakistan has never been governed directly by the center and not provincial government since the end of the British Colonial area in this region. According to modern understanding of statecraft, this region in recent history can be conceived as a stateless society in the sense that the writ of Pakistani state wasn't there because of large ungoverned or semi-governed spaces. This was not accidental but under the policy of strategic neglect aimed at safeguarding the northern/western borders of Pakistan using Pashtun tribes.

Between 1947 and 1977, the Political Agent (PA) appointed by the state administered this area in consultation with local maliks and elders through system of Jirga (tribal consultation) in matters of dispensation of Justice and litigation of crimes.

## Traditional structure was destroyed by the extremist elements

The extremist elements destroyed the traditional structure of governance in these areas, generally known as Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The FATA region and recently also the non-FATA Pakistan regions belonging to the province of KPK have also seen this wave of a fundamental take over at places such as Swat, which the Pakistan Army successfully

cleared and re-established its writ.

The army has undertaken a similar operation in the Swatine military has quite successfully cleared these areas in addition to defeating the foreign supported insurgency in Karachi.

## Reasons causing militancy in KP and other parts of Pakistan.

### 1. Political Causes of Crisis in Pakistan's Frontier

The main causal factors identified as the crucial common denominators were: the inefficiency and outdated of the Jirga system of decision making along with its concentration of the PA and the local malik; the utter absence of local governance in the tribal areas; the inefficiency of the frontier Crimes Regulations, FATA's non-mainstream status; Pakistan's lack of trust in the prevalent system and lack of elected national (MNAs) and provincial (MPAs) parliamentarians.

### a) Policy of Appeasement

Another reason for the re-emergence of terrorism is Pakistan's engagement in talks with the TTP from a position of weakness.

This allowed to give the militant group much-needed time and space to recuperate and spread its networks in Pakistan.

1) The first attempt to reach a peace deal was made in 2001, which ended with TTP scrapping the one-month truce and resuming attacks.

## Reversal of ex-FATA region's merger; b) demand and result

2) The second attempt was made in May 2022. It led to an indefinite ceasefire in June and formal peace process between the two sides.

However, peace talks soon hit a dead end as both sides not budge from their stated positions relating to the reversal of ex-FATA region's merger with KPK, among other things. The TTP wanted a reversal of the merger while Pakistan refused to accept this demand. At any rate, the 2nd attempt to reach a political settlement collapsed on Nov 28, 2022, when the TTP called off the ceasefire and directed its fighters to resume attacks across Pakistan.

As political turmoil continues to be a major concern, terrorist group are taking advantage of this situation and recognizing their networks.

### **(c) Banned (TTP) announced formation of new groups**

— Recently, the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) announced the formation of new groups, indicating that the organization is becoming more powerful. It is now expanding its influence by establishing new chapters in regions that are vulnerable due to religious and ethnic divisions. The TTP strategy is to target the most vulnerable areas in the country making security challenges and national unity more complicated.



## 2. Economic Causes of Crisis in Pak's Frontier

a. Economic Causes were a factor in perpetuating the Crisis includes redistribution of resources, led to active insurgency and war. The common elements that come out were lack of adequate infrastructure for economic activity; underutilization and maldistribution of resources; population explosion and lack of attention to agricultural development. They suffered from the lack of basic services that citizens of my country expect.

A current state of political and economic instability in the country provides an ideal environment for terrorist networks to thrive and strengthen themselves.

## 3. Social Causes of Crisis in Pakistan's Frontier

The social causes of crisis in Pakistan's frontier regions, particularly referring to KPK and the tribal areas, are complex and have evolved over many years. These regions have faced a multitude of social challenges that contributed to various crises. Below

Issue, a) **Extremist Ideologies & radicalization**  
The social causes of crisis in Pakistan's frontier regions, notably KP & the tribal areas, are multifaceted and deeply rooted in historical, cultural diversity within these regions has often led to tensions and conflicts, driven by competition for resources and political power. The presence of militant groups and extremist ideologies has disrupted community life, fostering insecurity and displacements. Low level of education and limited access to quality schooling have hindered social development and left the youth vulnerable to radicalization. High levels of poverty and unemployment exacerbate these issues, fueling frustration and discontent.

## b) **Traditional tribal structure and weak governance**

Traditional tribal structures and weak governance systems have sometimes failed to provide effective law enforcement and basic services, eroding trust in institutions. Gender inequality persists and environmental challenges, such as water scarcity, further strain the social fabric.

## b. Inadequate Infrastructure

Moreover, inadequate infrastructure encompassing insufficient roads, limited access to electricity and inadequate telecommunications hinders economic development. This lack of connectivity makes it difficult for business to thrive, constraining economic growth.

### Plays out / Suggestive Measures

- 1) Pakistan needs to shift its fighting mode from defensive to offensive counterterrorism. All stakeholders, including civilian law enforcement agencies, military establishment as well as political parties across the spectrum must be brought to consensus and a new military operation should be launched.
- 2) Engaging with the TTP for so called ceasefire agreement was neither viable nor will it ever be, particularly because, as a state, Pakistan would have to offer a lot in exchange to absolutely nothing. Moreover, because of such an agreement, Pakistan would itself invite criticism from the already sceptical international community. Hence, a zero tolerance policy against terrorism is the only option possible in order to lower domestic and international cost - simultaneously.

3) Pakistan will have to adopt a more proactive Counterterrorism policy, an analysis of factors underlying the resurgence of terrorism is important, as a comprehensive understanding of the problem will pave the way for informed policymaking. Without revisiting Pakistan's myopic Afghan Policy, a new Counterterrorism Campaign alone won't fix Pak's terrorism dilemma.

4) Furthermore, Pakistan will have to take a long view of the terrorism challenge because terrorism is likely to persist. Irrespective of the Pakistani response, any improvement or deterioration of the terrorism threat in Pakistan will depend on the evolving situation in Afghanistan. It is needed for the government of Pakistan to redesign a comprehensive plan of action against terrorism in KPK and former FATA.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, while the rise in militancy poses a significant threat, a concerted effort that combines both domestic and international measures holds the promise of restoring peace and stability to these troubled regions of Pakistan.

# O#8

## Critically evaluate Foreign Policy of Pakistan on Climate Change.

### 2- Introduction

#### (A) Brief overview

The climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges with the 21<sup>st</sup> century with huge geopolitical consequences for the global world. Greenhouse gas emissions have already increased temperatures and are drying up water bodies, rising sea levels, and threatening lives and livelihoods around the world. Catastrophic weather events, intense rain, dangerous storms, prolonged droughts, deadly heat waves, and uncontrollable wildfires are becoming more frequent and more severe.

#### (B) Profound implications of climate change

The profound implications of climate change posed by climate crisis are enormous.

The repercussions not only threaten people's livelihoods and impair development but raise important geopolitical questions that touch upon the heart of international politics: Sovereignty, territorial integrity, and access to resources such as water, food, and energy. The climate crisis has the potential to cause significant and highly uncertain impacts on societies, undermining human security and increasing the risks of conflict and instability. Addressing them requires a global-level strategic and coordinated response.

This is where climate diplomacy comes in.

## 2. Key policy objectives

Climate diplomacy encompasses the use of diplomatic tools to support the ambition and functioning of the international climate change regime and to attenuate the negative impacts climate change risks pose for peace, stability and prosperity.

Furthermore it entails using the issue of climate change for furthering other foreign policy such as, confidence and peacebuilding or strengthening multilateralism. Climate diplomacy also calls for preparing appropriate risk assessment and risk management strategies at a global level. This can be achieved through proactive climate action with partners worldwide, in diplomatic dialogues, public diplomacy, and external policy instruments.

Key Policy objectives on climate change are given, these include:

- 1) To pursue sustained economic growth by appropriately addressing the challenges of climate change; To integrate climate change policy with other - inter related action policies;
- 2) To focus on pro-poor gender sensitive adaptation while also promoting mitigation to the extent possible in a cost-effective manner;
- 3) To build climate-resilient infrastructure, To track impact of climate change on water, food and energy security of the Country and to implement remedial plans to support water, energy and

## Food policies

- 4) To minimize the risks arising from the potential increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as flood, droughts and tropical storms;
- 5) To develop climate-resilient agriculture and food systems for all agro-ecological zones in the Country; To promote Country's transition to cleaner, lower emission and less carbon intensive development;
- 6) To accelerate the Policy coherence and integration to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the light of 5 Sustainable Development Report 2020 (SDR 2020) and our National Determined Contributions.
- 7) To strengthen inter ministerial and inter-provisional decision making and coordination mechanisms on climate change; To facilitate effective use of opportunities, particularly financial, available both nationally and internationally;
- 8) To foster the development of appropriate economic incentives to encourage public and private sector investment in adaptation and mitigation measures;
- 9) To enhance the awareness, skill and institutional capacity of relevant stakeholders
- 10) To promote tree plantation, conservation of natural resources, nature-based solutions and long term sustainability -

### 3. Evaluate national programs and initiatives on climate change Policy.

3.1 (2012)

Pakistan developed its first National climate change policy (NCCP) in 2012 and in view of Pakistan's high vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, in particular extreme events, the major focus of the policy was on climate resilient development and adaptation.

(2015)

However, after Paris climate Accord-2015, Pakistan accepted to contribute to the global emissions reduction efforts. ~~Now~~ Pakistan has main focus on adaptation measures to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change through renewable energy sources.

(2017)

The National forest policy was in 2017 by the Government of Pakistan for promotion of plantation in the country, adding that the policy provided a basis for the federal Government to extend support to all provinces and territories towards achieving their respective targets pledged to forestry and meet international obligations by fulfilling capacity and financial gaps. Various major initiatives have been taken to implement the policy.

(2018)

The Federal Forestry Board was reactivated to ensure integrated efforts for improvement of forests whereas 5th meetings of the Board have been held since 2018. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan was

approved in 2018 to conserve the existing natural resources. The protected areas initiative was initiated to improve management of natural habitats of existing protected areas in country, adding that it was estimated that the protected areas in the country would increase from 12% in 2018 to 15% in 2023.

(2021)

By the United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) in 2021, Pakistan's Forest Reference Emission level was prepared with the support of all provinces to estimate emissions from Forestry Sector. Green Pakistan Program provided about 350,000 green jobs, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ten Billion Tree Tsunami programme, Phase I - is a four year (2019-2023) projects by Government of Pakistan with the total cost of 125.1843 billion. The project is being implemented across Pakistan by the Ministry of Climate Change along with Provincial and territorial forest and Wildlife departments. In addition to the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Program the last government of Pakistan has also launched the Prime Minister's Urban Forest Project, Clean Green Pakistan Movement; the flagship of National Climate Change Policy.

## 4. Pakistan In Recent COPs

### The 26th Conference

The 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on climate change took place in Glasgow from Oct 31 to Nov 13, 2021.

Pakistan along with other countries signed the Global Methane Pledge, an initiative of over 100 countries to curb methane emissions. Pakistan-Germany Climate & Energy Initiative was launched.

Pakistan and UAE also signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Green Cooperation on the sidelines of COP26. An event titled Pakistan Stands for Youth was also

organized at the Pakistan Pavilion at COP26.

Pakistan unveiled its Ecosystem Restorative Initiative. Pakistan's then climate minister Malik Amin launched a flagship adaptation program Recharge Pakistan at WWF Pavilion at Cop 26.

### The 27th Conference

The 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), recently took place in the Egyptian Coastal City of Sharm el-Sheikh from Nov 6 to Nov 18. It concluded with a historic decision to establish and operationalize a loss and damage fund. At the COP27, a landmark agreement was adopted by participating countries that will set up a fund to help poor countries being battered



by climate disasters, thanks to Pak's efforts. This is undoubtedly a first pivotal step towards the goal of climate justice.

## Conclusion

Climate change is a serious issue in contemporary era. In conclusion, while Pakistan's foreign policy on climate change reflects a commitment to the global cause, it requires clearer targets, enhanced mitigation efforts, stronger partnerships and a resolution of internal challenges to make a more impactful contribution to combating climate change on the global stage.