

# Current Affairs

## Question #04

### KSA - Iran Rapprochement

- 1) Introduction to Saudi Iran Reconciliation brokered by China:

KSA and Iran announced the restoration of their diplomatic ties on 10<sup>th</sup> of March, 2023. It is considered as one of the most prominent geopolitical highlight. Both countries had a strained relationship since many years. The diplomatic ties between KSA and Iran were broken in 2016 due to Saudi execution of a Shia scholar Nemi Al Nemi.

However, China has played a crucial role in bringing the two adversaries on table.

## 2) Implications of KSA-Iran Reconciliation in Middle East:

The Middle East had been a battle ground for Saudi-Iran rivalry since last many years. Saudi has been supporting various elements in Middle East that were against Iranian cause e.g Saudi support to liberation group in Syria. Iran supported the Shia government of Bashar al Assad in Syria. Similarly, Iran's Axis of Resistance includes various militant groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Houthis in Yemen. Due to these proxy wars between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Middle East had become a centre of conflict, terrorism and wars. Due to this rapprochement between KSA and Iran, there is a high prospect of increased peace in the region.

### 3) Saudi Iran Reconciliation ; Opportunities for Pakistan :

For Pakistan, these are significant opportunities in KSA-Iran reconciliation. These include :

→ Trilateral Strategic Partnership against terrorist and non-state actors in the region.

→ Cross-border energy and economic trade between KSA, Iran and Pakistan.

→ Increased prospects of investment in Pakistan's specific Economic Zones.