

DAY: Tuesday

DATE: 9-12-25

Syeda Taseed Fatima

CSS' 26

Current Affair

Mock # 5

Q No: 2

**Tensed Pak-Afghan relations
Major factors? How it could be improved?**

1. Introduction:

In the contemporary era of constantly evolving geo-political allies or ties, it is inevitable to avoid threat or security challenges. Today Pakistan is exposed to some geo-political threats on its 2648 km long western border with Afghanistan. Even after the mediation by China, the international relations between Kabul and Islamabad are strained. The unsuccessful mediation and strained relationship are fueled by long-term grievances over demand line, TTP cocundrum, settlement of refugees, terrorism and insurgency. These factors are playing a major role in deteriorating the social fabric and threatening regional peace.

Considering all these factors as a cornerstone of conflict between Afghanistan and Pakistan, peaceful settlement is still not an illusive dream to achieve. By taking some strict and effective measures like back door diplomacy, one-on-one negotiation, sharing policies for settlement of refugees and collectively countering terrorism in the regions Pakistan and Afghanistan can soften their strained relations.

Durand Line
issue

TTP
cocundrum

**Major Factors
creating tensions**

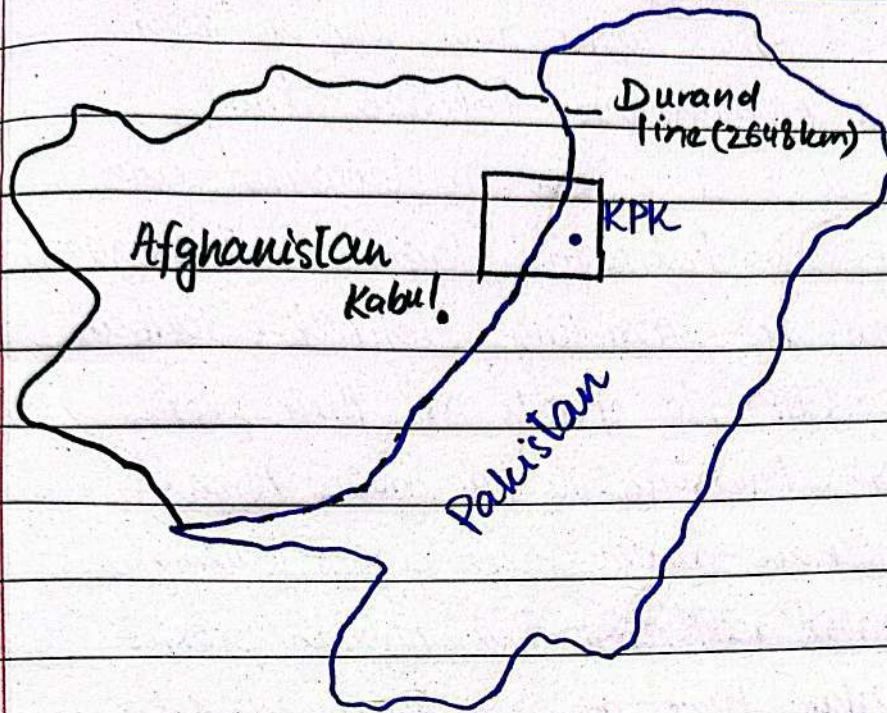
settlement of
refugees

terrorism &
insurgency

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2. Long-term grievances over durand line



Pakistan and Afghanistan share long-term grievances over durand line issue. Afghanistan is not satisfied over the border-settlement of durand line and claim its territory over KPK due to the pashtun residents. According to Afghan taliban, KPK was part of Afghanistan back then but due to unequal and unjust settlement of durand line, KPK got annexation with Pakistan. They identify KPK as part of Afghanistan and term it as Pashtunistan. This is how durand line is playing a significant role in tensing pak-afghan relations.

2. TTP cocundrum and proxy wars

Since after the war on terror against Afghanistan, Pakistan has witnessed a steep rise in terrorism and proxy wars. Pakistan claims that Afghan taliban are assisting Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to operate as their proxies against Pakistan. As far now, Afghan talibans have rejected these claims calling them false accusations. But Afghan proxies in Pakistan have admitted their identity in cases like Jafar express.

3. Settlement of refugees and security dilemma

Pakistan has ordered the return of Afghan refugees that has been living in Pakistan since Afghan jihad and war on terror. This has created a resentment among Afghans.

Pakistan do not want Afghan refugees to live and operate on Pakistani soil without nationality creating a situation of employment, settlement and food security. This is one of the reasons for tense relations among Afghanistan and Pakistan.

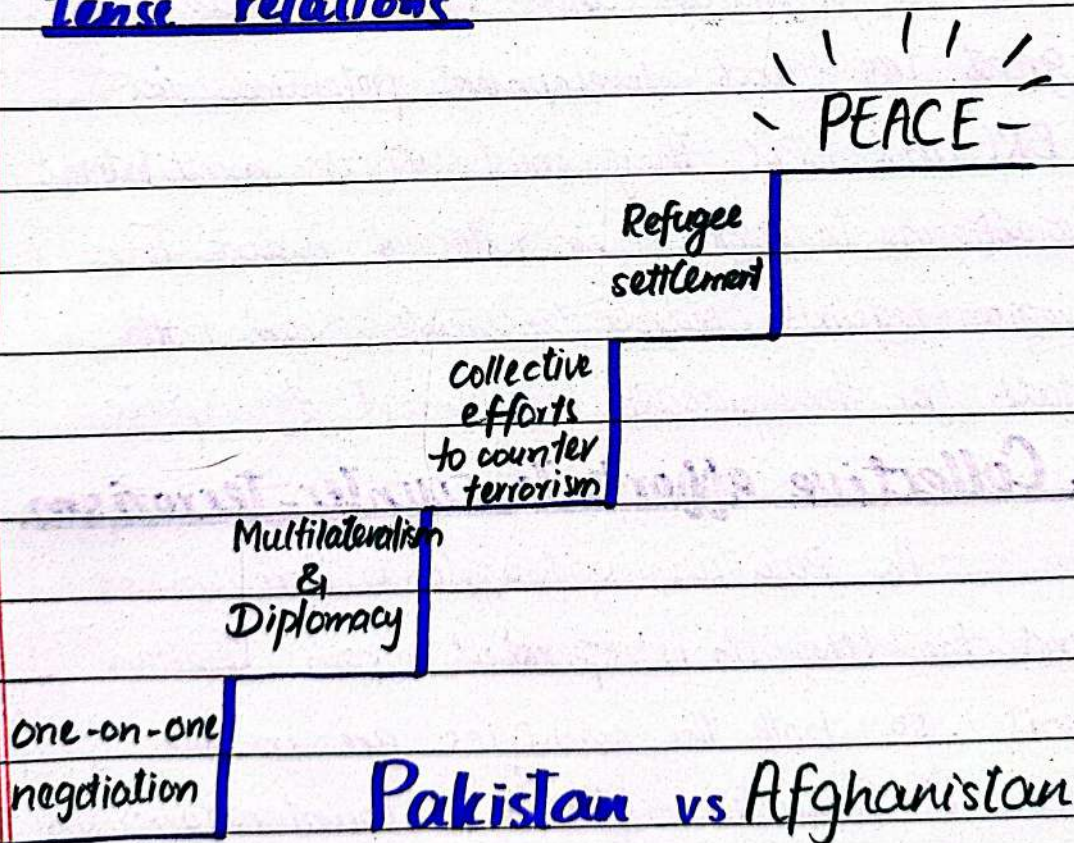
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4. Terrorism and insurgency in Pakistan

Terrorist are using Afghan soil near western border of Pakistan to create unrest and insurgency in Pakistan. Till October 2025, Pakistan has faced 300 casualties in hundreds of terrorist attacks being operated from Afghanistan - world terrorism index. This terrorism is playing a decisive factor in Pak-Afghan relations.

5. Way forward to improve Pak-Afghan tense relations



6. One-on-one negotiation between Kabul and Islamabad

Leaders or foreign ministers of both states need to sit one-on-one for peaceful settlement of long-term grievances. Peace is a collective effort and it must be achieved through communication and understanding.

7. Using multilateralism and diplomacy

Afghanistan and Pakistan have great trade and development potential via BRI and CPEC. They must act via multilateral platforms to resolve their external issues. The region requires credible diplomats from both states for the pacific settlement of dispute.

8. Collective efforts to counter-terrorism

As Pakistan is fragile to terrorism and the terrorism is operated from Afghan soil, so both the countries are in dire need of collective efforts to counter-terrorism in the region. Without collective efforts and required security measures, it is inevitable to maintain an everlasting peace in the region.

9. Peaceful settlement of refugees across border

Afghanistan need to act optimistically for the settlement of refugees across border.

These refugees hold the nationality of Afghanistan. Hence, it is the responsibility of Afghan border to make effective policies for employment and settlement of refugees.

10. Conclusion

By the time for now TTP resurgence, terrorism, proxies, refugee crisis and demand line issue has strained the Pak-Afghan relations. The region is facing a high security dilemma. But to achieve peace is still not an illusive dream. By appropriate considerations, diplomacy and security measure, peace can be prevailed in the region. As Faiz Ahmad Faiz wrote,

دل نا اُمید نہیں نا کام ہی تو ہے
لہی ہے غم کی شام مگر شام ہی تو ہے

"Heart is not hopeless, just momentarily undone.
The night of grief is long but it is just a night."

Qno: 4

Revival of militancy in KP and Balochistan. Evaluate reasons and give recommendations.

1. Introduction

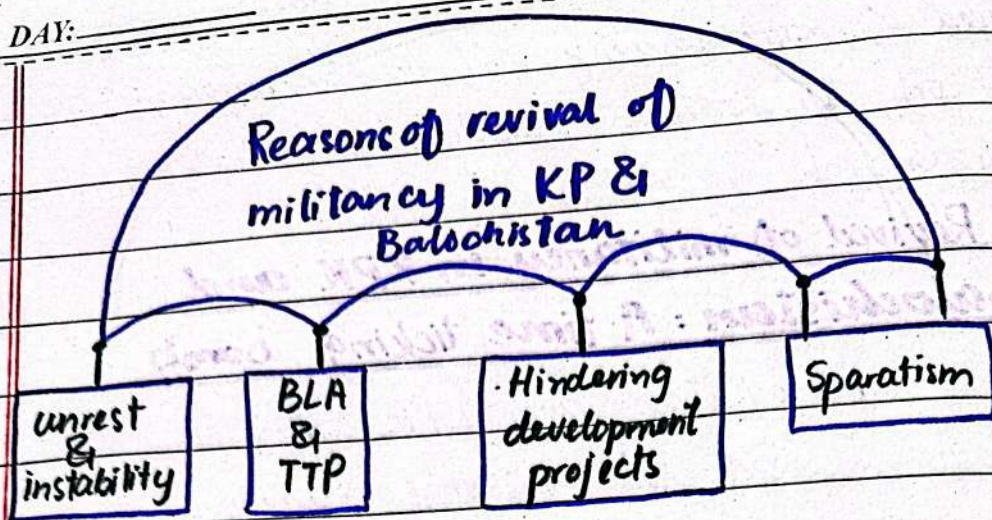
Resurgence of militancy in KPK and Balochistan has once again deteriorated the development fabric and peace of region pulling Pakistan into grey waters (Express Tribune) Balochistan and KPK have always remained fragile towards militancy and terrorism ever since the war of independence. Pakistan was able to deter this threat after 2016 but after the drawback of P US forces from Afghanistan Pakistan is again at the brink of militancy and terrorism. The Indian and Afghan proxies in the region are trying their best to restrict the development of multi-dimensional projects like CPEC and BRI by creating separatism and ethnic division in the region. Balochistan and KPK are in dire

need of strict security and counter-terrorism efforts to restrain Pakistan from stepping again into grey list of FATF.

2. Revival of militancy in KPK and Balochistan: A time ticking bomb

Balochistan and KPK are once again exposed the extremist ideologies of militants creating insurgency in the region.

The region is experiencing multiple cases of suicide bombing, kidnapping, firings and killings. The militants that are mainly the proxies of India and Afghanistan are targeting Chinese workers working on CPEC and at Gwadar, civil servants and common civilians. The incident of Jafar express and Bolan express was a clear evidence of militancy in which 64 innocent people lost their life. Year 2025 has marked as a deadliest years in terms of militancy in decade for Pakistan. With the rise of these militant attacks the bomb is ticking and can explode anytime pushing Pakistan again into grey list of FATF.



3. To create instability and unrest in the region.

Ever since the independence, have remain prone to unrest and instability either social, internal or external. The re-emergence of militant groups in the region once again arrows at the rise of instability and unrest in the region to hinder the development of region. This is the reason that Balochistan is lagging behind in development in comparison of other provinces.

4. Indian and Afghan proxies: BLA & TTP

International media and multiple other sources have confirmed that India is financially assisting its proxies in Pakistan to create unrest and insurgency. TTP has been recognised as Afghan

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proxy but so far Afghanistan has rejected these claims. While on the other hand, **Majeed Brigade** reknown leader of Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) has been authorised as a terrorist. He was involved in multiple terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

5. Hindering the progress of development projects like CPEC & BRI

One of the key reason for the revival of militancy in Balochistan and KPK is progress of development projects like CPEC and BRI. The Indian proxies and non-state actors aim to hinder the development of region. Thus by creating unrest, killing Chinese workers at CPEC and Gwadar and by kidnappings these militant groups are trying to restrict the development of region. This is the reason that CPEC-II was aimed to start in 2020 but due to the insecurity and militancy it was started in 2028.

6. Promoting separatism and ethnical division

The militants aim to promote separatism and ethnical division among provinces to initiate protest and instability over NFC award and resource division. These militant groups promotes the false narrative like biased government and unequal distribution of state sources among civilians to create unrest over resources.

7. Recommendations to counter the resurgence of militancy

It is better to counter the threat at its roots before it develops into a huge tree of destruction. The revival of militancy in Balochistan and KP can be countered by following measures:

↳ Providing additional security to CPEC

↳ Operations against militant groups

↳ Strict conviction laws against militants

↳ Strengthening anti-terrorism courts

↳ Intelligence operations against proxies.

8. Providing additional security to Chinese workers at CPEC

For smooth progress of CPEC and development of Gwadar, it is the need of the moment to provide additional security to Chinese workers operating CPEC and Gwadar in Pakistan.

9. Military operations against militant groups

To counter and hinder the revival of militancy, military should revive operations like operation zarb-e-azam and operation rad-ul-fasad.

10. Strict conviction laws against militant groups

The government of Pakistan should introduce strict conviction laws against these militants. This militancy attacks innocent civilians and civil servants hence they must not be set free.

11. Strengthening anti-terrorism courts in Pak

The rise of militancy and leaders like Majeed Brigade depicts eroded picture of anti-terrorism courts in Pakistan which are effective enough to take strict actions against militants. Effective structural reforms are needed to improve the efficiency of anti-terrorism courts.

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12. Conclusion

Militancy has again broke into our homes and this time with even more power. The children, civilians and on duty officers have fallen a prey to this nasty trap. The soil of Pakistan does not allow such militant groups operate freely possessing serious security threats to peace of Pakistan. By strict security operations against these militant groups, Pakistan can counter this emerging threat.

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End of Ukrainian war when demands of Russia and NATO are conflicting. Elaborate

1. Introduction

Russia and NATO being world military powers are on the horns of dilemma on the question of Ukraine. A tussle started between Russia and Ukraine when Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 and later on occupied Donbass territory in Ukraine. NATO opposes this annexation of Russia and demands peaceful withdrawal of Russia from Ukraine. While in a stark contrast, Russia is not willing to withdraw from Ukrainian territories. Rather Russia demands withdrawal of NATO forces from western borders of Ukraine. Although, Ukraine is not a part of NATO but NATO is willingly providing military and financial support to Ukraine against Russia.



2. Russian demands from NATO

Upon the question of Ukraine, Russia has two major demands from NATO:

2.1 Withdrawal of NATO from Russian waters;

As Ukraine is not an official part of NATO, Russia is against its military and financial support to Ukraine. Russia considers this war as its personal matter with Ukraine and strictly opposes the interference of NATO in between. Russia demands NATO to withdraw from its borders. Some experts have put forward the opinion that Russia-Ukraine could be future WW-III.

2.2 Ukraine to give up its eastern region

Eastern Ukraine is communist bloc while western Ukraine is capitalist bloc. Russia has succeeded in annexing some regions of eastern Ukraine. So, Russia wants Ukraine to give up its eastern bloc but with the assistance of NATO, Ukraine is giving a tough time to Russia.

3. Demands of NATO from Russia

NATO was developed to deter any threat to western peace. As Russia is creating instability in the region, NATO and European countries are opposing it. Here is what NATO demands from Russia:

3.1 To resume the independent status of Ukraine;

To maintain peace in the region, NATO wants Russia to stop war against Ukraine and to resume the independent status of Ukraine.

3.2 Withdrawal of Russian forces from eastern Ukraine

Moreover, NATO wants Russia to withdraw its forces from annexed parts of Ukraine to resume the territorial autonomy of Ukraine.



- Map illustrates Russian annexation of western borders of Ukraine.

4. With parallel demands of Russia and NATO, stakes of war aren't high.

As Russia and NATO frames a stark contrast in their demands, so by keeping these demands as center of gravity stakes of war aren't high in future between Russia and Ukraine. Let's dive deep to understand how stakes of war aren't high in near future:

4.1 Russia being a giant nuclear power vs non-nuclear Ukraine

Undoubtedly, Russia is a great military power. Russia successfully tested its nuclear missiles and atomic bombs during cold war. While Ukraine is a non-nuclear territory with limited military power. Keeping in view this argument, Russia can easily annex Ukraine in near future with credible deterrence.

4.2 Ukraine being a monkey on the back of NATO

NATO is spending its huge part of budget in providing medical, food, economic and military assistance to Ukraine. Since the war has erupted, Ukraine has costed \$200 billion to NATO, that itself a huge amount. As the war is prolonging, it has become a monkey on the back of NATO and without NATO Ukraine cannot survive this war being a small economy. Hence, this can be concluded that stakes of war and Russian annexation aren't high in future.

4.3 Ukraine; a weak and unstable economy

Ever since the war has been started, Ukraine has suffered enormously. Being a state smaller in size, economy and military than Russia, Ukraine cannot withstand against Russia for a longer time.

5. End of Ukrainian war

Keeping in view the nuclear and military power of Russia against small military of Ukraine and considering if NATO will ~~thru~~ stop assisting the white elephant then Ukraine can be easily annexed by Russia. If NATO forces withdraw from Russian borders, then Russia can gain control over eastern Ukraine putting an end to this war.

6. Conclusion

In an optimistic view observing the realpolitik between Russia and NATO the end of Ukrainian war is near because without NATO Ukraine cannot stand against great military power like Russia.

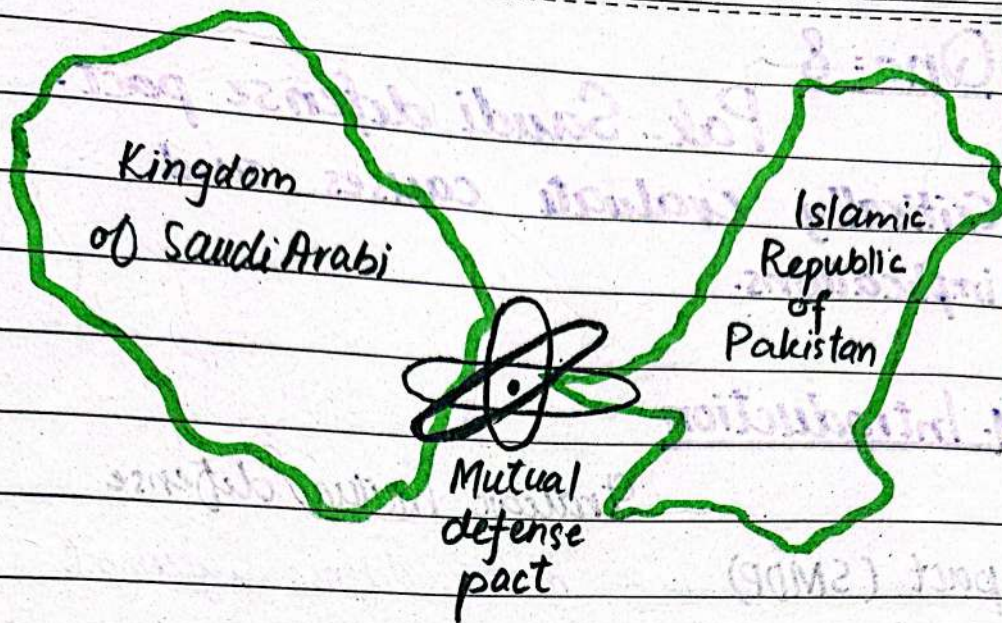
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Pak-Saudi defense pact.
Critically evaluate causes and implications.

1. Introduction

Strategic mutual defense pact (SMDP) is a historic defense agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Pakistan being first islamic nuclear power and Saudi Arabia being an epicenter of religious importance for muslims around the world signed a mutual defense agreement on 17th Sep, 2025. The agreement was signed to strengthen security bilateral relations and to deter a threat against any aggressor country. The mutual defense pact holds significant importance as it will promote trade and commerce between both countries. The defense pact has been appreciated by people of both state as both are religiously inclined towards each other sharing same religious identity. As Allama Iqbal wrote beautifully,

ہے ایک یوں مسلم تہذیب کی پاسداری کے لیے
نیل کے ساحل سے لے کر تاجاں کا شہر



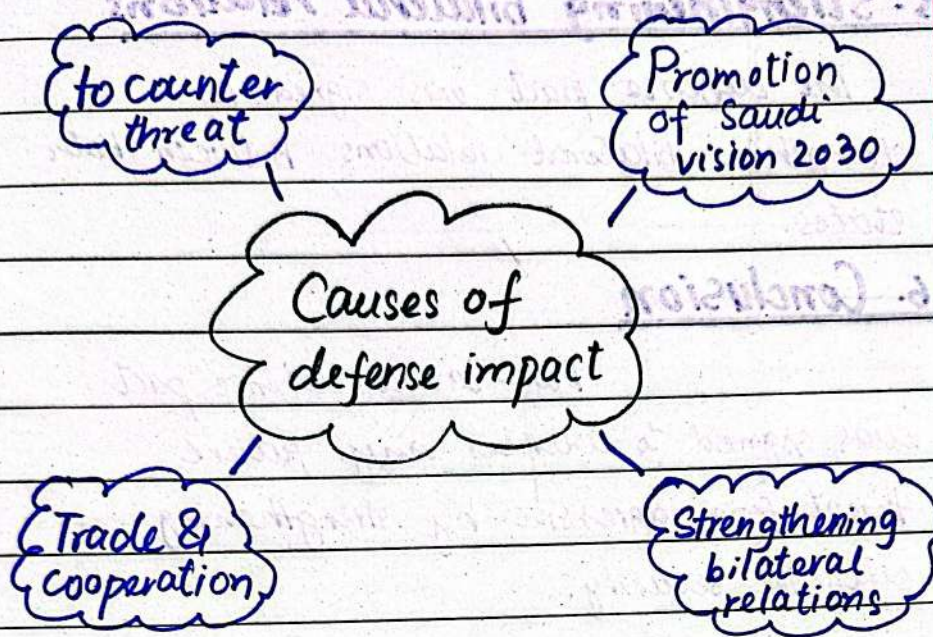
3. What do we all know about strategic mutual defense pact

A strategic mutual defense pact signed between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on 17th September 2025, aims at following objectives:

- ↳ Attack on one state will be considered as attack on both states.
- ↳ Both states will collectively counter the aggressor.
- ↳ Strengthening bilateral relations.
- ↳ Promotes Saudi vision 2030 of more cooperation and multilateralism.
- ↳ Strengthening economy by promoting free trade.

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3. To counter any threat from aggressive state

In the light of recent events Israel is behaving as an aggressive state in middle east carrying out armed attacks on Qatar, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon. So to deter such aggressive states in future Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a mutual defense pact to collectively counter any security threat.

4. Promotion of Saudi Vision 2030

Saudi Vision 2030 is based upon multilateralism and cooperation. This defense pact promotes Saudi vision 2030.

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5. Strengthening bilateral relations

The defense pact was signed to strengthen bilateral relations between both states.

6. Conclusion

Pak-Saudi defense pact was signed to counter any future threat from aggressive by strengthening collective security.