

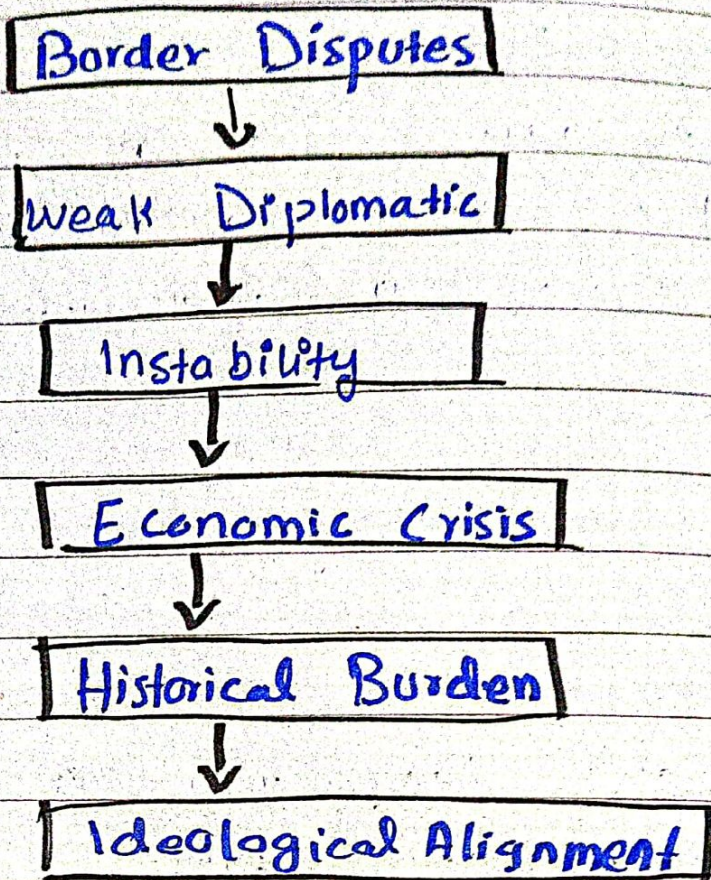
Q No 2

(Answer)

Introduction:

Pak-Afghan relations have historically remained volatile due to border disputes, security concerns, mutual mistrust, and interference by external powers. Even after China's mediation in 2023-24 aimed at regional connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative, relations remain strained. Both states accuse each other of harboring militants, and political engagements remain inconsistent. Analysts such as Barnett Rubin, Ahmed Rashid, and CCA China Report (2024) argue that tensions persist because structural issues border management, terrorism, and strategic competition have not been resolved. This situation affects Pakistan's national security, trade, border stability, and regional peace.

A. Why relations Remain Tense



a) Border Disputes and non-Recognition OF the Durand line

Afghanistan still refuses to officially recognize the 2,640 Km Durand line. frequent clashes at Torkham and Chaman reflect competing territorial claims.

b) weak Diplomatic channels and Absence OF Structured Dialogue

There is no regular foreign-minister level mechanisms. Interactions happen only after crises. Without constant political engagement, misunderstandings multiply.

(c) Internal Instability in Afghanistan

Afghanistan faces governance challenges, human-rights criticism, financial sanctions, and fragmented factions. An internally unstable Kabul cannot fully operate.

(d) Economic Crisis in Both Countries

Pakistan's economic instability and Afghanistan's sanctions reduce the ability to negotiate trade, transit, and border cooperations.

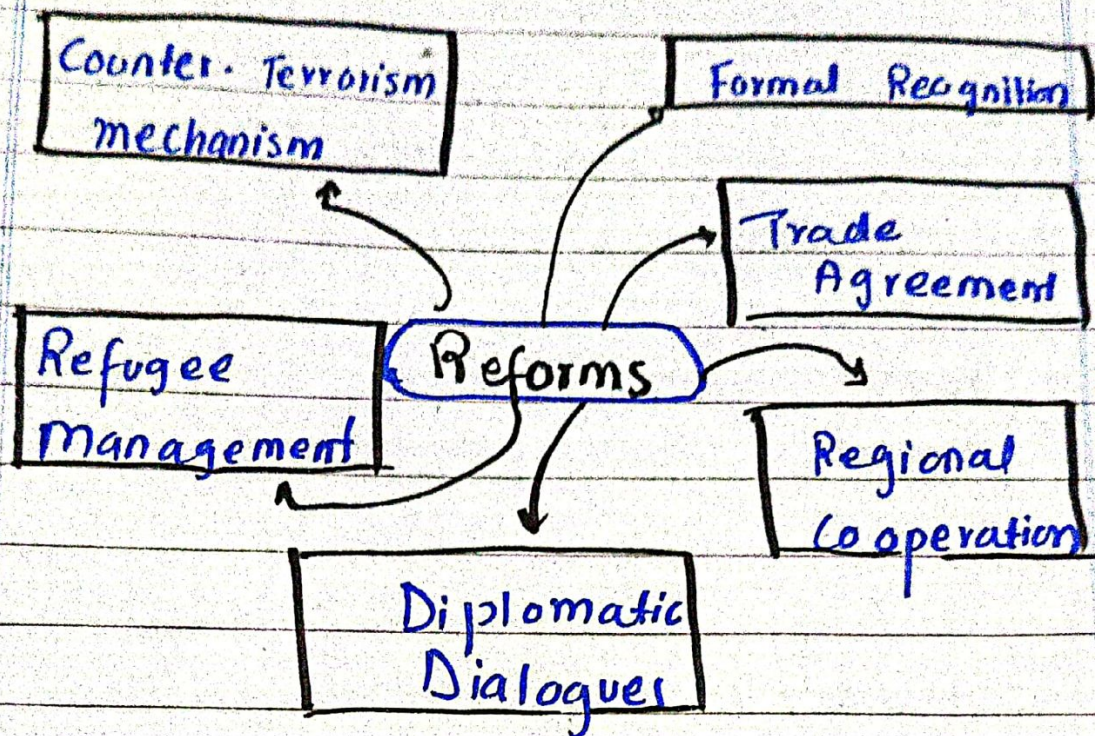
(e) Historical Burden and legacy of mistrust

The baggage of the 1979 Soviet War, 1990s Taliban era, and Post-9/11 Counterterrorism Operations has created a deep psychological mistrust.

(f) Afghan Taliban's Ideological Alignment with TTP.

Through the Afghan Taliban deny formal links, studies by UN monitoring Team (2023-24) show ideological and tribal overlaps.

How Relations Can be Improved.



a) Establish Joint Counter-Terrorism mechanism

A structured intelligence-sharing system led by Pakistan, Afghanistan, and China under a trilateral security forum.

b. **Formal Recognition of the Durand Line Through treaty.**

Not immediate but gradual acceptance via border fencing, joint patrols, and international mediation.

c) **Revise and Digitize the Afghan Transit Trade Agreement.**

Track-and-Trace Systems, digital documentation, and penalties for misuse to prevent smuggling & boost trade.

d) **Develop a Comprehensive Refugee management Framework.**

Biometric Verification, Voluntary returns, and coordination with UNHCR to avoid humanitarian tensions.

e) Restore Regular Diplomatic Dialogue

Quarterly foreign-minister meetings & reopening of Consular service to reduce friction.

f) Enhance Regional Cooperation Through CPEC extension.

Link Kabul to NL-1 energy corridors, and Gawadar port, economic interdependence reduce hostility.

Conclusion:

Pak-Afghan relations remains tense because structural issues - cross-border militancy, border disputes, mutual mistrust, and geo political competition have not been resolved despite China's mediation. Lasting peace requires a security-first, economy-linked, and diplomacy-centered approach. Counter-terror cooperation, formalizing the border, regulating transit trade and building regional connectivity through China can create long-term stability. Ultimately, peace between Pakistan and Afghanistan is essential not only for bilateral relations but for the entire region's economic and security architecture.

Q NO - 8

ANSWER:

Introduction:

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a landmark defence pact in 2024, marking one of the deepest security collaborations in decades. The deal includes joint military training, defense production cooperation, intelligence sharing, and modernization of the Royal Saudi Armed forces, aligning with Riyadh's Vision 2030. For Pakistan, the pact strengthens defence exports, provides financial stability, and enhances geopolitical relevance. Analysts from Arab News, SIPRI (2024), and Middle East Institute note that the pact reshapes middle eastern strategic alignments aimed shifts caused by Iran-Saudi normalization.

Causes of the Defence Pact

- Defense Technology
- Counterterrorism
- Strengthening Muslim-world
- China's influence
- Emerging Security Vacuum
- Military Cooperation

a) Saudi interest in Pakistan's Defense Technology

Saudi Arabia is particularly interested in JF-17 block III jets, anti-ship systems, UAVs, and training modules.

b) Counterterrorism and Security Cooperation Needs

Both states face evolving threats: Pakistan from TTP and BLA, and Saudi Arabia from Yemen-based attacks. Counterterrorism training from a key pillar of the pact.

c) Strengthening Muslim-world Strategic Alignment

Riyadh views Pakistan as critical for a unified Islamic defence posture. The deal enhances coordination within the OIC security architecture.

d) China's influence and the CPEC - Gulf Alignment

China is Pakistan's main defence supplier and a rising Gulf partner. Beijing quietly supports Pakistan-Saudi ties as they complement CPEC-Gulf connectivity.

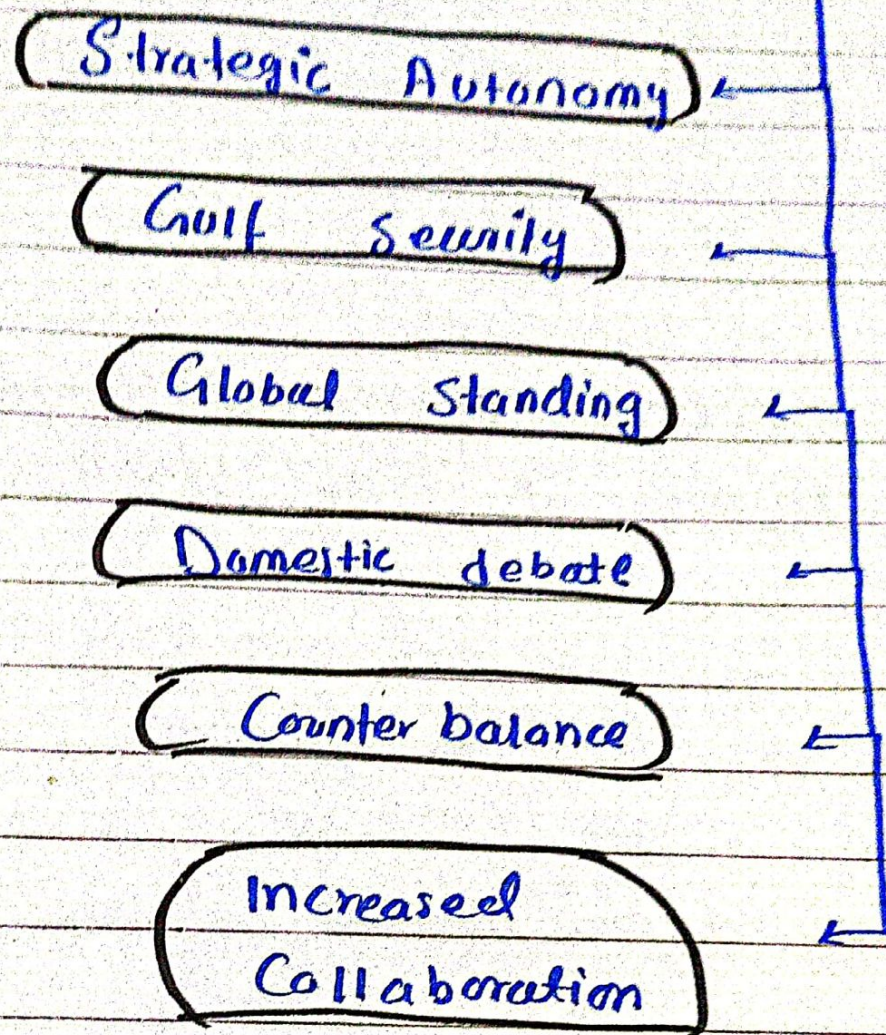
e) Emerging Security Vacuum After Reduced US Military Role

As the US scales back security guarantees in the middle east, Riyadh seeks diversified defense partners. Pakistan offers a politically neutral, reliable, and experienced alternative.

f) Historical Military Cooperation and Trust.

Since the 1960s, Pakistan has trained Saudi troops, deployed military advisers, and provided air defense support. The pact institutionalizes decades of cooperation, making it formal and long-term.

Implications Of the Defence Pact



a) Greater Strategic Autonomy for Saudi Arabia

The pact reduces Riyadh's dependence on western military supplies. By diversifying partners, Saudi Arabia strengthens.

b) Possible Iranian Concerns and Regional Balance Issues

Although Iran and Saudi Arabia restored relations in 2023, enhanced Saudi military capacity - especially with Pak help - may raise Iranian concerns.

c) Increased Expectations from Pakistan in Gulf Security

The pact may require Pakistan to commit troops for training or deployments. This raises debates at home, given parliament's earlier refusal to join regional conflicts.

d) Boost to Pakistan military Diplomacy and Global Standing

The pact signals that Pakistan remains a significant military power. It enhances Pakistan's relevance in middle

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e) Strategic Counterbalance to Indian influence in the Gulf

India-Gulf ties are expanding (UAE CEPA, Saudi-India investment plans). Pak Pact helps rebalance influence.

f) Increased Collaboration in defence production and Technology Transfer.

Joint production of drones, ammunition, and military vehicles. Strengthens Pakistan defence industry and supports Saudi Arabia's localization targets.

Conclusion:

The Pakistan - Saudi Arabia historic defence pact is rooted in mutual security needs, economic dependencies, and evolving regional dynamics. While it offers major gains economic relief for Pakistan, defence modernization for Saudi Arabia, and enhanced geopolitical leverage for both it also carries risks of regional misperception, domestic political debate, and strategic entanglement. Balanced diplomacy, transparency, and strict adherence to non-combat cooperation will be essential to ensure that the pact strengthens regional stability rather than intensifying rivalries.