

Test Series : Current Affairs

Topic : International issues

Question #1

- i Critically review strategic mutual defence agreement (SDMA) with Saudi Arabia and evolving Pak-Iran alliance. Analyze the potential impacts of these developments on balancing Pakistan relationship with both Middle eastern powers.

Outline.

- Introduction
- Saudi-Pakistan relationships - and SDMA
 - Benefits of the agreement to Pakistan
 - Benefits of agreement to Saudi-Arabia
- Evolution of Pakistan-Iran Relationships
- Impacts of the developments on relationship with both Middle eastern powers.
 - Strengthen ties with Saudi-Arabia and Iran
 - Enhance role of Pakistan in defence of middle east
 - Facilitate economic co-operation between both
 - Strategic Significance in relation with both countries
- Critical Analysis
- Conclusion

Introduction:

Saudi Arabia and Iran are the two middle eastern countries that held great importance in foreign policy of Pakistan since its independence due to shared culture, religion, and geographical location of the country. However, the relationship between both Saudi Arabia and Iran are constrained due to which Pakistan foreign relations tilted toward Saudi Arabia. But in recent years, Pakistan relations with both nations strengthened. Apart this, Pakistan signed strategic mutual defence agreement with Saudi Arabia and many memorandum of understanding with Iran. These shifts facilitate economic and military cooperation, and enhanced strategic position of Pakistan in defence of Middle eastern countries. This questions examines the shifting relationship of Pakistan with Saudi Arabia and Iran and recent developments among these countries.

Saudi-Pakistan relationship and Strategic mutual defence agreement.

Saudi-Arabia and Pakistan have a good friendly relationships since the independence of country due to share culture, ideologies and religion histories. These relationships strengthened by the economic cooperation among these countries. Recently, Pakistan has signed strategic mutual defence agreement with Saudi Arabia. On 17-September 2025 after the Israel attack on the Qatar. The main provision related to this agreement is "Any aggression against one country is considered as aggression against both countries." It enhanced strategic significance of Pakistan and strengthen economic and military relation between both countries.

SMDA is proved as a win-win condition for Saudi-Arabia and Pakistan.

(Maleeha Lodhi)

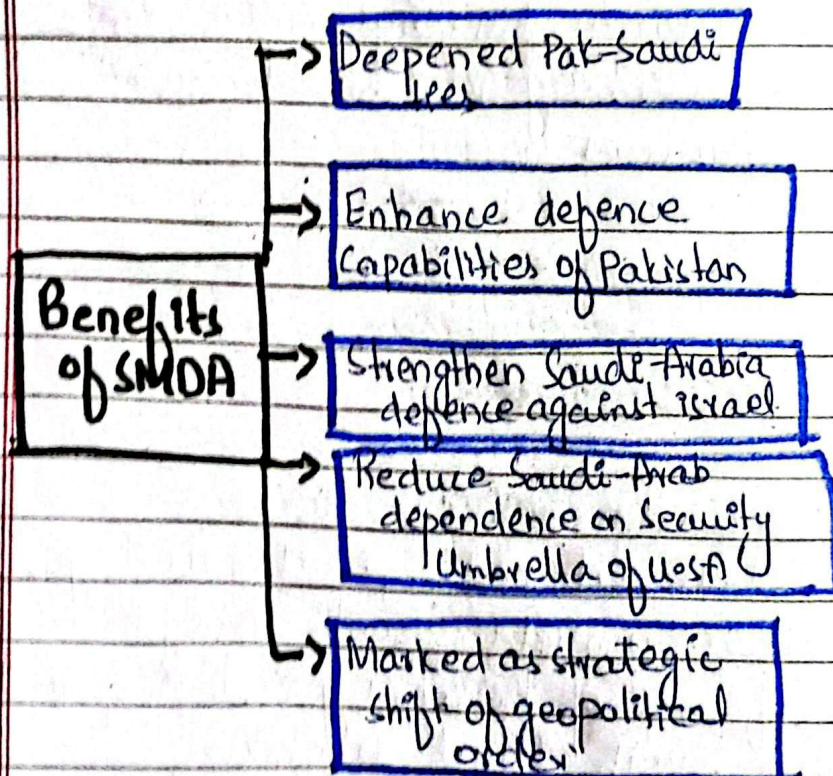
Benefits of SMDA for Pakistan.

SMDA enhanced Pakistan strategic position in middle east, strengthen defence of the country and deepened ties with Saudi Arabia. It portrayed Pakistan as the defender of Islam and fostered security

of the country against any Indian aggression on territory.

Benefits for Saudi Arabia.

It enhanced the security of Saudi-Arabia against any israelian aggression in the country. Apart this, it is the step through which KSA came out from the security umbrella of USA and tilted toward Pakistan for the defence of their territory. It help to deepened economic and military co-operation between both countries.



Evolution of Pakistan Iran Alliance.

Iran was the first country that accepted Pakistan in UN. They both have strong diplomatic and economic relationship before Iranian revolution. But after revolution, the economic ties between countries are reduced due to shift of Saudi Arabian foreign Policy towards Iran and Pakistan foreign policy toward US during cold war and war on terror. In recent years, the relationship among both countries are improving, as Pakistan signed gas pipeline project and memorandum of understandings. However, after the Israel attack of Iranian territory, Iran hopes for its defence increased with Pakistan. The diplomatic and military co-operation improved among both countries against Israel illegal occupation on Palestinian territory.

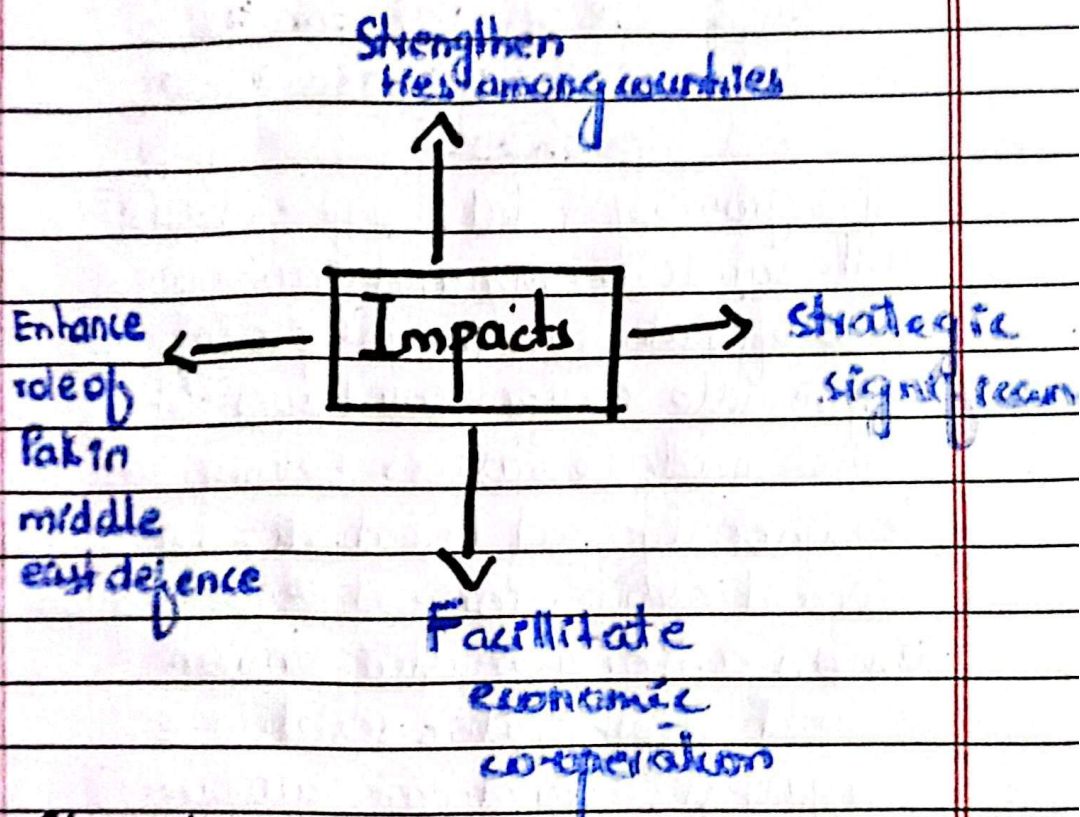
Iran and Pakistan have the friendly and strong relationship, as Iran hold great importance for Pakistan as a neighbour and Muslim brother

(PM Shahbaz Sharif)

Timeline	Iran-Pak relationship
1947-1978	• Iran 14 nation to accept Pak in UN • Member of SEATO and CENTO against communists. • Iran supported Pakistan in 1965 war
1979-2000	• Both are members of ECO • Relationship deteriorated due to Iran anti western Policy and Pak's shift toward US.
2001-2022	• Saudi-Iran conflict and Pakistan tilt toward Saudi Arabia • Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project • less trade due to US sanctions on Iran.
2023-2025	• Diplomatic relationship • Pak condemned Israel attack on Iran.

Impacts of the development on relationship with both Pakistan - Iran and Pak-Saudi arab.

Following are the impacts of SMDA
and Iran-Pakistan alliance on
the relationships among countries.



① Strengthen ties among countries..

SDA and Pak-Iran alliance enhances relationship of both countries with Pakistan. It increases significance of Pakistan in foreign policy of both countries. Before this, the Pakistan relationship with both nations are not too strong with both countries at same time.

Facilitate economic cooperation

The shift in relationship fostered economic co-operation among both the nations. Pakistan can complete its IP-gas pipeline project and get benefit from energy relationship with Saudi Arabia.

Enhance role of Pakistan in defence of middle eastern countries.

The growing relationship of Pakistan with Saudi Arabia and Iran enhance role of Pakistan in the protection of middle eastern countries. As the middle eastern nations are continuously feel threat due to Israel aggression. It can strengthen union among muslim ummah and diplomatic resistance against Israeli atrocities.

Conclusion.

Pak has deepened relationships with Iran and Saudi arab through signing SMDA and many memorandum of understanding. It strengthen their coordination diplomatically, economically and militarily.

Question #4

Outline

• Introduction

• Indo - Post Pahalgam misadventure

- Political impacts

- Economic impacts

- Social impacts

• Strategic Significance

- Shift of US toward Pakistan

- Strengthen Pak - China relationship

- Shift of India toward Russia

- Impact of Geopolitical shift on South Asia.

• Conclusion

Introduction

The relationship between India and Pakistan are deteriorated due to Kashmir issue. Recently, Indians alleged Pakistan as a terrorist sponsored country that has conducted terrorism on Pahalgam, Kashmir. On basis of accusation, Indian attacked the territories of Pakistan that has shifted geopolitics of South Asia. After ceasing, it further deteriorated the relationship among both countries and has serious impacts on economy, politics and society of the countries. Further, this attack tilted US toward Pakistan and fostered Pak-China and Indo-Russian relationship while deteriorated Indo-US relationship, shift of geopolitics of South Asia. This question examines the impacts of post Pahalgam misadventure and change in geopolitics of South Asia after this attack.

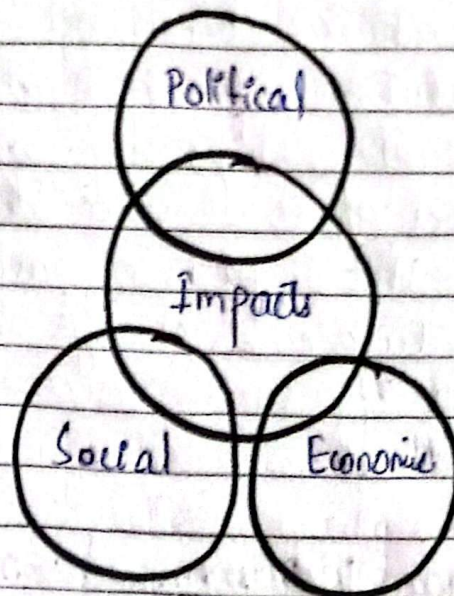
Post-Pahalgam Indian misadventure

India has conducted air strikes on the territory of Pakistan after Pahalgam attack, Kashmir. Pakistan defended its territory and

shows counter response result in escalation of war between two rival countries. This 4 days conflict was stopped by Donald Trump, the President of USA, results in ceasefire among both countries.

Impacts of Indo-Pak Post Pahalgam misadventure in May 2025.

Following are the impacts of Indo-Pak post pahalgam misadventure.



Political Impacts

The relationship between both the nations are constrained after that attack. Both countries

accused each other for the attacks and terrorist activities among both nations in international media and international platforms such as UN, and SCO. Moreover, India unilaterally suspended Indus water treaty after this attack that affects the agriculture of Pakistan that is dependent on Indus water. Apart this, the prospects of future coordination on climate change between both countries also fly in the air.

The prospects of recovery of diplomatic relationship between both countries after Post-Pahalgam mis-adventure has decreased.

(Maleeha Lodhi)

Economic Impacts...

The economy of India and Pakistan has badly affected after the 2015 4 days war between both countries. Pakistan has blocked its trade routes and air ways while India has suspended Indus water treaty that affects the agriculture of Pakistan while the stock market

of India has collapsed, and critical infrastructure of both countries also effected due to cyber attacks. According to IPRI report, 4 days conflict between India and Pakistan results in loss of 800B collectively.

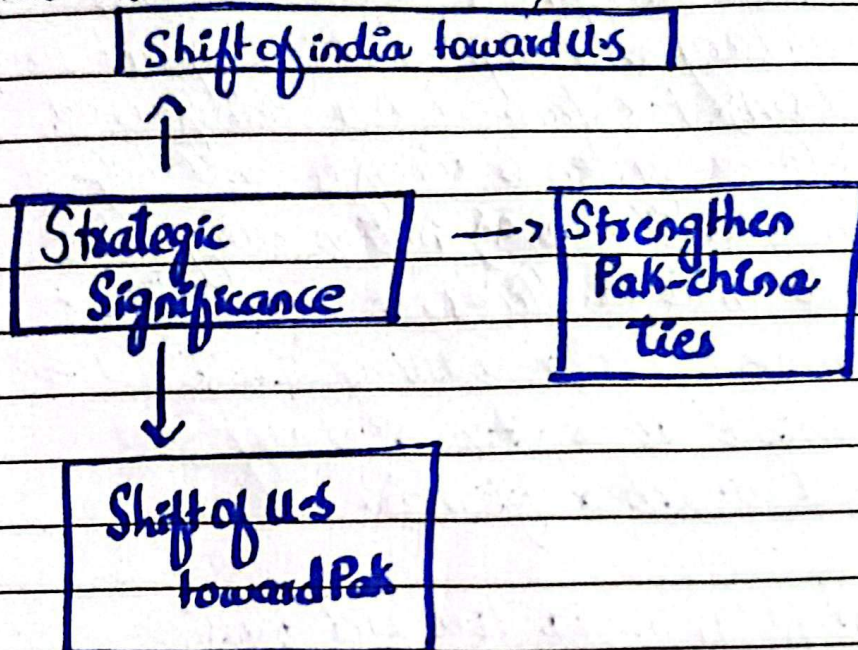
Social Impacts

Indo-Pak conflict result in casualties of civilians. According to news reporting, approx 30 people has died in Pakistan. Moreover, it result in loss of infrastructure in both countries. These losses of civilians and infrastructure portrayed negative image of both countries among the civilians of the country.

According to Reuters, Indian channels called Pakistan as a terrorist countries while Pakistan social media portrayed Narendra Modi as a Netanyahu. It shows that this conflicts increase the hatred of opposite country in the heart of people. Furthermore, relationship that is maintained through exchange of people and sportspersons also effected.

Strategic Significance

Following are the strategic significance of Indo-Pak escalation in May 2025.



Shift of U.S toward Pakistan.

Pakistan US relationships are like a rollercoaster that strengthen some times and deteriorated some times. After U.S withdrawal from Afghanistan, their relationships between Pakistan and U.S eroded. However, US and India relationships strengthened due to their anti-China policy. Conversely, after post Pahalgam misadventure, the strategic position of Pakistan strengthened that help to foster strong relationship with U.S. Pakistan Prime minister and army chief visited to US and signed agreements related to rare earth metals.

Strengthen Pakistan China Relationship

The relationship between Pak and China strengthens due to Chinese military and diplomatic support to ~~US~~ Pakistan. It has transferred defence systems, aircrafts and helped in surveillance of Indian army due to their satellites. As the Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif called China as a strongest ally and all weather friends.

Shift of India toward Russia.

India has strategic relationship with USA in Indo-Pacific strategy to counter China. But India declined US mediatory role in ceasefire between Pakistan and India and strengthened their relationship with Russia through buying oil despite of US sanctions on Russia. It results in high tariffs imposition on India by US. According to Council of Foreign Affairs, US has imposed 25% tariffs on India that later increase to 50%. These tariffs affected Indian trade but strategically deepened ties with southern bloc rather than western bloc.

Impacts of geopolitical shift in

South Asia.

The geopolitical shift after the post-pahalgam attack strengthened the south-south co-operation and weakened western influence to counter China in South Asia. Moreover, it changed diplomatic power from India to Pakistan.

Because Pakistan's relationships with the USA, China, Russia and the European Union have strengthened. Furthermore, it also destabilizes South Asia and increases the risk of future miscalculations from both states.

Conclusion.

Post-pahalgam adventure weakened the ties between Pakistan and strengthened their diplomatic position in the region. The friendship between China and Pakistan has deepened as well. Russia-Pak relationships also fostered. However, India-US relationships eroded and the geopolitics of the region shifted from western to southern co-operation and influence.