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Q:4 How do you see the chances of the end of Ukrainian war when the demands of Russia and NATO are conflicting and poles apart and when Trump 28 points given to Ukraine to accept the peace plan. Elaborate.

Ans.1. Introduction:

The Russia - Ukraine war, now stretching into its fourth year, has become a defining conflict of contemporary geopolitics. It has reshaped global security, disrupted energy markets, and ^{polarized} ~~polarized~~ international alliances. While multiple peace initiatives have been floated, none have succeeded due to the ~~the~~ irreconcilable

irreconcilable demands of Russia and NATO

Recently, President Donald Trump introduced a 28-point peace plan, claiming it could end the war swiftly. However, the plan's provisions have sparked intense debate, as they appear to align more closely with Moscow's interests than Kyiv's sovereignty.

2. Russia's Demands:

Russia has consistently demanded recognition of its annexation, including Crimea and parts of Donbas. It also insists the Ukraine must remain outside NATO and reduce its military capacity. These demands reflect Moscow's broader strategic goal of creating a buffer zone against Western influence. Such conditions are unacceptable to Ukraine, which views them as a violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

3. NATO's Position:

NATO, on the other hand, emphasizes the principle of Sovereignty and territorial integrity. Western allies reject any territorial concessions to Russia, fearing that it would legitimize aggression and encourage similar actions elsewhere. NATO continues to provide military and financial support to Ukraine, reinforcing its defense capabilities and signaling that compromise on sovereignty is not an option.

4. Trump's 28-points Peace plan:

Trump's plan calls for an immediate ceasefire, monitored by international observers.

However, it requires Ukraine to cede territory to Russia, remain outside NATO, and limit its military size. The plan also proposes holding elections under international supervision. Analysts argue that the plan mirrors Putin's demands and undermines Ukraine's independence. While Trump insists it could bring "Peace within 24 hours", critics highlight that it effectively rewards aggression and pressures Kyiv into concessions.

5. Challenges to implementation:

The plan faces multiple obstacles:

- **Ukrainian Resistance:** President Zelensky has categorically rejected territorial concessions, calling them unacceptable.
- **European Opposition:** European leaders fear the plan legitimizes Russia's invasion and destabilizes international law.

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- Russian Calculations: Moscow may accept the plan only if it secures permanent control of occupied territories.
- Global Stakes: The war is tied to broader East-West rivalry, making compromise difficult.

6. Prospects of Peace:

In the short term, peace remains elusive. Neither Russia nor NATO is willing to compromise on core demands. In the medium term, exhaustion, economic pressures, or international mediation force concessions. In the long term, sustainable peace requires a balanced ~~framework~~ framework that respects Ukraine's sovereignty while addressing Russia's security concerns. Trump's plan, however, fails to ^{provide} ~~provide~~ such balance.

7. Conclusion:

To conclude, the end of Ukraine war remains uncertain. The conflicting

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demands of Russia and NATO make
reconciliation extremely difficult. Trump's
28-point peace plan, though ambitious,
is seen as impractical and biased towards
Russia, thereby reducing its chances of
acceptance. Unless a multilateral framework
emerges — one that balances sovereignty
with security — the war is unlikely to
end soon.

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Q2: Trump once again pulled out of the Paris Climate Agreement. Critically evaluate the future efforts against climate change in the absence of the world leader.

Ans: 1 Introduction:

The Paris Climate Agreement (2015) was a landmark ~~agreement~~ uniting nearly 195 nations to limit global warming below 2°C . The ^{United States} (U.S.) as the world's second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, played a pivotal role in shaping and financing this framework. President Trump's second withdrawal in January 2025 has reignited debates about the credibility of international climate governance.

2. Implications of U.S. withdrawal:

1. Loss of financial support: The U.S. previously pledged billions to the Green Climate Fund. Its exit undermines climate financing for vulnerable states.
2. Diplomatic set-backs: The U.S. absence weakens collective bargaining power at Conference of

Parties (COP) summits, especially against fossil fuel lobbies

3. Policy reversal: Trump's administration has backed fossil fuels and obstructed renewables, reversing domestic progress.

4. Symbolic Blow: Withdrawal signals that major powers can abandon commitments, eroding trust in multilateralism.

3. Continuity of Global Climate Efforts:

Despite U.S. disengagement, climate action persists:

1. European Union Leadership: The European Union (EU) continues to push for carbon neutrality by 2050, strengthening its role as climate leader.

2. China and India's Role: Both nations are investing heavily in renewables, though coal dependence remains a challenge.

3. Technological Advances: Falling costs of solar, wind, and battery storage drive decarbonization.

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independent of U.S. policy.

4. Civil Society and States: Subnational actors in the U.S (California & New York) remain committed to Paris goals, showing resilience of decentralized governance.

4. Challenges ahead:

1. Rising Emissions: Global fossil fuel emissions increased by 1.1% in 2025, showing targets are off-track.
2. Fragmentation: Without U.S. leadership, climate diplomacy risks becoming fragmented, with blocs pursuing divergent strategies.
3. Climate Justice Concerns: Vulnerable countries in Africa and South Asia face disproportionate impacts, with reduced access to adaptation rule.

5. Critical Perspective:

1. Positive outlook: Technology, EU leadership, and emerging economies sustain momentum.

2. Negative outlook: U.S withdrawal undermines trust, financing, and global unity.
3. Analytical edges: Stressing that climate governance is shifting from state-centric leadership to multi-actor resilience such as NGOs, private sector and regional blocs.
4. Pakistan's Position: As a climate-vulnerable country, Pakistan must intensify advocacy for climate justice, adaptation financing and regional cooperation.

6. Conclusion:

The absence of U.S leadership is a serious setback, but not the end of climate action. The future of global efforts lies in distributed leadership, technological innovation, and regional cooperation. However, unless emissions peak soon, the world risks overshooting Paris targets. For Pakistan and other vulnerable states, this means intensifying advocacy for climate justice and adaptation financing.

Part - II

Q.8 Pakistan Saudi Arabia have signed a historic defense pact. Critically evaluate the causes and implications of the deal.

Ans: Introduction:

In September 2025, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a historic defense pact at Al Yamamah Palace in Riyadh. According to Al Jazeera (Sept 2025), the treaty commits both nations to treat an attack on one as an attack on both, formalizing decades of informal military cooperation. Moreover, as ^(Deutsche Welle) DW (Sept 2025) noted, analysts view the agreements as a hedge against Iran and a diversification of Saudi alliances beyond the West.

Evaluating its causes and implications is essential to understand its impact on Pakistan's foreign policy and regional stability.

Causes Behind the Pact:

The Pact was driven by multiple strategic, economic, and political factors. On the security front, Saudi Arabia faces increasing missile and drone threats from regional proxies, while Pakistan's large standing army and nuclear capability provide credible deterrence. Economically, Saudi Arabia pledged nearly \$25 billion in investments in Pakistan's energy and mining sectors, and the defense pact ensures protection of these projects (Al Jazeera, 2025). Politically, both governments seek to project solidarity and leadership within the Muslim world, reinforcing their positions in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Causes and Benefits

Causes	Pakistan's Benefit	Saudi Benefit
1. Security threats	Strategic depth	Redundant deterrence

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2. Allian diversification	Elevated Status	Non-Western Partner
3. Energy Bargain	Investment Confidence	Secured projects
4. Defense industry	Technology transfer	Localization
5. Political signaling	Diplomatic leverage.	Regional leadership

Implications of the pact:

The Pact strengthens deterrence by declaring that an attack on one will be treated as an attack on both.

This raises the cost of aggression against either country and enhances operational readiness through joint training and intelligence sharing (DW, 2025).

Furthermore, it boosts investor confidence, as Saudi FDI in Pakistan reached \$2.1 billion in 2025 (Arab News, 2025) and defense-industrial cooperation promises

technology transfer. However, risks remain: Pakistan may be dragged into Gulf conflicts, and relations with Iran could suffer, given that Iran supplies nearly 25% of Pakistan's electricity imports (Reuters, 2025)

Chart: Benefits vs Risks

Benefits:

Deterrence	
Industrial growth	
Investment confidence	
Diplomatic leverage	

Risks:

Regional entanglement	
Iranian friction	
Resource overstretch	
Dependency on Riyadh	

Critical evaluation:

The pact offers Pakistan strategic depth, defense-industrial growth, and economic stability, while Saudi Arabia gains a reliable non-Western security

Partner. Yet the risks of entanglement in Gulf crises and strained ties with Iran cannot be ignored. In addition, Pakistan must codify caveats in the treaty to avoid automatic involvement in conflicts ensure transparency in defense spending, and maintain balanced diplomacy with Iran and other GCC states. If managed prudently, the pact can be a stabilizing force; if mismanaged, it may lead to fiscal overstretch and diplomatic isolation.

Conclusion:

The Pakistan - Saudi Arabia defense Pact is a landmark in regional security cooperation. It elevates deterrence, secures investment, and enhances defense industrial collaboration, but its success depends on disciplined execution and balanced diplomacy. For Pakistan, the challenge lies in maximizing economic and strategic gains while avoiding

entanglement in Gulf ~~conflict~~ conflicts.
Ultimately, a carefully managed approach can transform this part into a source of strength, ensuring both national and economic resilience.

Q. 2 Pak - Afghan relations continue to remain tensed after mediation by China.
What do you think are major factors and how could it be improved.

Ans. Introduction:

Pakistan and Afghanistan share deep cultural and geographical ties, yet relations remain tense despite China's mediation in May 2025. The Taliban's takeover in 2021 raised hopes of stability, but unresolved disputes, militancy, and refugee crises have kept mistrust alive. Case studies such as Torkham border closure (2023-25) and Afghan refugee deportation (2023) illustrate the rising distances and constructive way forward is required to overcome.

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Major Factor Sustaining Tensions:

1. Security and Militancy:

Pakistan accuses Kabul of harboring Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants. In October 2025, Pakistan sealed the Torkham and Chaman crossing after deadly TTP attacks. Without a joint verification mechanism, allegations remain contested, perpetuating hostility.

2. Durand line dispute:

The Durand Line, drawn in 1893, is recognized by Pakistan but rejected by Afghan authorities. In September 2023, clashes at Torkham led to casualties and a 12 day closure, paralyzing trade. This unresolved boundary issue fuels recurring crises.

3. Refugee policy:

Pakistan host 3.4 million Afghans. In October 2023, Islamabad announced deportations of undocumented Afghans affecting nearly 1.7 million people. Kabul

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views this as hostile adding humanitarian friction.

4. Trade disruptions:

Pakistan exports to Afghanistan stood at US \$ 1.51 billion in 2024, mainly cereals and pharmaceuticals. Yet transit trade fell by 59% in 2023-24 due to restrictions. The 50-day Torkham closure in 2025 stranded thousands of trucks, causing losses worth billions.

5. Regional Geopolitics:

China's mediation in May 2025 revived trilateral talks, but India's growing outreach to Kabul complicates Pakistan's calculus. External actors magnify rather than resolve tensions. The visit of Afghan's Foreign Minister Ameer Khan Mutagqi to India put all efforts of China of mediation in vein. Resulting the increase in tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

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Table : Drivers of Tension

Factor	Case study Examples	Impact on Relations
1. Militancy	TTP attacks, Oct 2025	Border closure, mistrust.
2. Durand line	Torkham clashes, Sept, 2023	Diplomatic strain, casualties
3. Refugees	Deportations, Oct 2023	Humanitarian Friction
4. Trade	50-day closure, 2025	Economic losses, Rs 850m/day
5. Geopolitics.	China mediation, May 2025	Limited de-escalation

Pathways to Improvements in Pak Afghan Relations:

1. Joint Security Mechanisms:

Both countries should establish a joint verification and intelligence-sharing cell to investigate cross-border militant incidents. This would reduce blame games and allow neutral fact-finding. China, as mediator, can act as guarantor of temporary

2. Durand Line Confidence-Building Measures:

Instead of unilateral fencing, Pakistan and Afghanistan could agree on jointly monitored crossing points with biometric systems. Pilot Projects at Torkham and Chaman would reduce clashes and build Trust in border management.

3. Human Refugee management:

Pakistan should coordinate deportations and documentation and drives with international agencies like UNHCR to ensure humanitarian safeguards.

Predictable policies would reduce diplomatic friction and protect vulnerable Afghan families.

4. Economic integration and Trade Facilitation:

Introduce "green lanes" for perishable goods, harmonize tariffs, and digitize customs at major crossings. Linking Afghanistan to CPEC corridor through transit guarantees would create economic

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interdependence, making hostility costlier for both sides.

5. Institutionalized Diplomatic Dialogue:

Revive quarterly trilateral meetings (Pak-Afg-China) with measurable deliverables. Even without formal recognition of Taliban, technical MOUs on health, education, and disaster management can build institutional muscle and normalize cooperation.

Conclusion:

Sustainable improvements requires joint verification mechanisms, humane refugee management and other steps to balance the tensed relations between two countries. Only by addressing these multi-layered challenges can Pakistan and Afghanistan move from mistrust to cooperation, ensuring regional stability and shared prosperity.
