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MEMOONA ARSHAD

BATCH-211

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q.2 = PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS

INTRODUCTION:

The world has witnessed ups and downs in relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Pak-Afghan relations continued to remain tensed even after mediation by China. Multiple factors are responsible for these tensed relations between both Pakistan and Afghanistan. These factors involve the rise of TTP, Afghan refugee crises, boundary dispute and Indian factor as well. However, some pragmatic approaches such as counter-terrorism efforts, mutual cooperation and diplomatic engagement may help in improving the relations between both countries.

CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES.

The current relations between both countries are tensed, resulting into military confrontations in year 2025. Back in October 2025, there was rise of escalation between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The conflict lasted for few days followed by exchange of fire on Pak-Afghan border. However, by the mediation of Qatar and Turkey, ceasefire was brokered between both countries. Similarly, recently in December 2025, another military confrontation was witnessed, followed by exchange of fires on border. Both countries alleged each other for initiating the conflict.

FACTORS BEHIND TENSED RELATIONS

Several factors are contributing to tensed relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

1) Rise of TTP in Pakistan

The one foremost factor responsible for deteriorated Pak-Afghan relations is rise of TTP in Pakistan. TTP is attacking military personnels and civilians resulting into numbers of casualties. This surge of TTP attacks lead to confrontation between both countries. Pakistan has been engaging diplomatically with Afghan Taliban to take action against TTP because TTP is using Afghanistan's soil against Pakistan but Afghanistan responded vaguely.

2) Afghan refugee crises

Pakistan has hosted a large number of Afghan refugees, residing and migrating here since Soviet Afghan war. Now, Pakistan has been evacuating those Afghanees in phases. It is need of the hour to do so, because many Afghans are involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan. This is also serving as erosion of trust between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

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3) Durand line dispute:

The border that separates Pakistan and Afghanistan territory is a 2600 km long border called as Durand line. ~~It serves as a factor of conflict between both states. Pakistan considers it as internationally recognized border. While, Afghanistan always refused to accept this fact.~~

4) Growing Indo-Afghan relations

The growing relations between India and Afghanistan are also causing tensed relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, because Pakistan and India are rivals since inception. Although India has not formally recognized Taliban government, but Federal minister of Afghanistan has visited India in October, 2025. Whereas, India has also announced to open their Embassy in Afghanistan.

MEASURES TO IMPROVE PAK - AFGHAN RELATIONS

Counter-terrorism strategies:

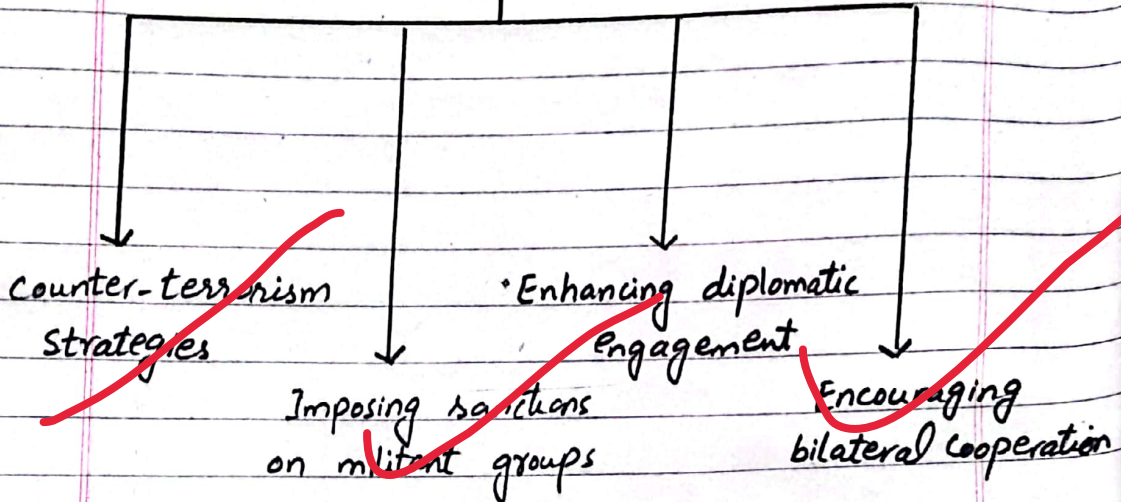
Pakistan and Afghanistan should adopt counter-terrorism measures to improve the relations. Afghanistan should cooperate with Pakistan to combat terrorism, because terror attacks in Pakistan are increasing day by day and Afghanistan's soil is being used to violate the sovereignty of Pakistan.

Imposing sanctions on militant

groups

China, Russia and other global powers should impose sanctions on militancy groups and cooperate to stop terror financing. This may help in reducing terror attacks on Pakistan, which will ultimately result in better relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Measures to improve relations



Enhancing diplomatic engagement

Pakistan has always showed diplomacy towards Afghanistan. In 2021, Pakistan acted as a mediator between Afghanistan and US while withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan territory. Now, once again both countries should make efforts to engage diplomatically. This will foster good relations between both countries.

Encouraging bilateral cooperation

Afghanistan use Pakistan as a route to trade with India, known as transit trade. Due to recent confrontations,

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this transit trade has been suspended. Pakistan should allow Afghanistan to continue it again but not at the price of its security. Moreover, Pakistan also imports dry fruits from Afghanistan. Both countries should mutually cooperate to enhance improved relations.

CONCLUSION:

Pakistan and Afghanistan relations are again tensed. The numbers of factors are involved in deteriorating relations between both countries. However, some strategic measures can help in improving Pak-Afghanistan relations.

Add content to the failed talks

Q-6: Russia-Ukraine War

Introduction:

It has been a long time Russia-Ukraine war still not ended. The factors that are hindering Russia-Ukraine war are the conflicting demands by both Russia as well as Ukraine and NATO that poles apart, and resulting in continuation of the war. The demands by Putin involve disarmament of Ukraine, captured territories will not be returned, NATO will not expand itself and Ukraine will not join NATO. Conversely, NATO demands unconditional ceasefire and complete evacuation of Russia. The chances that whether the war will end or not depends on mutual agreement between both, but until now the chances of end of war are much lesser.

Chances of end of Russia-Ukraine war

The chances of end of Russia-Ukraine war are quite less due to conflicting demands by both Russia and NATO. Both are not ready to agree on anything. Demands by both NATO and Russia poles apart that make the war less likely to end. The end of war is possible only in case of mutual agreement and mediation by regional and global powers.

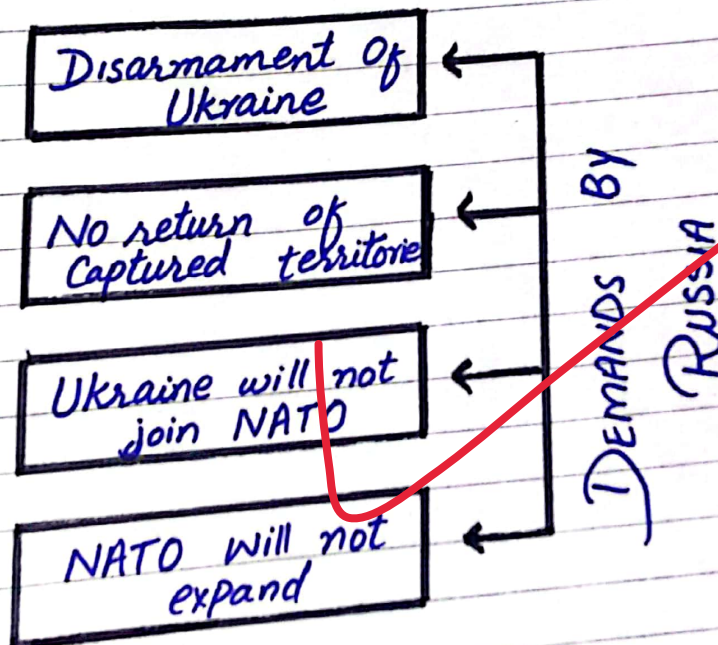
Conflicting demands by Russia

Disarmament of Ukraine

Russian president Putin demanded that Russia will end the war if Ukraine will disarm itself. NATO and US both will take their weapons back from Ukraine and no one will supply weapons again to Ukraine.

No return of captured territories

The other demand by Russia is that Russia will not return captured territories of Ukraine such as Luhansk and Donetsk. Moreover, Crimea annexed by Russia in 2014, will also not be returned.



Ukraine will not join NATO

Russia also demands that Ukraine will not join NATO. This is also the main reason behind this war.

Recently, in
line of escalation between

and accepting this will surely help to end the war. Russia fears that if Ukraine would join NATO, then NATO forces will be deployed in Ukraine, which can cause a threat to the security of Russia.

NATO will not expand

The Putin also demands that NATO will not expand towards Russia's neighbouring countries. If NATO expand, its forces will be deployed in that neighbouring countries of Russia, causing a deterrence to Russia.

→ If these demands are not met, Russia will definitely not agree to end the war, because Putin's stance is clear; "deal or no ceasefire."

Demands by NATO

Unconditional ceasefire

NATO and Ukraine demands for unconditional ceasefire i.e., without any terms and conditions. It clearly shows that NATO is

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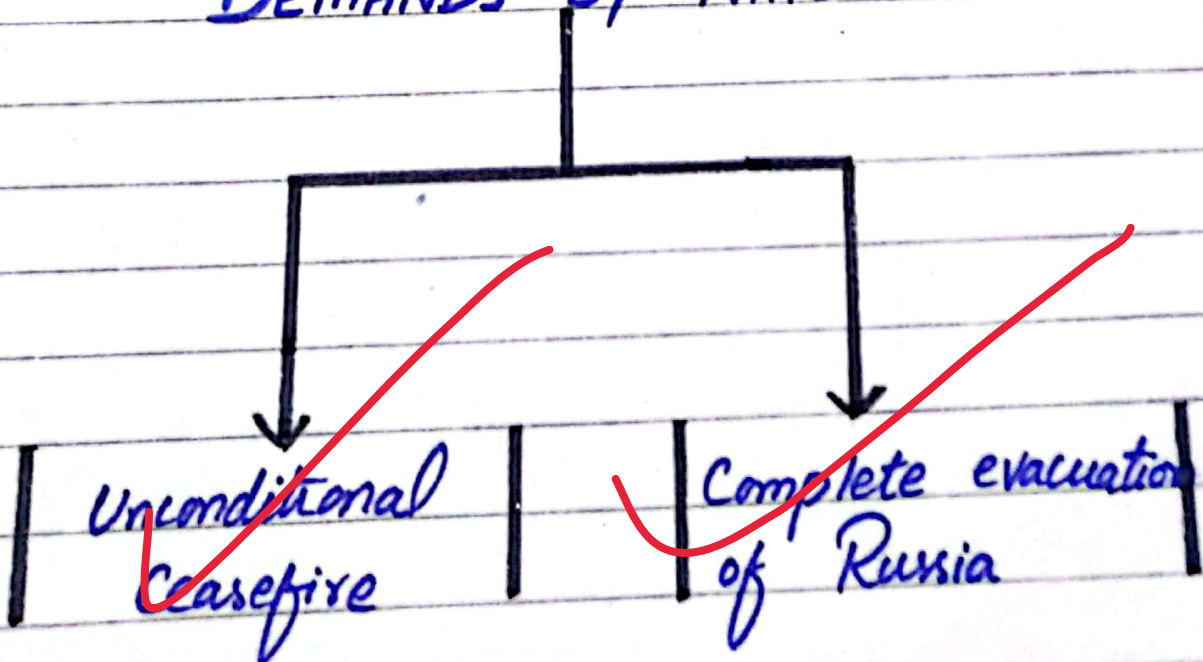
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not willing to accept the demands of Putin, making it difficult to end the war.

Complete evacuation by Russia

NATO demands the Russia to evacuate completely from Ukrainian territories, and end the war. Here it shows, it seems impossible to create circumstances to end the war because Russia demands that it will not return captured territories while NATO demands complete evacuation of Russian troops.

DEMANDS BY NATO



Conclusion:

The long war between Russia and Ukraine has not come to end due to the conflicting demands between ^{of} Russia and NATO that poles apart. These conflicting demands have reduced the chances to end the Russia-Ukraine war.

Q.3

Introduction:

Terrorism has again revived in Pakistan with rise of militancy in KP and Balochistan. Several factors such as post 9/11 Afghan factor porous borders with Afghanistan, Governance flaws and political instability, economic disparities and sectarianism and extremism, are contributing to resurgence of militancy in Pakistan particularly KP and Balochistan. However, there is need to take some measures to counter terrorism.

Resurgence of militancy in Pakistan.

Pakistan saw an increase in terrorist attacks in 2025. The wave of terrorism is attributed as "new terror triad" of militant groups i.e. TTP, BLA and Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP). These militant groups deadly attack military personnels and civilians resulting in large number of deaths.

Causes Of militancy rise in Pakistan

Post 9/11 Afghan factor:

Post 9/11 US withdrawal from Afghanistan and takeover of Taliban government pro created a power vacuum. It provided safe havens to terrorist/militant groups such as TTP. After 2021, militant groups rise in Balochistan and KP.

Porous Pak-Afghan border

The 2600km long porous border

between Pakistan and Afghanistan is also a cause of terrorism in Pakistan. Fencing has also done but still it is porous due to lack of forces deployed.

Governance flaws and political instability:

The governance gaps that results into lack of law enforcement are contributing to rise of militancy. Moreover, political instability draws government attention towards other issues, which results in harbouring of militant groups and terror attacks.

Economic factor:

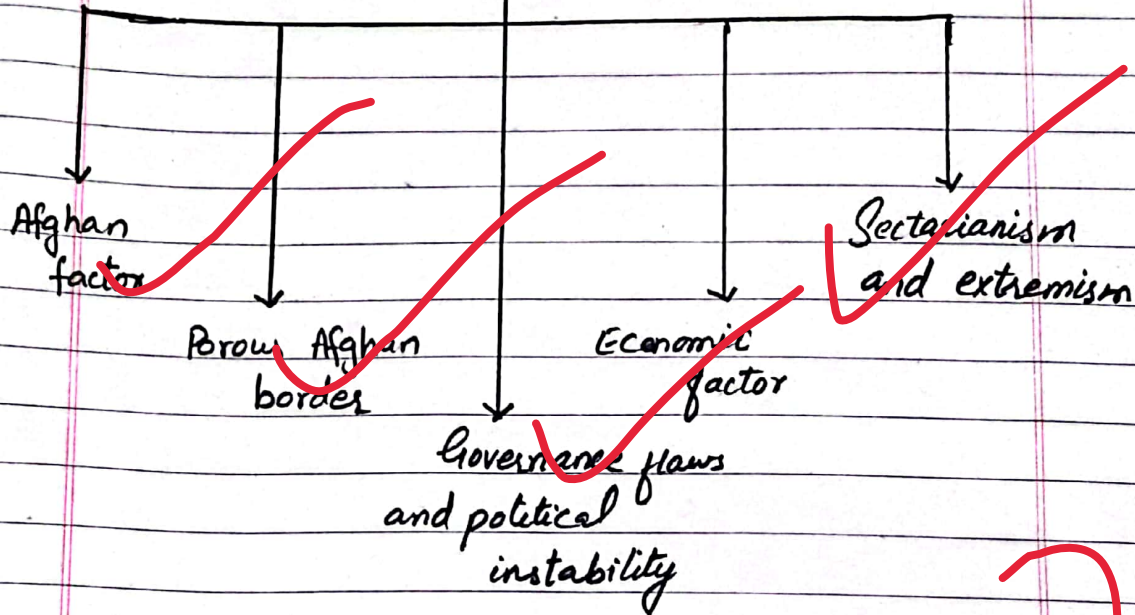
Poverty and unemployment in Pakistan are rising instead of eradication. These economic factors act as drivers towards terrorism.

Sectarianism and extremism:

The division into different sects such as Shia, Sunni, Barelvi and Deobandi e.t.c foster extremism. Practicing own religion is allowed

but forcefully imposing it on others is not allowed. Last year in 2024, more than 80 shias have been killed over conflict between Shias and Sunnis.

Reasons of rise in militancy



Recommendations.

Governance reforms and political stability

There is need to make governance reforms to enforce laws and policies. Pakistan has already formulated National Action Plan (NAP) but now there is need to ensure its implementation and to ensure political stability as well.

Military operations:

There is need of military operations like Zarb-e-Azb, Azm-e-Istehkam, to combat terrorism and crush militant groups in KP and Balochistan.

Addressing social issues

Government should address social issues like unemployment and poverty. It will help in reducing terrorism in Pakistan.

Conclusion:

The militancy is reviving in Pakistan particularly KP and Balochistan. This resurgence has increased the rate of terrorist attacks on civilians as well on military personnels. There are multiple reasons behind this militant rise but by taking pragmatic measures Pakistan can combat terrorism.

Q-8: PAK-KSA defence Pact

Introduction:-

A pact was signed between Pakistan and KSA in September 2025, also known as defence pact. There were several reasons behind this agreement such as KSA's security concerns, capacity building and Military Industrialization Vector. However, it also brings along some strategic implications such as New-alliances formation in the region, changing KSA-Iran's dynamics, threat to India and increasing non-proliferation concerns.

An Overview of Pakistan-KSA defence pact

A defence agreement was signed by Pakistan and KSA on 17th September, 2025. This agreement emphasises on:

"An aggression against one will be considered aggression against both."

why KSA has choosed Pakistan?

KSA has choosed Pakistan because

of

- Its participation in war on terror
- Its response against India in recent may, 2025 conflict.
- Pakistan is already training military of KSA.

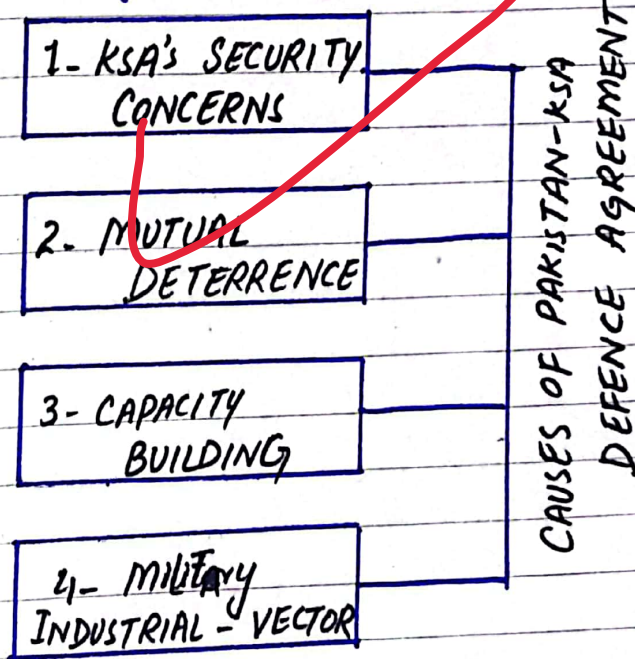
Causes of Pakistan-KSA defence pact

KSA's Security Concerns:

Although, this agreement was in discussion between Riyadh and Islamabad for years, but after Israel attack on Qatar, has raised concerns among other Gulf members. This agreement was signed after few days of Israel-Qatar incident. KSA wants security under the nuclear umbrella of Pakistan. Because, it not merely rely on US for its security after Israel attack both on Qatar and Iran within a short period of time and US did nothing.

2) Mutual deterrence

The other reason behind this agreement is provision of mutual deterrence. ~~Theory~~ This can be best explained by The balance of Threat theory, where states form alliances for balance of threat. This agreement can help in deterring the regional rivals of KSA and Pakistan, that are Iran and India respectively.



3) Capacity Building

The other cause for this agreement was capacity building through joint military exercises and intelligence - sharings. Acc to official statistics, Pakistani soldiers have trained more than

8000 KSA's military personnel since 1967.

4) Military-Industrial Vector

This deal was made to enhance both military capabilities and industrial factor under KSA's Vision-2030 ambitions. By mutual use of financial investment and Pakistan's expertise drones and fighter jets can be made. This will boost Pakistan's economy and KSA's security.

IMPLICATIONS OF DEAL

1) New-alliances in the region

This strategic deal between Pakistan and KSA will result into new alliances formation in the region. India, being major trade partner of KSA, would make alliance with either Israel or UAE for cooperation. KSA has invested a huge amount in India in technology or other sectors. But, this agreement can cause tensions in relations between KSA and India.

2) changing KSA-Iran dynamics

KSA and Iran are rivals for a very long time, China played a role as mediator between these countries. Now, after this agreement, the dynamics of relations between KSA and Iran can be changed because now KSA has dual security and is under nuclear umbrella of Pakistan. So, this agreement might be helpful in promoting peace and stability in the region.

3) Security from India:

Like KSA and Iran; Pakistan and India are also rivals since inception. This agreement will provide security from India to Pakistan and will reduce the risk of escalation between both countries. Because in recent May, 2025 conflict, KSA has played a role of mediator, not took one side.

4) Non-proliferation concerns

This agreement has raised the non-proliferation concerns in the region. The other countries will also focus on their security by enhancing weaponisation and nuclear capacity.

Instructions to get good marks in current affairs paper

Date: _____

Write 8-9 sides

Important Note:

5) Security dilemma:

Marks would be given on the following parameters

a- Content 60% References 15% Subject specific language 15% Graphs and charts 10%

This pact between Pakistan and KSA has caused a security dilemma in the region.

Add 12-13 headings in each question and write 8-9 sides to get above 15 in each question

Security dilemma is where one country's efforts to enhance military capabilities is perceived as a threat by the other. Due to this security dilemma, other states will also make efforts for their national interest i.e., security.

the questions carry 3-4 parts... each part has equal weightage so discuss all equally

Give examples from present events to justify answers

Add references

Give attractive introduction and Conclusion as well

Conclusion:

always give headings from the question statement.. take words from the statement

link each of the argument to the asked part in the question... If you fail to do so, no matter how accurate content is, if your heading is not align with what is asked in the question, it won't be accurate

Good Luck

In September 2025, an agreement for defence has been signed by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The causes behind this agreement were security concerns, capacity building and mutual deterrence. However, this pact also has some regional implications.