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Current Affairs
Test # 01.

QUESTION 1

INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan, positioned at the cross roads of South Asia and the Middle East, maintains historically significant and multifaceted relationships with both Iran and Saudi Arabia. Iran, being Pakistan's south western neighbor is a Shia majority state and a major regional player in Middle East. It is due to its strategic geopolitical position, vast energy resources and economic potentials, military strength and active role in regional alliances and conflicts. Pakistan shares close ties with Iran not only because it is the home for 2nd largest population of Shias but also Iran supplies natural gas and economic security to Pakistan as well as border security on Afghanistan and Balochistan frontiers. Saudi Arabia - on other hand - is a Sunni majority state and an energy giant, leader of Islamic world and another pivotal geostrategic great power in the region - Pakistan enjoys

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strong bilateral ties with KSA that are deeply rooted in religious, economic and strategic interests - The relation between Pakistan and Iran; and Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is purely on strategic, economic and religious fronts; however the situation between Iran and Saudi-Arabia is long been found as sour as lemons. Hence, the recently concluded Defence pact between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia has opened new avenues in the middle eastern politics as well as between Pak Iran relations.

STRATEGIC MUTUAL DEFENCE AGREEMENT (SDA)

The mutual defence pact was signed by Saudi Arabia and Pakistan on September 17th of 2025. It marked the major shift in global alignments.

Why this agreement :-

The attack of the ^{Israel} ~~USA~~ on the Qatar against Hamas (9 September) triggered security dilemma in KSA.

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Major Objectives:-

The major objectives of the mutual defence agreement between Saudi-Pakistan are

① Collective Security.

An aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both.

② Defence Cooperation

to develop aspects of defence cooperation between the two countries and strengthen joint deterrence against any aggression.

③ Deterrence through all military means.

The pact encompasses deterrence through all military means i.e. from armed forces to nuclear cooperation and intelligence sharing.

RESPONSE OF IRAN AND IMPACT ON PAK-IRAN RELATIONS

The mutual defence agreement between

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Saudi Arabia and ~~Sa~~ Pakistan was welcomed by Iran as a step towards regional security. The president of Iran Mousavi Pezeshkian hails the agreement and stated that it is the beginning of comprehensive regional security system with the cooperation of Muslim states of west Asia.

He not only welcomed the act but also expressed his desires to join the pact soon.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF (SDMDA) ON BALANCING PAKISTAN RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND KSA :-

The strategic mutual defence agreement formalizes decades of ad-hoc cooperation into a binding treaty where any aggression against one (Saudi Arabia or Pakistan) is an attack on both.

This agreement has transformed the

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role of Pakistan into a central security stakeholder in the Gulf, requiring a delicate diplomatic balancing act between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

① IMPACTS ON SAUDI RELATIONS

★ Deepening the Strategic bond.

The SMDA deepens the strategic bond between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

1. Extended Deterrence :-

The pact effectively places Saudi Arabia under Pakistan's "nuclear Umbrella", as the pact suggesting extension of full military capabilities.

2. Vision 2030 Collaboration.

Both countries signed a memorandum that fosters long term defence industrial collaboration, including joint production of munitions, drones and armored systems to help Saudi Arabia.

③ Economic Opportunities to Pakistan

In exchange for security guarantees, Pakistan secures critical financial

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lifelines, including multibillion dollar investment in energy and infrastructure.

② IMPACTS ON IRAN RELATIONS

★ Navigating "Middle Ground" Diplomacy

Pakistan is working to ensure the SMDA is not perceived as an anti Iran alliance, hence leveraging a "calculated neutrality".

① IRAN PRAISED THE AGREEMENT

Rather than considering the agreement as a threat, Iranian leadership has reportedly praised it as a potential foundation for "comprehensive regional security framework."

② Pakistan Support for Saudi-Iran Reapproachement

Pakistan continues to support the 2023 Chinese brokered Saudi-Iran reapproachement, framing its new role as a stabilizer that prevents further regional polarization.

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Pak-Iran ties:

Throughout 2025, Pakistan has continuously upgraded ties with the Tehran, ~~inlet~~ increasing bilateral ties or trade over \$3 billion and collaborating on border security to prevent SMDA from triggering Iranian hostility.

KEY STRATEGIC CHALLENGES:-

- 1- Risk of Entanglement among the conflicts between Saudi-Iran and Saudi-Israel, Pakistan will risk its national interest and security.
- ② Domestic Pressure will rise if any perceived shift against Iran ~~or~~ occurs - The Shia population may cause domestic instability.

CONCLUSION:-

The agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia shifts the balance of power in the middle East as well as Pakistan has secured financial gain. However, the relations between Iran and Pakistan may deteriorate if Pakistan

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does not maintain a middle ground diplomacy stature - Apparently, Iran has no issues but Pakistan must maintain its balancing posture to ensure regional stability.

QUESTION: 4

INTRODUCTION:

India and Pakistan are the immediate neighbours of each other in South Asia, having hostile and off and on relation since 1947. Both countries went for several clashes over Kashmir issue since the time of inception - Recently in May 2025, both countries were again in state of war after India's claims of Pakistani Militants has killed 26 people in Pehaloham area of Kashmir - These claims never proved true and in retaliation India attacked Pakistan with their surveillance drones and air strike on of Pakistan military base. In response Pakistan also struck hard and destroyed India's military bases - Later on, with the

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efforts of Donald Trump. ceasefire was occurred between both countries after fighting for 3 days.

CONSEQUENCES ON PAK-INDIA RELATIONS:

The consequences of peshawar attack was is multidimensional in nature. They are.

① Military Escalation

- ① Operation Sindoor
- ② Operation Bumban - Un-Marsons
- ③ Technological shifts

② Diplomatic Consequences

① Indus water treaty Suspension

② Shimla agreement Threat

③ Long Term Impacts

① Persistent Deep freeze

② Zero Trade

③ Nuclear Attack threat

④ Regional Isolation

③ Diplomatic Downgrade

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① MILITARY ESCALATION May (2025)

The crises peaked with the four day military conflict in May 2025.

1 OPERATION SINDOOR (INDIA)

The conflict started with the Operation Sindoor launched by India on 7th of May - Missile strikes were taken against - what they termed as - terrorist Infrastructure of Pakistan at nine places.

2 OPERATION BUNYAN-UN-MASOOS (PAK)

In retaliation, Pakistan has launched Operation Bunyan-un-Masroos on 10th of May with its own missiles and drone strikes against Indian Military bases, including Uthmanpuri and Pathankot.

3. SHIFT IN TECHNOLOGY

The conflicts saw a direct shift in warfare strategy by using direct drone technology instead of men fighting directly.

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2 | DIPLOMATIC CONSEQUENCES

The crises effectively dismantled the diplomatic and institutional links between both countries.

1 SUSPENSION OF INDUS WATER TREATY BY INDIA.

In wake of these crises, India unilaterally suspended the historic Indus water treaty of 1960.

Pakistan termed this an "act of war" and has challenged the move through "Permanent Court of Arbitration".

2 WITHDRAWAL FROM SHIMLA AGREEMENT 1972 BY PAKISTAN

In retaliation to the suspension of IWT (1960), Pakistan threatened India to withdraw itself from the Shimla agreement (1972) that served as a foundational framework for bilateral dispute resolution.

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3 SUSPENSION OF DIPLOMATS

Both countries expelled high level diplomats, recalls embassy staff, thus suspended all diplomatic actions.

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(3) LONG TERM IMPACTS ON RELATIONS.

1 **PERSISTENT "DEEP FREEZE"**

Since May 2025 till now the diplomatic channels remain frozen. Analysts note that unlike previous crises, the intensity and the scale of pragmatic and non military steps have severely narrowed the space for deescalation.

2 **NO TRADE OR ZERO TRADE:**

Cross boarded trade has been halted along with transportation through busses and train i-e (Samjota Express)

3 **NUCLEAR FLASH POINT**

As both countries have nuclear assets therefore the threat of nuclear adventure persists as both sides conducting missile tests during the height of standoff i-e Pakistan's Fatah and Abdali Tests)

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REDEFINING REGIONAL POWER DYNAMICS

- ① Indian Isolation in Region as the USA has extended its support to the Pakistan and ties between India and USA soured on the matter of the Ukraine Russia War.
 - ② Balance of Power shifts towards Pakistan.
 - ③ Bangladesh Pakistan Reapproachment
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