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PART II

Question # 02:

Pak-Afghan relations be improved .

Answer # 02:

The relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has remained one of the most volatile in South Asia from decades. Despite geographical proximity, shared religion, cultural ties and mutual dependence they are often involved in conflicts.

China has played an active mediating role in Pak-Afghan relations since 2015, mainly through Quadrilateral Coordination Group 2016, and the China, Pakistan and Afghanistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers Dialogue in 2017. It has worked to reduce mistrust, promote counterterrorism and expand economic connectivity by inclusion of Afghanistan in CPEC.

After the Taliban takeover in 2021, China is continuously urging Kabul to stop TTP activities in Pakistan and resolve the issues peacefully.

In August 2025 China chaired a meeting between foreign ministers of China, Pakistan and Afghanistan to put deep commitments in Countering terrorism and resolving the conflict peacefully around the table.

Major Factors of Tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan:-

1) Border Dispute:

Pakistan and Afghanistan share 2640 km long border. It was established in 1893 between Sir Mortimer Durand representing British India and Amir Abdur Rahman Khan, the ruler of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has never recognized Durand line as the international border and considers Khyber Pachtunkhwa their part. Afghanistan is against the fencing of border, which will stop the cross border movements of militants and refugees.

2) Terrorism and Cross-Border Militancy:

Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of supporting TTP instead of action against them, which are responsible for cross border militancy. On 11th March 2025 a group of militants hijacked Jaffer Express train travelling from Quetta to Peshawar. In which 26 passengers lost their life. Pakistan government called it a cross border attack that was handled from Afghanistan.

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3) Expulsion of refugees:

Pakistan has hosted millions of Afghan Refugees since the 1980s. The prolonged stay has created social, economic and security challenges for Pakistan, which lead to the expulsion of undocumented Afghan refugees. Afghan Taliban run government called this plan unacceptable and rise allegations on Pakistan government that they are treating Afghan refugees unhumanly, violating human norms.

4) India's Influence in Afghanistan:

Pakistan view Indian presence in Afghanistan as a strategic encirclement. Where Afghanistan considers India a valuable partner for infrastructure. It increase Pakistan security concerns and distrust of Afghan foreign Policy. The current border dispute between Pakistan and Afghanistan in October 2025 and presence of Afghan Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, increased Pakistan concern.

5) Political Instability:-

The frequent regime changes and lack of

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political instability in Afghanistan made the foreign policy difficult for Pakistan. The return of Taliban government in 2021 October complicated Pakistan's expectation of a friendly government.

6) Media and Public role:

Media on Afghanistan is doing propaganda against Pakistan and show it as their enemy, which is changing the public perspective. Both social media and electronic media are doing the same on external involvement, mostly India.

7) Recent border clashes:

In October 2025 severe border clashes erupted between Pakistan and Afghanistan along the Chaman, Spin Boldak, Angoor Adda and Torikham crossing.

The clash began when Afghan forces fired on Pakistani border posts, after that Pakistan retaliated.

The clashes left dozens dead and wounded on both sides.

In March 2025, same clash happened between Afghan Taliban forces and Pakistan forces on Torikham border, lead to the closure of crossing.

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⑧ Closing of Border and impact on Trade:

Due to the rising tension between Afghanistan and Pakistan the crossing often remain closed. The conflict on Torkham border in February 2025, lead to the closure for 21 days. During this thousands of Trucks were standing on both sides, which not only disrupted bilateral trade but also transit trade, Afghanistan being landlocked relies on Pakistan.

Customs officials estimated about 3 million US dollar loss per day. In the recent clashes on 9th October 2025, the crossing are still closed from last 9 days.

Factors to reduce the tension and improve relation:

1) Border Management :-

Afghanistan government needs to recognize the international border - The Durand Line - as their border with Pakistan.

2) Security Cooperation on Border :-

Both countries shall respect their sovereignty

and do not breach it. Further Afghanistan government should help Pakistan in fencing which will stop illegal movement of the terrorists.

Security cooperation is extremely needed at the gateways, specially Torkham and Chaman to reduce the economic loss.

3) Use of Diplomatic Dialogue:

Institutionalizing dialogue at political and military levels can reduce the tension.

Recent example include the visit of Pakistan's special representative to Afghanistan between 21-23 March 2025. The outcome brought a very positive change on both sides.

4) Proper management for Refugees:

With the help of Paki UN and UNHCR, Pakistan make it a gradual and humanitarian based return of Afghan Refugees and ease its burden. This will remove the conservations of Afghan government over the exploitation of humanitarian laws with the Afghan refugees.

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5) Countering Extremism Collectively:

Both nations must cooperate in eliminating terrorists and adopt a zero tolerance policy against any group attacking either site. This trust will engage combine actions against terrorism and will not lead to allegation, the way Afghan government put on Pakistan in the October 2025 for bombing in Kabul.

6) Reduce external involvement:

Afghanistan is giving opportunity to India, to involve in between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Such activities create trust issues between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Reducing such involvement of India and Iran involvement in Shia extremism will reduce the tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

7) Promoting Cultural and Educational exchange:

Cultural and educational exchange is the very first weapon to use against tension between states. People to people contact, student exchange programs and media collaboration can reduce

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stereotypes and external propaganda.

Pakistan and Afghanistan has many proximities with each other. Both states are dependent on each other to some extent. Pakistan is the only way to warm water for Afghanistan, many Afghans visit Pakistan for health and education facilities. Most of the business are across border dependent. Despite to involve in conflicts, use external forces in between, mutual understanding is important for peace in central Asia. Role of China for peace between Pakistan and Afghanistan is appreciable.

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Question # 8

Pakistan Saudi Arabia - - - - of the deal.

Answer # 8

On September 17, 2025, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a historic "Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement" in Riyadh. It was signed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan "Shehbaz Sharif" and King of Saudi Arabia "Muhammad bin Salman".

The Pact reflects military cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and marked it a new phase in regional security.

Causes of the Pact:

① Regional Security Concerns:

Middle East become a volatile region, with conflicts in Yemen, Gaza and tension in the Gulf. On 9 September, 2025, Israel did airstrike on Qatar, which increased the security concerns of Saudi Arabia.

② Reduce reliance on Traditional Allies:

Saudi Arabia has historically relied on the

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United States for security. United States have air bases in both Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

But the delay of United States in support of Qatar in Israel attack, made United States less trustworthy for Saudi Arabia. The delay and uncertain state of United States pushed Riyadh to explore alternative security arrangement.

Pakistan as a traditional partner become the preferred choice.

3) Geopolitical Influence:

Saudi Arabia wants Pakistan's support in regional conflicts and diplomatic forums, such as countering the Iranian influence in the Gulf and in Afghanistan. Both countries seek to counter regional threats.

4) Longstanding Military leadership:

Pakistan has historically trained Saudi troops and provided its military advisors. The pact formalize this cooperation, ensuring structured training and intelligence sharing.

In 1979 when militants attacked Masjid-al-Haram

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Pakistani military experts helped in the operation against the militants.

5) Economic Goals:-

The pact increase opportunities for defense related trade between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. This will enhance Pakistan's defense exports.

6) Strength Globally:

This agreement strength Pakistan's image as a key strategic partner in Middle East. It also sent strong signal to other countries specially Israel, that Saudi Arabia has reliable allies.

7) Historical and Religious Ties:

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia share strong historical cultural and religious connections. People of Pakistan can do anything for the safety of Saudi Arabia as it include the Holy places of Muslims. Due to these ties the pact became politically and socially acceptable.

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Implications of the Pact:

1) Extended Nuclear Support:

Pakistan is a nuclear armed state, while Saudi Arabia is not. Under the pact Pakistan can provide its nuclear support to Saudi Arabia if it faces a major threat. This is one of the first non-NATO extended nuclear support.

This support increase Saudi Arabia security but raises global concerns about nuclear expansion.

2) Shift in Regional Alliances:

After the Pact, Saudi Arabia is now not solely dependent on America. Pakistan also gained strategic influence in the middle east. This marked a shift from regional Alliances.

Other countries in the region, Iran, Israel and Turkey may rethink their security strategies in response to this alliance.

3) Impact on Pak-India:

Any military conflict between Pakistan and India could be seen as involving Saudi

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Arabia indirectly. Which will effect the relation between Saudi Arabia and India.

4) Enhancing Conventional Military Cooperation:-

Joint military exercises, intelligence sharing and training programs will improve Saudi Arabia's military capability. Pakistan may also supply modern defense equipments.

5) Economical & technological benefit:-

Pakistan defense industry may gain access to Saudi Arabia Market, which will increase its economy, moreover strengthening of bilateral relationship will increase the jobs opportunities for Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia.

6) Impact on Global Diplomacy:

The agreement may influence global powers, including United States and China. They may reconstruct their policies in the Middle East and South Asia.

The Strategic Mutual Defense pact is a

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historic agreement that strengthens the bilateral military relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. It provides nuclear support to Saudi Arabia, and economic support to Pakistan mainly.