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Mock-4

MEMOONA ARSHAD

BATCH-211

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q.2 :

PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS

Introduction:

Pakistan and Afghan relations have fluctuated over time. The relations between both countries continue to remain tensed even after mediation by China. The core reasons of conflict among both countries are TTP, Afghan refugee crises, border disputes and now it is also Indian Factor. Strategic measures such as joint efforts to combat terrorism, diplomatic engagement and bilateral cooperation are required to improve the relations between both countries.

Recent wave of Conflict

Recently, in October 2025, there was a rise of escalation between both countries.

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This escalation lasted for few days followed by cross-fires resulting into death of military personnels. However, ceasefire was brokered by mediation of Qatar. The main reason behind this escalation was military ^{terror} attacks in Pakistan on military personnels.

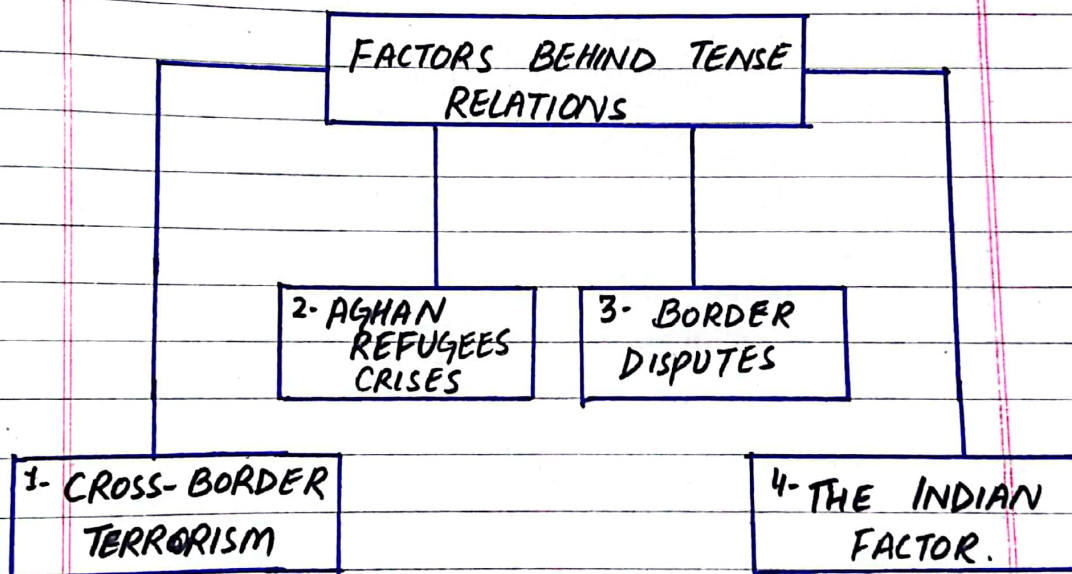
FACTORS BEHIND TENSE RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN & AFGHANISTAN

1) Cross-border terrorism:

The main factor contributing to tense relations between Pakistan and ~~Afghanis~~ Afghanistan is cross border terrorism and the rise of TTP. The escalations between both countries were due to attacks on military ~~personnels~~ in Orakzai and other areas of Pakistan especially Balochistan and KPK resulting in casualties. The TTP and other militant groups are attacking Pakistan from the territory of Afghanistan. Pakistan has been diplomatically engaging with Afghan Taliban to counter terrorism. But, there was no effective response from there. So, Pakistan had to do on its own to curb terrorism.

2) Afghan refugees crises

Pakistan has hosted millions of refugees over the past four decades since the Soviet-Afghan war. Many of them are also unregistered. These Afghan refugees are also involved in terrorism in Pakistan. Therefore, Pakistan has been evacuating those refugees in phases for past 2-3 years. This is also causing erosion of trust between Kabul and Islamabad.



3) BORDER DISPUTES

The other factor is border dispute i.e., Durand Line. The Durand line is approximately 2600km long border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. But, there is also dispute about this border between

both countries. Pakistan's stance is that Durand line is internationally recognized border. Afghanistan's stance is that this is not a border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Afghan governments have not accepted this border.

4) The Indian Factor

India's high diplomatic engagement with Afghanistan is also causing deterioration in relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Recently, at time Oct, 2025 conflict, Afghanistan's FM was on visit to India. Although, India has not officially recognized Taliban's government, but it has announced to open its Embassy in Afghanistan. These growing relations between India and Afghanistan can become a hurdle in improve of relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE PAK- AFGHAN RELATIONS

1) Joint efforts to curb terrorism:

Pakistan and Afghanistan both should make joint efforts to

curb terrorism. militant attacks in Pakistan are increasing day by day, causing loss of lives. To combat terrorism, Afghanistan should cooperate with Pakistan, as Afghanistan's territory is being used against Pakistan and violating the sovereignty of Pakistan.

2) Sanctions on militant groups:

China, Russia and other world powers should impose sanctions on militant groups ~~and~~ to stop terror financing. It will surely reduce terror attacks in Pakistan and help to boost Pakistan and Afghanistan's relations. Afghanistan should also stop harboring these militant groups, so that the attacks on Pakistan can be reduced.

3) Diplomatic engagement.

Pakistan has always diplomatically engaged with Afghanistan. In 2021, ~~US troops~~ ^{US troops} withdrawn, Pakistan has mediated the negotiations between Taliban and US and among those countries who recognized Taliban government. Now, it is time for diplomacy again,

but it can only be possible by mutual coordination of both countries, to resolve their conflicts.

4) Bilateral Cooperation:

Pakistan and Afghanistan should enhance bilateral cooperation in various sectors. In past Transit-Trade Agreement was made signed by both countries. They should once again start transit trade by mutual agreement to improve relations. But, this time Afghanistan should ensure its cooperation towards Pakistan.

Conclusion:

Pakistan and Afghanistan relations once again got tensed due to several reasons such as terrorism, refugees crises, border dispute and Indian factor also. To improve relations, both countries should make joint efforts to counter terrorism, enhance diplomacy and cooperation in various sectors.

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

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

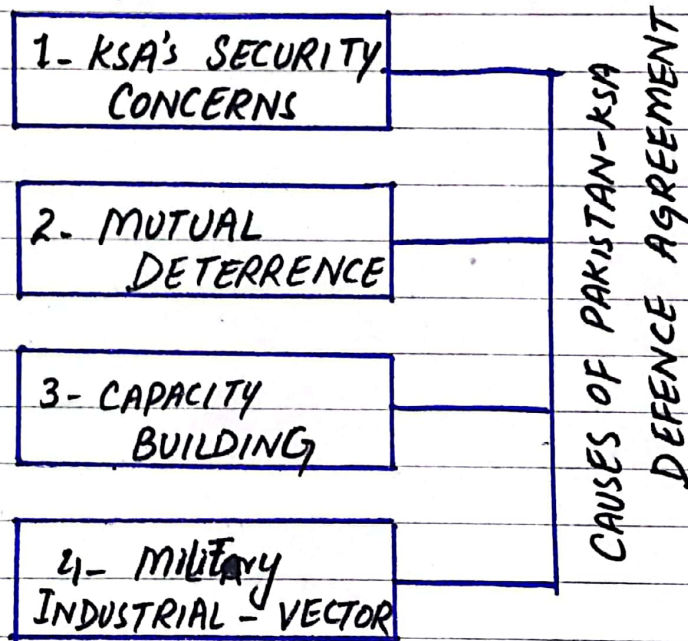
Causes of Pakistan-KSA defence pact

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.

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2) Changing KSA-Iran dynamics

KSA and Iran are rivals for a very long time, China played a role of 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.

5) Security dilemma:

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

Conclusion:

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.

Q.6: Russia - Ukraine War

Introduction:

The war between Russia and Ukraine has not come to end due to conflicting demands by Russia and NATO. The demands by Putin are de-weaponizing

of Ukraine, captured areas will not be returned, NATO will not expand and Ukraine will not join NATO. The Putin's stance is clear, "deal or no ceasefire." The demands by NATO are unconditional ceasefire and complete evacuation of Russia. The chances of end of war are quite less due to different demands by both parties.

CONFLICTING DEMANDS

• BY RUSSIA

1) Ukraine will de-weaponize

The first and foremost demand of Russia is de-weaponization of Ukraine. Putin demands that US or NATO will not supply weapons to Ukraine and Ukraine will have to return all existing weapons back to US and NATO.

2) Captured areas will not be returned:

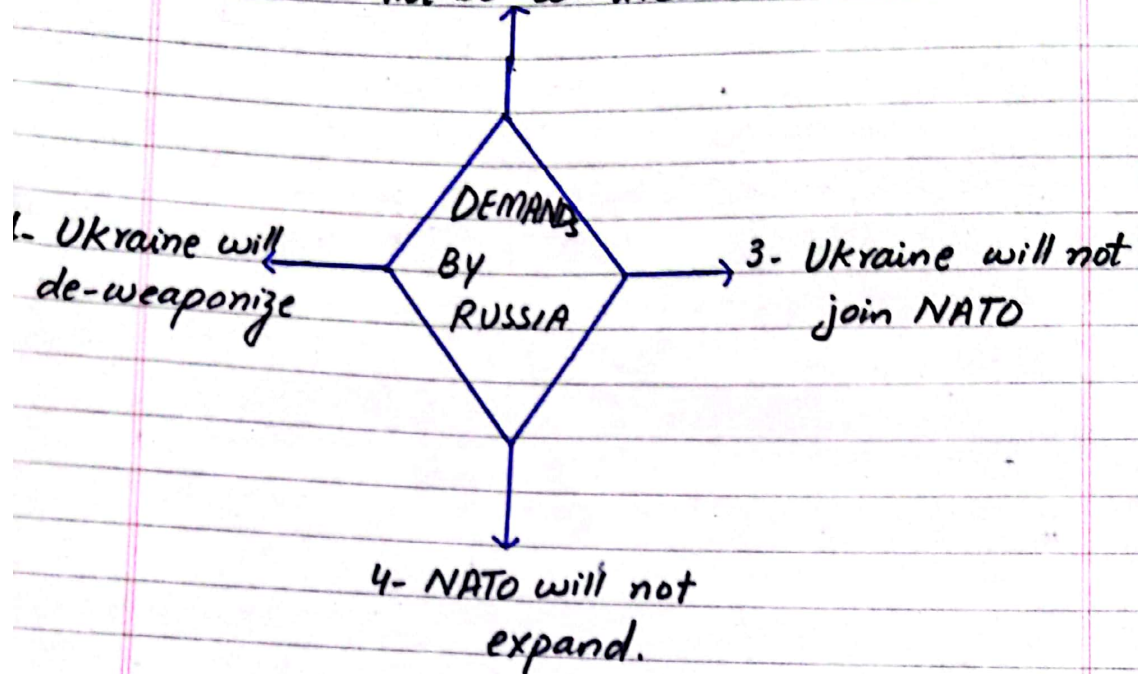
The other demand by Putin is that Russia will not return the captured territories of Ukraine such as Luhansk, Kherson and so on. Moreover, Crimea annexed by Russia

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back in 2014, will also not be returned

2- Captured areas will
not be returned



3) Ukraine will not ~~join~~ join NATO

The other condition by Russia to end the Ukrainian war is that Ukraine will not join NATO. The main reason behind this was is also this. Because, if Ukraine would join NATO, NATO forces will be deployed in Ukraine causing a significant threat to Russia.

4) NATO will not expand

The other demand by Russia is that NATO will not expand. Because, if

NATO will expand to immediate neighbours of Russia, its forces will be deployed on the border of those countries and thus cause deterrence to Russia.

By NATO

1) Unconditional ceasefire:

The main demand by NATO, Zelensky and their other allies is unconditional ceasefire. They demand to end the Ukrainian War without any terms and conditions.

2) Complete evacuation of Russia

NATO demands Russia to completely evacuate Ukraine and to return captured areas and end the war in Ukraine.

Chances of End of Ukrainian War

The chances of end of Ukrainian war after these conflicting demands both by Russia and NATO are less likely to occur. Both parties

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are poles apart and not ready to negotiate and end this war by agreeing on same stance or conditions. The end of this war is only possible when both the Russia and Ukraine negotiate and find another way to ceasefire.

Conclusion:

The chances of end of Ukrainian war are less likely to occur due to their conflicting demands. Both are not agree to accept each other's demands. Russia demands for disarmament of Ukraine and Ukraine will not join NATO. Moreover, Russia also demands that NATO will not expand and captured territories will not be returned. However, NATO demands for unconditional ceasefire and complete evacuation of Russia from Ukrainian territory.