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Batch-81 (Mock-04)

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General Knowledge II

Current Affairs

ANSWER NO: 07

PAKISTAN BALANCING RELATIONS WITH US AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH CHINA

The US-Pakistan relations has historically seen as friendly with some little period of disengagement. However from the cold war allies in SEATO (1954), and CENTO (1955) to even allocation of Badaber base (1960); Pakistan has served US interests.

In response US has provided its economic, military or technical assistance to Pakistan.

as helped in various projects like Warsak Dam etc. and with the fighter jets (F-16) and then a critical partner on Afghanistan.

The Pakistan and China strategic partnership has historical roots, starting from 1950s but attained its peak when the flagship project BRI (OBOR) main corridor CPEC, was shared with Pakistan. In recent times, Pakistan has excelled in its diplomatic prudence and balance both of its partners in order to achieve stability and order in the region and to influence as a key regional player.

Geo-economic = National Policy 2022

Pakistan has pursued its geoeconomic policy since 2022 officially. It left the decades old geo-politics and believes in the objective relations with all the nations of the world. Pakistan believes in a balancing role between or among the

major powers of the world. In modern era, Pakistan stopped choosing sides in great powers rivalry and is completely focused on its own development and working for peace, order and stability in the world. It is evident in Pakistan's foreign policy and its objectives that it does not cherish any aggressive design against any state and will be working to achieve balance, prosperous and mutual relations with other nations of the world.

① MUTUAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH US AND CHINA:

The key to resolve issues in mutual economic benefits; relations which benefits and serves with both the involved parties are more successful.

Pakistan has to diversify issue-based economic engagements with US and China. For instance, more developmental projects can be collaborated with US; to access its technical support in return for its diverse agricultural products. More economic avenues could be explore with China alongside CPEC to make their bilateral ties more strong.

② OBJECTIVE APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES AND GOALS:

Pakistan has to firmly stick to its objective foreign policy goals to maintain neutrality in world politics. It is essential to maintain relations with all the major powers without any bias, tilt to one, or more preferential to be everyone's favourite. The recent strategy

showed that Pakistan successfully avoid US tariffs (lowest in South Asia 18-20%) with a much more presence in Tianjin conference which condemn terrorist activities in Pakistan.

③ PRIORITISE OWN NATIONAL INTEREST:

like every state in the global politics, Pakistan must act in accordance to its internal stability, economic peaks and favourable conditions for development in its own boundaries first. The Pakistan's approach has been widely regarded as more positively improving in the recent decade after 2020s where Pakistan stuck to its own national interest. It can be seen as uplifting status from FATF black, then grey status and now has white one. A more support after May 2025 operations, Pakistan was able to attract global attention and favour than India.

④ AVOID OVERDEPENDENCE ON BOTH MAJOR POWERS:

To balance relations, Pakistan might escape overdependence on both the major powers. The reliance on any of the major powers will challenge its independent foreign policy, to avoid that and balance neutrality between US and China; it is needed to choose self-autonomy. The overdependence can be achieved by accessing relations with both states and to explore multiple other options while executing its foreign policy. The Saudi Arabia Mutual Defence Agreement with Pakistan (2025) is a clear sign that Pakistan has started to escape the umbrella of influence of just a middle-player between two great powers.

⑤ More Focus on Economics, Avoid military engagements:

Pakistan in the past faced rivalries with other states (like USSR) for being in military alliances. In modern time, it is a lesson to learn that Pakistan has to maintain itself away from military alliances like AUKUS and QUAD and to prefer economic relations.

⑥ IMF Vs. CPEC: Balancing:

Pakistan, since its inception has drawn to IMF for its fiscal balance. In post-2019 era, dependent on Chinese investments and loans through CPEC for its balance of payments. First comes the economic independence and autonomy which leads to independent foreign policy.

⑦ Triangular Diplomacy:

Pakistan must engage in multi-lateral platforms like UN, SAARC, ASEAN, SCO and more to engage US and China simultaneously. It was Pakistan's triangular diplomacy outcome that US and China became closer to each other in 1969-70 in Nixon-Mao Zedong Era.

Conclusion:

Pakistan is already on its way towards achieving impartial, autonomous and balance relations with US and China. The recent diplomatic efforts has proved that Pakistan is successfully achieving its balancing; both the US and China is praising Pakistan as a partner in 2025.

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ANSWER NO: 08

Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Defence Pact: Causes and Implications.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia has signed a historical mutual defense agreement on 17 September, 2025. Prince Crown Muhammad Bin Salman and Pakistan's prime minister Mian Shabbaz Sharif along with Pakistan image circulating on media has sparked a debate that a historical deal has been signed. The deal is momentous that in the previous century, only a few such deals have been signed; almost in 80% there is a presence of US, while this is explicitly between two regional players. This deal is welcomed by regional players like Iran, Turkey and other important middle eastern players. While also faced verbal resistance from Israel etc. It is a security oriented deal tailored to enhance the existing military cooperation between the two involved parties. It has numerous causes but immediately triggered by aggression of neighbouring states; India's aggression in May, 2025 against Pakistan and Israel's towards Qatar is Sep 2025.

Causes:

- ① India's Aggression countered and resisted by Pakistan:
India has launched operation Sindoor

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against Pakistan. which was successfully defended and resisted with operation Buraq-ul-Masroos in May, 2025. The J-10C and PL-15 missiles shut down fighter jets like Rafale, thus Pakistan defence posture was appreciated.

② Pakistan's military might has been proved to the world:

After May 2025, Pakistan's position as a military might has proved in the world.

By hitting S-400 defence system shot downing of France made Indian jets and successfully targeting military bases from where it was attacked. Saudi Arabia might have been realised the military capabilities of Pakistan and to make a mutual benefiting deal could benefit them.

③ Israel's Aggression Against Iran and Qatar:

Israel's recent regional bullying attained its peak when it attacked Iranian nuclear sites and peace negotiators in Qatar. These attacks have disturbed the equilibrium of the status-quo in middle East. This defence pact is the outcome that in near future Israel must not consider KSA like other middle-eastern state.

④ US-guarantees (security) is no more valid:

The US had provided security guarantees to its partners, specifically to Saudi Arabia and Qatar in the region. When Qatar was attacked with no repercussion for Israel. Saudi Arabia came to know that it must explore new avenues for its defence purpose and then this deal was negotiated.

⑤ Saudi Arabia's growing economic power need security:

Pakistan has a strong military but a weak economic might and vice versa for Saudi Arabia. To balance their powers, one need military security, assistance and support while another one economic uplift to more national development. Therefore, a new wave of strategic partnership has been reestablished.

⑥ A mutual bond of an economic and military power to solidify their regional influence:

The amalgamation of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan is a new regional structure is upcoming in the regional politics. It is not just a deal for their mutual security but a source of more influence and projection in the region to deter their adversaries from attacking them.

Implications:

① Domestic level:

(A) Pakistan's and Saudi Arabia's public perception felt more secured.

Both the nations will feel more secure. As no state will potentially attack them now to avoid collective response from both parties.

(B) Mutual Gains:

The Saudi Arabia military capabilities would improve with the military and technical help of Pakistan. Pakistan could access new technological weaponry now.

② Regional Level:

(A). Deterrence Against Rival States:

The rival states of both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have been deterred from attacking them. No state can afford the opposition of both the parties at once. Thus defence pact is better serves for deterrence.

(B). A Muslim Alliance is in making:

This defence pact might include more states under the security umbrella of Pakistan. Pakistan is an only nuclear power with conventional weapons superiority in Muslim world.

(C). Challenge to Regional Ambitious Hegemons:

This defence deal is a challenge for India in South Asia while for Israel in Middle East. It may face some resistance and opposition from these rival states.

③ Global Level:

The world has witnessed this defence pact as a new beginning of another security paradigm. It is not just a defence pact between two states but an alarm for the diversification of military relations apart from major powers. It may ignite similar pacts at the global level.

Conclusion:

The Saudi Arabia-Pakistan security defence pact is a mutual sharing responsibility of one another in case of any hostility. It has set an unprecedented hallmark in the global politics. It boosted Pakistan's image as a security guarantor while Saudi Arabia as a key regional player.

ANSWER NO: 04

Dangerous revival of militancy in KP and Balochistan

The dangerous revival of militancy can be observed especially in KP and Balochistan. After US withdrawal from Afghanistan and the takeover of Afghan Taliban, shortly referred to as TTA.

On 15 August 2021, triggered militancy in the region. They are releasing years old prisoners, punishable of militancy in the region and distributing weaponry in them. The failed talks for peace between Tehreek Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Pakistan is also a precursor to these terrorist activities. A proxy support from external states exacerbate the situation. Some existing militant groups especially in Balochistan, commonly known as Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), BRF and its suicide bombers Majeed Brigade is fueling militancy.

REASONS FOR MILITANCY IN KP

① US withdrawal from Afghanistan:

The US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021. The TTA took over it and ceased the control of the whole territory along with the weaponry left them worth of \$2 Trillion from US. The TTA has done two major things ① It releases the prisoners - who were declared militants; among whom TTP fighters especially involved in militant attacks ② It distributed the luxury weapons in them as "maal-e-Ghanimat".

② Failed Peace Talks:

The Pakistan government engaged in peace talks with Afghanistan regarding TTP. Pakistan provided conditions that they can return if surrendered under state writ, abide by law, leave arms life, will merge in mainstream life but those involved in heinous crime must face the law but before talks were finalised, these militants entered Pakistan and started attacks.

③ Terrorist Sanctuaries in Afghanistan:

The Afghanistan government provided safe sanctuaries to the militants engaged in militancy against Pakistan. These terrorists easily target any place from bordering provinces like Paktia and Paktika and then escaped to Kabul etc. In short, they started using Afghanistan as a launching pad.

④ Exploiting the Political and Ethnic Grievances:

These militants exploited the existing grievances of the people of Pakistan against their states with their new weaponry and some monetary incentives and benefits - many from tribal regions had joined them and the militancy increased.

⑤ TTP Revival:

Pakistan in the past has defeated the militancy through kinetic measures; like Operation Jurr-e-Azab and Rad-ul-Fasaad etc. But new regional developments had revived these terrorists and especially TTP in KP.

REASONS FOR MILITANCY IN BALUCHISTAN

① BLA (BBA, BLF - Majeed Brigade)

The militant ethnic group of Balochistan is acting against state of Pakistan with their claims for provincial struggle with secessionist claims.

② Sardari System:

The Balochistan sardari system is one of the causes that hinders the growth of the province. Majority of its population feel deprived of their basic rights and state's privileges. Tribal system has pushed them into century old enslavement of their sardars or chieftains.

③ Centrist Argument:

The central government or centrist viewed it as that they had given Balochistan their due share. But it is the sardars who theft it and due to corruption reasons, the funds were not transmitted to the grassroot levels and people there believe it is the fault of centre.

④ Federalist Argument:

The federalist claims that there are districts and regions in Balochistan which do not have sardari system but still lack development. It is the centre who deprived the people of Balochistan from their due shares and alienated them. Thus they joined militant groups to go against the state.

⑤ Proxy Support:

Kalbushan Inadav case and his investigations revealed that India was engaged and is still exacerbates the situation worse in Pakistan through their supports to militants in Balochistan. The people are already deprived of their shares as SOT donot have gas, Rekong mining case and some external help increases the potential for more terrorist activities.

⑥ Secessionist Views:

The poorer hungry groups in Balochistan are propagating anti-state narrative for acquisition of power for their own good to separate ways with Pakistan.

Recommendations

① TBO Operations:

Intelligence-based operations are less costly and more effective than more kinetic operations. They do not result into displacement of people thus garnering their support instead of alienating them.

② Reforming Police Services:

The security forces are good at combating terrorists and militants. But it is the responsibility of the police and other local authorities to maintain order. Thus it is the need of hour to equip, train and make them authoritative in their areas - the police.

③ Propagate National Narrative and Rehabilitation centres:

The state must educate its citizens of its narrative through education, media and small-scale relief programs at grass root levels along with Rehabilitation centres to normalize less harmful militants to merge them into mainstream life.

④ Economic Progress and Development:

The state must act to develop regions, provide basic facilities like quality education and improved health facilities in militancy prone areas. This will improve people bond with state. Thus development in the conflict zone is a key to stability.

Conclusion:

The KP militancy is related to Afghanistan's emerging situation and TTP's rise while in Balochistan it is an ethnic issue which is exacerbating from India's and other powers who are using them as proxies against Pakistan, which must be dealt with intense care and intelligence.