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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Current Affairs (Part II)

Q 7. How could Pakistan balance its relation after the recent engagement with US and strategic partnership with China?

### Introduction:

This year 2025 appears very beneficial for Pakistan in its geostrategic engagements with world powers. At one hand we see Pakistan renewed relations and engagement with US after four years of rigid conflicts. and on the other side more improvements in the strategic partnership with the neighbour country china through new projects and developments. :

### Pakistan and US relations:

#### Early relations:

The early relation of Pakistan with US was based on its limited ties. Their relations emerged in 1950s.

## Pakistan's Efforts

### Timeline of the relations:

- 1950 - Defence agreement
- 1954 - SEATO signing
- 1955 - CENTO signing
- 1960 - Peshawar Base efforts
- 1970 - Sino-US talk efforts
- 2001 - War on Terror co-operations with US.

### Modern time relations:

2021 - After US withdrawal from Afghanistan the relations take bitter turn. A blame on Pakistan erupts as the supporter of Afghan.

2025 - Now, with Trump's Presidency the relations with US takes revival turns.

### Transactional relations nature with US :

"Changing global dynamics demand's a change in Foreign Policy"

From cold war to modern economic agreement Pakistan's relation with

the US was transactional. It was compounded with ups and downs. Now, with the dawn of 2025 year the US shifts towards Pakistan is a chance for Pakistan to utilize this opportunity effectively by turning these efforts into permanent joint strategic partnerships.

## Relations with China:

### Early relations:

Pakistan and China  
joint efforts

- 1950 - China and India's friendship was on its phase
- 1960 - This year the shift of China from India to Pakistan
- 1963 - Pakistan - China border agreement.
- 1970 - Pakistan's effort to stabilize China - US relations.
- 1983 - China's Nuclear energy contributions for Pakistan.

### Modern time relations:

- 2015 - CPEC Project of BRT
- to 2025 - China's continuous support

for Pakistan.

China - Pakistan's friendship is very strong and their strategic partnership is not going to break with any external efforts.

"Pakistan-China relations are higher than Himalayas, sweeter than honey and deeper than Ocean"

How Pakistan could balance its relation between US and China:

The COAS once stated;

"Pakistan has the experience of balancing its relation with US and China."

Historically: Pakistan's balanced approach

1) Afghan war:

During 1980's Afghan war Pakistan in collaboration with US was acting on this conflict but still we have strong ties with China at time.

## 2) War on Terror:

War on Terror Pakistan was front-line supporter with US in 2001 against Afghanistan but China didnot intervene and objects any role of Pakistan.

## 3) CPEC collaboration:

During CPEC project with Pakistan on its Phase I along that Pakistan was also at that time develops its relation with US and economic and financial support was going on.

## 4) Henry Kissenger episode:

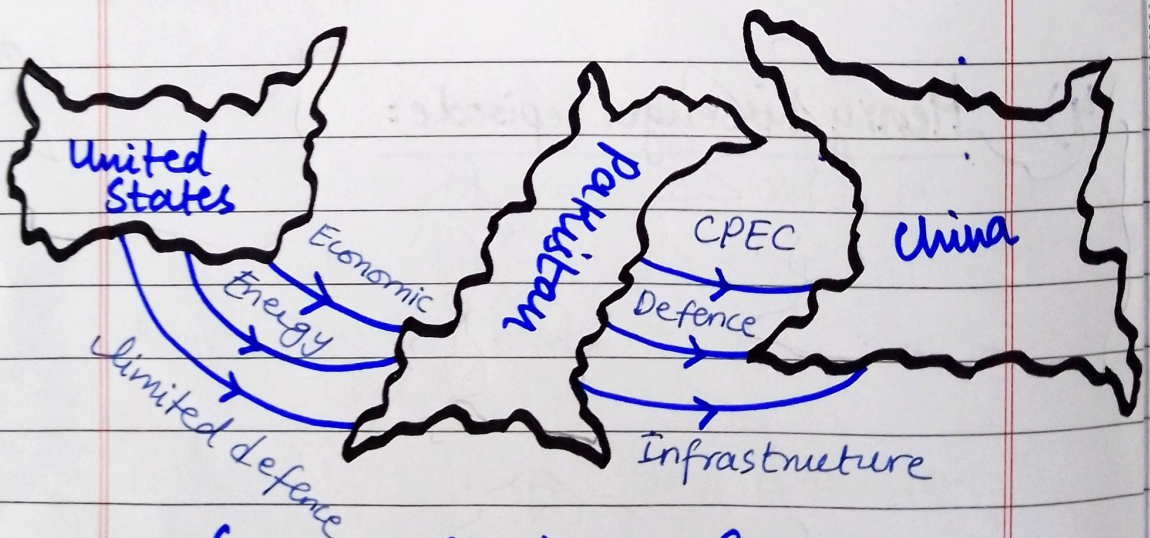
In 1970, it was Pakistan that arranged secret talk between China and US amid severe conflicts.

So, history itself speaks that Pakistan has a great experience of balancing its relation with both nations.

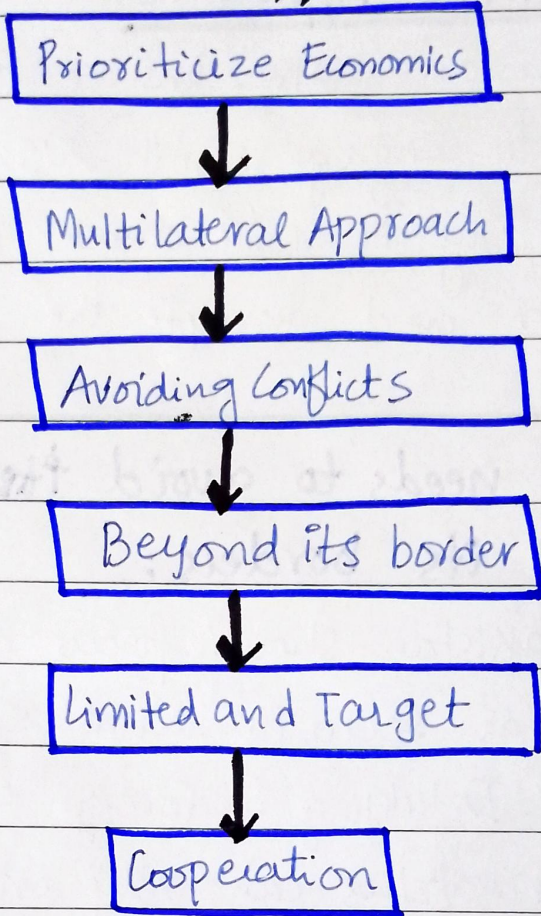
Now, with this modern time no doubt many changes comes in the

global order and the situation between US and China becomes more tense and competing in the race of gaining global hegemony.

“Pakistan is doing the trade and economic and strategic cooperation with both as with US trade with Pakistan of the last year 2024 was \$6.9 bn (SBP) and with China it was \$24.7 bn (China's economist)”



Current Strategies Pakistan can opt to enhanced its ties with both :



1)

### Prioritizing Economics:

Pakistan shifts to geo-economic phase by balancing its relations with both the nations. Its national interest should be based on the economic progress of its state through these two nations. It will help to Pakistan to less dependent on the China completely with US Pakistan can share its relations.

## 2) Multilateral Approach:

Pakistan make ensure that not going to engage with US or china unilaterally it will create tense situation and disrupts the relations.

## 3) Pakistan needs to avoid the conflicts beyond its borders:

Pakistan should focus on its territorial security and national interest. Indulging in foreign conflicts and rivalries can only create gap in relation.

## 4) Limited and Target Cooperation:

By first clearly limitized counter relations and their limited interference

In state's relation can save Pakistan by breaking of its ties to both.

Pakistan clearly inform US that China is its strategic Partner and US trade and cooperation shouldnot link to Pakistan relation's with China.

## Conclusion:

### "Friends not Masters"

A book by Ayub Khan very significantly discussed this concept that Pakistan is going to make strategic economic and trade relations with U.S. not going to subordinate under it. Pakistan by proper strategy and developed policies and steps can balanced its relations with both nation as it has been doing historically.

Q8. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have signed a historic defense pact. Critically evaluate the causes and implication of the deal?

### Pakistan-Saudi Strategic

#### Mutual Defence Agreement:

Strategic defence agreement between Pakistan - Saudi Arabia is like a shield in a region where the storms of uncertainty are very common.

→ For Pakistan: this SMDA pact works as a layer of security, advance military cooperation and assured economic benefits.

→ For Saudi-Arabia: this accord anchors a dependable ally in South Asia with proven defence capabilities and strategic depth.

→ Beneath the banner of the unity:

This agreement carries the power that it reshapes the regional security structure that is no more one-sided tie narrative but a

Shared responsibility. The true test lies in the discipline of its implementation.

### The Emergence of this SMDA :

On 17 September 2025, in the city of Riyadh's Al-Yamamah Palace A collective defence pact was signed between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

"any aggression against one country shall be considered an action against both countries"

Acc. to Senior Saudi official by Reuters;

"This agreement is a comprehensive defence pact encouraging all military means."

### According to Maleeha Lodhi;

"This significant pact has elevated the decades old implicit commitments explicitly giving Pakistan a strategic value in the Gulf region."

## Historical Background Of Pakistan-Saudia Relations:

→ Saudia-Arabia always Economic Partnership  
Support Pakistan in  
times of BOP crisis.

→ Pakistan military has Defence Relations  
historically trained Saudi  
cadets and its cooperations  
are with them militarily.

## Historic divergence at some point between the two nations:

Pakistan's and  
its Neutrality  
during  
Saudi-Aran  
Conflicts

← During 2015, Pakistan  
Shows neutrality when  
Saudi-Arabia led coalition  
against Houthi rebels  
in Yemen.

But, relationship still remains strateg-  
ically intact between both the  
countries economically and militarily.

## Cause behind this SMDA:

### (i) Israel attack on Doha, Qatar:

During Qatar mediating talks with Hamas leader and official. Israel strikes on the building which resulted in killing of some Hamas official and a Qatar official. Israel first attack on the Gulf country is the one cause that shattered the overall gulf countries to do some protective measures.

### (ii) West no reaction and defence for the Qatar:

Qatar a country that has one of the famous hosted military of the US, still comes under the attack of Israel and west <sup>did</sup> not take any action to protect the state or against Israel to demand accountability of its actions.

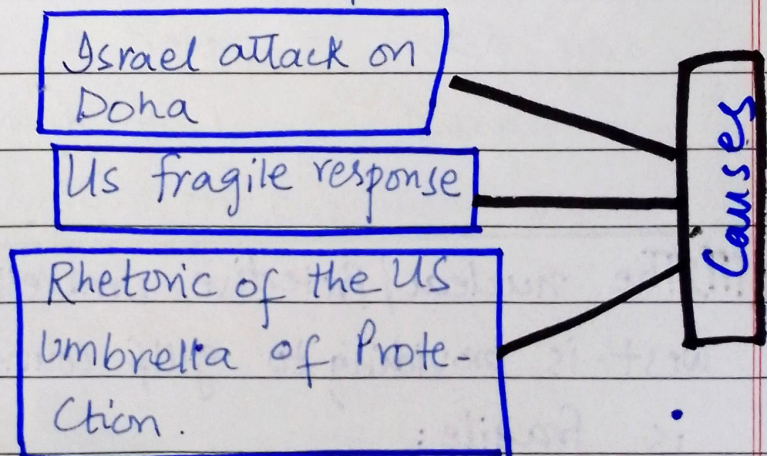
### (iii) The nuclear/Protective umbrella that west is providing to gulf countries are is fragile:

West (US) a nuclear power and its commitments to protect the Gulf countries any attack proves fragile in front of Israel aggression through strikes and its inability to counter threats and protection raises serious concerns among the middle east countries to find an alternative defence option.

Political scientist Hazan AsKari Rizvi Stated that;

“Saudi Arabia provides financial oxygen and Pakistan supplied the military presence and training”

It's US rhetorics that forces the Saudi Arabia to take preemptive measures for safety.



These strategic relations between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and the SMDA has benefits for Pakistan as well:

### Reinforcement of Pakistan's Deterrence profile

Pakistan nuclear arsenal was long view as deterrence against India but through the lens of Saudi Arabia parts its extended to the gulf region.

Acc. to defence minister Kaula Asif;

“The Pact places Saudi Arabia under the Pakistan's nuclear umbrella”

### Financial Stability and Economic Leverage

The agreement at one hand provides military and defense assurance to the Saudi Arabia but for Pakistan its beneficial in regard to financial

crisis. Saudia Arabia deposits \$3 bn in PSB often to prevent currency collapse.

### Expansion of defence arm and Industrial cooperation

Saudia Arabia 2030 motives was to prioritize local defence and production partnership. Pakistan arms ranging from vehicles to drones are locally cost effective and a best alternative to western system.

According to Bri. Shaukat Qadir;

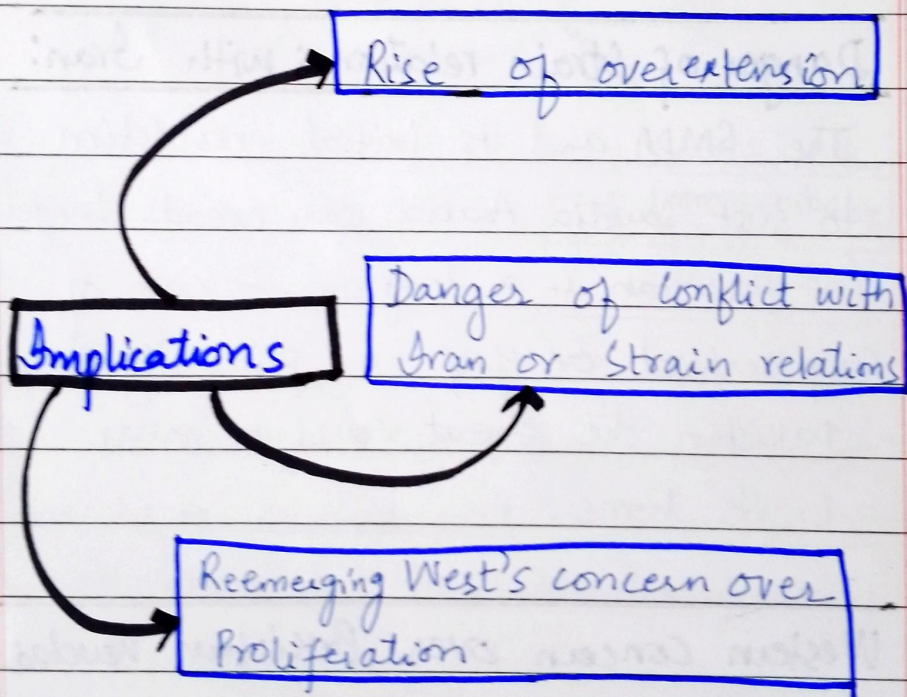
“ Saudia Arabia wants locally tested arms in the battle field and cost effective and Pakistan can provide both ”

### Productive for Oversea Workers and Remittances

Over 2 million pakistanis are working in Saudia Arabia and the last figure of remittance they sent stands

at \$38.3bn. Through SMDA it can be a productive for Pakistan to ensure safety and welfare for its workers in the Saudi Arabia.

This SMDA along with its certain benefits has some serious implications for Pakistan:



### Rise of overextension:

This SMDA and its clause of agreement that an action against one shall be considered against both similar to NATO's article 5, poses serious concerns

that what if a tension between Saudi's and Iran reach to conflict level what Pakistan would do in that situation. Likewise, if a conflict erupts between Pakistan and India will Saudi can take action against its great economic partner India for Pakistan or what if it remains neutral?

### Danger of Strain relations with Iran:

The SMDA and its initial restriction to just Saudi Arabia can create danger for Pakistan in a long run. In case of any conflict or Gulf war primarily for Pakistan the threat could be near to its home.

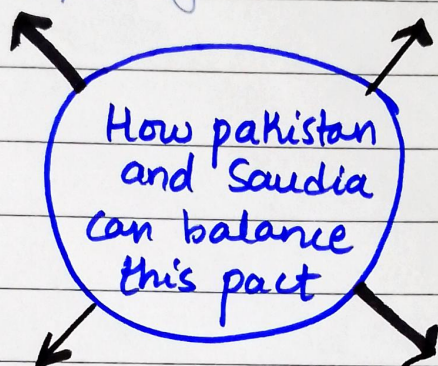
### Western concern over Pakistan nuclear Proliferation:

This emerging part that in reality come into force due to west's fragile umbrella for the Gulf countries raises the concerns of nuclear proliferation in the US. It can pose a threat of sanctions or

renewed scrutiny from the west.

Enforce diplomatic  
political transparency

Diplomacy with  
Iran



Linking security to  
Economic progress

Institutionalized the  
pact from symbolic  
step to reality.

### Conclude:

This strategic defence agreement is not merely a defence pact between the both states but they can transform it into economic, global, geographical prestige and amplify nuclear deterrence. It's a very strategically productive step but through certain steps its implications can be stop and Pakistan and Saudi Arabia can turn this SMDA into a strong regional connectivity accord.