

Q.8

Pakistan Saudi Arabia have signed a historic defense Pact. Critically evaluate the causes and implications of the deal?

(i)

Introduction:

Geopolitics, like seasons, moves in cycle. As much as seasons depict changes, geopolitics is also speculation about the future and ~~impending~~ represents impending change in regional and global geopolitics. Pakistan and Saudi-Arabia has a longstanding, deeprooted and multidomain defense collaboration and production ties. All these cooperations have no formal agreement. The incline of Saudi Arabia was towards the America for defense and security and in formal agreement. The attack of Israel on Qatar let the Saudi Arabia to rethink and reconsider its security deal with Pakistan as Pakistan has proved its capability in Pakistan-India war. This signed pact has regional and global implications which will unfold in near times.

(ii) Saudia-Pak Defense Pact:

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia signed a historic defense pact on 17th September, 2025 in Riyadh.

→ Salient Features of Pact:

- Salient features of this pact are;
- (a) The attack on either country is considered as attack on both countries.
 - (b) The nuclear programme of Pakistan will be available for Saudi Arabia.
 - (c) Pakistan, under this pact, will build air base in Saudi Arabia and upgrade intelligence system.

(iii) Background of Saudia-Pak Defense Pact:

The background of Saudia-Pak Defense Pact was decline of KSA's trust with USA. The recent attack of Israel on Qatar on 23-September-2025 was shaking for the Middle East.

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The Qatar and USA was in security agreement. Despite air bases of USA in Qatar, USA did not stop the attack.

Therefore, Saudi Arabia signed new defense pact with Pakistan in order to strengthen its security against Israel's growing escalation in the region.

(iv) Timeline of Pakistan Defense Pact till date:

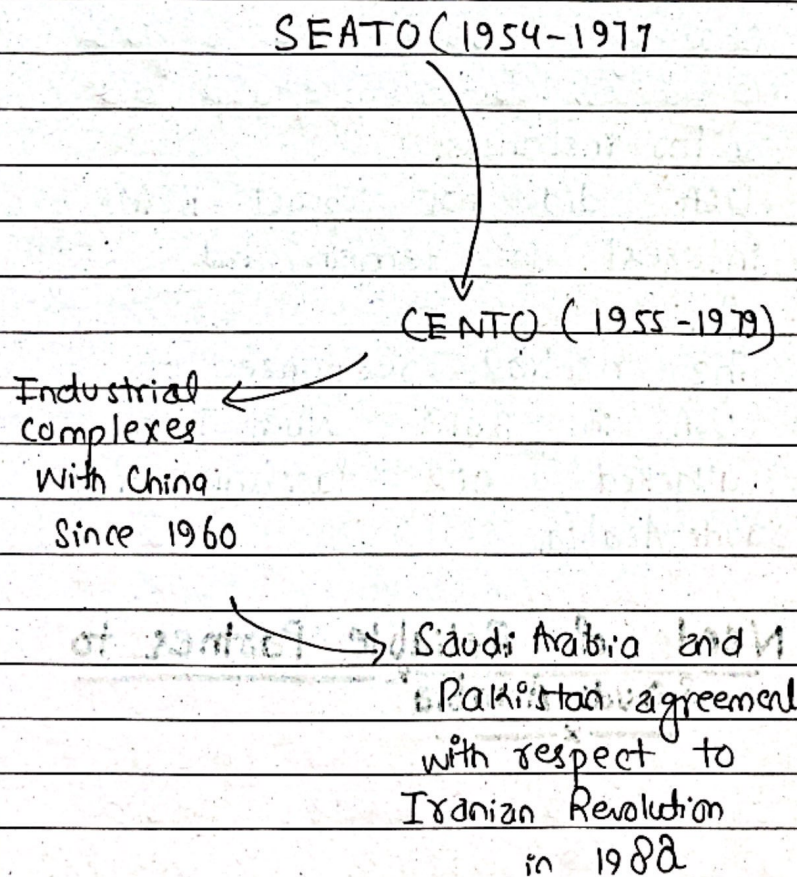


Fig: Pakistan Defense Agreements

→ Causes of Defense Pact:

Following are the causes of Defense Pact between Saudi Arab and Pakistan:

(i) Decline of KSA satisfaction with USA

The KSA is now unsatisfied with the America. KSA found USA not a reliable partner with changing global and regional dynamics. For example, USA and not For instances,

* USA did not support KSA's interest in Yemen and Syria.

* The neutral response of USA in 2019 when Iran attacked oil facilities of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Need of Reliable Partner to Saudi Arabia

The Saudi Arabia finds Pakistan a reliable partner in term

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of "security" and military capabilities. (v)

Pakistan has proved itself in May skirmishes and war with India.

(iii) Shared Interests in the Region

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have shared interest in the middle east.

Both countries consider Israel as a threat and regional disturber. This leads to signing of pact as Israel is gradually increasing its hegemony in the region.

(iv) Volatility in the Middle East

Israel has attacked Iran, Palestine, Lebanon and Qatar in one year. It increases security concerns of Saudi Arabia over security. The next target of Israel might be Saudi Arabia and Israel is also partner of USA. In this volatile scenario, Saudi Arabia finds Pakistan credible partner.

(v)

Strengthenment of Economic Ties

Pakistan is facing economic turmoil since long time. By signing this pact, it intended to boost economic integration with Saudi Arabia. This leads to sign pact as Pakistan considers relief in economic terms.

→ Implications of Pact:

The possible implication of pact is as follows for regional level as well as Pakistan.

(a) Implications for Pakistan

(i) Significantly Enhance Pakistan's Statute in the Middle East

The defense pact enhances Pakistan's stature in the Middle East. The Middle Eastern countries looks at Pakistan for future

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Security agreements. Saudi Arabia, being the leader of Muslim fraternity, relies on Pakistan for security. Also Pakistan joined the Arab-Islamic Summit as non-Arab country was a big diplomatic win for Pakistan.

(ii) Ease on Visa Restrictions

Another implication is ease on visa restrictions from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan. Before that, there was restrictions on visa.

(iii) Investment in Pakistan Economic Sector

Pakistan is facing economic turmoil since long time. After signing defense pact, Saudi Arabia intends to investment in economic sector.

For-example,

* Saudi Arabia intends to invest in Reko Diq.

* Saudi Arabia announces oil refinery in Pakistan

(iv)

Subsidize Oil from KSA to Pakistan:

Another possible implication of this pact is subsidy on oil from Saudi Arab to Pakistan which will provide relief to energy sector of Pakistan which is 60% relying on imported hydrocarbons.

(b)

Regional Implications

Following are regional implications:

(i)

Tilt of Middle Eastern Countries Towards Pakistan

After the signing of pact, now middle Eastern countries are tilting towards Pakistan for security. Different sources claim that the United Arab Emirates and Qatar are considering security pacts with Pakistan.

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(i) Enhancement of Strategic Partnerships of Gulf Countries

This pact enhances strategic partnerships of Gulf countries for security purposes. The Gulf Cooperation Council seems to look options beyond GCC.

(ii) Increase Arm Race and Export of Weapons in the Middle East

This pact will lead to increase arm race and exports of weapons in the region. Under this pact, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will do joint military exercises and build air defense system. Ultimately, other regional countries will import weapons for security.

For example,

* Turkey made defense agreement with Middle East and Pakistan for joint fighter jet development.

* UAE is exporting arms through EDGE group.

(vi) Push Gulf countries to
make Regional Alliances

The defense pact is pushing Gulf countries to make regional alliances for security perspective. It promotes regionalism.

(vi) Changing Global world order
and Emerging Multipolarity

Another implication is changing global world order. The sole hegemon USA is now slipping away from the Middle East. There is a lack of trust between USA and the Middle East. There are emerging signs of multi-polarity.

→ Critical Analysis

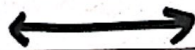
The revived warmth in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia's relations will bring

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tangible economic and financial boom for Pakistan. Yet there is a critical lesson for Pakistan is that the country's persistent economic fragilities has itself strained ties with Riyadh. The national strength does not lie only in defense capabilities. It depends on sustained economic growth.

→ Conclusion:

It can be concluded that the recent defense pact has positive implications for Pakistan. It elevates Pakistan's diplomatic stature in the world. Pakistan has got center in geopolitics after long time and KSA sees Pakistan as capable country which proved itself. The implications of this pact yet to unfold in coming times.



Q.7→ Introduction:

In rapidly evolving global landscape, Pakistan is experiencing a significant renewal, driven by strategic and economic cooperation with USA. This resurgence of warm relations is marked by repeated visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan. Pakistan and USA has struggled in bilateral relations after USA withdrawal from Afghanistan. Pakistan is on the track of to regain its strategic importance in Washington's South Asian Policy. This shift in relations brings Pakistan once again to the forefront in both regional and global geopolitics. However, this shift makes Pakistan to balance its relations with USA and China which are counter to each other. Pakistan needs to take holistic approaches in this balancing act.



Current Overview of Pakistan - USA Relations:

The warmth of Pakistan - USA relations can be seen in following recent developments:

(i) Public Praises of Pakistan's Leadership by Trump

President Trump is seen publicly in praising Pakistan. He praised Pakistan during a joint address of US Congress which surprised those who think Pakistan is not relevant to Washington. He also praised military leadership of Pakistan.

(ii) Invitation by Trump to Military Leadership in Oval Office

President Trump invited military leadership and political leadership of Pakistan into Oval Office.

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(iii) Nomination of Trump by Pakistan for Peace Prize

President Trump has been nominated by Pakistan for Noble Peace Prize. According to Pakistan, Trump has prevented PAK-India war in May 2025.

(iv) Investment in Mineral sector

President Trump made historic announcement of \$500 billion in mineral sector of Pakistan.

(v) Aid for Flood

President Trump announced aid for flood affectees in Pakistan in 2025. This announcement came when America is backing from all its humanitarian commitments globally.

⇒ An overview of China-Pakistan Relations: Current Glimpse

China and Pakistan are reliable partners to each other since decades. Pakistan is always rescued economically by China in need of hours. China, being an economic partner of Pakistan, is investing heavily in economic sector of Pakistan. Pakistan and China also enjoys military relationships in the form of joint production of J-F-17 Thunder, joint military exercises. The flagship project of China's BRI is CPEC which is operating in Pakistan.

⇒ China's View on Pak-USA Growing Relations

Recently, the China expressed its view on Pak-USA

growing relations that,

"Pakistan has made sure that its relations with USA will not impact China's strategic interests."

Chinese Foreign Minister

=> Balancing of Ties Between USA and China

Pakistan can take following approaches to balance its ties between two rival countries. Pakistan can not join a camp politics.

(i) More Diplomacy on Global Conflicts:

Pakistan needs to be more diplomatic on global conflicts. There is need of neutral diplomacy in conflicts instead of joining any side or camp. For example, as in case

of Russia and Ukraine conflict, Pakistan showed neutral response.

(ii) Boosts Internal Stability

Pakistan needs to boost its internal stability, and cohesion among fragmented parts of country, solely based on ethnicity, linguistics and regionalism. The peace at home, both security and politically, needs to be made sure in order to put trajectory on right path.

(iii) Adopt Multilateral Approach for both China and USA

Pakistan needs to adopt both multilateral approach for China and USA. If USA is strategic partner then China is an economic partner vital for

Pakistan's economy.

(iv) Acts as Bridge Between
China and USA

Pakistan must act as a bridge between USA and China. It can be in the form of diplomacy, global sports event such as FIFA worldcup, Olympics etc. Both countries are crucial for Pakistan.

(v) Engagement With Both China
and USA

Pakistan should engaged with both China and USA diplomatically, alliances with likeminded states such as Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia etc.

→ Critical Analysis:

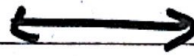
Critically, it can be observed that Pakistan is now at crossroads of diplomacy. One side is strategic partner USA and on the other side is

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economic partner. China, China and USA are rival countries in term of world order. Pakistan has to take balancing approach.

→ Conclusion:

To sum it all, Pakistan and USA are at new heights of cooperation after bumpy relations. The Trump era is welcoming Pakistan with new opportunities. Yet China is also a reliable partner of Pakistan. Pakistan must act as sane nation to balance both diplomatically and should not join camp politics.



balanced approach

Q.2

→

Introduction:

After withdrawal of USA from Kabul, Pakistan thought military and cross-border tension would be reduced. But this thought proved to be temporary. Pakistan and Afghan government are experiencing strained relations current as Pakistan claimed with evidences that Afghan soil is being used by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (ITP) against Pakistan. Pakistan repeatedly request to Afghan government for taking action against them are ignored by Afghanistan which ultimately leads Pakistan to launch military strikes on Kabul and further closure of diplomatic relations. However, there is a need of taking practical measures to curb militancy in order to have smooth relationship of both neighbouring countries.

→ Current Overview of Pakistan-Afghan Relationship:

Currently, Pakistan and Afghanistan are in some diplomatic relationships. Pakistan has launched targeted strikes on Kabul after TTP attacks on Pakistan from soil of Afghanistan. Moreover, Pakistan asked Afghan government to take action on TTPs.

(ii) Meeting in Doha, Qatar

Pakistan and Afghan's foreign minister met at Doha for ceasefire. Pakistan presented its case with evidence. Afghanistan agreed on condition of curbing TTP.

→ Driving Factors in Tensed Relations

Following are driving factors in tensed relations.

(i) Militant Attack from TTPs

TTPs repeatedly attacked on Pakistan Army checkpoints in KPK and Balochistan, resulted in loss of lives. Pakistan asked Afghanistan to take actions but Afghan government did not. Therefore, it becomes driving factor of strained relations.

(ii) Pakistan's Policy to Return Afghan Refugees

Pakistan's policy to return Afghan refugees from the country was another driving factor. Afghan Taliban government did not want them back.

(ii)

Instability in Balochistan:

Balochistan is unstable and facing internal extremism and militancy. The instability in Balochistan via BLA, BFA etc becomes has link to Afghanistan militant's organization. This becomes driving factor for strained relations.

(iv)

Durand Line Issue

Durand Line is 2200 km long porous border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Afghanistan government does not consider it border. Recently, Pakistan decided to seal it. It caused tension between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

(v)

Indian's Lobby and Interests

Indian factor is also involve in

strained relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The recent visit of foreign minister of Afghanistan to India and India's hint to accept Taliban government amid Pak-Afghan skirmishes is proving the fact the India is involved.

→ Recommendations:

Following are the recommendation to improve Pak-Afghan relationship.

(i) Reactivation of Diplomacy

Pakistan and Afghanistan should revive its diplomatic relations to restore talking terms and negotiation because political dialogue is far better than military confrontation.

(ii) Improve Trust Deficit

Pakistan and Afghanistan must bridge trust deficit

over border conflict and
refugees issue bilaterally.

(iii) Curb Cross-Border Terrorism x

Pakistan
and Afghanistan must curb
cross-border extremism, terrorism
and military attacks.
The soil of one should
not be used against the other.

(iv) Signing Free Trade Agreement x

Pakistan and
Afghanistan must sign
free trade agreement
for trade and
boosting economy.

(v) Confidence Building Measures x

Pakistan should invest
in Afghanistan for
confidence building measure
in order to bring
it in regional
alliances.

(vi) Cultural Dialogues and Educational Programmes

These must be cultural dialogues and educational programmes for student in both countries.

(vii) Intelligence Sharing and Joint Military Exercises

To curb militancy, both countries should share intelligence information. In this regard, both countries can perform joint military exercises and form joint border force.

→ Conclusion:

It can be concluded that Pakistan and Afghanistan are in strained and sour relations due to multitude factors. The majority driving

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factor is cross border
militancy which pushes
both countries in border
skirmishes. However, being
a neighbouring countries, there
is a potential benefits
which can be utilized
by take practical steps.

