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Mock

Current Affairs

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Q # 8

PAK-SAUDI DEFENSE PACT:

Introduction:

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are the vital countries for Muslim Worlds.— Pakistan being the only Muslim Atomic power and Saudi Arabia because of birthplace of Islam. Both of the countries are facing some threats and they decided to sign a defense pact

in September 2025 Known as
Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement.

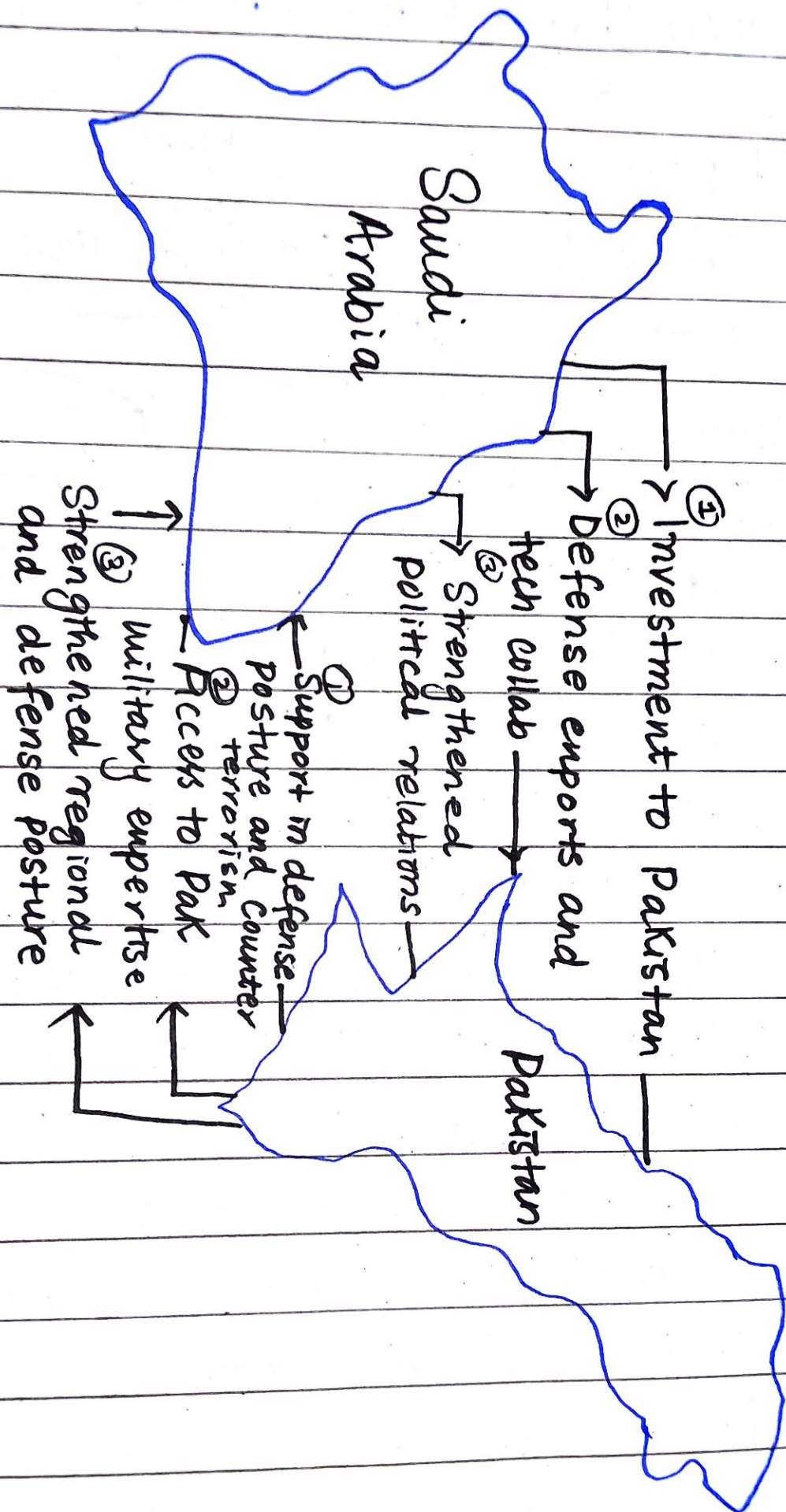
The main clause of this agreement
is:

"Any aggression against one
shall be considered aggression
against both."

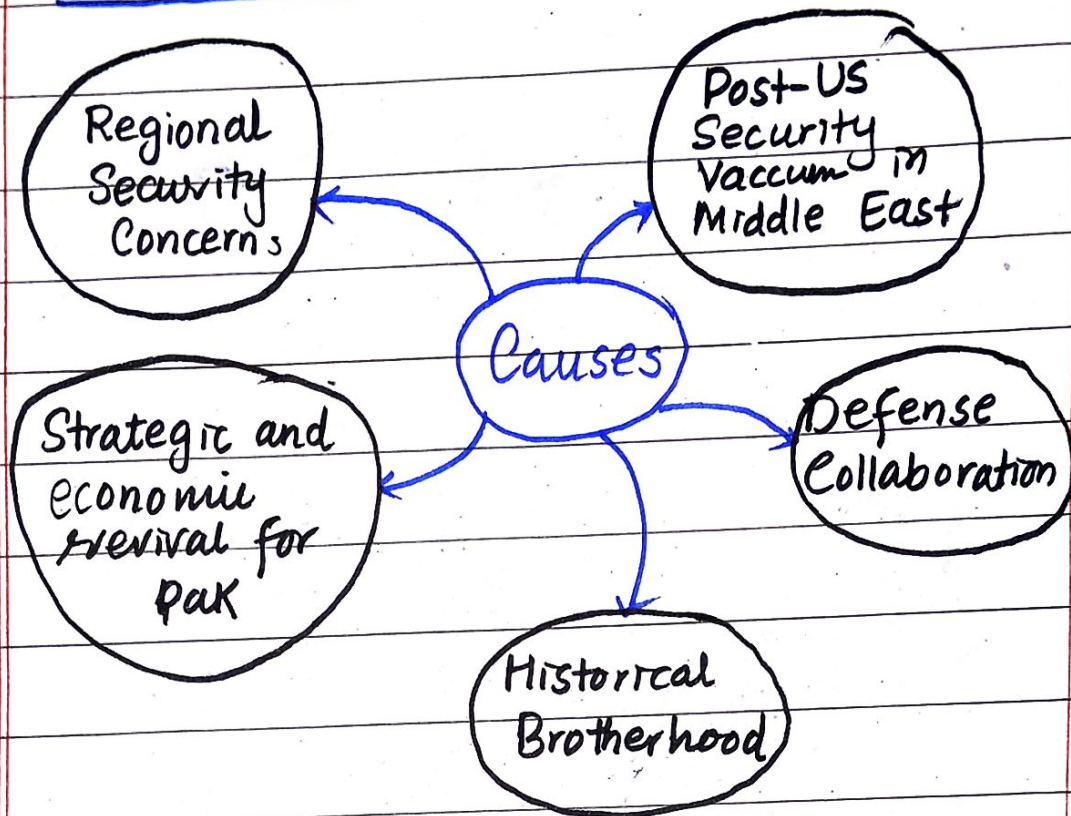
This pact arises from a convergence
of economic, strategic and regional
security imperatives for both
States. It offers potential gains in
deterrence, diplomacy, and economic
leverage for Pakistan, but on the
other hand it also brings significant
risks, regionally, globally, and
domestically.

2. IMPORTANCE OF THIS PACT FOR BOTH COUNTRIES:

This pact offers various
benefits to the both countries.



3. Causes Behind the SDMA:



i. Historical Strategic brotherhood:

A long history of defense ties between both countries:

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a history of defense ties with each other. Since 1960s, Pakistan has trained Saudi forces and provided security expertise to it. That is why, this brotherhood relation became the core reason of this pact.

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ii. Regional Security concerns: The hegemony of Israel in Middle East and threats From India to Pakistan:

Both the countries are facing some threats. Israel has recently attacked at more than 9 countries in the middle East including Yemen, Egypt, Syria, Iran. So, Saudi Arab has concerns that may be they will be the next. Moreover, India and Pakistan went in a conflict this may, there are chances of another attack by India. Through this agreement both increases their defense capabilities.

iii. Post-US Security Vacuum in the Middle East: The concerns of Saudi Arabia that whether US will protect KSA against Israel:

US is the guaranteed security provider to KSA like Qatar. But,

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recent attack on Qatar by Israel have raised many questions. If US did not protect Qatar then there is no guarantee that it will protect Saudi Arabia against Israel too. Saudi wants to reduce dependence on US.

iv. Pakistan's Quest for Strategic and Economic Revival: A way to secure Gulf investments

At present, Pakistan is dealing with a lot of economic problems. Through this pact, Islamabad is looking to strengthen foreign policy leverage and secure Gulf investment.

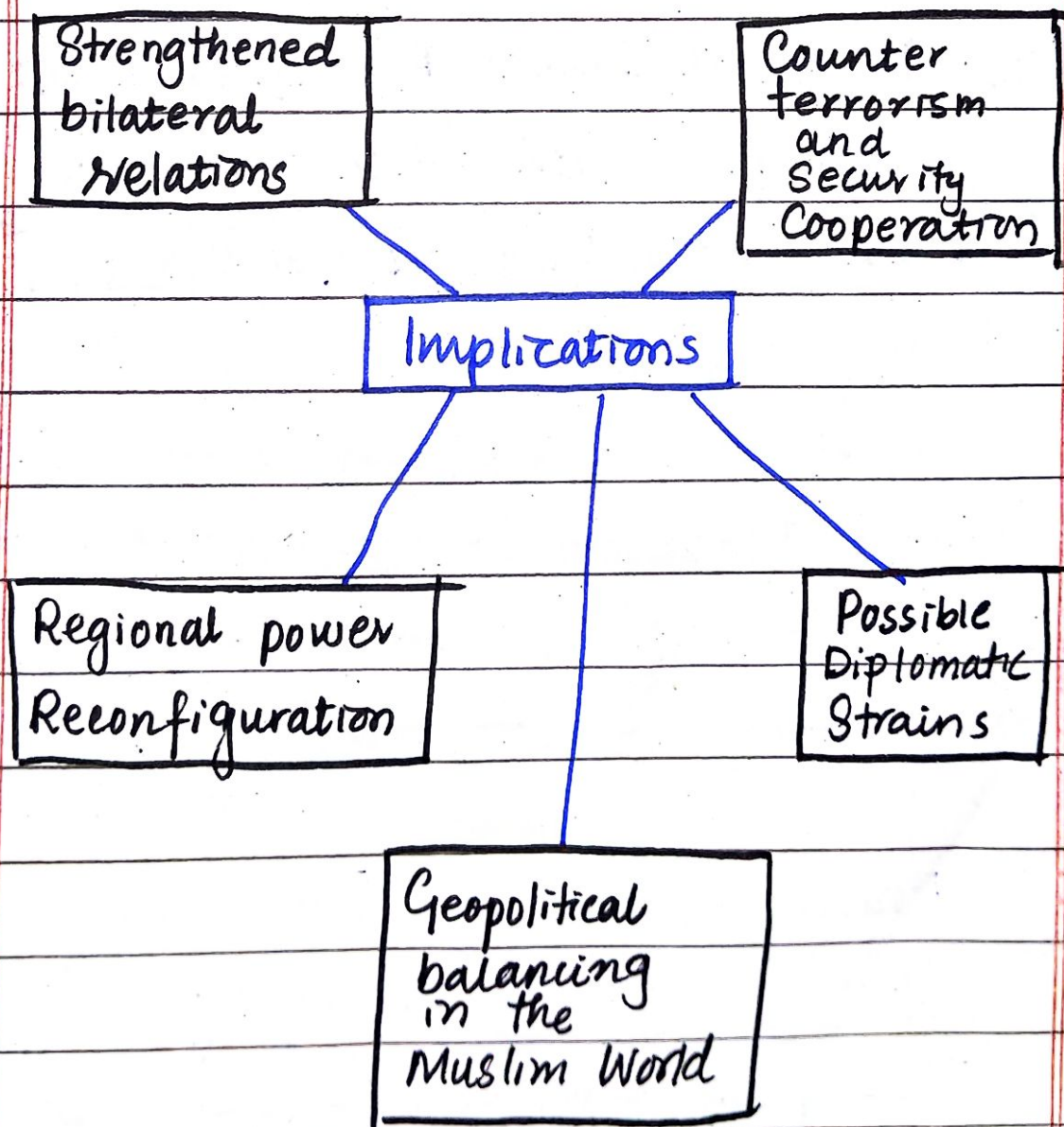
v. Defense Industrial Cooperation- Pakistan growing arms manufacturing appeals to Riyadh's

defense diversification plans:

Pakistan is currently increasing its arm manufacturing capacity (JF-17, drones, armored vehicles)

Through this pact, there will be heavy investment for defense sector of Pakistan — that was required.

4. Implications of Defense Pact:



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i. Strengthened Bilateral Strategic Partnership— From Financial Support to Mutual Defense

This pact will strengthen the ties between both countries - It will give financial support to Pakistan and Pak will provide security umbrella to Saudi Arabia.

ii) Regional Power Reconfiguration: Shift in Gulf-South Asia power balance and reduced dependence on US

Because of SDMA, the security dynamics in South Asia and the Middle East will be shifted. The dependence of Saudi Arabia on Pakistan will reduce US defense.

iii) Enhanced Security Cooperation against common threats:

This pact will provide security

cooperation against terrorism, cyber warfare and border security.

iv) Geopolitical Balancing in the Muslim World—Pakistan as a bridge between Arab and non-Arabs

Pakistan is emerging as bridge between Gulf States and non-Arab Muslim nations.

v) Possible Diplomatic Strains with other powers: The role of Iran or West

There are possible risks of Iranian suspicion and Western scrutiny over new defense alignments.

5. Conclusion:

The SDMA represents a strategic recalibration grounded in mutual security and economic

interest. It offers significant importance from economy to defence but it also cause some issues—mostly from Iran, Israel, and India. A balanced, transparent, and cooperative approach can make the pact a pillar of Muslim-world unity and collective security.

QUESTION # 07

BALANCING TIES BETWEEN CHINA AND US:

1. Introduction:

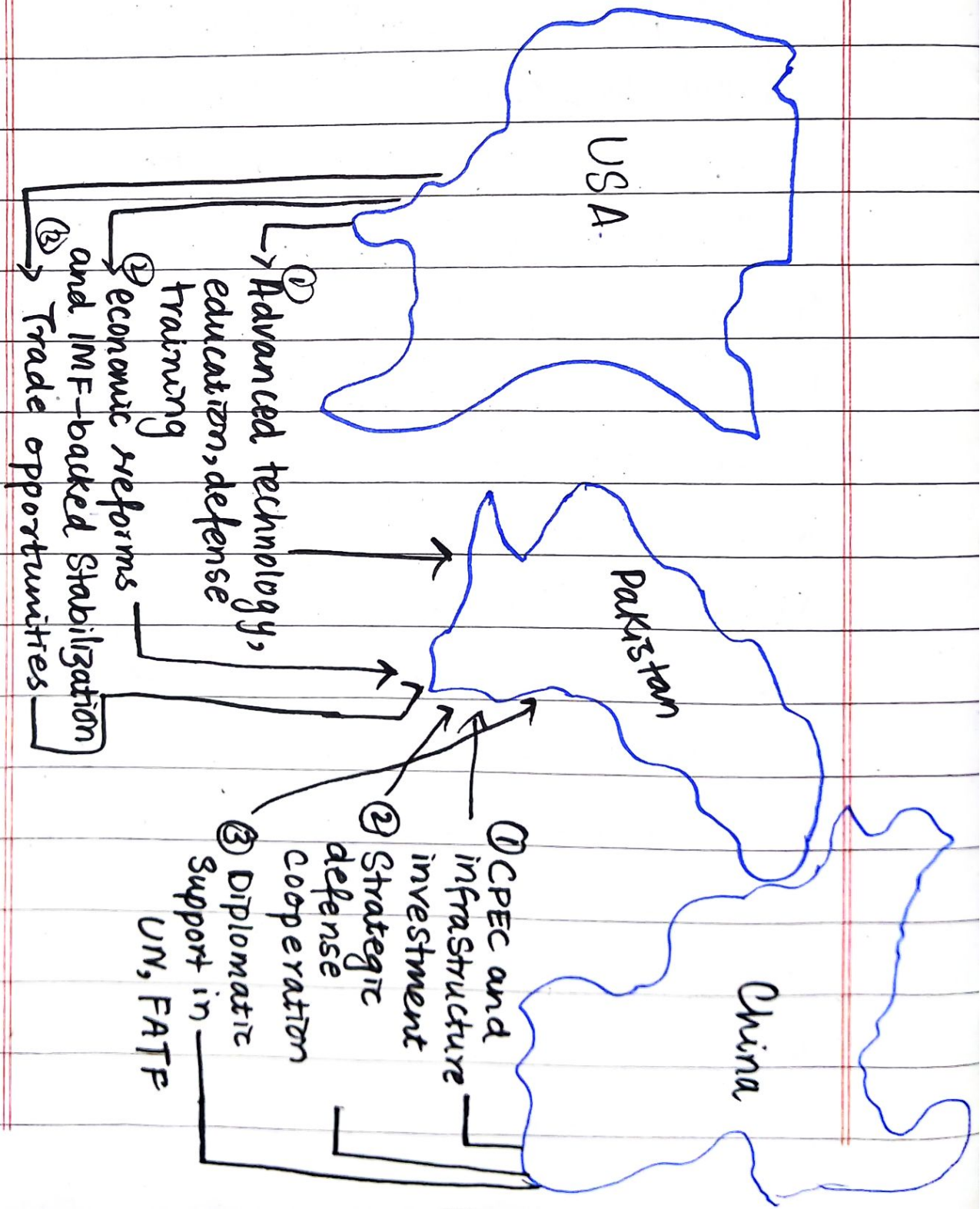
"If you want to put us in a camp, we would like to see ourselves as bridge builders."

~ Bilawal Bhutto

After many years, Pakistan is reengaging with the United States while deepening its strategic partnership with China. This creates a delicate diplomatic challenge for Pakistan as US and China—both are competitor of each other. On the otherhand, both are vital for Pakistan's economic, defense, and geopolitical stability. Pakistan can maintain balance by pursuing an independent, interest-based foreign policy centered

on economic diversification, regional neutrality, and pragmatic engagement with both powers.

WHY PAKISTAN NEEDS TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH EACH



3. HOW TO HAVE BALANCED RELATIONS WITH BOTH POWERS:

Pakistan needs to follow these measures in order to have balanced relations with both the powers.

i) Neutral Policy: Pakistan should adopt a non-aligned and interest-based foreign policy

Pakistan should prioritize its national interests first while making foreign policy. Pakistan should not join any specific blocs as it could hurt one of US and China and will cause severe consequences.

ii) Economic Diversification:

Pakistan should establish trade relations with other countries to reduce dependence

While maintaining stable ties with US and China, Pakistan

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should establish trade relations with ASEAN, EU, and Gulf States for economic diversification and reduced dependence.

iii) Issue-Based Diplomacy: Pakistan

should ~~get~~ cooperate with both

regarding which they are best

Pakistan should cooperate with

U.S on technology, education, and

counter-terrorism as US is best

at it. While on the other hand,

it should cooperate with China

on infrastructure, defense, and

connectivity.

iv) Strengthen Regional Connectivity through CPEC:

Pakistan should promote CPEC

as an inclusive regional corridor

that should be open to all

stakeholders.

V. Narrative of Neutrality —

Pakistan should act as a
bridge between China and US

Instead of becoming part of their rivalry, Pakistan should act as a bridge between Washington and Beijing through mediation efforts.

4. Potential Implications of Effective Balancing:

i) Enhanced Global Standing
by becoming a trade hub:

Pakistan through balancing act between US and China can emerge as a credible regional mediator and trade hub.

ii) Economic Stability and
Diversified Partnerships

Balanced diplomacy with both can attract multiple investments from multiple directions.

iii) Reduced Strategic Vulnerability:
Freedom of decision-making
in Regional affairs:

Through balanced relations,
US and China could not
influence decision-making of
Pakistan — providing strategic
autonomy.

iv) Contribution to regional peace
in South Asia, Middle East, and
Indian Ocean

Pakistan can contribute to
ensure peace in Afghanistan,
Middle East, and Indian Ocean.
It will ultimately enhance Pakistan's
diplomacy.

v) Boost in national security
capacity due to defense
cooperation with the United

States and China :

Combined U.S technology and Chinese defense cooperation boosts security capacity of Pakistan.

5. Conclusion:

Though balancing relation with both the world powers who are fierce competitor of each other is challenging, but through neutral foreign policy, interest-driven diplomacy, Pakistan can convert this rivalry into a source of stability and growth. This will enable Pakistan to act not as a battleground of great powers, but as a bridge connecting them.

QUESTION # 04

REVIVAL OF MILITANCY IN KP AND BALUCHISTAN

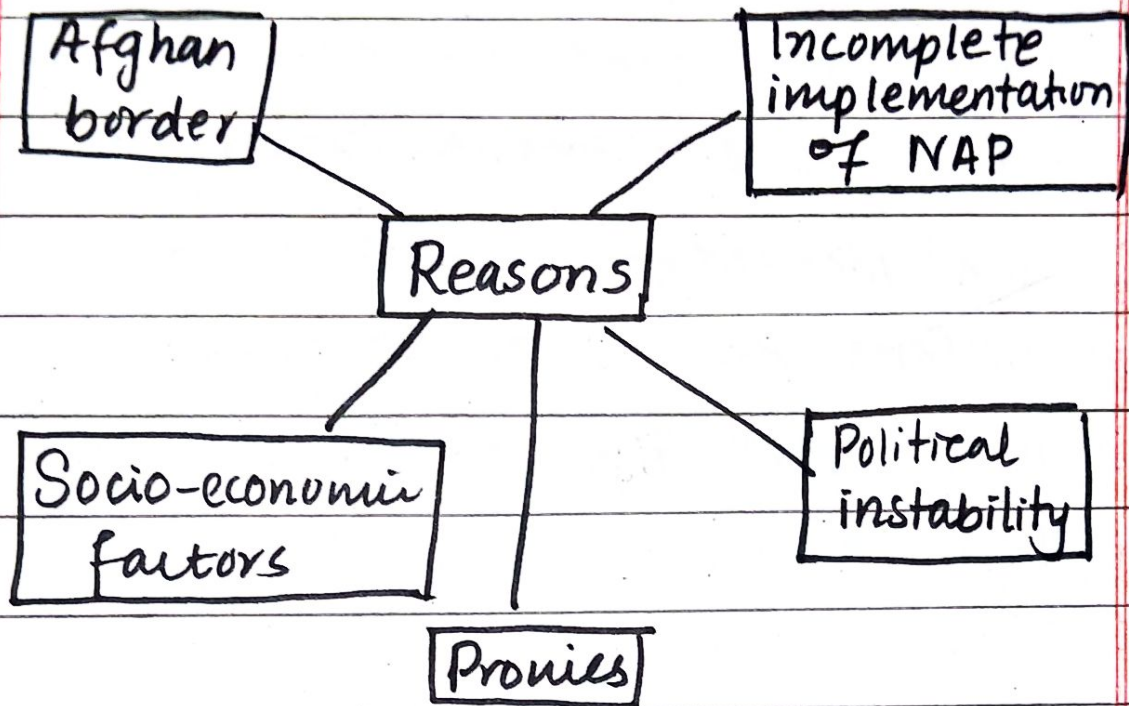
1. Introduction:

Militancy is once again on surge in KPK and Baluchistan regions particularly - whether it is through suicide bombings, firings or train hijack. Pakistan has recently ranked as 2nd most affected country by terrorism. Despite various operations, militant networks have resurfaced and pose significant threats. This resurgence stems from a mix of political instability, Afghan border dynamics, socio-economic neglect, and weak counter-terror coordinations.

Over 600 terror incidents Recorded in Pakistan in 2023.

~PICSS

2. Major Reasons behind the revival of Militancy:



i) Cross-border sanctuary in Afghanistan — Safe havens for TTP

Afghanistan offers safe havens for TTP who is major organization behind militancy in Pakistan. Despite multiple requests from Islamabad to take action against these, Kabul has shown reluctance in doing so.

ii) Incomplete implementation of National action plan - An institutional failure:

NAP was made to counter terrorism, but unfortunately its implementation remained a distant dream. Had it been implemented, there would not have been this surge.

iii) Socio-economic deprivation and Governance deficits:

KP and Baluchistan suffer high poverty and unemployment. Balochistan's literacy rate is below 40%. This alienation fuels resentment and local recruitment easy by terrorist organizations.

iv) Presence of Proxies getting external support:

There is a huge presence of Indian and Iranian proxies

operating in Pakistan. Moreover, many organizations like BLF, BLA are supported by India.

Kalboshan Jhadav has confirmed in one of his statements that India is supporting BLA.

v) Political Instability and Weak Federal-Provincial Coordination:

Political instability is one of the major cause. Frequent policy changes and poor civil-military coordination leads to terror rise.

3. Recommendations to counter this rise in militancy:

i) Reactivation of a unified national counter-terrorism policy:

To counter this militancy, Pakistan needs to revive NAP and NACTA's operational role-coordination between intelligence,

police, and military is required.

ii) Border Management and Afghan policy reset:

By Joint border patrols, refugee documentation, and diplomatic pressure on Kabul, militancy can be reduced.

iii) Socio-economic development and integration of marginalized areas:

The people in KP and Balochistan should be given their due rights. In CPEC projects, locals should be given employment opportunities. Moreover, Gwadar University should be established in Balochistan instead of Lahore.

iv) Regional Diplomacy and Intelligence Cooperation:

~~Engage~~ Engage China, Iran, and CARs for joint intelligence sharing and border control.

v) Political Stability and Institutional Continuity:

The political parties should have consensus on counterterrorism as a national, not political agenda.

4. Conclusion:

The resurgence of militancy is a multi-dimensional challenge that requires national unity, governance reforms, and regional diplomacy. Pakistan must combine hard and soft power tools to ensure peace in KP and Balochistan — securing both its borders and future stability.

QUESTION # 02

TENSED PAK-AFG RELATIONS

1. Introduction:

In May 2025, China once again mediated between Pakistan and Afghanistan to ensure peace between both countries. However, the relations become fragile once again due to attacks on Pakistani military and civilians by TTP — operating from Afghanistan. The root cause lies in border disputes, terrorism concerns, refugees management, and mutual distrust. Pragmatic Diplomacy and regional cooperation can pave the way forward.

2. Major Factors behind these tensed relations:

i) Cross-border terrorism: Afghanistan is providing safe havens to TTP:
TTP is operating from Afghan

Soil and causing damages to Pakistan — yet Kabul is reluctant to act against them. Only because of this, Pakistan has done air strikes in Afghanistan in October 2025 — resulting into a war between both countries.

ii) Durand line dispute: Afghanistan refusal to accept this border



Since very start, Afghanistan does not reclaim Durand line as its border and wants to take areas of FATA and KP as its own for

greater Pashtoonistan.

iii) Refugees and Repatriation

Issue:

→ After War on Terror, many Afghan refugees started living in Pakistan. Now on Islamabad's repatriation drive, Kabul has reacted. Moreover, these refugee camps are allegedly used for smuggling and militant networks.

iv) Ideological and Strategic

Divergences:

Pakistan's expectation of a friendly Taliban regime unmet. Taliban nationalism complicate ties.

v) Indian Influence in Afghanistan:

New Delhi's diplomatic re-engagement raise Pakistani concerns.

During recent war between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Afghan's FM was in India and India

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has decided to re-open its embassy in Kabul - India wants to use Afghanistan as strategic depth against Pakistan.

3. Recommendations For improvement:

i) Border management and Counterterror cooperation:

→ Joint patrols, intelligence sharing, and complete border fencing is required.

ii) Revival of Bilateral Dialogue Mechanisms:

Reinstate Afghanistan - Pakistan Action Plan for peace and Solidarity (APAPPS). Moreover, China should be involved as guarantor of progress.

iii) Economic interdependence and Connectivity:

Expand CPEC into Afghanistan

for shared development. Open regulated trade corridors and joint custom mechanisms.

iv) Public Diplomacy and Cultural Diplomacy:

Student exchanges, Scholarships for Afghan students, cultural and religious diplomacy should be utilized.

v) Regional Collaboration with SCO and OIC:

Engage SCO and OIC platforms for coordinated regional peace-building efforts.

4. Conclusion:

Pakistan Afghanistan relations are trapped in a cycle of mistrust, but are not beyond repair. With China's continued mediation, transparent border policy and mutual economic interests, both nations can ensure cooperation.