

DATE: ___/___/___

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BATCH : 03.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q No: 01:

PAK KSA signed historic Defence Pact. Critically evaluate causes & implication of The deal.

Introduction:-

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had brotherly relationship since 1947 rooted in mutual respect and strategic cooperation. Over the decades, their partnership has expanded beyond cultural and economic ties into a comprehensive defence collaboration. Pak and KSA has informal defence agreement since 1967 when Pak defend Harman Sharefain. This time agreement is in formalised/written form. This agreement will be beneficial for KSA in term of security and for Economically for Pakistan. Saudia Arabia always support Pakistan in times of economic and diplomatic need. This alliance continues to serve as a cornerstone of Muslim World unity and regional stability.

Back ground:-

Since Pakistan Independence, KSA was among the first countries who

recognize Pakistan. Both states have good relations on basis of religion and security and economic interests. Formal defense agreement signed between Pakistan and KSA in 1960s. During 1970s, as regional tensions rose in Middle East, Pak and KSA signed agreements for military training and defence planning. Hundreds of Pakistani military personnel have trained Saudi soldiers, pilot and technicians. Both countries conduct jointly military exercises - KSA also supported Pakistan during war with India and provide financial and oil assistance. IMCTC's head is Raheel Sharif, who was Ex-COAS in Pakistan. He is heading Islamic military counter Terrorism Commission body.

Why KSA signed Defense Agreement with Pakistan - Causes

- 1) Pakistan, is the only nuclear power country in all Islamic states/Muslim world. Pakistan will provide Nuclear Umbrella to Muslim world, when needed. As per statement from government officials of Pakistan and KSA, this defense pact covers all aspects of security. It means Pak will provide KSA, Nuclear facility when needed.
- 2) KSA was having very good relations

with USA, but when Israel attack Qatar (a country ~~where~~ always act as a mediator), KSA fear and anger to USA make them sign this treaty.

3) Pakistan has very good, professional and brave army. Pakistan army ^{is} world top 10 of the army.

4) During war between India and Pakistan, world see the bravery of Pakistan army, so this victory also was one of the big reason that KSA signed defense pact with Pakistan.

5) Since inception it still in between India and Pakistan. Frequent war and border tensions, especially over Kashmir have keep Pakistan's security concern. In this context, KSA emerged as trusted ally, providing diplomatic, moral, and financial support to Pakistan. During 1965 and 1971 war, KSA openly supported Pakistan, supplied oil and financial aid and raised Pakistan's case in International forum.

6) The Pact allowed Pakistan to gain experience in desert warfare, modern equipment handling and joint operations enhancing its own defense capabilities through exposure.

7) KSA viewed revolutionary Iran as threat to its leadership of the Muslim world and

Pakistan aimed to maintain a delicate balance between KSA and Iran both Muslim allies.

- 8- KSA is already biggest remittance to Pakistan but in past 2-years VISA restriction to Pakistan make it slow. In coming days, VISA restriction will less. 8 Billion dollar remittance received from KSA to Pakistan. Once restrictions will removed, Pakistanis will get more jobs and remittances. Pakistan hope to get more time to return 3 Billion dollar that received from KSA when Pakistan face shortage of Dollar in 2020-2023.
- 9- For Pakistan, alignment with KSA, one of the most influential state in the Muslim world, strengthened its diplomatic standing in global and Islamic organisations like OIC. It also helped Pakistan gain backing in international forum.
- 10- Last but not least, KSA responsibility for Islam's holiest places, Makkah and Madinah need dependable military partner for their protection. Pakistan's armed Muslim army was seen as a credible and loyal defender of these sites in any emergency.

IMPLICATION:-

Strengthening Bilateral Relations

This defence pact symbolized the KSA ties religious brotherhood to strategic alliance. It institutionalized cooperation through military mission and defence cooperation.

Economic Benefits

Pakistan received financial assistance, oil on deferred payment and investment from KSA especially during economic crises. During crisis with India and threat of secession, KSA support helped Pak maintain economic stability. It also strengthened remittance flow, as millions of Pakistani workers migrated to the Kingdom. Thus defence pact indirectly boosted Pak economy and ensured energy security.

Strengthening Islamic Military Identity

This pact enhanced concept of Muslim unity in defence, portraying both nations as protectors of Islamic world.

Pakistan military involvement in defending Saudi holy sites elevated its status among Muslim nations, reinforcing its image as the fortress of Islam.

Contributing to Pak Defence Modernization

Continued military cooperation led to exchange of defence knowledge, improving

Publics capacity in desert operations
and equipment maintenance

Ques: Formation of New Province is recurring discourse in Pak. Hurdles El give Recommendations:-

Demand for new Provinces (South Punjab, Bahawalpur, Hazara) repeatedly surface because of perceived under representation, weak local governance and uneven development. But legal, Political, administrative, fiscal and security obstacles plus risks to national cohesion if handled poorly make creation of provinces difficult. Pakistan need a clear and well resourced roadmap.

Hurdles:-

1- Constitutional and Legal Hurdle:-

Pakistan constitution is very high bar for altering provincial boundaries because if any amendment procedure require substantial majority in parliament, hardly need to get permission from that province, from which that part is going to make separate province. This principal is big legal constraint. Constitution provides the amendment trigger but lacks detailed, binding procedural steps for boundary drawing, Liability division and temporary governance - Article 239 of 1973

constitution states that altering provincial boundaries requires constitutional amendment approved by two-third majority in both houses of Parliament and by two-third of the provincial assembly concerned.

2: Political Hurdles:-

Provincial restructuring redistributes political power and fiscal resources - In Punjab central leadership fears losing its numerical edge in National Assembly. In Sindh, nationalist groups oppose division as threat to Sindh identity. New provincial governments will need funds for building, staff and new recurrent expenditure. Without transitional transfer new province may be fiscally fragile. Punjab receives 82% of NFC award on the basis of its population. So it will not allowed to divide at percentage of NFC will also reduce.

3: Administrative and Fiscal Hurdles:-

A new province must build its own institutions, secretariate, police, judiciary and civil service, require extensive resources. While proponents argue that local budgets could be better targeted, opponents warn that non-development expenditures could rise sharply.

4. Resource - Sharing & Economic Dispute

Dispute resource allocation are among entrenched federal-provincial tension in Pakistan. NFC award established under Article 160 of 1973 constitution states the distribution of revenues between the federation and provinces. Although the 7th NFC Award 2010 improved Provincial Shares, 47% to 57%, disagreement persists over population-based criteria, Poverty Index & tax collection. The creation of new provinces would renegotiation of NFC formulae, involving not only federal & existing provincial governments but also the new entrant. Each new province will demand fiscal autonomy, administrative infrastructure and representation in federal decision bodies.

Similarly water distribution regulated by 1991 Water Apportionment Accord is a recurring source of tension, especially between Sindh and Punjab. Establishment of new province will start new debate on Indus water.

5. Ethnic and Security Concerns

The secession of NWFP as KPK in 2010 under 18th amendment illustrate this risk. The move intended to recognize Pashtun identity, alienated

the Hindko speaking Hazara population, triggering violent protest in Abbottabad and Mansehra - This shows ethnic symbolism can over shadow developmental logic.

Similarly in Sindh, the Mahajir Proving movement (2012) and ~~corridor~~ process like the Sindh Solidarity Conference led to violent clashes in Karachi.

Security institution also fear that fragmenting existing administrative set ups in volatile areas such as Balochistan or Ex-FATA could complicate law enforcement. Through 25 Amendment, Merger of FATA to PPK, still facing policy challenges -

Examples:

India experience also demonstrate the fine line b/w central recognition and political fragmentation. The creation of Telangana (2014) was successful b/c it rested on administrative feasibility and economic rationale, not ethnic exclusivity.

Why New Province

- 1) South Punjab stay poor and underdeveloped, with nearly half its people living below the Poverty Line.
- 2) Bahawalpur lost its separate Provincial status after the One Unit Plan in 1955. Since then people feel identity and fair political representation were

taken away.

- 3- When NWFP was renamed KPK, the Hazara region felt ignored because it has a different language and culture.

Recommendations:-

- (1) There should be separate act for Province ~~constitution~~ making like Province Formation Framework Act. Set a criteria of Population size, Geography, Service delivery need-
- (2) Government should make clear law that explains how new provinces can be created, step by step, through a fair and legal process.
- (3) Experts, economist should study the proposed area and give report.
- (4) All major Political Parties sit together and reach to common decision.
- (5) New Provinces should be created for better administration not only on language or ethnic ground.
- (6) People from all groups, language in new province give equal right under law.
- (7) After creating new Provinces, the government should check every few years if development is improving and adjust Plans where needed.

Q No 03:

There is dangerous revival of militancy in KP & Baluchistan - Critically evaluate the reasons & give recommendation.

The revival of militancy in KP and Baluchistan reflects a complex interplay of internal failures and external influence. Two provinces faces threats from distinct groups, the TTP and BLA Baluchistan.

1- CROSS BORDER - DIMENSIONS / AFGHAN Taliban:

The Afghan Taliban return to power after the US withdrawal has emboldened the TTP. The porous Durand line allows militants to use Afghan Territory for attack. Despite repeated assurances, Kabul's reluctance to act against TTP sanctuaries has deepened mistrust and triggered retaliatory strikes by Pakistan.

TTP attacks in KP's Bannu and North Waziristan have often been coordinated from Afghan soil.

In 2022, Pakistan forces reported that TTP training camps in Afghanistan were directly connected with Taliban leadership, providing both weapons and strategic guidance.

The Khyber Pass has historically been a route for arms smuggling enabling the TTP to maintain stockpiles even during military crackdowns in K.P.

Political & Administrative Weakness:-

After military operations, the lack of political follow up allows militants to return.

Pakistani counterterrorism strategies blur military offensive and political negotiation, creating confusion among civil and military. After Zarb-e-Azam and Radd-ul-Fasad, civilian institutions were often unable to resume governance enforce law & order or provide

justice - Civilians deaths during counterterrorism operations increase local resentment. Militants use these events as propaganda.

Frequent change in provincial and federal leadership have hindered long-term planning for military prevention.

Balochistan citizen forced disappearances is very big issue due to which Mahrang Baloch is doing protest and now arrested. There is very big gap between government and people of Balochistan. As per Pakistan

forces they have very limited people because on border and in Baluchistan they are find in illegal activities. India is supporting them - Govt - Baluchistan border is used by India and India is doing a lot of funding to them - we have a very big example of Kalbushan Jadar, he cross this border and was involve in many attacks - So military have some people which are involved in this propaganda. Actually, rest of people may have cross border or living in the mountain to harm rest of other provinces - They are not in armed forces custody - This ~~mis~~ misunderstanding is creating a very big ~~misunder~~ gap between Baluchistan and government.

Global and Regional Jihadist:

Militant in KP and Baluchistan is not isolated, it connect to global jihadist. The TTP align with Al. Qaeda.

Funding from regional and international network - Jihadist network help militants with training, intelligence and communication.

India Involvement:-

India Involvement with BLA can understand as broader strategic objectives in region, particularly its longstanding rivalry with Pakistan. It is desired to counterbalance China's influence in Pak western provinces. The BLA, an insurgent separatist group that attacks on Chinese projects, Pakistan security forces and infrastructure, provides India with a proxy through which it can indirectly weaken Pakistan stability without engaging in overt military confrontation. Such support can take the form of intelligence sharing, training, funding, allowing BLA operatives to carry out high-profile attacks that disrupt governance and trade routes like Gawadar Port.

Recommendations:-

- ① We need to strengthen local government and administration in KP and Balochistan.
- ② Ensure fair delivery of justice.
- ③ Young people should have jobs so should develop industries, and small business.
- ④ Build more school, hospital in the underdeveloped areas.
- ⑤ Should have awareness campaign

against military and radiation
work with neighbour countries
and International organisations to
stop funding, weapons and
support militant groups.

Q.4 How Pak balance relation
after recent engagement with
US and Strategic Partner
China.

China is a global economic power
with population 1.4 Billion with
highest economy and second largest
economy by nominal GDP.

US is global economic power
having largest economy by nominal
GDP and 2nd largest purchasing
power parity. It contribute about
26% of the global economy and
15.5% in PPP.

Pakistan should:

- (1) Maintain Neutrality in Conflict
- (2) Good Economic Relation with both.
- (3) Focus on Defense
- (4) Diplomacy & Dialogue
- (5) Prioritize Domestic Development

Pakistan should avoid taking sides in any dispute b/w US & China - e.g. if US & China disagree on trade or tech, Pak can continue trade with both -

Pak should keep Chinese investments in CPEC and seek US support for trade & technology. Pakistan should continue strategic cooperation with China for defense projects and cooperate with US on counterterrorism & regional security without getting caught in rivalry.