

Q. 8.

Introduction.

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@ Nuclear

umbrella.

@ China:

Implication

of Pakistan

to

@ Saudi:

@ Regional

@ Implications

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Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) signed bilateral defence pact in September 2025. There are multiple causes of this pact. First, is the attack of Israel on Qatar. Secondly, United States of America (USA) has turned out to be reliable partner. Third is the resurgence of Pakistan as regional power. Fourth is the Chinese non-involvement in strategic affairs. This deal has multiple regional implications notably including economic backup to Pakistan's military and expansionism in the form of NATO 2.0. Global implications include Israel-Indian military relations and rise in the sale of Chinese technology.

An overview of Defence Pact between Pakistan and KSA:

Israel-US attack on Iran
in May 2025.

Attack of Israel on Qatar
in July 2025

Defence Pact between Pakistan
and KSA September 2025.

Date: _____

Causes of Pak-KSA Defence Pact 2025:

(i) Israel's attack on Qatar increased regional vulnerability of KSA:

In July 2025, Israel attacked on Qatar's capital Doha where Hamas negotiators were present. Israel's airstrikes precisely struck the target without interception from US-based PATRIOT Missile Defence system. This attack raised security dilemma in Riyadh to sign a new defence pact.

(ii) Unreliable US as regional partner prompted KSA to look for alternative options:

As US-based PATRIOT Missile and Defence system failed to check Israel's aggression, it prompted KSA to look for alternative partners. As Indian soldiers were convicted of spying in Qatar in 2024, Pakistan is the only option for KSA to secure its strategic national interests.

(iii) Resurgence of Pakistan as regional power prompted KSA to sign a defence

pact:

During operation Banyan-un-Massaoos, in May 2025, Pakistan thwarted the hegemonic aims of India with extra-ordinary strategic craft. It improved image of Pakistan's military capabilities. Moreover, Pakistan successfully intercepted Israel-based "Haroop" Drones operated by India, it emerged as equal strategic power to Israel, which formed the basis of Pakistan-KSA defence pact.

(iv) Chinese non-involvement in global affairs resulted in Pak-KSA defence pact.

China is undergoing Hedge strategy. It is maximising economic benefits from the world but avoiding political conflicts.

As China is not ready to take on regional leadership of ~~US~~ Middle East, Pakistan's superior military technologies can fill this gap on the basis of mutual Islamic solidarity. Thus a combination of geopolitical and benefits and Islamic brotherhood resulted in Pak-KSA Defence pact.

Implications of Pak-KSA Defence pact 2025

Regional Implications

i) Economic backbone for Pakistan.

ii) NATO 2.0

Global Implications

i) A potential Indo-Israel Alliance.

ii) Expansion of Chinese technologies.

Regional implications

i) Pak-KSA defence pact provides economic backbone to Pakistan's security apparatus.

It is true that Pakistan is an important strategic player in equation to India. However, its military spending is extremely low as compared to India. Riyadh's economy can support Pakistan's military programmes.

Defence spending

Pakistan	\$10 billion / Year
India	\$40 billion / year.

Source: Strategic Research Institute

(ii) Appearance of NATO 2.0 on the global stage:

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) was a military alliance based on shared European values. In the same way, it is likely that a regional NATO can emerge in Middle East.

In Organization of Islamic Conference July 2025,

Iran's President welcomed the treaty. Similarly, Bahrain and UAE praised the treaty, which is a sign of NATO 2.0 based on Islamic values.

Global implications:

(i) A potential Indo-Israel Alliance can erupt after Pak-KSA deal:

From May conflict between Pakistan and India, it was vivid that Pakistan can compete Israel's technology. Secondly, India is in deep waters due to economic back up to Pakistan. It can result a renewed phase of Indo-Israel alliance.

(Pak-KSA bilateral defence deal:

Zahid Hussain: Dawn: 2025).

(ii) Chinese military exports can be diversified through the treaty.

Chinese military technologies outclassed Western Rafales in May conflict between Pakistan and India. Now, Chinese technologies like JF-17 Thunder jet, PL-15 Missiles can penetrate Middle East Markets challenging Eagle's military might in the region.

Conclusion

Pakistan - KSA defence pact is a landmark treaty in 2025. However, alliances are tested by substance rather than words.

Q.7.

Introduction

USA, Russia, Pakistan, China have long-standing strategic partnerships with China in the field of military engagements and rare earth metals agreements.

As USA is interested to buy ventures in Pakistan's mineral sector, and Pakistan is interested to access USA military technologies, it is crucial for Pakistan to balance its relations. First, Pakistan needs to sign transparent agreements with all the countries. Secondly, USA military engagement near Gwadar should not be allowed. Thirdly, Pakistan should respect already signed agreements and

should not sacrifice its exports at the cost of friendship.

Pak-China long-standing strategic engagement

(i) military engagements between China and Pakistan:

China is a reliable partner for military upgradation of Pakistan. Pakistan and China engages in state of the art technologies and capacity building, which is proved in India-Pakistan military conflict 2025.

An overview of military engagement

JF-17	State of the art fighter Jets
PL-15	air to surface missile.
A1-Khalid	New tank introduced in 2025.
CM-1100	Tested in May 2025.
Aeronautical complex, Kamrah.	Capacity building of military engineers.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(ii) China and Pakistan are involved in joint metallurgical ventures:

China is interested in Rare Earth Elements of Pakistan. China holds more than 60% shares in the mineral stake of Pakistan, which are essential

for cyber warfare. In 2024, Chinese Metallurgical Corporations signed 'Mou with Ministry of planning to extract Nephrite in FATA.

Pakistan's recent engagement with USA:

(i) USA is interested in Pakistan's mineral sector to secure REE:

Due to tariff war with China since January 2025, USA wants to secure its own supply of Rare Earth Elements (REEs). Therefore, it ~~sign~~ signed US Strategic Minerals (USSM) signed \$500 million deal with Pakistan to tap into mineral wealth of Balochistan.

(ii) Pakistan is interested in securing AIM missiles from USA:

After May conflict, Pakistan is interested to bolster its military technologies. Therefore, Government of Pakistan showed interest to buy F-35 jets and AIM Missiles to counter

own terrorism threats

How to balance relations between USA and China?

(i) Pakistan must sign transparent agreements to secure its national interests:

Pakistan is a sovereign state who is guided by its national interests rather than coercion.

Therefore, Pakistan must sign transparent agreements with both China and USA to prevent involvement in geopolitical issues.

(ii) Pakistan should not allow military engagement of USA near Gwadar:

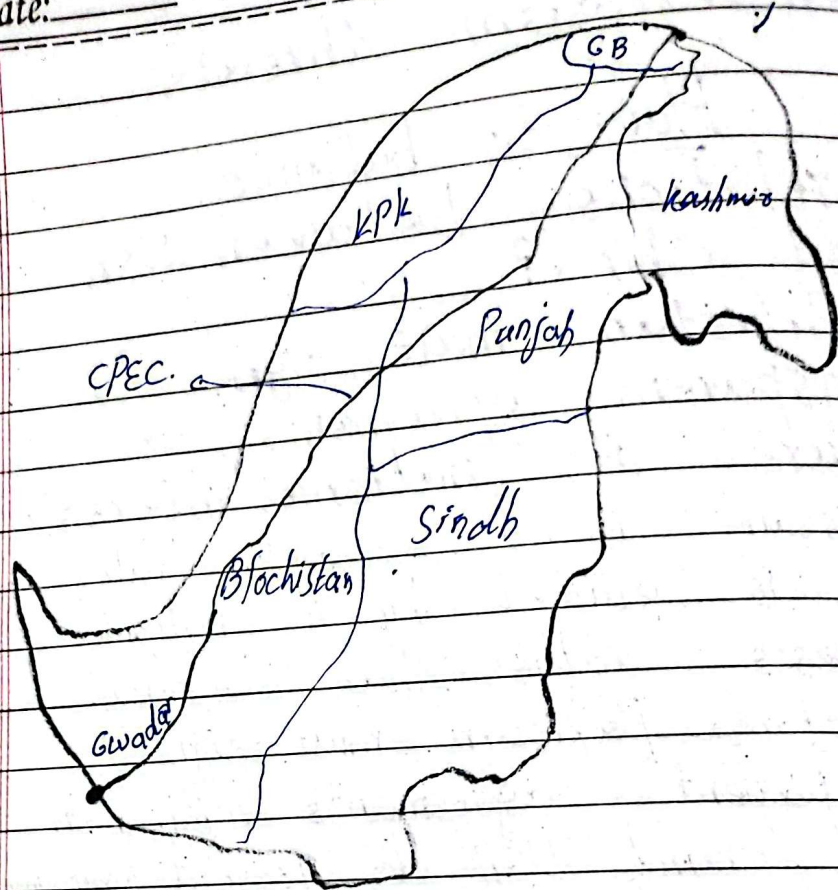
Gwadar is a beacon of Pak-China friendship. China has interests in Indian ocean from Gwadar.

Any attempt to allow USA near Gwadar can draw Pakistan into global power struggle.

According to Financial Times report september 2025,

USA is interested to construct base in Panni, which should not be allowed by Pakistan.

Date: _____



Pasni → USA interest.

Source: (Financial Times:
September 2025).

(iii) Pakistan should respect already placed agreement to balance its relations. Mineral sector of Pakistan can become a geopolitical struggle between China and America. Therefore, Pakistan should respect already placed agreements with the states and should not use one's state technology to benefit the other's interests.

(Pak-US reinvigoration: Maleeha Lodhi: August 2025).

(iv) Pakistan should not sacrifice its exports at the expense of friendship:

Pak-china friendship is higher than Himalayas. However, USA is the prime destination of Pakistani exports. Pakistan must seek US-technology to diversify its exports to US-markets from textile to minerals, oil and gas.

Conclusion:

Pakistan is walking on the razor edge on its foreign policy front. Now razor must be balanced to avoid any sort of injury to national interest.

Q.3.

Introduction:

Formation of new provinces in Pakistan is a recurring demand in order to resolve ethnic issues, governance failure, increase political participation. However, critical analysis reveals that Pak division of provinces on ethnic faultlines can sow separatism. Secondly, Pakistan does not have enough resources to establish

new provinces. Thirdly, a complex legislative procedure can hamper formation of new provinces. Therefore, local governments instead of provinces can resolve the issue of decentralisation, governance failure and political participation.

Why formation of new provinces is a recurrent discourse in Pakistan?

(i) Formation of new provinces can resolve ethnic issues in Pakistan.

Persistent ethnic issues are haunting federalism in Pakistan. In 2025, "Haq Do Tehreek" by Baloch Yakjehti Committee depicted that resources of smaller provinces are dominated by handful of elite. So, smaller provinces can response to demands of these ethnic groups.

(ii) Governance failure can be resolved through new provinces.

Pakistan is facing persistent issue of governance failure. If new provinces are formed they can instantly resolve the grievances of public, which results in good governance.

(Islamabad Policy Research Dialogue Forum on New Provinces, 2025).

(iii) New provinces can increase political participation of marginalised communities:

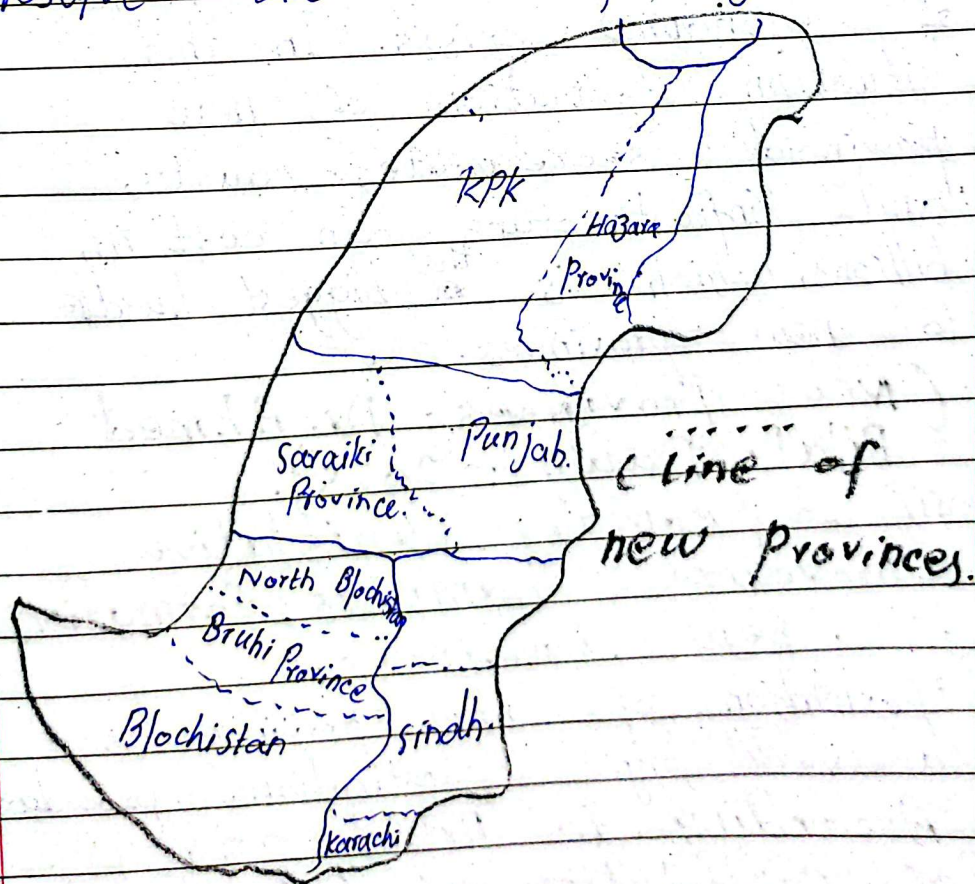
In Pakistan, a handful of people are holding the corridors of power. There is 5% representation of Saraikis

in Punjab Assembly, 2% in

Bruhish and Hazaras in Blochistan assembly and 5% representation

of Hazaras community in Khyber Pakhtunkwa. New provinces can

resolve this discrepancy.



Hurdles to formation

of new provinces:

- (i) New provinces can sow separatism on ethnic faultlines:

New provinces can remove the federal check on ethnic faultlines, resulting in confederation and separatism. Moreover, Pakistan already has provinces on linguistic basis which makes this demand redundant.

- (ii) Pakistan does not have enough resources to establish new provinces:

Pakistan is mired in quagmire of economic crisis. In this situation, formation of new provincial secretariates, courts, and infrastructure can cost in billions, which is the biggest hurdle to new provinces.

(New Provinces: Dr. Ahmed Bilal: Dawn: 2025).

- (iii) A complex legislative procedure hampers formation of new provinces:

Formation of new provinces is a very rigid constitutional procedure. According to Article 239(4) of Constitution of Pakistan

1973, new provinces require $\frac{2}{3}$ rd majority from each province and simple majority from both houses of Majlis-e-Shoora. It can obstruct pathway of new provinces in Pakistan.

Recommendations to resolve the debate.

(i) Local government instead of provinces can resolve the governance issue:

Local governments instead of provinces can effectively resolve governance issues. It can be gleaned from the fact that India had to legislate for local government act in 1995 despite having new provinces.

(ii) Local governments are cost-effective as compared to new provinces:

Local governments do not require new legislation or new building to resolve the people issues.

They just need true decentralisation of powers from provinces under Article 140A.

(iii) Local government can effectively promote political participation in Pakistan:

Local governments do not require

enormous funding or campaign like elections of provincial assemblies. Therefore, a new form of political participation from youth, women, farmers and local corporations can emerge who can respond to public demands and decrease ethnic tendencies.

Conclusion:

New provinces is an uphill task, which is difficult to materialise in current economic crisis. Therefore, local governments are effective remedy to this debate.

Q. 2.

Introduction:

In May 2025 and later in June 2025, China conducted trilateral talks with Pakistan and Afghanistan to resolve bilateral disputes. The major irritants in Pakistan-Afghanistan relations are the presence of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan in Afghanistan, failure of Kabul to act on Doha covenant 2021, growing Kabul-Delhi relations and new escalation ladder between Pakistan and Afghanistan. In this situation, Pakistan should use carrot and stick

stick policy to compel Afghanistan to take tangible actions ^{against TTP}. Secondly, Taliban should collaborate with Pakistan to eradicate terrorism completely and improve bilateral relations. Moreover, bilateral relations can be improving by engaging Kabul in CPEC. Furthermore, RAW Framework must be dismantled to unlock a new chapter in bilateral relation.

Chinese Mediation of Pakistan-Afghanistan conflict:

In May 2025, China engaged Afghanistan and Pakistan in trilateral talks in Beijing to initiate regional diplomacy for resolving conflicts. In these negotiations, Taliban assured Pakistan to take steps for constructive engagement.

Even in September 2025, Russia and China again engaged Kabul to take steps against terrorism which failure in recent escalation between brotherly Islamic countries.

Irritants in Pak-Afghan relations:

These are following irritants in Pakistan-Afghanistan bilateral relations:

(i) Presence of TTP in Afghanistan is persistent threat to Pakistan's sovereignty:

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is using Afghan land to carry out military strikes in Pakistan.

In late September 2025, 30 soldiers lost their lives in coordinated attack by TTP.

As Afghanistan is unable to eliminate this threat as mentioned under Doha covenant 2021, bilateral relations cannot be improved.

(ii) Failure of Kabul to act on Doha covenant 2021 is deteriorating bilateral relations:

In 2022, Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan vowed to eliminate terrorism from Afghanistan. However, Islamic State of Khorasan (IS-KP), East Turkmenistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) and TTP are growing in nexus to pose regional threat to Pakistan. It eliminates possibility of thaw in Kabul-Islamabad relations.

(iii) Growing Kabul-Delhi Relations is matter of concern for Islamabad:
Kabul is extending olive branch to India in order

Date: _____
to forge new alliance against Pakistan. In October 2025, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Ameer Khan Mutaqawi visited Delhi to meet Jai Shankar.

The resultant provocative statements rules out possibility of talks between two brotherly neighbours.

(iv) Escalation ladder between Pakistan and Afghanistan is threat to bilateral peace:-

In late September 2025, TTP attacked military installations of Pakistan in Waziristan killing 30 soldiers. Pakistan asked Kabul to take action who refused. Thus, Pakistan attacked inside Kabul on terrorist hide outs resulting in four-day military skirmishes. This escalation poses threat to bilateral peace.

Measures to improve bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Date: _____

(i) Use of carrot and stick in Afghan policy can revive regional peace:

Only military action can lock on Pakistan in two frontal war between Western and Eastern Front. Thus, Pakistan must use proportionate force to eliminate TTP but open doors of negotiation for regime in Kabul to revive peace in the region.

(ii) Afghanistan should collaborate with Pakistan to eliminate TTP from Afghan soil:

Afghanistan claims weak enforcement to deal with all terrorist factions. In February 2025, Zabihullah Mujahid claimed 'sovereignty issues' to deal with TTP. In that case, joint military efforts can improve bilateral ties and remove TTP for good.

(iii) Bilateral relations can be improved by engaging Kabul in CPEC:

CPEC is a key to regional prosperity and peace. If Pakistan and Afghanistan are joined by CPEC, it can allow

Pakistan to access Energy-rich central Asia. Secondly, it can create opportunities for Afghan National which can drive militancy out of the region.

(CPEC and Afghanistan:

Dr. Mahmood Ul Hassan:

Pakistan Observer: September 2025)

iv) RAW Framework in Afghanistan must be dismantled to improve bilateral relations.

Indian Intelligence RAW is funding terror organizations like TTP and Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) to destabilise Pakistan.

It can be confirmed from statement of Maulvi Mansoor arrested in 2024, who mentioned notable role of RAW in funding TTP from Afghan soil.

Thus, it must be eliminated by Kabul to initiate room for peace.

Conclusion:

Pakistan is facing persistent security threat from Kabul in form of TTP. No renewal of relationships can take place in presence of this damocle's sword.