

PART-II

Q # 08

Introduction:

The signing of the Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on 17 September 2025, marks a watershed moment in regional geopolitics. Both countries bound by religious, economic and military ties in history but now these nations formalized their defense cooperation amid shifting global alliances and rising regional tensions. As DM aptly notes, "Nuclear armed Pakistan and oil rich Saudi Arabia have vowed to defend one another in the event of an attack". This pact not only reflects mutual strategic interests but also signals a recalibration of regional security.

Date: _____

Critical Evaluation of Causes Behind the Pact

1 Formalization of Historical

Military Cooperation:

Pakistan has trained over 15 thousand Saudi military personnel since 1960's. This pact is just a formalization of longstanding informal relationship.

2 Regional Realignment:

KSA is diversifying its defense partnerships beyond traditional western allies.

3 Strategic Autonomy:

Middle East Institute notes that

"The pact reflects Riyadh's desire to reduce dependence on US security guarantees".

Date: _____

4 Countering Iranian Influence

and Gulf Security:

This pact is partly aimed to balance Iran's growing regional assertiveness, especially in Yemen, Syria and Gulf.

5 Economic Interdependence:

Saudi Arabia pledged \$25 billion to invest in energy and infrastructure sectors of Pakistan which clarify the strategic nature of the pact.

6 Leadership Synergy:

SANPA was signed during visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia, reflects some personal ties of Mr. Shahbaz Sharif with M. bin Salman (Crown Prince).

7 Unified Front Against Common Threats: NATO of Muslims:

To foster collective security among Muslim-majority nations and reduce

Date: _____

reliance on western defense frameworks. In context of rising instability in Middle East and South Asia it build a unified front against common threats. As former Pakistani ambassador to UN Maleeha Lodhi, stated:

“The pact signals a new era of Islamic world unity and regional deterrence.”

Critical Evaluation of Implications of the Deal

1 Mutual Defense to External Aggression:

The SMODA includes a clause obligating both nation to respond jointly to external aggression which a significant upgradation

2 Enhanced Military Cooperation:

This part includes joint training,

Date: _____

intelligence sharing and coordinated defense strategies. This could lead to joint exercises and defense technology exchange.

3 Regional Stability and Deterrence:

A formal defense alliance may deter hostile actions from regional actors especially in volatile zones like Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf. It also signals a shift toward regional self-reliance in security matters.

4 Impact on Pakistan's Foreign Policy:

Pakistan's diplomatic posture may be influenced by this pact, especially in balancing ties with Iran and navigating its relations with US and China. It could also affect Pakistan's stance on Middle East conflicts.

5 Geopolitical Signaling:

This deal sends a message to global powers that Pakistan and KSA are asserting their strategic autonomy. It may also affect the calculus of India, Israel and Iran in the region.

6 Domestic Repercussions

For Pakistan, the pact may boost national morale & military prestige. However critics may question whether deeper entanglement in Middle Eastern politics could complicate Pakistan's neutral stance in regional disputes. As Hasan Raza writes in TimesFlare,

“The agreement is historic, but its success will depend on how both nations manage their overlapping and diverging interests.”

Conclusion:

The Saudi-Pakistan defense pact is a historic milestone that reflects evolving regional dynamics and

Date: _____

shared strategic interests. It also introduces complex diplomatic challenges. For Pakistan, the key lies in leveraging this alliance without compromising its diplomatic relations and regional neutrality.

Q#03

Introduction

The formation of new provinces is a recurring discourse since inception of Pakistan. With population exceeds 240 million, the existing provinces structure struggles to meet localized needs. As Anam Malik writes in the centre of Development and stability, "The question is no longer whether Pakistan needs more provinces, but how to create them without deepening division."

Critical Evaluation of

Hurdles to Create New

Provinces

1 Constitutional Complexity:

Article 239 of the constitution

Date: _____

requires two third majority in both houses of Parliament and the concerned provincial assembly to alter provincial boundaries. This makes consensus difficult.

Political Resistance :

Mainstream parties often resist new provinces fearing loss of influence and loss of vote bank.

Administrative and Financial Constraints :

Creating new provinces demands billions in infrastructure, bureaucracy, and governance systems. Pakistan's fiscal limitations make this a daunting task.

Fear of Balkanizations

New provinces may fuel separatism in Pakistan. As Dr. Adrian Nawaz says in PLHR,

“The demand of new provinces must be balanced against the risk of national fragmentation.”

No Clear Criteria or Roadmaps

There is no legal or institutional roadmap defining how and when new provinces should be created.

Fear of Precedent and Domino Effect:

Approving one province (eg. South Punjab) may trigger similar demands from other regions (eg. Hazara, FATA, Karachi), leading to overwhelming the system.

Urban-Rural Imbalance

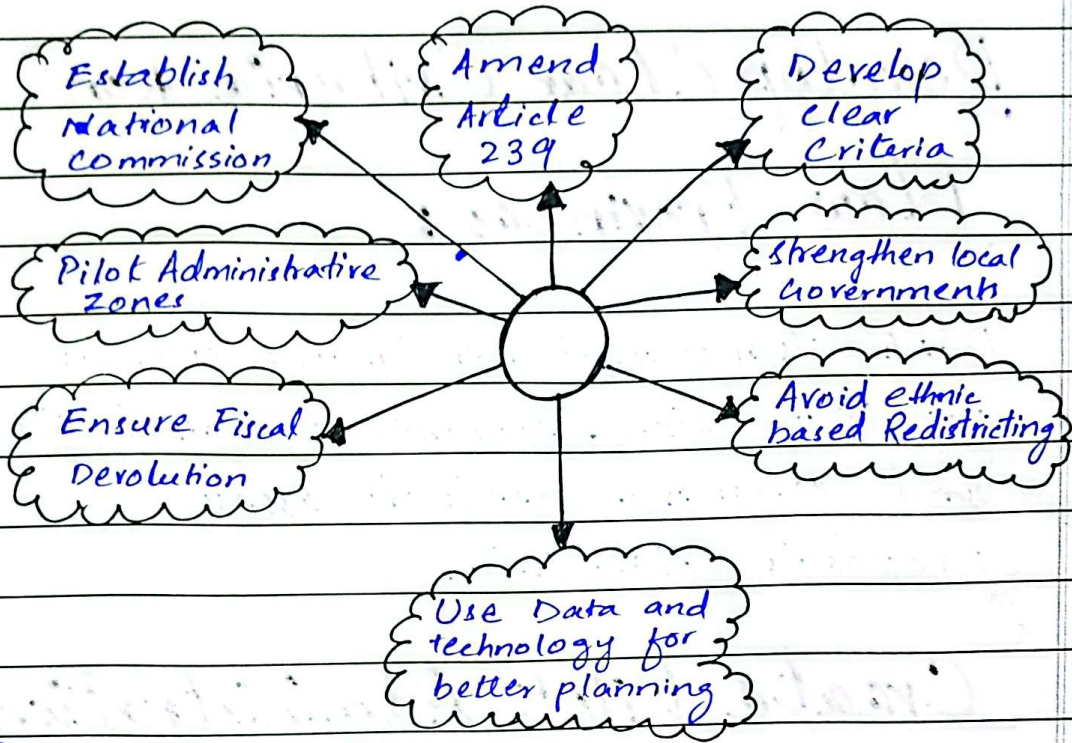
Intra-provincial disparities complicate consensus. Eg. Karachi v/s Rural Sindh.

Absence of Legal Body

Pakistan lacks constitutional body to manage the creation of new provinces systematically.

Date: _____

Recommendations



Establish a National Commission on Provincial Reorganization :

A bipartisan, technocratic body should be formed to evaluate proposals based on demographic, economic, and administrative viability.

Amend Art. 239 for Procedural Flexibility :

Introduce provisions for referendums to

12

Date: _____

make the process more democratic than politicized.

Develop Clear Criteria for New Provinces:

Define transparent benchmarks such as population size, economic sustainability and governance needs to assess proposals objectively.

Create Pilot Administrative Zones:

Grant autonomous administrative status to regions like South Punjab or Hazara as a transitional step before full provincial status.

Ensure Fiscal Devolution and Resource Sharing:

Create a revised NFC award formula to ensure fair resource allocation to new provinces without undermining existing ones.

Date: _____

Avoid Ethnic-Based

Redistricting:

Emphasize administrative efficiency and service delivery over ethnic or linguistic lines to prevent polarization.

Use technology and

Data for Planning

Use GIS mapping, recent census data, and economic indicators to design new sustainable province.

Conclusion:

The formation of new provinces in Pakistan is not merely a political demand but a governance imperative. Dr. Ijaz Shahi of Gallup Pakistan said, "The challenge is not in drawing new lines, but in ensuring those lines unite rather than divide." So a strategic, data-driven and consensus based approach is essential to transform this recurring discourse into a constructive national reform.

14
Q# 07

Introduction:

Pakistan foreign policy is at critical point following its new engagement with United States and deep strategic partnership with China. As global competition between Washington and Beijing escalates, Islamabad must handle this rivalry without compromising its national interests. According to "Geopolitical Futures", "Pakistan occupies a unique geopolitical position: It is the only country that maintains deep, long-standing relations with both Washington and Beijing".

Strategies for Balancing Relations (US ← Pak → China)

Issue - Based Engagement:

Pakistan can engage both powers on specific domains; China for infrastructure

Date: _____

and energy, the U.S for technology, education, and counterterrorism.

Economic Diversification:

While China remains central through CPEC, Pakistan may expand trade and investment ties with US, EU, and Gulf states. As per record, in 2023, Pakistan's largest export destination was United States.

- * Export to US $\Rightarrow$ \$5.01 billion
- * Export to China $\Rightarrow$ \$2.74 billion

Adopt Multilateral Diplomacy:

Active participation in forums like UN, SCO, IMF, and World Bank allows Pakistan to engage both powers constructively. Finance Minister of Pakistan held meetings with US, Chinese, and Japanese officials in October 2025 exemplifying this approach.

Date: _____

Set an Image of Regional Stabilizer:

Pakistan can position itself as stabilizing force in South Asia, promoting peace in Afghanistan and countering extremism, interest shared by both Washington and Beijing.

Smart Defense Cooperation

Pakistan should maintain defense ties with both powers without entering exclusive security arrangements. US military aid and Chinese defense technology can be balanced through transparency & strategic compartmentalization.

Public Diplomacy and Soft Power:

Promoting cultural, academic, and technological exchanges with both countries can build good will and reduce dependency on hard power.

Date: _____

Avoid Zero-Sum

Narratives :

Pakistan must reject the notion that closer ties with one power mean distancing from the other. As

"The Week" states,

"Pakistan and the United States are navigating their relationship without jeopardizing Pakistan's close ties with China."

Conclusion:

Balancing relations between US and China is not ~~just~~ ^{only} diplomatic challenge but also a strategic necessity for Pakistan's stability and growth. By adopting above pragmatic strategies in foreign policy, Pakistan can transform its geopolitical vulnerability into strategic leverage. As Dr. Samreen Khalil writes in NSPP Paper, "Pakistan must preserve its integrity while having good relations with both superpowers."

Date: _____

Q#05

Introduction:

The withdrawal of United States from Paris climate agreement in January 2025 under President Donald Trump has ~~esceated~~ escalated global concerns about the future of climate action.

As the world's second-largest emitter and key member of original accord, US has historically played a central role in shaping climate diplomacy, financing and innovation. However, its absence doesnot signal the collapse of global climate efforts. The post-US leadership era may be defined by decentralized, resilient and innovative climate governance.

Global Efforts in the Absence of U.S. Leadership

EU Climate Leadership

"European Green Deal" is aiming for

Date: _____

net zero emissions by 2050 and EU committed investment of €1 trillion in sustainable projects.

China's Expanding Green Agenda:

China committed to carbon neutrality by 2060. It is heavily investing in solar, wind and electric vehicles.

China is all set to launch its national carbon trading market.

India's Renewable Energy Push:

India targets 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 with major investments in solar parks and green hydrogen.

Date: _____

African Climate Coalitions

African nations are mobilizing regional efforts to combat desertification and climate vulnerability through "African Adaptation Initiative" and "Green Green wall."

Subnational U.S.

Actors Stepping Up:

States like California and New York along with over 400 US cities remain committed to Paris goals through the America Is still In coalition.

Private Sector and ESG Investment

Global corporations are adopting net-zero pledges while ESG investments surpassed \$40 trillion globally in 2024.

Date: _____

Youth and Civil Society Movements

Movements like Fridays for Future and Climate Action Network continue to pressure governments and institutions for stronger climate commitments.

Technological Innovations and Green Research

Advancements in carbon capture, battery storage, and climate modeling are being driven by universities, startups and international consortia.

Multilateral Forums and Climate Diplomacy

COP summits, UNFCCC, and regional climate blocs (ASEAN, AU, EU) are coordinating efforts and enforcing accountability despite US absence.

Date: _____

Contribution of Fiji, Bangladesh and Kenya

Bangladesh, Fiji and Kenya (vulnerable to climate change) are investing in climate resilient infrastructure, early warning systems and sustainable agriculture to protect ecosystem.

Conclusion:

The withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement is a setback, but not a dead end. The global climate movement has evolved beyond dependence on single actor. As former UN climate chief Christiana Figueres stated, "The momentum is unstoppable". In the absence of the world's traditional climate leader, the world is learning to lead itself.