

Instructions to Secure Good Marks in the Current Affairs Paper

Important Note: Marks will be awarded strictly on the following parameters: Content 60%, References 15%, Subject-specific language 15%, Graphs, charts & diagrams 10%.

Key Guidelines: Each question should be attempted with 12–13 clear headings. The answer must be 8–9 pages (sides) in length to score above 15 marks per question. Questions usually contain 3–4 parts; each part carries equal weightage, so all parts must be discussed equally and proportionately.

Content & Argumentation: Always use examples from current and ongoing events to justify your arguments. Demonstrate strong analytical depth, not mere narration of facts. Support arguments with relevant data, reports, international indices, treaties, and recent developments.

Structure & Presentation: Begin every answer with an attractive, context-setting introduction. End with a forward-looking, well-linked conclusion that ties back to the question. Use headings directly derived from the question statement—pick words and phrases from the question itself.

Alignment with the Question: Each argument must be explicitly linked to the specific part of the question being asked. If your heading is not aligned with the demand of the question, the content—no matter how accurate—will not be rewarded. Avoid generic or unrelated headings; precision is key.

Language & Visuals: Use subject-specific terminology relevant to international relations, geopolitics, economics, and security studies. Incorporate simple graphs, flowcharts, tables, or maps wherever relevant to enhance clarity and scoring potential.

transactional relations of Europe with China and Russian influence widening the disparity.

B) CRITICAL EVALUATION OF THE STATEMENT 'PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS ON FUTURE CLIMATE EFFORTS:'

(i) SHIFT TOWARDS THE REALIST BELIEF ABOUT THE CLIMATE CHANGE UNDERMINING THE FUTURE EFFORTS FOR RESILIENCE:

The statement reflects the prevalence of realist rhetoric on climate efforts due to following either forced or by choice of global hegemon. The president of the United States of America, Donald Trump said:

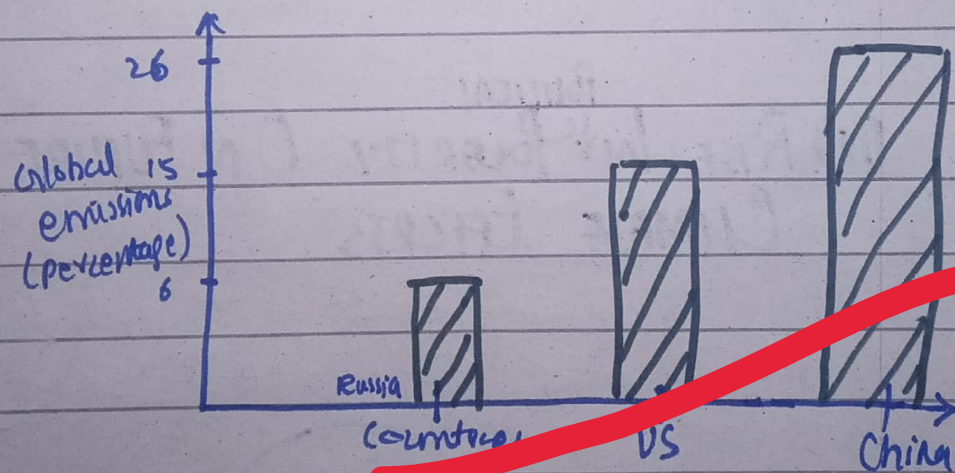
"There is nothing like climate change. The increase in temperature is natural and it has nothing to do with human activities".

Blind following and compliance to such rhetorics undermines the future efforts

on: climate

(ii) UNRESTRAINED INCREASE IN EMISSIONS DETERIORATING THE VULNERABILITY OF DEVELOPING NATIONS TO FUTURE CLIMATE THREATS:

The walkout of US remove the restraint of emissions on it, compelling the other countries to follow the same path either to maintain status quo in global arena or to remain closely ally of US.



The unrestrained emission make the already climate threatened countries more vulnerable to climate risks, thereby deterring the future efforts.

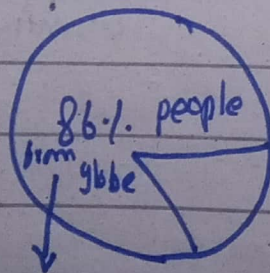
(iii) LEADERSHIP VACUUM IN THE CLIMATE POLITICS REFLECTING THE WORSENING

CONDITIONS OF FUTURE EFFORTS: CASE STUDY OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The walkout of global hegemon creates a vacuum in climate politics, reflecting the deteriorating conditions of future efforts on climate. This situation reflects a similar situation as observed in case of League of Nations. The non-participation of global hegemon led to breakdown of temporary peace, leading to a second world war.

^{POLITICAL} (IV) RISE IN POLARITY ON FUTURE OF CLIMATE EFFORTS

The findings of a United Nations Development Programme's survey reveals:



Want protection against climate hazards through collaborative work

However, the political divide on the climate efforts with the developing countries alleging developed countries of

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the climate vulnerability and demand them to contribute more to the protection efforts, is further fueled by the walkout of global hegemon.

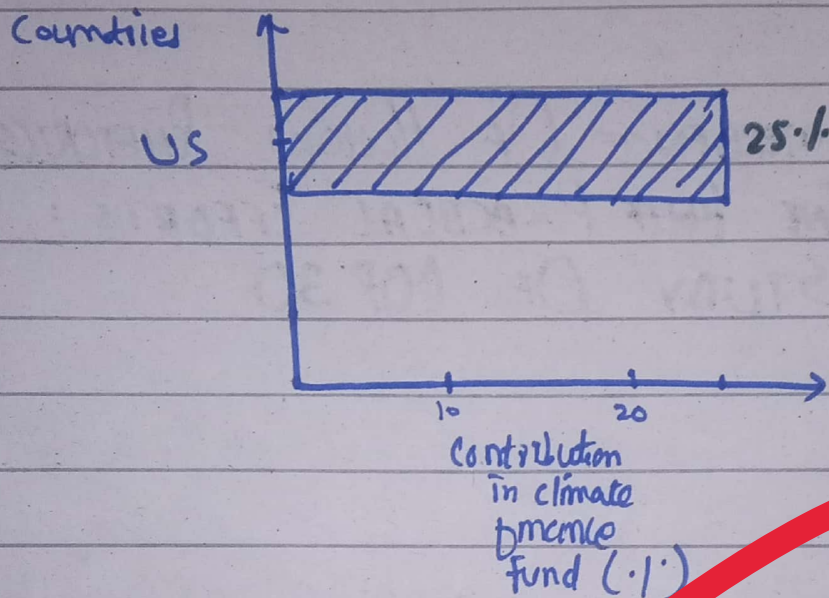
(v) EMERGENCE OF HOLLOW RHETORICS OVER THE ~~POLIT~~ PRACTICAL EFFORTS: CASE STUDY OF COP 30

The quit of U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement marked the emergence of hollow rhetorics as observed in the recent conference of parties which held in Brazil. The countries like China although, did recommit to meet their previous commitment of carbon cuts but the meeting ended without any development of an effective mechanism to rule out the use of fossils, thereby reflecting the hollow efforts on future of climate.

(vi) SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN CONTRIBUTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FINANCE FUND UNDERMINING THE FUTURE EFFORTS ON CLIMATE:

Climate finance fund was designed

to help the climate vulnerable countries to adapt and mitigate the climate hazards. In the fund, U.S. was the major contributor.



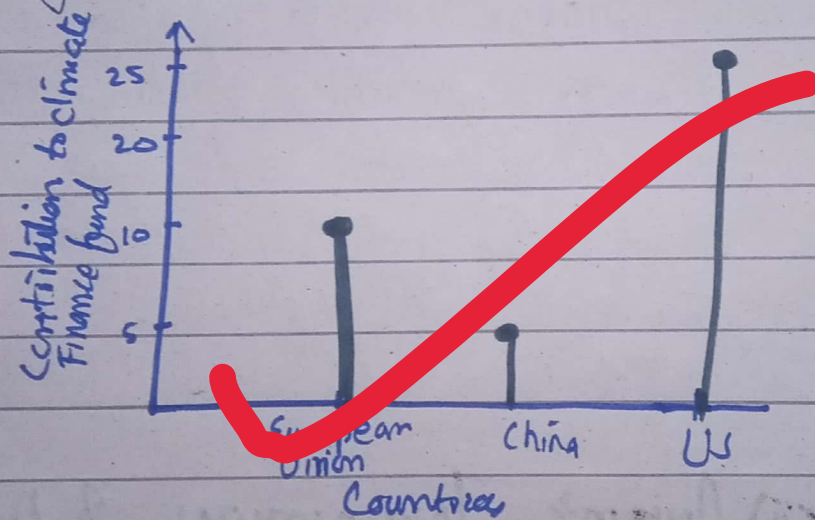
The walkout of U.S. suggests a significant decline in the climate finance fund, which significantly undermines the future of climate efforts leaving the countries helpless to climate vulnerability.

c) ANALYSIS ON WHETHER CHINA AND EUROPE COULD CONTINUE THE PROMISES OF COP21:

The chances of China and Europe continuing the ~~other~~ efforts for achieving the promises of COP21 are obscure due to the following reasons:

(i) INADEQUATE COLLECTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE FINANCE FUND REFLECTING THE STAGGERING FINANCIAL STABILITY:

The collective contribution of 27 European Nations and China falls short of the total contributed made by the global hegemon.



This reflects the weak fiscal condition of the institution to drive the future efforts and fulfill the promises of COP21 despite the compliance of China and Europe.

(ii) EUROPE'S TRANSACTIONAL RELATION'S APPROACH WITH CHINA DETERRING THE JOINT EFFORTS TO DRIVE

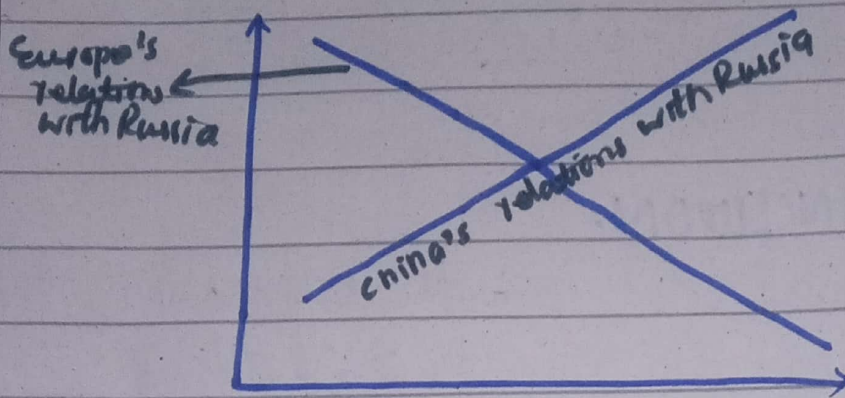
COP 21 PROMISES:

The relations of European nations with China follow the transactional approach depending on the reliability of US. It was evident from most recent tariff war where reports from an official meeting with between US and European Union suggest an application of 100% tariff on Chinese imports by Europe in the view of US-China rivalry. The transactional approach undermines the leadership of an international organization in climate efforts to fulfill the COP21 promises.

(iii) CHINA'S INCLINATION & AINA EUROPE'S ALIENATION TOWARD RUSSIA UNDERMINES THE CHANCES OF RUNNING THE PROMISES OF COP21:

While Europe sanctioned Russia by cutting nearly all of its oil imports from it, China increased its imports significantly from Russia. Europe tends to safeguard Ukraine against Russia while China follows

the policy of strict noninterference.



Relations of countries with Russia since 2022

This divergent nature of relations significantly undermines the possibility of the support of a joint effort to fulfill the promises of COP21.

(iv) DELAYED COMMITMENTS OF CUTTING EMISSIONS ERODES THE TRUST IN THE CREDIBILITY OF THE EFFORTS TO FULFILL PROMISES OF COP21:

The delay in cutting emissions as committed under the Paris Agreement significantly deteriorate the chances of leading the promises of COP21.

China → shifted from 2030 to 2050 for fulfillment of commitments

This delay raises the serious questions

about the credibility of the leadership of the two countries for fulfilling the promises of COP21 -

D) CONCLUSION:

The walkout of global hegemon from the Paris Climate Agreement poses serious threats to the future of efforts on climate. The future vacuum created & fulfilled by the joint collaboration of Europe and China can't sustain until their relations and approaches on various matters of global concern are streamlined. Therefore, their leadership may attain the rhetorical position in climate politics but will remain hollow and untested without settling the mutual issues.

QUESTION # 8

ANSWER

A) INTRODUCTION:

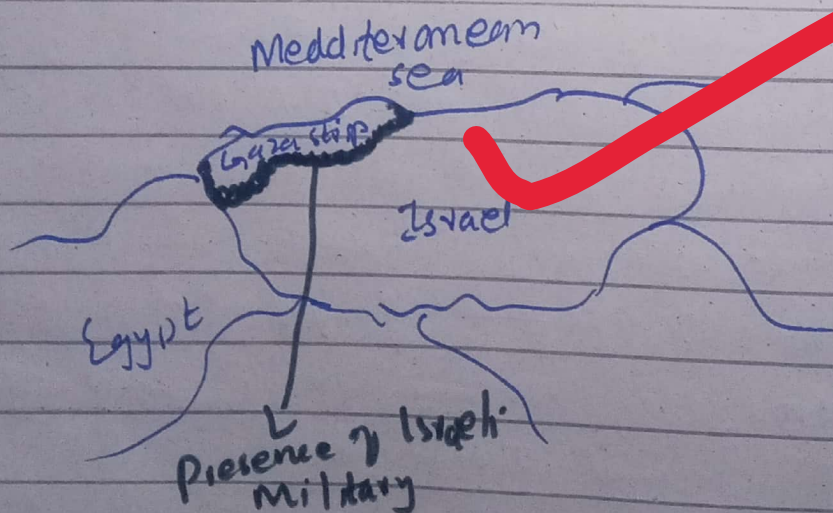
The Gaza Peace Plan, put forward by the global hegemon, managed to restore the peace in the Gaza by ending the prolonged war of Israel. Despite the critical clauses of the plan like exclusion of Israeli forces from Gaza strip with the ceasefire in effect, formation of a governance system with significant political authority of Palestinians and placement of international stabilization force, the success of plan seems obscure due to exclusion of Palestinians from the planning and formulation of plan, inclination and focus toward disarmament of Hamas, continuous killing of Palestinians despite the ceasefire and inclusion of countries in international stabilization force in accordance to Israel's will. Moreover, the Islamabad ~~not~~ followed the policy of full adherence to the Trump's plan to clearing the air about Hamas disarmament speculations. The complex nature of policy may result in direct confrontation with Palestinians.

hurting the public sentiment and portrayal of hard power in the global arena.

B) CRITICAL EVALUATION OF GAZA'S PEACE PLAN:

(i) EXCLUSION OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM GAZA WITH CEASEFIRE IN EFFECT:

The plan suggested the complete exclusion of Israeli forces from Gaza following the ceasefire in the strip. However, the Israeli forces though withdrawn from the north of Gaza strip but remained in the (surrounding) bordering areas.



It reflects the biased nature of implement.

of plan as reflected by wikipedia's founder Jimmy Wales statement that Gaza genocide page breaches every 'neutrality' rules.

(ii) TRANSFER OF MAXIMUM POLITICAL AUTHORITY TO PALESTINIANS:

The Gaza's plan suggests to the transfer of maximum political authority to Palestinians. However, it lacks the clear mechanism of transfer of authority. This clause was reaffirmed by the President of US without mentioning the clear way of power transfer.

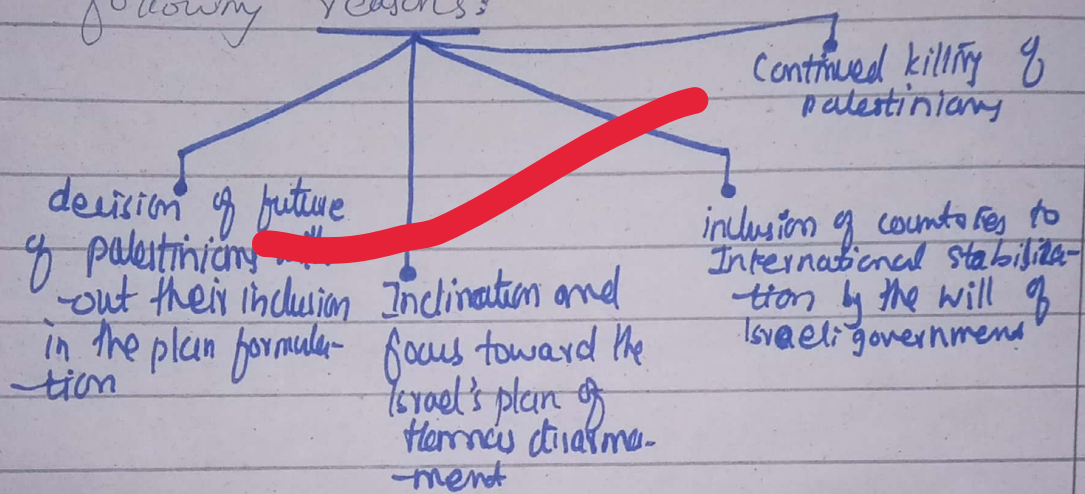
(iii) PLACEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STABILIZATION FORCE AND UNDER THE COMMAND OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY:

The Israeli Prime Minister, agreed to the placement of International Stabilization force in Gaza under the Gaza's peace plan. This suggests a neutral overlooking of the Gaza's stability.

by United Nations Security Council and International community.

C) CHANCES OF SUCCESS OF PEACE PLAN:

Despite the achievement of long awaited peace plan, the chances of its success seem rare due to the following reasons:



(i) DECISION OF FUTURE OF PALESTINIANS WITHOUT THEIR INCLUSION IN THE PLAN FORMULATION:

Many popular journalists and social media activists of Palestine such as Mohammed Al Kurd, Muneer Al Kurd and Bisan raised their concerns on the decision of future of Palestinians by international community without their inclusion. This condition degrades the

trust of the citizens in international community is significantly, reflecting the less chances of success of a unilaterally devised plan.

(ii) INCLINATION AND FOCUS TOWARD THE ISRAEL'S PLAN OF HAMAS DISARMAMENT ONLY:

Israel's open acceptance of the Gaza's peace plan exposed the inclined nature of the peace plan towards the Hamas disarmament policy of Israel and aligns it with its project of "Greater Israel". Owing to this tendency, an independent researcher from University of Oxford said that Trump only proposed the ceasefire and no peace.

(iii) INCLUSION OF COUNTRIES TO INTERNATIONAL STABILIZATION FORCE BY THE WILL OF ISRAELI GOVERNMENT:

The plan maintains the Israel hegemony over the Palestinian lands by allowing the inclusion of these countries to international stabilization force that Israel

raise no objection to. For instance, Turkey proposed to participate in the plan, but Israel rejected the inclusion of Turkey. This situation suggests the plan only serves the interest of Israel, ultimately reducing the impact of the peace resolution.

(ii) CONTINUOUS KILLING OF PALESTINIANS

The Gaza's plan was proposed to revitalize the international humanitarian norms and held the violator of UN Charter of human rights and four Geneva Conventions of 1949. However, the killing of Palestinians didn't stop despite the ceasefire as more than 400 Palestinians have been killed since the commencement of ceasefire according to Palestinian authority. This situation reflects the immediate failure of the Gaza's peace plan.

D) ANALYSIS ON THE POLICY OF ISLAMABAD REGARDING THE PLAN:

(i) ADHERENCE OF PEACE PLAN OF TRUMP:

Islamabad reflected a policy of

adherence and compliance with the Trump's plan to stay aligned and closer to US in the global politics. This was followed by an immediate recommendation of Trump for Nobel prize. The ~~PM~~ of Prime Minister of Pakistan's affirmation of peace efforts of US president reflect the ~~policy~~ focus of engaging US thereby complying to Gaza's peace plan.

(ii) CLEARANCE REGARDING THE HAMAS DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN REFLECTING THE COORDINATION GAPS:

On the speculation of Pakistan's participation in the disarmament of Hamas, the Deputy Prime Minister and foreign minister, Ishaq Dar, cleared the air, stating that Pakistan is not the part of any such campaign as it was not informed about such plan. This reflects the coordination gaps between the Gaza's peace plan regulating countries, obscuring the Islamabad's policy.

(iii) OBSCURE POLICY OF ISLAMABAD

NO AFFIRMATION OR REJECTION OF PAKISTAN'S INCLUSION IN INTERNATIONAL STABILIZATION FORCE

President Trump announced that Pakistan is a participant of international stabilization force out of the 20 countries participating in the plan. However, the Pakistan's government did not affirm or reject the assertion, reflecting its vague and obscure policy towards the plan.

E) POSSIBLE FALLOUTS OF ISLAMABAD'S POLICY ON THE COUNTRY:

(i) THREAT OF DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH PALESTINIANS IN CASE OF PARTICIPATION IN HAMAS DISARMAMENT:

The former ambassador of Pakistan, Maleeha Lodhi said that if Pakistan complies to the policy of disarmament, it may put the country in direct confrontation with the Palestinians. Therefore, the policy of Pakistan may lead to

confrontational issues

(ii) INCREASE IN DISPARITY AMONG MASSES AND GOVERNMENT DUE TO DEEP RELIGIOUS AND IDEOLOGICAL ROOTS:

A blind compliance to US may cost Islamabad with a significant increase in disparity between public and government due to religious and ideological inclinations of the people to Palestine.

(iii) POTENTIAL OF HARD POWER IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

Following the emergence of hard power approach of US, Pakistan's blind compliance may cost its status globally. The complete backing of US and indirectly Israel's objectives may lead to perception of Pakistan as a hard power in global political arena.

F) CONCLUSION:

The Gaza's peace plan though

ugh apparently serves to questions and
reinforce peace between the two countries.
However, it is actually a plan serving the
unilateral interests of a power while
ignoring the other's participation completely
thereby limiting the success factor. More-
over, Islamabad's blind compliance to the
US and obscure policy towards the
Soviet Union may cost it externally in
global political arena and as well as inter-
nally. Therefore, Pakistan needs to clearly
devise its policy around its national interest
instead of building around it the US - as sug-
gested by M. A. Khan Lodhi.

QUESTION #5

ANSWER

A) INTRODUCTION:

Pak-KSA defense pact is an historic pact marking the formalization of ~~two~~ longstanding defense cooperation of both. The unique nature of the first ever bilateral defense pact in the world brought the geo-political achievement and opened economic opportunities for both countries. These achievements and opportunities include institutionalization of long-term strategic cooperation, strengthening of mutual deterrence and state credibility, increased Saudi Foreign Direct Investment, expansion of energy and infrastructure cooperation and strengthening Pakistan's economic diplomacy in the Gulf.

B) HISTORIC PACT FORMALIZING THE HISTORIC TIES:

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have shared close defense relations for decades. Pakistan's armed forces have trained Saudi military personnel and the two countries cooperated

informally under previous security arrangements, including troops deployments and military training programmes.

C) REGIONAL SECURITY DYNAMICS IN 2025:

By formalizing the defense cooperation, both Riyadh and Islamabad are attempting to manage security threats from multiple fronts, including tensions with Iran, instability in Yemen and evolving military strategies in West Asia thereby creating a new model of collective security in the Muslim world.

D) GEOPOLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS FOR PAKISTAN AND SAUDI ARABIA:

(i) INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF LONG-TERM STRATEGIC COOPERATION:

By formalizing defense relations, the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement institutionalizes long-term strategic cooperation rather than ad-hoc military collaboration. This ensures continuity, predictability and strategic trust between the two states, enabling

-ling coordinated response to emerging security challenges as evident from the studies of International Institute for Strategic Studies which identify that institutionalized defence partnerships are key pillars of sustainable regional security architecture.

(ii) STRENGTHENING OF MUTUAL DETERRENCE AND STRATEGIC CREDIBILITY:

By formalizing the defence commitments, both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia project greater strategic credibility without forming a rigid military alliance. Pakistan contributes military professionalism and strategic depth, while Saudi Arabia brings geopolitical influence and economic strength. The international community of media suggests that such defence partnerships significantly reinforce deterrence by signalling unity and resolve thereby discouraging external aggression in volatile regions.

(iii) EXPANSION OF STRATEGIC AUTONOMY IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD:

The Pak Saudi pact enables both states to reduce overdependence on traditional

security guarantors and pursue strategic autonomy in an increasingly multipolar global system, flexible security partnerships are preferred over exclusive alliances. Some analysts argue that such arrangements allow states to manoeuvre diplomatically while safe guarding core security interests. Thus, the pact empowers both to act independently while remaining strategically relevant.

(iv) ENHANCEMENT OF DIPLOMATIC LEVERAGE AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL:-

The agreement enhances the diplomatic bargaining power of both countries in dealing with major global powers. The Pak Saudi pact signals that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia possess credible alternative to security operation, strengthening their negotiating positions on issues ranging from regional stability to economic and energy diplomacy. The Atlantic Council recently notes that defence diplomacy often translates into increased political leverage with international forums.

(v) REINFORCEMENT OF LEADERSHIP ROLE

IN THE MUSLIM WORLD:

The pact symbolically strengthens collective leadership within the Muslim world by demonstrating indigenous security cooperation between the two influential Muslim states. This partnership enhances their moral and political authority in Islamic forums and reinforces the idea of intra-Muslim strategic collaboration. The Diplomat observes that such defense agreements contribute to redefining the collective security narrative in the Muslim World.

(vi) STRATEGIC SIGNALLING WITHOUT ALLIANCE ENTANGLEMENT:

A key collective achievement of the pact is the ability to send strong strategic signals without creating a military bloc. The strategic ambiguity allows states to deter threats while avoiding entanglement in regional rivalries. According to Brookings Institution, such calibrated signalling is increasingly favored in contemporary geopolitics as it reduces escalation risks while maintaining strategic effectiveness.

(E) ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR PAKISTAN

(i) INCREASED SAUDI FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT:

The most significant economic opportunity for Pakistan under the pact is the likelihood of increased Saudi investment. Defense partnership fosters strategic trust, which is a critical prerequisite for large scale foreign investment. According to Pakistan's Ministry of Finance and the Saudi Vision 2030 framework, Riyadh seeks reliable strategic partners for overseas investments in energy, infrastructure and industry.

(ii) EXPANSION OF ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE COOPERATION:

Saudi Arabia has already shown interest in investing in Pakistan's energy sector, including oil refineries, renewable energy projects and strategic reserves. The pact enhances security assurance required for such high value investments. Analysts emphasized that energy cooperation often depends on following defense agreements, as energy security and national security are closely interlinked. This coopera-

-tion can help Pakistan address chronic energy shortages and reduce its import bill.

(iii) STRENGTHENING PAKISTAN'S ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY IN THE GULF:

The pact enhances Pakistan's standing across the Gulf region, not just in KSA. Saudi Arabia backing Pakistan increases the leverage given to the due leverage in engaging other Gulf states for trade, investment and labour agreements. Regional analysts of Aljazeera notes that KSA's strategic partnerships often have a multipolar effect across the wider Gulf economic ecosystem.

(iv) DEFENSE INDUSTRIES AND TECHNOLOGY SPILLOVERS:

The agreement opens avenues for joint ventures, defense manufacturing collaboration and technology transfer. While primarily strategic in nature, defense industrial cooperation often generates civilian technological spillovers, employment opportunities and industrial capa-

-city building. The International Institute for Strategic Studies in 2025, highlights that defense related industrial cooperation increasingly contributes to broader economic modernization in partner states.

IV) BOOSTS INVESTOR'S CONFIDENCE AND CREDIT RECEPTION:

The pact improves Pakistan's overall risk perception by signal long-term political and security backing from a major regional power. This reduces the perceived geopolitical risk premium attached to Pakistan's economy. According to the Moody's and Fitch regional outlooks 2025, strong strategic partnerships can positively influence market confidence even without immediate rating upgrades, thereby lowering borrowing costs and improving access to international capital markets.

(VI) GROWTH IN OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT AND REMITTANCES

KIA remains Pakistan's largest source of remittances. The pact strengthens

bilateral trust, which directly benefits Pakistan labor exports, particularly in skilled and semi-skilled areas such as construction, security services, engineering and healthcare. As reported by State Bank of Pakistan in 2024-2025 that remittances from Saudi Arabia are a critical pillar of Pakistan's foreign exchange inflows. Enhanced defense relations are expected to further expand employment quotas and stabilize remittance flows.

(F) CONCLUSION:

The Pak-Saudi defense pact represents a strategic milestone with profound geopolitical and economic implications. Geopolitically, it enhances mutual security, strengthens deterrence, and elevates Pakistan's international standing. Economically, it offers Pakistan opportunities for investment inflows, labor exports, and financial stability. If managed prudently, the pact can serve as a cornerstone of Pakistan's strategic and economic revival rather than a source of hollow rhetorical commitments.