International Relations · GS - II

Examine the implications of growing defence cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia for regional security and India’s foreign policy.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Pakistan–Saudi Arabia relations; defence cooperation; Gulf security; regional balance of power; energy security; Indian diaspora; strategic autonomy; diplomatic engagement.

Model Answer

Defence cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia reflects the importance of security partnerships in West Asia and South Asia. Such cooperation can strengthen bilateral strategic ties but may also influence regional security calculations.

For Pakistan, defence ties with Saudi Arabia can provide diplomatic and strategic support. For Saudi Arabia, partnerships with countries possessing military capabilities can contribute to its broader security arrangements.

For India, the implications require careful assessment. Stability in the Gulf is important for India’s energy supplies, trade, remittances and the safety of its large expatriate community. Any regional escalation could disrupt energy markets and affect Indian interests. At the same time, India maintains significant relations with both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan’s regional partners.

India should therefore pursue strategic autonomy, strengthen defence and diplomatic engagement with Gulf countries, diversify energy sources and protect its citizens abroad. It should also support dialogue and peaceful dispute resolution.

A balanced approach can help India safeguard its interests without becoming unnecessarily entangled in regional rivalries.