

Emerging India-Saudi Arabia Relations and Implications for Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

The growing conflict between India and Pakistan, the growth of amiable ties between Saudi Arabia and India has a significant impact at the relationship of these three nations with each other. Through data and textual analysis, the research paper analyzed different patterns of relations between the respective nations and how Pakistan is impacted by Indo-Saudi relations as well as its relation with India to impact Saudi Arabia. Moreover, this paper also critically examines how the Indian inroads to the Middle East especially in Saudi Arabia is reshaping the economic, geopolitical and regional interests. It has been analyzed that the Pakistan and Saudi Arabia's bilateral relations were severed when back in 2015 Pakistan officially announced that the country will stay neutral, and its troops will not be part of any military conflict. However, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia asked Pakistan to send their troops to Syria to support the Saudi Arabia's backed freedom group. The geopolitical experts believe that this was the time when Pakistan lost its only leverage it had over Saudi Arabia. However, at last this paper concludes that Pakistan need to take concrete steps to counter the Indian policy towards Middle East and constructive measure needed to be taken straight away to mend its relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Keywords: Conflict, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Middle East, Bilateral Relations, Energy, Trade.

Introduction

The relationship of Saudi Arabia, India, and Pakistan have been very tense since the independence in 1947 which distributed the subcontinent of India into two separate economic, cultural, religious, and social nations which had very tense relations among themselves. Saudi Arabia is an Islamic State and has always attempted to maintain a strong friendly relation with Pakistan preferring it over their relations with India. The relations between the subcontinent of India and Saudi Arabia can be traced centuries back to 1000 AD with Saudi Arabia's relationship with the Indian subcontinent strengthening the Arabian economy with the monopoly on the spice trade (Gauri, 2013). However, when the European imperialists' rose to power and gained access into the subcontinent of India. The

monopoly of the Arabs weakened and those same European imperialist powers became the cause of disputes between contemporary India and Saudi Arabia.

With European powers strengthening their control over a larger part of the world, Saudi Arabia took a step back from India and waited till it rose to high powers itself. Once the subcontinent of India was able to fight off the imperialism and was able to gain independence from the Britain kingdom in 1947, another nation also came into being known as "Pakistan" on 14th August 1947. Pakistan rose as a Muslim country based on the principles of Islam and was able to gain attention, business, and amiable relations with Saudi Arabia. However, due to the separation of Pakistan from India and the clashes based on property, identity, politics, religion, and other factors, the mutual third-party Saudi Arabia too had to contemplate its relations with the respective nations since the Independence of 1947 (Wolpert, 2012).

Saudi Arabia has been the primary financial aid provider for Pakistan since as far back as the 1960s (Sial, 2015). In return for not having to repay these loans, Pakistan's military aid has always come to Saudi Arabia's defense. The crack in the foundation emerged when this help was denied in the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen in 2015 (Khan & Khan, 2021). Saudi Arabia had since started growing closer to Pakistan's longtime rival, India. The two countries had been on friendly terms since independence but their economic and socio-cultural ties grew stronger since 2013 when both countries were listed amongst each other's largest trading partners. Considering the Indo-Pak rivalry, these developments between Saudi Arabia and India haven't been the most pleasant for Pakistan.

Significance of Study

India and Saudi Arabia's strengthening relations has numerous implications on the relation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. This study is very important in understanding the outlook of prospective relations in the future between these three nations. Pakistan sees the relationship of India and Saudi Arabia as the one that has very strong implications on Pakistan's ties with Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia believes that the conflicts and the complicated relationship between India and Pakistan lead to Saudi Arabia adjusting its foreign policies in terms of trade and politics. India receives many benefits from Saudi Arabia which include but are not limited to trade and economic benefits of oil import, manufactured goods, and remittances. India also receives Saudi support financially, militarily, and diplomatically.

Main Argument of Research

This research is an attempt to explore and analyze the relationship between India and Saudi Arabia over the years. India and Saudi Arabia's relationship has many severe and significant implications on Pakistan concerning its relationship with Saudi Arabia and other political stances in foreign affairs. As the relationship

between India and Saudi Arabia strengthens, Pakistan suffers at the hands of politics, economics, and diplomacy. Many times, Saudi Arabia has maintained a neutral stance to avoid deterioration in its foreign relations with respective nations, however, over the years many Saudi policies have left Pakistan on the sidelines and abandoned, due to which Pakistan's domestic, regional and international capabilities have declined. Saudi Arabia plays a very important role in regional and international affairs such as wars and conflicts around the world where India and Pakistan have been involved and shifts their policies accordingly.

Research Methodology

The methodology of this research paper is to analyze the relationship between India, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan through historical and contemporary evidence. To analyze the relation and implications, documentary analysis is applied by obtaining data from different primary and secondary sources, and different channels such as online databases, news articles, journals, and scholarly reviewed articles to observe and analyze the perceptions of different authors and to develop a scholarship with different viewpoints and a holistic analysis of the different stages of relations between the three respective nations and how their behaviors with each other play an influential role in world politics especially in Asia and Middle East.

The procedure performed is referred to as documentary analysis, that is a form of qualitative research in which documents are interpreted by the researcher to give voice and meaning around an assessment topic. Analyzing documents includes coding content into themes, similar to how focus group or interview transcripts are analyzed. Rubrics can also use to evaluate documents (Bowen, 2009).

Bilateral Relations among India, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in Perspective

All nations in the world coexist due to the bilateral relations between them and playing each strategy diplomatically. After the partition of the Subcontinent, India played their relations in their favor to ensure that they were viewed as neutral. However, a nation can never maintain good ties with all nations, such was the case of India when they sacrificed their relation with Saudi Arabia by forging better ties with Egypt. After the division of the subcontinent and a number of Indian Muslims that decided to remain in India, Nehru was determined to have a pro-Arab policy to respect the opinions of over 35 million Muslims that remained in India. It was important to convince the Muslim minority of India that the Indo-Pakistan conflict was not Anti-Muslims (Ward, 1992).

However, that was not the only reason for Nehru to keep the Indian Muslims satisfied, he also feared Islamic encirclement and the formation of a powerful Islamic state that could possibly eventually defeat India in the political realm.

Pakistan's desire for Pan-Islamic alliance and Muslim solidarity was the root driver of Indian Government and Nehru's policy towards Saudi Arabia. Therefore, India attempted all possible efforts to ensure that Saudi Arabia's policy was in favor of India in politics, trade and commerce. The relationship of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan can find its roots years before the partition of the Indian Subcontinent and formation of Pakistan as an independent state. The members of the royal Saud family of Saudi Arabia has religious, economic, and political ties with the founding fathers of Pakistan years before the partition.

India Saudi Arabia Relations

The first political and diplomatic visit between the two nations took place in November 1955 through the Crown Prince Faisal who arranged the meeting between Nehru and King Ibn-e-Saud. The King and Prime Minister Nehru discussed various topics such as the recognition of communist China and India's viewpoint and standing in the Middle East, and Arab-Israel conflict. Nehru during his speech addressing the King delivered his sympathies to Saudi Arabia in regards to the Arab-Israel conflict despite Israel being supported by nations such as the USA and UK (Kumaraswamy & Quamar, 2019). Nehru diplomatically played the visit with the King as politically and diplomatically as he could, such as when he addressed the issue of religion and stated, "Islam came to India peacefully. There was no fighting in its wake as it happened in other countries... was created with friendliness by India, as it had been the tradition in this land" (Ghosh, 2017).

The diplomatic visits between India and Saudi Arabia continued in September, 1956 when Nehru visited King Saud. The topic of discussion for the visit was the ongoing political unrest in Egypt after Nasser the Egyptian President had nationalized the Suez Canal. They also discussed the treatment of Muslims in India and Nehru reassured the King that the recommendations by him for the treatment of Muslims are actively being implemented and that he respects the huge number of Muslims in India (Kumaraswamy & Quamar, 2019). The result of the meeting was beneficial for the relation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia; however, things did not play out very well for Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Pakistan criticized Saudi Arabia when Saudi Arabia greeted the Indian prime Minister by saying *Marhaba Rasool as-Salam* (Welcome, the Messenger of Peace). Pakistan accused the Saudis of unethical behavior by addressing Nehru with such remarks. However, the Saudis were determined that those are false accusations and that was not their intention (Sattar, 2017).

Indira Gandhi, the third prime minister of India held office third time from January 1980 to October 1984. During her tenure as the lead representative of India she paid a visit to Saudi Arabia in 1982 to increase the collaboration and corroboration between the two nations (Gauri, 2013). Some of the discussions of their meetings included the assurance of representation and satisfactory equal treatment of Muslim minorities in India. Mrs. Gandhi also was to carry a message on behalf of Saudi Arabia to Moscow, that Pakistan's interference in Afghanistan

shall end and that Saudi Arabia wishes to reestablish their ties with Moscow and to improve their relation. Economically, Saudi Arabia agreed to diversify some of its investments in India and to request OPEC to reconsider the aid recipient status of India (India Today, 2013).

King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz al Saud visited India in 2006 to sign the first ever bilateral document between India and Saudi Arabia, the “Delhi Declaration” (Gauri, 2013). A visit from Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh to Saudi Arabia in February 2010 for the signing of the “Riyadh Declaration” made the two leaders agree that these visits marked the onset of a “strategic partnership” between the two countries (Mumtaz, 2010). Before this, Saudi Arabia had reservations about forging relations with India due to the former’s continual support for Pakistan as proven during the India-Pakistan War of 1971. However, India having the third largest Muslim population globally along with its budding economy pushed Riyadh to build better relations with them regardless of the effect it would have on their proximity with Pakistan.

In February 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defense cooperation was signed between India and Saudi Arabia, when the crown Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz al Saud visited India. The agreement was said to allow “exchange of defense-related information, military training and education as well as cooperation in areas varying from hydrography and security to logistics” (Panda, 2014). It was assumed to be Saudi Arabia’s attempt at securing alliance with different countries in the midst of weakening relations with the US. Pakistani strategists and policy makers at that point, feared that this would give India an opportunity to establish itself as a prominent member of the Arab and Muslim world for future benefits. India imagined one of those benefits to be the unconditional support of Saudi Arabia against anti-India militant groups in Pakistan.

When Pakistan chose to stay neutral during the Yemeni civil war of 2015 and Riyadh did not receive military assistance from Islamabad, relations between the two countries were bound to be strained. Saudi Arabia started turning towards India, entertaining the latter’s ‘Look West’ foreign policy (Burton, 2019). Modi’s two-day visit to Riyadh in April 2016 was a monumental one. It gave the leaders a chance to talk about future cooperation in areas such as defense and security, energy, trade and investment, education, culture and overseas employment. Research Intern at Centre for Air Power Studies, Poonam Mann (2016) considered the joint statement on terrorism, the highlight of the visit even though five agreements in total were signed.

The two leaders intended to join forces and combat terrorism by cutting off financial support to terrorists and bringing the culprits to justice. Mann further added that the addition of security and counterterrorism elements to the already agreed upon Delhi Declaration of 2006 and the Riyadh Declaration of 2010, solidified the bilateral relationship even better between the two countries (Mann, 2016). The Saudi workforce hosts a considerable number of Indian nationals but their poor living and working conditions was an issue that Prime Minister Modi

deemed important to discuss in his 2016 visit. Hence, an agreement was signed for the welfare of these workers which was the first of its kind making it a significant development in the Indo-Saudi relations.

During the same visit, Modi also made sure to try and convince Saudi Arabia to invest in India's key sectors which also included an invitation to develop a stake in its petroleum reserve. Muddassir Qamar quotes that Modi also 'encouraged Saudi Aramco, SABIC, and other Saudi companies to invest in the infrastructure sector in India and to participate in projects creating mega industrial manufacturing corridors [and] smart cities, as well as the Digital India and Start up India programs' (Quamar, 2017) Mann mentioned how India could have seen the fall in global oil prices as an opportunity to increase trade with Saudi Arabia as they would've been looking to make easy oil sales, particularly in Asia, at such a time (Mann, 2016). The author also believed that the freshly strained Pak-Saudi relations in 2015 due to the Yemen conflict represented the perfect opportunity for Prime Minister Modi to go forth with India's 'Look West' foreign policy (Burton, 2019).

The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia made a visit to India in February 2019. This was followed by yet another visit to Saudi Arabia by the Indian Prime Minister in October during which an agreement on the establishment of a Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) was signed between the two countries. Alvite Ningthoujam (2019) wrote in *The Diplomat* right before this meeting, how the frequent high-level visits between the two countries represented that both of them considered each other to be an essential strategic partner for themselves (Ningthoujam, 2019). Later that year, Riyadh refused to support Islamabad's position on Kashmir after Prime Minister Narendra Modi revoked the Articles 370 and 35-A from India's constitution. This brought the special autonomy status of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir to an end. Islamabad wished to hold a debate on this issue along with the one of alleged human rights violations by Indian security forces in Kashmir with the KSA-led Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Pakistan expected their long-time ally to support them and take a stand against India's oppression of Kashmiris, but Riyadh was reluctant to jeopardize their relations with India (Ningthoujam, 2019).

In the same year, Saudi Arabia also included India as one of the countries to be a strategic partner for their Vision 2030, the aim of which was to diversify the country's economy. Saud Al Sati, ambassador of Saudi Arabia to India, spoke at an event in Hyderabad and stated that, "Saudi Arabia considers India a strategic partner for our Vision 2030. We want to be a part of India's march to becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025". Al-Sati also mentioned how 30 of the 267 new foreign investors who were issued licenses by the Saudi government in early 2019, were India-based companies. He stressed upon India being an important market for Saudi Arabian tourism and to prove that, he announced that giving visa-on-arrival to Indian tourists is being worked out (Deccan Chronicle, 2019).

India Saudi Arabia Economic Relations

The economic relations between India and Saudi Arabia were built upon the former's need for energy resources and the latter's need for human resources. Sanjay Kumar (2017) wrote in *International Journal of Trade & Commerce* that bilateral trade between the two countries had shown a significant increase in the last five years at that time. Even when the volume of trade dropped from US \$ 48 billion in 2013-14 to US \$ 26.7 billion in 2015-16, Saudi Arabia still remained India's third-largest trading partner, said Dr. Muddassir Quamar (Quamar, 2017). However, Kumar expressed concern that the minerals, fuel and crude oil accounted for more than 80% of imports from Saudi Arabia which tilted the balance of trade more towards Saudi Arabia. It was mentioned in the *IPRI Journal* by Abbas (2019) that while the Gulf region accounted for 13.76% share of India's total imports, Saudi Arabia emerged to be one of the largest shareholders for those (Abbas, 2019).

During the time between April 2000 to October 2010, Saudi Arabia has invested US \$ 31.59 million in India, according to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. In a meeting on 23 February 2011, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to India, Faisal Hassan Ahmed, encouraged India to invest in diverse sectors of Saudi Arabia like science & technology, education, IT, defense & security. Similarly, Prime Minister Modi also prioritized attracting investments from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, particularly in the area of infrastructure, after being elected. According to the Saudi Arabia General Investment Authority (SAGIA), there was a 150% growth in the number of Indian companies registered in Saudi Arabia, from 190 in 2007 to 426 in 2017 (Abbas, 2019). Dr. Quamar (2019) pointed out in his book that how Indian companies established joint ventures with Saudi companies in health, pharmaceutical, education, real estate and construction, retail, and IT sectors. Abbas (2019) also mentions how various Indian IT firms are being hosted by Saudi Arabia's Knowledge Economic City at Medina.

Energy Relations

India's growing population has had subsequently growing energy demands. The projected economic growth of 7-8% over the next two decades for India could only be sustained if the country's increasing dependence on oil imports would be catered. Abbas (2019) thinks that India's fear of energy security is driving them to frantically signing multiple security pacts with Arab States in case of any terror attack against its oil supply routes. Saudi Arabia was also in a position to benefit greatly from the rapid rise in energy demand in India.

India and Saudi Arabia entered into a Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) in 2006 during King Abdullah's visit to India, which called for a "reliable, stable and increased crude supply" from Saudi Arabia to India through 'evergreen' long-term contracts (Gauri, 2013). Hussain (2017) mentions here that Saudi Arabia is the

largest crude oil supplier and the second largest LPG (butane and propane) supplier for India. Following Prime Minister Modi's visit to the Kingdom, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu discussed the setting up of a refinery in Andhra Pradesh with Saudi Aramco President and CEO Amin H. Nasser (Burton, 2019).

India Saudi Arabia Trade Relations

India is a nation with over one billion individuals in a population, which is second in the world only after China, and with a population like that there are multiple opportunities for business, trade, and renunciation. Saudi Arabia is a nation with only a minuscule population in comparison to India, with a population of only 34.1 million in 2021 in which Saudi constitutes 63.6% and 36.4% is constituted by non-Saudis (Al-Arabiya News, 2022). The oil industry and oil trade boomed for Saudi Arabia and resulted in the modern, global and affluent nation it is today. Saudi Arabia began to increase trade with the rest of the world as well, and not just oil but other commodities as well. India is one of Saudi Arabia's trading partners and one of the largest importers of oil from Saudi Arabia. Imports of India from Saudi Arabia accounted for \$ 890.8 million in 1996 which was 25% of Saudi share in Indian oil imports and has increased in revenue over time with \$ 6103.5 million in 2005 which only accounted for 20.5% of Saudi share in Indian oil imports. Even though the revenue in imports is increasing for Saudi Arabia, the share in % of imports of India from Saudi Arabia has reduced significantly over time (Gauri, 2013).

India Saudi Arabia Relations and Implications for Pakistan Political Implications:

Saudi Arabia wanted to decrease their heavy reliance on US-led Western countries regarding the challenges to social and political sustainability that they had been facing since the Arab Spring in 2011 along with the sudden fall in global oil prices in 2014. The countries of the Gulf region wanted to expand diplomatic relations with Asian countries and India's clear vote against Iran's nuclear programme in the UN and support for Saudi Arabia was a sign for the latter to make a permanent partner out of the former.

However, Pakistan chose to stay neutral, first during the 2015 Yemen intervention and then the Qatar diplomatic crisis. Former President Pervez Musharraf seemed to think that Pakistan should have taken the side of Saudi Arabia and the UAE in the Qatar diplomatic crisis, but strategists believed that neutrality was a way to gain leverage and maybe mediate relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Abbas (2019) writes that a policy like this could put a strain on Pakistan's relations with not only Saudi Arabia but other Gulf states too.

India's strategic and economic presence in the Gulf region has been a serious hurdle in Pakistan's Kashmir cause as the country requires extensive diplomatic support from Muslim countries of which only Iran and Turkey have not been

silent. The OIC led by Saudi Arabia invited India to the 46th Ministerial session and also de-hyphenated Kashmir from Palestine, at which point Abbas (2019) deems it necessary to mention that India has been trying to pursue a policy of isolating Pakistan at international arenas. India's approach to do this through increased interdependence, extensive economic engagement, political and security cooperation became evident when Pakistan was put on the grey list as a result of Saudi Arabia's decision to abstain in a critical Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meeting. Abbas suggests that Pakistan could be in even more trouble if clear support for India in crucial situations spread to more Gulf countries (Abbas, 2019).

Soon after Islamabad's historic decision to stay neutral in the Saudi-led intervention against Yemen's Houthis in 2015, Narendra Modi was presented with the highest civil award in Saudi Arabia as a reaction. The joint statement included hopes to contain 'cross-border terrorism', which is a term that New Delhi typically associates with Pakistan, according to Abbas (Abbas, 2019). This could be a sign of a shift in Saudi Arabia's future strategic thinking as the Arab ruling elite still had a lack of trust in Pakistan for future military support but not in India, despite Pakistan's efforts to initiate diplomatic damage control through high-level visits and support for the Saudi-led Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) (Siddiqi, 2019).

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have had very strong diplomatic ties when it comes to supporting each other and fighting and aiding in the wars of each other. However, with the increasing diplomatic ties between India and Saudi Arabia, the Pak-Saudi relationship took a hit. Saudi Arabia along with China and USA has a significant influence on Pakistan's foreign and internal policy and the discourses that happen around the politics of the nation. Therefore, Pakistan's relation with other nations in the world, specifically the Middle East has a great impact on Pak-Saudi relationship (Sial, 2015).

Due to the issue of Kashmir, Saudi Arabia often has trouble maintaining neutrality between India and Pakistan. Pakistan demanded Saudi Arabia to organize and lead a meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) over the Kashmir conflict. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, a diplomat of Pakistan caused an interruption in their diplomatic relations when he openly criticized Saudi Arabia for its inability to support Pakistan over the Kashmir issue against India. Whereas many other nations in the world openly supported Pakistan, which include Iran, Turkey and Malaysia.

Strategic Implications

The 26/11 attack in Mumbai in 2008 tested many nation's relations with each other and support. Pakistan has been alleged to partake and implement the attack by India, after finding evidence of Pakistan's ISI involvement and Pakistan's terrorist group Al-Qaeda. The attack killed many Indian and foreign nationals, when India requested cooperation from Pakistan in the investigation of the attack and received

hostility in return which increased the suspicion of the world. India sent a memoir detailing the investigation to multiple nations that evidenced Pakistan's involvement, one of those nations was Saudi Arabia as well. Saudi Arabia played a huge role in the investigation when in May 2012 they extradited Zabiuddin Ansari to India who was able to provide more details (Abbas, 2019). Pakistan was not happy about the extradition and opposed it. Saudi Arabia by 2008 had very amiable relations with India and therefore assisted India in its investigation despite the opposition from Pakistan.

Saudi Arabia has since then lent a helping hand to India in their investigations to find the culprits of 26/11 attack and bring them to justice. Saudi police arrested Zabiuddin Ansari's ally Abu Jundal a lashkar terrorist who revealed additional facts about Pakistan's and ISI's involvement in the 26/11 attack of Mumbai. Saudi Arabia's strategic involvement and strategies have led to Pakistan gaining scrutiny from nations around the world and being on unofficial trial from many nations in the world. India chose not to attack Pakistan in response to the attacks, however they wished to respond with violence, but chose to fight back strategically. By choosing not to attack Pakistan, they were able to conduct a legal and efficient investigation, were able to play the role of a victim, and also received unprecedented attention, cooperation and sympathy from many nations of the world, especially Saudi Arabia (Sial, 2015).

Economic Implications

A Chinese expert seems to think that India's growing friendship with not only Saudi Arabia but other Gulf States too, has taken the biggest toll on Pakistan's economy. The FDI from 1997-2001 to Pakistan was nearly USD 200 million but a sharp decline was seen in 2013-16. On the other hand, the bilateral trade between Saudi Arabia and India was USD 48.75 billion in 2013-14. Abbas believes that increase in FDI in India and its decline for Pakistan has more to do with the priority shift of Arab investors than India's larger economy. Dr. Siegfried O. Wolf (2021) believes that these priorities are indicated by the inclusion of India as one of Saudi Arabia's strategic partners within Vision 2030 which did not include Pakistan and the country's interest in investing USD 100 billion in India in 2019 (compared to 20 billion in Pakistan). The Saudi government is sure that 'India is better placed to economically help them given its size, resources and industrial potential' (Wolf, 2021). The highest civilian award to PM Modi mentioned above was KSA's attempt in 'symbolizing the eagerness on their part to do business with New Delhi' (Wolf, 2021).

Saudi Arabia's close ties with India over Pakistan in recent times can be attributed to economic implications as well. Saudi Arabia most definitely feels that it's economic relations with India are far more crucial than its Pakistani counterpart. Only the crude oil trade variance between India and Pakistan is devastating, in 2018 alone India imported \$21.2 billion in crude oil from Saudi Arabia, in comparison to Pakistan that only imported \$1.9 billion in crude oil

(Wolf, 2021). The difference between the benefit Saudi Arabia receives from both nations from trade is vital in their political, diplomatic and strategic decisions. The growth and the disparity are limited not only to trade and remittances, but Saudi Arabs investment and interest in other sectors such as agriculture and telecommunications as well.

Conclusion

India and Saudi Arabia's relations have always remained civil but PM Modi's coming to power took them to a new level where cooperation on energy, security, cross-border terrorism, trade, investment, cultural and political areas was exercised. Frequent high-level visits and presence of a strong expatriate community played a role in strengthening the India-Saudi relations. Disappointment from Pakistan's side in 2015 and then from Saudi Arabia in 2019 also pushed India to seize the opportunity of convincing KSA to invest more in the latter's market. Pakistan faces problems in the economic and political sectors due to decreasing size of its expatriate community and Saudi Arabia and diminishing bilateral trade. The decisions to support Iran's nuclear deal and neutrality in the Qatar and Yemen crisis has lowered Saudi expectations for Pakistan to support them in the area of security in the future. Kashmir is a very conflicting convergence between these three nations as the stand of each determines its relationship with the other.

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Muhammad Owais

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