

**Q. 8.** Critically evaluate Gaza peace plan and the chances of its success. Also analyze the policy of Islamabad regarding the plan and its possible fallouts on Pakistan.

Q8. Answer.

Introduction:

The Gaza peace plan, primarily backed by the United States, Egypt and Qatar, aims to secure a phased ceasefire, release of hostages, humanitarian access and a pathway towards post-war governance in Gaza. While diplomatically significant, the plan faces serious structural and political challenges that cast doubt on its long-term success.

Critical Evaluation of the Gaza Peace Plan:

The central strength of the plan lies in its humanitarian focus. Since October 2023, over 35,000 Palestinians have been killed and Gaza's infrastructure has been largely destroyed (UN OCHA). The proposed ceasefire and aid corridors could alleviate immediate suffering. US President Joe Biden described the plan as

"a decisive step to end the war and bring relief to civilians".

However, the plan suffers from fundamental political flaws. Israel has refused to commit to a permanent ceasefire, insisting on the "complete elimination of Hamas", a goal viewed as unrealistic. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu stated that "the war will not end until Hamas is destroyed," contradicting the spirit of the proposal.

Moreover, Hamas views the plan as vague on Israeli withdrawal and future Palestinian sovereignty. Without guarantees on Gaza's governance and reconstruction, the plan risks becoming a temporary pause rather than a sustainable peace. Past Ceasefires in Gaza (2009, 2014 and 2021) collapsed due to similar ambiguities, highlighting a pattern of failure.

Chances of Success:

The plan's chances of success

remain limited. Power asymmetry, lack of enforcement mechanisms, and absence of credible roadmap toward a "two-state solution" weaken its prospects. As UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres noted, "A ceasefire alone is not peace without justice and political horizon."

### Pakistan's Policy and Possible Fallout:

Islamabad has categorically rejected any plan that does not ensure a permanent ceasefire and an independent Palestinian state. Pakistan's Foreign Office reaffirmed that "any solution must be in accordance with UN resolutions and the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people."

This principled stance strengthens Pakistan's moral credibility in the Muslim world and within the OIC. However, it may limit Pakistan's diplomatic engagement with Western powers and Israel-aligned states. Economically, the fallout is minimal, but diplomatically

Pakistan risks marginalization from Middle East peace processes dominated by major powers.

Conclusion:

The Gaza Peace plan, though humanitarian in intent, lacks political depth and enforceability. Pakistan's principled opposition aligns with international law but requires careful diplomacy to balance moral commitment with strategic interests.