

QUESTION # 2

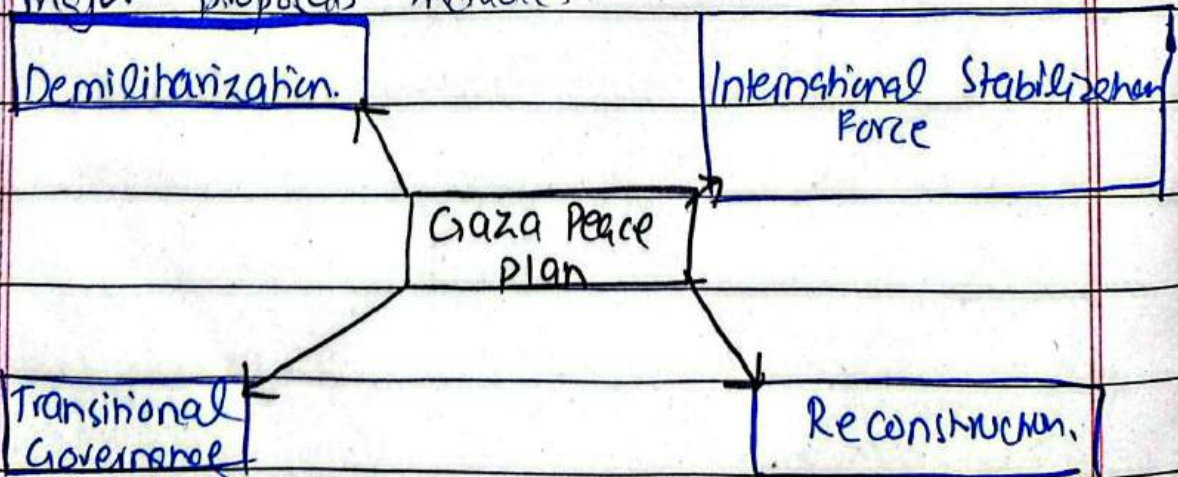
1. INTRODUCTION:

The Comprehensive Peace Plan to End Gaza Conflicts was proposed by President Trump in October, 2023. This plan aims to bring an ~~an~~ immediate end to long-standing conflict and provides a framework towards reconstruction and stabilization of Gaza. Though in principle, it appears an effort to bring peace in the region, but in spirit it is an attempt to initiate a de facto annexation of Gaza. It clearly undermines the status of ^{Two-State solution} ~~Two-Nation state~~ and identity of Palestinians as a state. The plan has laid the foundation for a fragmented state, presence of 'foreign element' on land and deprived Palestinian their right to return to their lands. It clearly stands against the established international principle of self-determination. In such complex diplomatic situation, Pakistan must strongly adhere to its ever-lasting support for two state solution and work for creating a

lobby for Palestinian state at regional and global levels. Pakistan can serve as a strong moral force that can result in a unified Muslim Ummah's stance on Gaza Peace Plan of Trump.

2- TRUMP'S GAZA PEACE PLAN:

The Gaza Peace Plan of Trump is a twenty point plan focusing on an immediate end to conflict and rehabilitation of Palestinian people. It provides that an immediate ceasefire be established between Israeli Force and Hamas and a phased exchange of Israeli hostages in exchange of Palestinian prisoners. The different terms used for captured people shows the discourse propagated by West to undermine the legitimacy of Palestinian People. Its major proposals include.



a. Demilitarization of Region:

The Plan asks for complete demilitarization of Hamas and destruction of military structure. By coupling peace with giving up of arms by one side shows Trump is not opposed to the idea of ~~the~~ presence of Israeli forces even after the peace plan.

b. International Stabilization Force:

The plan asks to formulate an International Stabilization Force whose aim would be to stabilize region, oversee demilitarization of Hamas and training of future Palestinian Police force. This step will ensure presence of foreign boots on land and might provide a legal support for presence of Israeli forces.

c. Transitional Governance:

For matters related to day-to-day governance, Trump gives the idea of an International Peace Board involving key actors like European states and Gulf states. This transitional governance will pave way for.

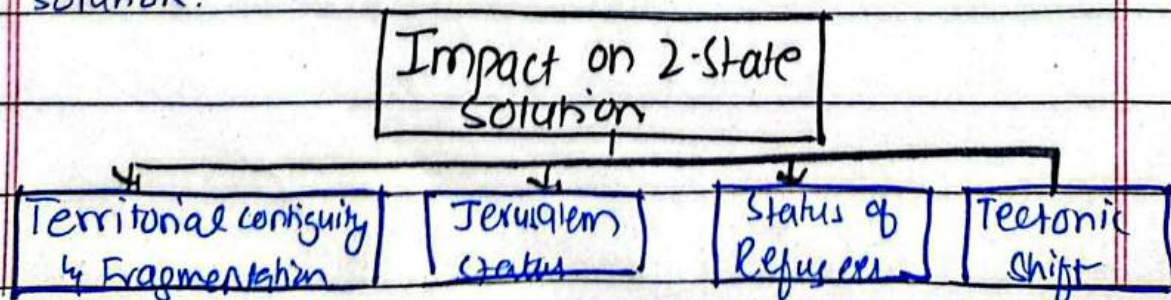
future Palestinian governance, but it lacks clear path and standards for it.

d- Reconstruction:

The peace plan lobbies the international community to fund the reconstruction of Gaza but it not clear funding would be consensual or obligatory.

3- IMPACT OF PEACE PLAN ON FUTURE OF TWO-STATE SOLUTION:

The Trump's Peace Plan for Gaza marginalized the strategic importance of two-state solution. It has shifted the focus from the historical demand of Palestinian for a separate state to reconstruction and rehabilitation. Moreover, the plan highlight the unanimous interests of a strong lobby of Israel undermining the importance of international consensus. It has following impacts on future of two-state solution.



a- Territorial Contiguity and Fragmentation:

The Plan

divide the state into blocs which will be easy for Israel to use for settlement. It directly fragments the Palestine into factions that will oppose the 'unified, sovereign and independent' state demand of Palestinian people.

b- Jerusalem Status:

The plan clearly state Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and assign Eastern Jerusalem arab suburbs as capital for Palestine. Jerusalem as Palestinian capital is the main demand as per two-state solution. and the plan strategically removed the question of debate on the most contentious part of deal.

c- Status of Refugees and Resettlement:

The Palestinian

people are outrightly reject their right to return to their lands and resettle their. The plan provide no provision on this. It is against International law and the demographic demand of pre 1967 border is gravely violated. It

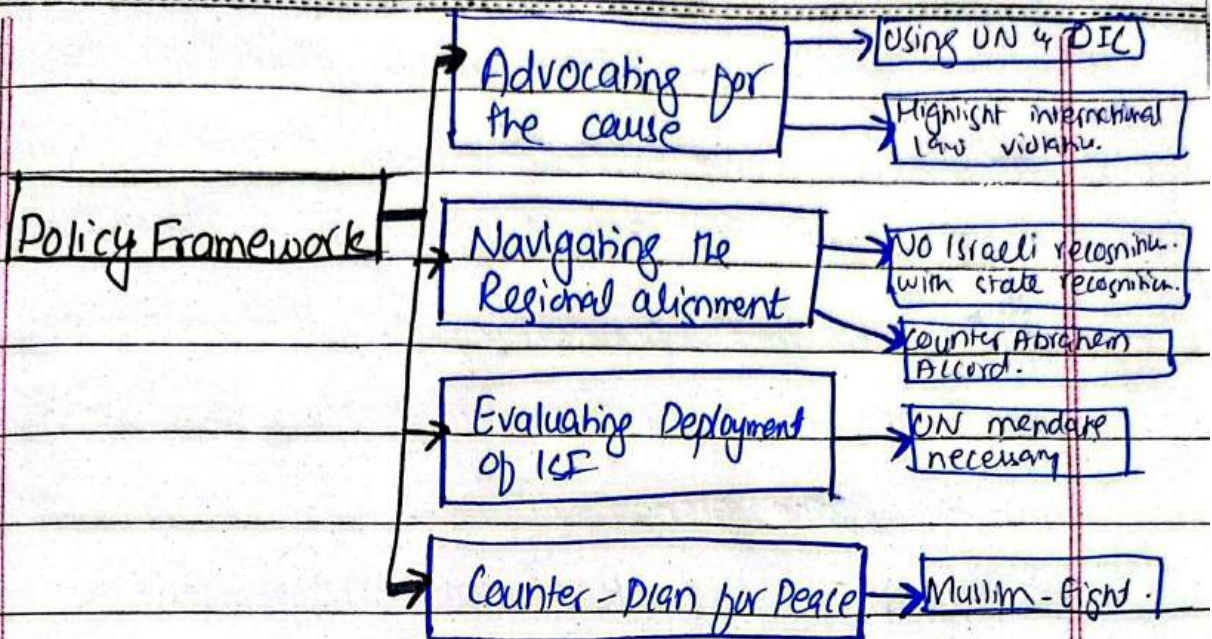
will reduce the territory of state, further marginalizing its existence.

d. Shift from Independence to Reconstruction:

The Peace plan heavily focus on making the conditions better for peaceful co-existence. It does not try to solve the Israeli settlement issues and the question of independence is far-fetched. The Palestinians are being outrightly denied their right of self-determination.

4. POLICY OPTIONS FOR PAKISTAN:

The Trump's Peace Plan and its impact on future of two-state solution is an important diplomatic matter for Pakistan. Pakistan has been the adamant supporter of two state solution for Israel-Palestine conflict and cannot accept any compromise to it. The comprehensive policy framework for Pakistan to respond appropriately to this diplomatic challenge includes:



a. Advocating for the Cause Globally:

Pakistan

must steer its utmost commitment to link peace in Gaza with two-state solution for Palestine.

For this, Pakistan must utilize international forums like United Nations and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to champion its support for two-state solution. It can use its moral and diplomatic standing to lobby the key actors toward a no-peace without two-state solution idea.

Moreover, it must highlight the grave violation of international law being carried out in Gaza. To enforce a unilateral decision to a nation's cause without the

with the people whose future depends on the decision, it morally, ethically and legally wrong as per idea of self-determination. It should continue highlighting that occupation of land or territory by force is a violation of international law, not a Peace plan.

b- Navigating the Regional Alignment:

Pakistan can use its standing in Muslim world and make recognition of Israel by any state a red line. It can also work to diminish the relevancy of Abraham Accords by deepening the strategic, economic and diplomatic relations with Gulf states like Bahrain, Qatar^{and} Saudi Arabia. The Saudi-Pakistan Defence Pact is a step in the right direction and Pakistan can be open to 'broadening the scope' of such pact.

c- Evaluating Security Force Deployment:

The International Stabilization Force ought to be deployed under Gaza Peace Plan of Trump

is a matter of concern. It can provide legal footing for presence of Israeli force in Gaza. Pakistan can minimize the risk by linking the deployment of troop through UN mandate. Deployment through UN mandate will give Muslim countries and Palestine a way to choose a smooth transitioning from conflict to peace.

d. Counter-Plan for Peace:

Pakistan should work to form an alliance or cooperative organization on the footing of 'The Muslim Eight' (M-8) - It should include key actors like USA, Turkey, Egypt, Palestine and Pakistan. This platform can provide a plan of their own that can overrule any default annexation of Palestine and reserve the right of self-determination of Palestinian people.

5. CONCLUSION:

The two-state solution is the essence of any settlement of Palestinian war. The people of Palestine has struggled long for their cause. Any compromise to the

historical stance would not only be an injustice but also a grave violation of international law and UN resolutions. The Gaza Peace Plan of Trump gives some hope of peace but some of its provisions are controversial. It is the responsibility of Muslim world at large to ensure no grave compromise be made on the existence of Palestinian State. Pakistan can utilize its moral and diplomatic standing to continue the insistence of linking peace in Gaza with two-state solution.

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QUESTION #1

1- OPENING STATEMENT:

Pakistan is pursuing a policy of multilateralism in Middle East. The recent Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) with Saudi Arabia (KSA) and evolving alliance with Iran is the clear proof of this. The SMDA signals collective defence, economic integration and extending the nuclear dimension to KSA. While in case of Iran, both countries

are looking for deepening economic ties, ~~the~~ cross-border collaboration to counter militancy, and revival of Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline. The main challenge is the historic enmity of KSA and Iran. Pakistan is walking a tight rope while trying to balance its policy towards ME. Any miscalculation can lead to domestic sectarian strife, and entanglement into a never-ending Middle Eastern conflict. However, there is a chance for Pakistan to become a pivot point for ME and it, with the help of China, can work toward greater regional integration.

2- STRATEGIC MUTUAL DEFENCE AGREEMENT: (SMDA)

Pakistan

and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) capitalized on 1982 ~~age~~ policy of strategic help ~~on~~ and announced a formal agreement on 17th of October, 2025. The Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) is a pivotal step towards regional security. The main elements of SMDA are.

SDMA

- Collective security.
- The Nuclear Dimension
- Defense Autonomy

a- Collective Security:

The agreement invoked a similar provision like Article 5 of NATO. It entails that ^{an} ~~any~~ attack on one will be considered an attack on both. It successfully interlinked security of both states and provided Pakistan with an opportunity to provide defense for Holy site. Moreover, it will minimize the reliance of KSA on West for defense.

b- The Nuclear Dimension:

Though the actual text on extending the nuclear umbrellas to KSA is still classified, but there is definitive proof in scholarly corridors of the extension. It ~~would~~ Pakistan would extend its nuclear deterrence to KSA ~~and~~ without violation of non-proliferation.

treaty. It elevates the status of Pakistan as de-facto security guarantor of the Muslim (Sunni) world.

c- Defense Autonomy:

SDMA also provide provision for the co-production of military arsenal, sharing of technology, and joint trainings. This will further reduce the reliance of KSA on US for defense and will make it self autonomous in this sector.

3- EVOLVING IRAN- PAKISTAN ALLIANCE:

On the other side, Iran and Pakistan are evolving their bilateral tie. The components of evolving alliance of Iran and Pakistan include.

PK-Iran Alliance

Economic Integration

Border Management

Iran-PK Gas Pipeline

a- Economic Integration:

Both countries are eyeing

a deeper economic integration by increasing their bilateral trade from three billion dollars (now) to ten billion dollars annually. These developments took place during high level visit of 2015.

b- Border Management:

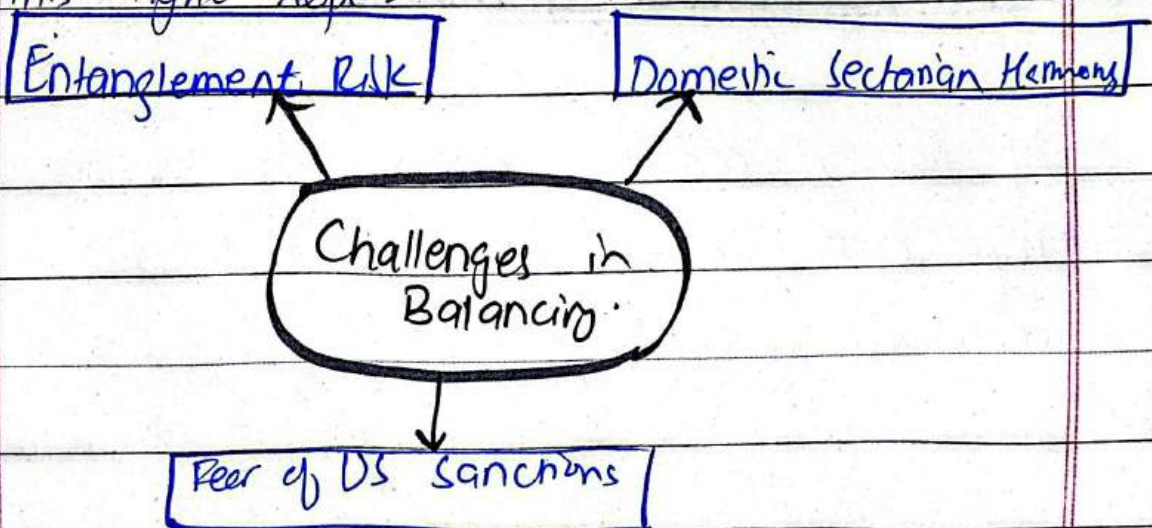
Iran and Pakistan both are victims of cross-border militancy (baluch). So, both have agreed to explore bilateral intelligence sharing to counter this common threat. They are also looking forward to improve border infrastructure to counter militancy. Though there is no formal agreement like SOMA but because of common threat, both states are expected to ensure cooperation in border management.

c- Energy Dimension:

The Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline has been a stranded venture due to US sanctions on Iran. In recent ventures, Pakistan is trying to revitalize it, which will ~~future~~ integrate the region into an economic bloc.

4- CHALLENGES FOR PAKISTAN'S BALANCING ACT:

This diversification of relations by Pakistan in ME is a classic example of hedging. Pakistan is trying to balance its relations with two historic rivals and reap the economic benefits. But there are some challenges to this balancing and a careful strategy is needed to tread this tight rope.



a. The Entanglement Risk:

The SDMA's collective security clause can suck Pakistan into any middle eastern conflict involving KSA. Historically, the parliament of Pakistan has refused to involve its troops in foreign conflicts like war of Yemen in 2015. But this formal

defense pact has compromised its neutrality. The actual dilemma will be for Pakistan if in future KSA comes in direct conflict with Iran. This difficult situation will ~~create~~ strain Pakistan's option. So, Pakistan must ensure and assure KSA to support it in any 'defensive act' but to refuse steadfastly in any 'offensive' venture.

b. Domestic Sectarian Harmony:

The Shia sect of Pakistan can view SDMA as a 'Sunni Defense Pact', and this can lead to sectarian violence and extremism which will further ~~be~~ weaken its security. Internal instability and insecurity will undermine its ability to provide security for KSA, which will further complicate the situation.

c. The US Sanctions:

US has imposed economic sanctions on any trade with Iran due to its enrichment policy. By reviving Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, Pakistan risks

invoking US sanctions on its economy. The sanctions are a powerful deterrent and has deterred Iraq to sever its bilateral trade ties with Iran. The reaction of US will be amplified. There are chances of an amplified response from US due to SDMA. SDMA reduces the reliance of KSA on US for defence and will result in a loss of market for US. So, the economic setback can be beyond Pakistan's imagination.

5. WAY FORWARD FOR PAKISTAN: ROLE AS A MEDIATOR:

With calculated strategy, Pakistan can balance its ties betw among Iran and KSA. It can also counter the fear of US sanction by treading the tight rope carefully. The strategy includes playing a role of mediator if KSA comes in direct conflict with Iran or vice versa. The policy options for Pakistan are:

a. Key Role as a Mediator:

In future, if tensions between KSA and Iran arise, Pakistan can

offer mediating services to both countries in an attempt to cool down tensions. The services can be offering good offices, facilitation, or formulation. The new nexus of Iran-Pakistan-KSA can provide an opportunity to iron out difference before tensions turn to a major conflict and direct military stand off.

b- Acting as a Pivot Point:

Pakistan can act as a pivot point for KSA and Iran for reevaluating their strategy towards US. Paralleling the both relations show Pakistan is ready to diversify its transnational relations and reduce its dependency on one state.

c- Utilizing the China factor:

China has already played role of a mediator while brokering the rapprochement of Iran and KSA in 2023. It can provide Pakistan with a diplomatic floor to pursue both alliances without immediate collapse.

Moreover, Pakistan can use these alliances as a framework of regional integration and can explore the chances of extending CPEC to these countries.

6. ~~CONCLUDING~~ CLOSING STATEMENT:

The SDMA gives Pakistan an economic and strategic lifeline but at the cost of its traditional 'neutrality'. However, parallel alliance with Iran shows Pakistan is no longer content on only being the client of Riyadh. It is pursuing the policy of multilateral relations. The balancing act of Pakistan provides it with a paradox of choice. ^{The} SDMA gives it 'hard security' while ^{the} Iran alliance provides 'soft security'. Pakistan's security lies in 'Non-alignment 2.0'. It should frame its role as a security provider for Gulf not as military partner and should ~~provide~~ ^{support} Iran to be an energy corridor for Iran.

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