Date: Current Affairs-01 Day:

Name: Fajar Fiaz

Question no. 01

"Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement and Evolving Pakistan-Iran Alliance."

1- Introduction:

Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement signed on 17th September, 2025 serves as a landmark defense and economic cooperation agreement between Pakistan and Saudia Arabia. It works on the principle, "aggression against one state will be considered an aggression on both states". However, the agreement is not limited to defense coordination alone. It has broader regional and geopolitical impact, particularly on Pakistan-Iran relations. The agreement ensures economic and technological cooperation alongwith defense coordination between two states. However, its unclear policy terms regarding nuclear proliferation and financial burden

Date: _____ Day: _____

on Pakistan raises concerns. Moreover, it encourages Pakistan to adopt pragmatic neutrality to balance between Iran and Saudia Arabia.

2- Critical Overview of Agreement:

a) Strengths and potential opportunities:

Following are the major strengths of the agreement:

i) Defense cooperation and Deterrence:

The agreement ensures defense coordination considering an attack on one state as attack on both states, particularly to deter Israeli aggression as it showed against Qatar and Iran in 2025. It ensures cooperation on coproduction of military equipments and weapons. It will enable both countries to counter huge defense expenditure to minimum.

iii) Energy security:

Oil rich Saudia Arabia will work as potential ally to Pakistan in lending loans and aid to deal with mounting debt in energy sector.

Scanned with CamScanner

Date: _____ Day: _____

It will provide oil on deferred prices, lowering inflation.

iii) Economic and technological coordination:

The agreement also ensures economic and technological coordination in the form of packages (as of $3 billion package in 2024) while, ensuring technology transfer from Saudia Arabia to Pakistan. It will include Pakistan in Saudi Vision 2030 plan providing job opportunities.

iv) Diplomatic dividend:

Saudia Arabia's alliance with key powers i.e. the US will enable Pakistan to secure a stronger position in world politics and diplomatic platforms.

b) Weaknesses and Challenges:

Following are its weaknesses:

i) Nuclear proliferation concerns:

Pakistan being a nuclear state with 170 nuclear warheads and non-signatory of Nuclear Non-

Scanned with CamScanner

Date: _____ Day: _____

Proliferation Treaty raises concerns over nuclear proliferation to Saudia Arabia among adversaries i.e. Iran and other countries concerned with proliferation. However, the agreement doesnot explicitly mention nuclear dealings, concerns still arose.

iii) Regional entanglement :

The agreement in Pakistan is perceived by political analysts to drag the country in broader regional conflicts which have nothing to do with it. It also raises concerns over alliance with Iran.

iii) Strained ties with regional actors :

The agreement is perceived as threat and hostile by India, Iran and Israel, which complicates regional relations.

iv) Financial burden :

Military deployments over disputes raise concerns as Pakistan already suffers from economic constraints. It can put strain on domestic economy, diverting budget from

Date:_____ Day:_____

socio-economic expenses to military sector.

3. Pakistan-Iran Evolving Alliance:

i) Historical context:

Pakistan shares almost 900 kilometers long border with Iran making it Pakistan's key ally. It was the first country to welcome Pakistan in international arena. Both countries maintain comprehensive economic relations alongwith ethnic, religious and communal ties.

ii) Contemporary alliance:

Since the 2024 border escalation in Iran's Sistan-Balochistan and Pakistan's Balochistan over militants, the countries have diplomatically evolved the relations to mutual coordination. With a powerful Presidential visit, Iran pledged to sort relations with Pakistan. A $10 billion economic agreement is in process.

Scanned with CamScanner

Date: _____ Day: _____

4- Impact of Agreement on Pakistan's Relations:

a) Impact on Iran:

i) Security concerns and sectarian influence:

The 2024 border skirmishes between Pakistan and Iran raise concerns over future relations. As Iran has historic rivalry with Saudia Arabia over geopolitical and sectarian conflict, the agreement raises concerns of how Pakistan manages such relations.

iii) Power influence:

Iran has been sanctioned by the USA while, Saudia Arabia is key ally of the USA. This further creates a challenge for Pakistan to balance power relations.

b) Impact on other regional countries:

The agreement may perceived by India as contradictory. While, it also drags Pakistan in regional

Date: _____ Day: _____

rivalries of Saudia Arabia.

5. **Conclusion :**

Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement provides the signatories with mutual benefits. Pakistan can get technological, economic and energy leverage while, providing Saudia Arabia with security strengths. It also counters sovereignty threats by deterring enemies. However, it comes with challenges as well. It is perceived to disrupt Pakistan's balanced relation with historic adversaries : Iran and Saudia Arabia. As Pakistan enjoys economic and communal ties with Iran, it needs to adopt pragmatic neutrality in its foreign policy.

Scanned with CamScanner

Date: _____ Day: _____

Question no. 02
"Trump's Gaza Peace Plan and Its Impact on Two-State Solution and Policy Framework for Pakistan"

1- Introduction :

Trump's 20 point peace plan for Gaza provides comprehensive framework on conflict resolution. Issued on 29th September, 2025, it proposes ceasefire, humanitarian aid and rebuilding for Gaza and governance model. However, it collapses two-state solution framework which impacts not only Palestinian representatives but also global powers. Pakistan's key role in proposition of plan raise concerns over future implications. Hence, Pakistan needs to adopt pragmatic approach.

2- Trump's Peace Plan :

a) Strengths :

Following points make agreement a

Date: _____ Day: _____

major strength:

i) Ceasefire and end of hostilities:

The plan proposes a permanent ceasefire and end of hostilities with an end to all military actions.

ii) Humanitarian aid and rebuilding:

The plan ensures humanitarian assistance through UN, Red Crescent and other neutral bodies. It also ensures cooperation to rebuild Gaza making it safe place to live.

iii) Hostage and prisoner release:

The plan encourages hostage and prisoner release within 72 hours of ceasefire. Hamas will release all Israeli hostages while, Israel will release 1700 Gazan detainees and 250 dead bodies.

iv) Security deployment and military withdrawal:

Israel is bound to withdraw ~~its~~ forces to an "agreed upon line" while deploy its military to ensure security situation.

Scanned with CamScanner

Date: _____ Day: _____

v) New governance model:

The plan proposes a new governance model with a technocratic and apolitical Palestinian authority under the supervision of international committee, mostly likely to be headed by Donald J. Trump.

vi) Disarmament clause:

The plan proposes disarmament of Hamas and offers amnesty for those who disown the organization.

b) Weaknesses and Impact on the Future of Two-State Solution:

The plan is hailed as one-sided and against two-state solution due to following points:

i) Collapse of Two-state solution:

The plan is perceived to collapse two-state solution through its proposed governance model which favours Israel rather than an inclusive government.

Scanned with CamScanner

Date: Day:

iii) Non-inclusion of Palestinian representatives:

The plan does not include the representatives of the Palestinians i.e. PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization), Hamas or any other body. It shows the inherent neocolonial oversight.

iii) Security provision:

The plan proposes security deployment in the region ensuring Israel controlled buffer zones which shows dehumanization of Palestinians.

iv) No statement regarding Palestine:

The plan only mentions Gaza, excluding the West Bank, Jerusalem and other areas with Palestinians which mirror destruction of two-state solution.

v) Genocide - not war:

The major weakness of the plan and criticism on it highlights the non-recognition of genocide and falsely claiming it war.

vi) Moral critique:

Diana Buttu, former PLO adviser

Date: _____ Day: _____

raised the question that how a country committing genocide can decide the future of a nation, serving as moral critique. Moreover, Sumud Flotilla and Greta Thunberg's activism and movements all across Europe highlight the moral awakening of masses.

5- Policy Framework for Pakistan:

As Pakistan serves as a key member state, alongwith Qatar and Egypt, in proposing the plan, the plan raises domestic and international concerns regarding the complicated status of the plan. However, adoption of following policy framework can easen the situation:

i) Principle-centered approach:

Pakistan needs to reinforce its support for two-state solution for Palestine, advocating for their right to self-determination, democracy and self-rule. In this way, Pakistan can leverage its support for Palestinian cause.

Scanned with CamScanner

Date:_____ Day:_____

ii) Inclusive engagement strategy:

Pakistan needs to advocate for inclusion of Palestinian representatives i.e. Hamas and PLO as they enjoy popular support in Palestine in pursuance of peace and resolution of conflict.

iii) Humanitarian and rebuilding assistance:

Pakistan needs to accelerate its contribution in aid and Gaza rebuilding. In this way, Pakistan can adhere to its inherent aim.

iv) Domestic communication strategy:

As a widespread criticism has been observed by Pakistani public over its inclusion in peace plan, Pakistan needs to focus on a comprehensive communication strategy. By involving media, leaders and civil society partners, Pakistan can communicate its transparent participation in Gaza peace plan.

v) Regional strategy:

Pakistan needs to ensure

Date: _____ Day: _____

enhanced cooperation with regional countries especially Middle Eastern states i.e. Qatar and Egpyt to keep an eye on the rights of Palestinians and their self-determination.

5. Conclusion:

Gaza Peace Plan, backed by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2803, provides a comprehensive peace plan. It ensures ceasefire, humanitarian assistance, security provisions, new governance model etc. However, political analysts perceive it as destruction of two-state solution. It excludes Palestinian representatives from peace talks, creates Israel controlled buffer zones, and ensure the political hold of key allies of Israel on Gaza. Hence, the inclusion of Pakistan in endorsing peace is viewed with apprehension. Therefore, Pakistan needs to put forward a pragmatic approach.

Scanned with CamScanner