

Q.5

→ Introduction:

The Islamic world is not just a set of ideology or nations. It is a strategic and financial pivot.

The recent agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia marked an exceptional formalism of their historical relationship. In a multipolar world, defined by recalibrating US security presence and escalating regional tensions, this pact is a strategic step, echoing NATO's Article 5, by deeming an attack on one as an attack on both. This strategic alignment blending Saudi Arabia's financial power with Pakistan's large professional army and nuclear capabilities, serves as robust collective deterrent. However, this agreement has implications for both countries and region. On the other side, it has brought economic opportunities for Pakistan that need to be leverage wisely.

→ Overview of Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement:

The Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SDMA) was signed between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan on 17th-September-2025 in Riyadh, in the presence of civil and military leadership from both sides.

⇒ Key Features of SDMA.

(i)	Article 5 of NATO	The attack on one country considered to be attack on others as Article 5 of NATO.
(ii)	Joint Military Exercises	Regular drills, counter-terrorism operations and regional security preparedness.
(iii)	Defense Industrial Cooperation	The SDMA enables a Military Industrial Vector aligning with Saudi Vision 2030 for joint manufacturing, technology transfer, upgrades Pakistan's industrial base, co-development of drones, sensors and builds a regional defense ecosystem.

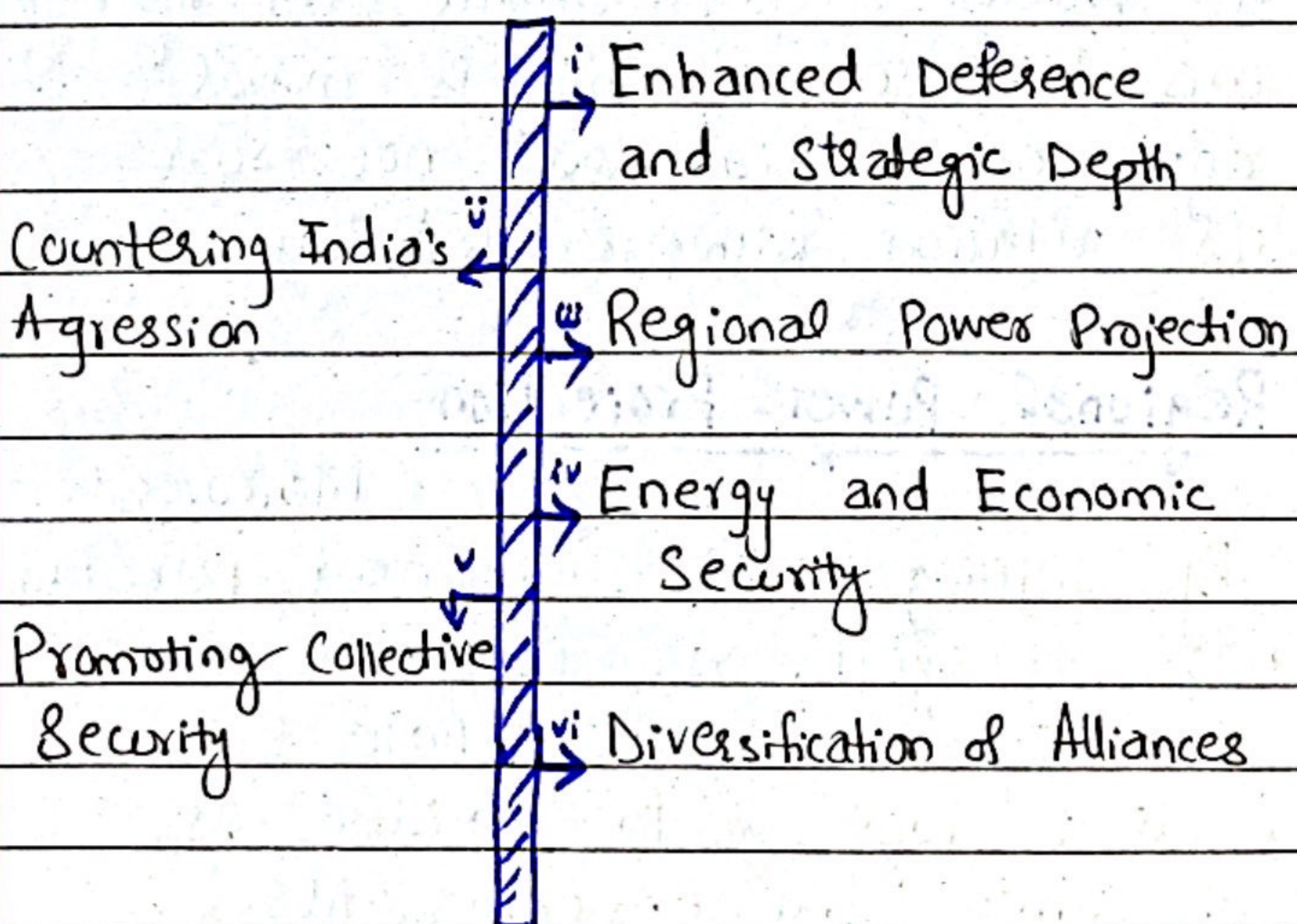
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(iv)	Intelligence Sharing Framework	Enhanced counter terrorism and cyber security coordination.
(v)	Nuclear Umbrella	Analysis suggest that nuclear deterrence may be available for Saudi Arabia.
(vi)	Security Economic Linkage	Creation of a Joint Defense Coordination Council for policy execution and oversight.

→ Geopolitical Achievement for Pakistan

The agreement would have following geopolitical achievement for Pakistan.



(i) Enhanced Deterrence and Strategic Depth

SDMA

has enhanced deterrence and strategic depth for Pakistan. The Pact links nuclear capability and military expertise with Saudi Arabia's security needs. It would significantly enhance Pakistan's stature in the Middle East.

(ii) Countering India's Aggression

Another

geopolitical achievement for Pakistan is countering of India's aggression. Recently in May 2025, Pakistan has given befitting response to India in conflict. By signing this agreement, it would deter India for any misadventure as this is mutual agreement. India would not soar its relation with Saudi Arabia.

(iii) Regional Power Projection

Moreover,

By signing this agreement, Pakistan has emerged as regional power on the horizon. The Middle Eastern countries look up to Pakistan as a strategic balancer power. Also,

Pakistan has participated in OIC and the Arab League Summit in 2025.

(v) Energy and Economic Security

SDMA

opens avenues for investments, trade and crucial energy cooperation. It would help Pakistan to stabilize its economy amid challenges.

(vi) Promoting Collective Security

It institutionalizes

a collective defense framework among Muslim nations. It positions Pakistan as a pillar of new regional order. Also, an attack on one country is considered attack on other would ensure collective security for both countries.

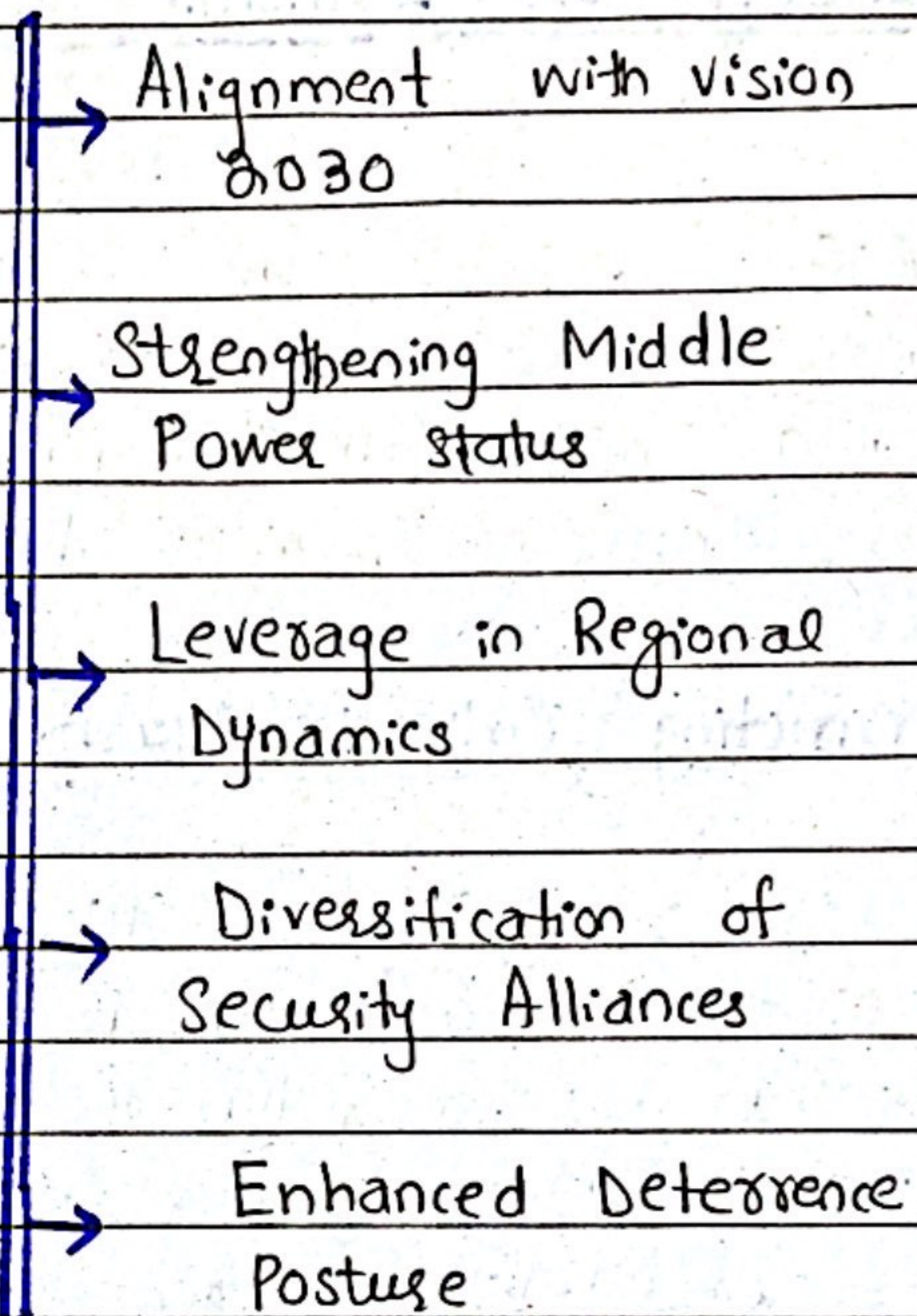
(vi) Diversification of Alliances

This

part reduces reliance on the USA and China for strategic and financial aid. It would help Pakistan in autonomy by formalizing ties with a key Gulf nation.

→ Geopolitical Achievement for Saudi Arabia

Following are geopolitical achievement for KSA.



(i) Alignment with Vision 2030

The defense Collaboration, including potential joint production of military equipment and technology transfer, supports the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030 to build a self-sufficient domestic defense industry and ensure stable defense environment.

(ii)

Strengthening Middle Power Status

SDMA

strengthens Middle power status of Saudi Arabia in the Middle East. It has formalized enhanced capacity-building of its forces through defense production and training.

(iv)

Leverage in Regional Dynamics

Moreover,

this pact provides Riyadh with diplomatic leverage. It can use its leverage with global powers by improving ties. It can act as a bridge between regional and global powers.

(iv)

Diversification of Security Alliances

This pact has reduced Saudi Arabia's reliance on USA for security guarantees. It helps Saudi Arabia to pursue an independent and pragmatic foreign policy without the influence of USA.

(v.)

Enhanced Deterrence Posture

By aligning with Pakistan, Saudi Arabia has gained a significant enhancement to its deterrence against regional adversaries, particularly Yemen and Israel.

→

Economic Opportunities for Pakistan

SDMA provides following economic opportunities to Pakistan.

(i)

Investment in Pakistan's Mineral Sector

This pact provides economic benefits to Pakistan in mineral sectors. For example, Saudi Arabia is set to invest in ;

- × Reko Diq

- × establish oil refinery

(ii)

Increase Labor Exports and Remittances

The SDMA is aligned with Saudi Arabia's

Vision 2030 which demands for foreign labour. This would increase labor force of Pakistan in Saudi Arabia and boosts remittances.

(iii) Financial and Fintech Integration

The SDMA would link financial and fintech between both countries. It could facilitate more transparent remittances channels and bring finances into Pakistan's formal economy.

(iv) Development of Infrastructure

The potential Pakistan-Saudi Economic Corridor suggests opportunities for connecting trade routes, developing infrastructure and positioning Pakistan as regional commerce's hub.

(v) Substantial Saudi Investment in Key Areas

Saudi Arabia has announced substantial \$ bn dollars for Pakistan's key areas such as

energy, mining, agriculture and food security. It would boost these sectors in terms of productivity.

→ Conclusion:

To sum it all, the SDMA is a watershed movement in regional history. It has formalized historical relations of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. This agreement brings geopolitical opportunities for both countries and economic leverage to Pakistan. Overall, this pact is a blend of Saudi Arabia's financial power with Pakistan's military expertise.



Q. 8

→ Introduction:

'True peace is not merely absence of tension, it is the presence of justice'

Martin Luther

The above mentioned quote, truly captures the Gaza Peace Deal, an accord reached in October 2025 that formally halted the two-years assault and human right violations in Gaza by Israel. While the agreement secures a fragile ceasefire but its structural ambiguity questions its success. Islamabad is reluctant to Trump's lead Gaza Peace Plan as it is not hinting towards Two state solution of Palestine which has been core principal of Pakistan's foreign policy. Therefore, to avoid any domestic, strategic and political outcomes, Pakistan needs to opt rational and pragmatic approach.

→ An Overview of Gaza Peace Deal:

This deal, also known as Sharm-El-Sheikh Summit, held in Egypt on 13 Oct - 2025. The Arab leaders and Trump had met during sideline of UN session. The 20-points Gaza Peace Plan had discussed these and halted two-years Israel's aggression in Gaza. Later, Trump made little change in plan and the Muslim world retaliated including Pakistan.

⇒ Salient Points of Plan

Following are the salient points of plan.

- (i) Release of Israeli's hostages.
- (ii) Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.
- (iii) De-militarization of Hamas.
- (iv) Release of Palestinians hostages.
- (v) Establishment of interim governing body in Gaza.
- (vi) Peace board headed by Trump over interim governing body for supervision.
- (vii) Flow of Aid will be open for Gaza.

- (vii) Deployment of international task force.
- (viii) Establishment of statehood of Palestinians.

→ Gaza Peace Plan May Collapse:

These are speculations that Gaza Peace Plan may collapse due to following reasons:

(i) Ill-defined and Vague Plan

The Gaza Peace Plan seems to be ill-defined and vague due to lack of clear timeline to specify when Palestinian authority will return to Gaza.

(ii) Abstaining of Russia and China

China and Russia had abstained from voting on the UN Security Council Resolution 2803 which endorsed a peace plan proposed by the USA. They considered it vague and lacks clarity.

(iii)

Ambiguous Governance Mandate

The role of International stabilisation Force and Board of Peace Ps. unclear with no defined membership and mandate.

(iv)

Blow to Two State Solution

This deal may collapse as it is blow to Two state solution of Palestine. It did not ensure for Two state solution. This had made countries reluctant to join peace plan.

(vi)

Disarmament concerns of Hamas

Hamas had rejected disarmament. After rejection of Hamas, International stabilisation Force is hesitant to get involved in a peace-enforcing mission.

(v)

Attitudes of Zionist Entity

This plan

ignores the Zionist's attitude as the majority wants this war to continue as believes there is no innocent in Gaza. Also, they will never allow a Palestinian state. Its parliament voted 68-9 in July 2024 to reject the idea of Palestinian state and calling it a "existential danger." Due to this, Gaza Peace Deal may collapse.

→ Policy Options for Pakistan:

Options to ^{Policy} response Gaza peace deal are as follows;

(i) Supports for Palestinian Sovereignty

Pakistan emphasizes a two-state solution and Palestinian self-determination, aligning with international law and UN resolutions.

(ii) Potential ISF Participation

Pakistan can potentially participate in ISF but only if the mandate is acceptable and prioritize two state

solution.

(iii) Support Humanitarian Concern

Pakistan

should support humanitarian concerns and ensure humanitarian aid to Palestinians. Also, it should use diplomatic forums to urge immediate relief to Gaza.

(iv) Joint Statement with Other Muslim Countries

Pakistan had agreed to some points of Gaza Peace Plan and opposed some points. In context of this, Pakistan should issue a joint statement with other Muslims countries to add two-state solution in deal, and Israel complete withdrawal from Gaza. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia's foreign offices had discussion on the issue of joint statement as per the Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

Possible Fallout for Pakistan:

Following are the fallouts for Pakistan.

(i) Domestic Backlash

Pakistan can face domestic backlash if enters into Gaza peace plan. The public sentiment against Israel and ideological opposition can erupt in Pakistan. Pakistan's public have deep emotions for Palestinians.

(ii) Antagonisation of Arab Countries

Pakistan's decision to involve in Gaza Peace Deal can antagonise Iran and Turkey. They have rejected the plan. It could strain the brotherly relation of both Iran and Turkey.

(iii) Confrontation with Hamas

If Pakistan

joining the ISF, it will bring them into direct confrontation with Hamas. The consequences of Pakistani soldiers clashing with Palestinians, regardless of their affiliations, would be dire both on ground of principle and public backlash at home.

(iv)

Contrary to Pakistan's Policy

Deployment would involve cooperation with Israel. Cooperation with Israel means recognition of Israel which is only a step away from formal recognition of Israel and joining the Abraham Accords. This will be contrary to Pakistan's long standing policy.

→ Critical Analysis:

Critics argue that this deal does not provide Palestinian's two-state solution. Also, it is vague and unclear. The plan defers Palestinian's self-determination and statehood. Furthermore,

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Pakistan including other Muslim countries had showed their concerns and reluctance to participate in ISF. This can lead to collapse Gaza Peace Deal.

→ Conclusion:

The Gaza Peace plan, proposed by Trump, aims to halt Israel's aggression in Gaza that is continued from two years. The peace plan ignores two-state solution that has become a center of discussion as countries rejected this plan. All Muslim countries showed retaliation including Pakistan. However, Pakistan needs to opt pragmatic and rational approach towards joining ISF to avoid possible fallout.

