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CSS' 26  
Current Affair  
Test # 1

QNo: 1

Critically Review

SMIDA

1. Introduction:

"Appear weak when  
you are strong and  
appear strong when  
you are weak"

- Sun Tzu

The above given quote shows  
an eminent war strategy by one of  
the famous war analyst Sun Tzu.

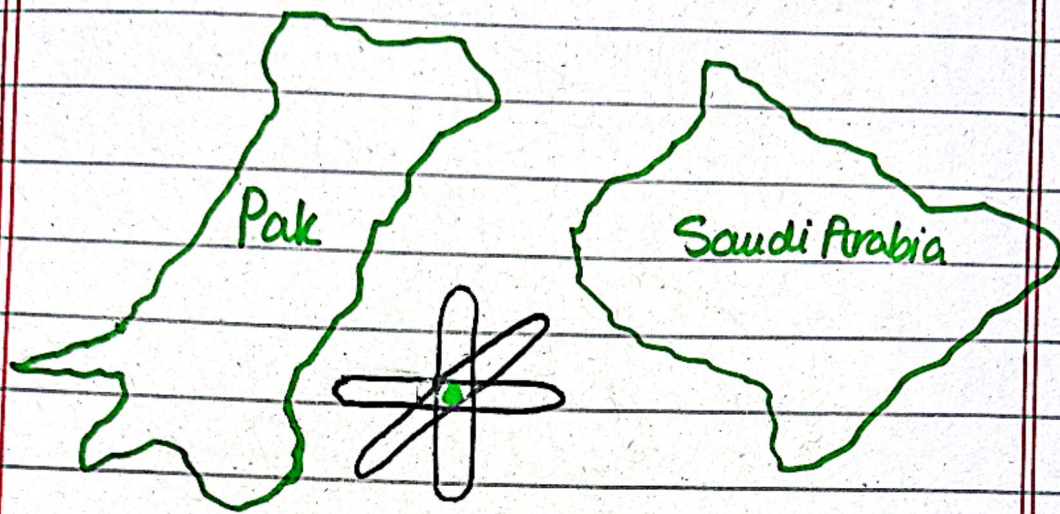
This strategy is often used to  
confused the allies. In the contemporary  
era, where global power conundrums are



shifting from soft power to high/hard power, credible deterrence has become the need of the hour. In the highlight of recent aggression in middle east, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a strategic mutual defense pact on 17th september, 2025. The strategic defense pact strengthens Pakistan's political, economic, strategic and cooperative stance with Saudi Arabia. Contrary to SMDC with Saudi Arabia, Pakistan's art of diplomacy and cooperation gives a tightrope with its relationship with Iran in middle east. In between the middle eastern rifts of Iran and Saudi Arabia, Pakistan's diplomacy and strategic foreign policy provides a broader scope to balance its stance in middle east. Thus, in this straight route of strategic balance, Pakistan enjoys a balanced relations with Iran and Saudi Arabia.



## 2. From sacred to strategic alliance; Pak-Saudi mutual defense pact;



In the light of recent middle eastern crisis, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia shifted the trajectory of their relations from sacred friendship to strategic cooperation. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a strategic mutual defense pact on **17<sup>th</sup> September, 2025**. The defense aligns with the stance that any attack either on Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will be considered an attack on both states. Thus was indeed a strategic shift in the history of Pak-Saudi relations.



### 3. Rise of muslim NATO: SMDC aligns with article 5 of NATO;

The highlight of strategic mutual defense pact is attack on either Pakistan or Saudi Arabia will be considered an attack on both states and both states will collectively counter the attack. This aligns with article of NATO. So, SMDC might be considered rise of muslim NATO alliance in middle east. It could be possible in future if other muslim powers will willingly join it.

### 4. Assistance of nuclear umbrella to Saudi Arabia in shifting dynamics of hard power;

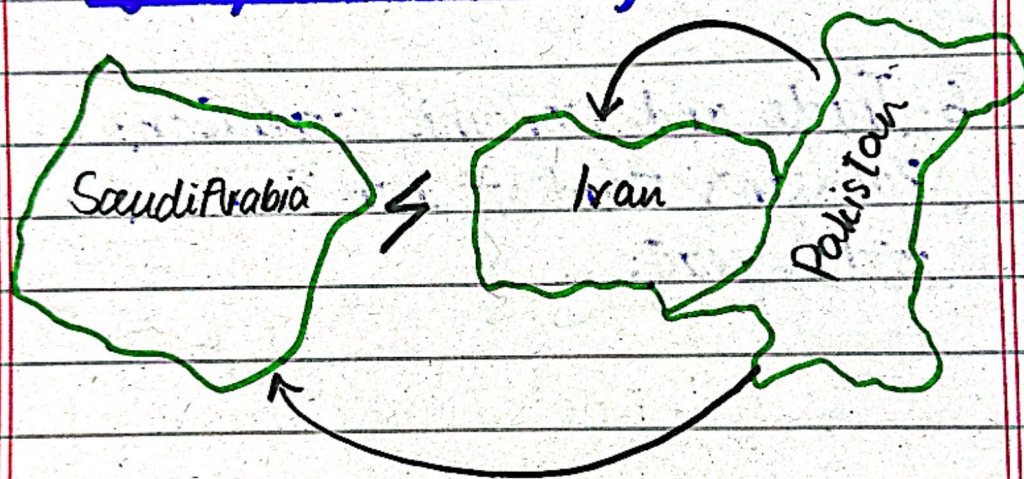
Keeping in the view the aggressions of Israel in middle east, The world seems to be shifting from soft power to hard power. In these moment of deliberations, Pakistan is providing its



nuclear umbrella to Saudi Arabia under the strategic mutual defense pact.

Pakistan's nuclear assistance to Saudi Arabia strengthens its deterrence capacity in middle east against any agressor state.

### 5. Between Tehran and Riyadh: Pakistan's tightrope of balancing relations:



Pakistan and Iran shares good cooperative relations and maintains islamic brotherhood. Under SMDP, Pakistan manifests deep strategic and cooperative relations with Saudi Arabia as well. In these geo-political circumstance, Saudi Arabia and Iran share hard relations due to power struggle in middle east.



Henceforth, between Tehran and Riyadh Pakistan maintains a balanced approach and enjoys islamic brotherhood with both states.

Pakistan deeply condemned the Israel-Iran war and USA's B-2 strikes on Iran. Pakistan stood strong in moments of deliberations with Iran maintaining and balancing islamic brotherhood.

## 6. Trade and economic cooperation: Pakistan's stand off with Iran in middle east;

Beyond islamic brotherhood, Pakistan and Iran have signed major trade and economic agreements. Iran is the major trade center and oil hub in middle east. It act as a center of gravity in straight of hormuz that controls 40% of world's oil trade. Moreover, the bilateral trade agreements between Iran and Pakistan over the production



of rice and cotton manifests strong relations between both countries.

### 6.1 Impact of SMDP over Tehran-Islamabad relations;

Pakistan's strategic defense pact with Saudi Arabia will not damage the authenticity of great cordial relations between Iran and Pakistan. Both states believe in cooperation over protectionism. Iran under the supreme leadership of Imam Khomeini will maintain cordial relations with Pakistan under the leadership of P.M Shehbaz Sharif despite of on-going tussel with Saudi Arabia.

### 7. Pakistan reinforcing its position in middle east;

Pakistan being the first islamic nuclear state always holds a significant position in middle east. But with the development strategic mutual defense pact with great power of



Saudi Arabia, Pakistan has reinforced its military and defensive credibility in oil hub of the world i.e middle east. The SMDP will open a positive gateways for Pakistan in maintaining stronger ties with rest of the middle eastern states.

## 8. Conclusion;

Strategic mutual defense pact (SMDP) is indeed a great strategic and diplomatic achievement of Pakistan. It does not only strengthens defensive capability of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia but also provides strong stakes in middle east as well. With the depiction of rise of muslim NATO power, middle eastern states appreciates Pakistan's stand of in muslim world. In a retrospect, Pakistan is efficiently managing its brotherly relations with Iran along with strategic relations and cooperation of Saudi Arabia.



QNo: 2

## Multidimensional impacts of India's post-pehlagam adventure

### 1. Introduction;

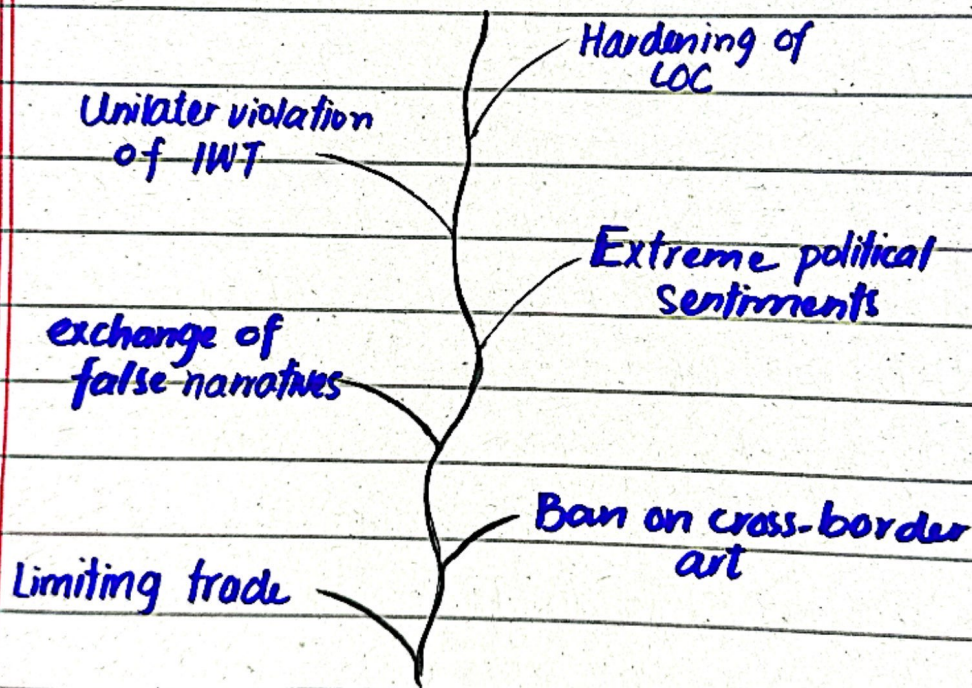
In the events of post-pehlagam adventure, India and Pakistan met eye to eye on 7<sup>th</sup> may when India executed operation Sindoor on Pakistan. In repercussions of this operation, Pakistan launched operation Bunyanun-Marsoos on India. The disturbing adventure resulted in deteriorating the bilateral relations between both countries affecting trade, art and culture, Indus-water treaty and hardening of borders.

A one misadventure pushed the entire region at the brink of nuclear warfare creating a security threat for south Asia. India's misadventure proved a setback for himself & when regional powers and USA appreciated Pakistan's military capabilities and efforts



towards maintaining peace in the region. On broader terms, Pakistan and India being nuclear and sensitive states of South Asia bring deeper implications for the region during any misadventure.

## 2. Multi-dimensional impacts of post-pehalagam adventure on Pak-India bilateral relation;



### Multi-dimensional impacts

#### (a) Hardening of LOC on eastern borders of Pakistan;

In the light of post-pehalagam misadventures, Pakistan's



eastern borders with India shifted from soft relations to hard relations. Pakistan increased its military over its eastern borders resulting in hardening of LOC.

### **(b) India's unilateral violation of Indus-water treaty;**

As per arbitration of world bank over Indus-water in 1960, India and Pakistan cannot unilaterally violate or stepback from Indus-water treaty. But in light of post-pehalagam adventures and war between India and Pakistan, India unilaterally violated the Indus-water treaty.

### **(c) Ban on cross-border art and culture;**

India's misadventure resulted in hardening the bilateral relations between India and Pakistan. As a result, India banned many of Pakistan's television artist and their dramas in India. India also suspended youtube channels of many Pakistan's journalist.



### **(d) Effected the bilateral trade;**

India and Pakistan was exchanging a trade of almost \$14 billion. But after the exchange of drones and missiles in post-pehalagam adventure, it affected the bilateral relations resulting in suspension of cross-border trade of \$14 billion.

### **(e) Exchange of false narratives;**

In the midst of post-war chaos, the exchange of false narratives and fake propoganda added fuel to the fire worsening the bilateral relation. Resultantly, the tussel continued and a blame game started between both countries.

### **(g) Extreme political narratives;**

India continued to accuse Pakistan with false and evidence-free claims of terrorism even after the war.

These false accusation deteriorated the bilateral fabric of cooperation between both states.



### 3. America's inclination towards Pakistan in post-pehalagam adventures;

In saddening news for India, America's president Mr. Donald Trump appreciated Pakistan and its military for its defense capabilities and ~~to~~ peace cooperations. After the ceasefire, Mr. Donald Trump mentioned his peace attempts and Pakistan's defensive credibility at multiple platforms. It was quite shocking for India because India and America deep relation and strategic agreements against China. In all the post-war scenario, The one-sided and biased inclination of America towards Pakistan seemed strategic shift in geo-politics. America shifted from pro-Indian to pro-Pakistani state signing critical mineral deal with Pakistan. This re-aligned the global alliances, deeping the Pak-America relations and hardening Pak-Indian relations.



#### 4. Conclusion;

In a nutshell, India's misadventure against Pakistan proved a setback for him hurting its alliances and global image. The post-pehala gam attack arose with multiple diplomatic and bilateral challenges for India and Pakistan hurting the trade capacity and indus-water treaty. Undoubtedly, the misadventure pushed the whole region at the brink of nuclear attack but America's ceasefire succeeded in restricting the threat.

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