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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
confuse the allies. In the contemporary
era, where global power conundrums are

Instructions to Secure Good Marks in the Current Affairs Paper

Note: Marks will be awarded strictly on the following parameters: Content 60%, References 15%, Subject-specific language 15%, Graphs, charts & diagrams 10%.

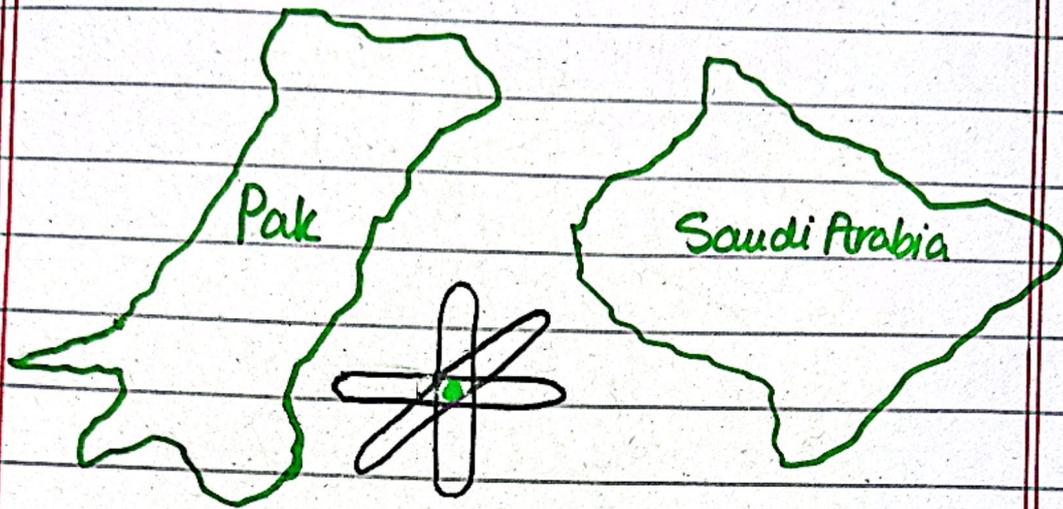
Key Guidelines: Each question should be attempted with 12-13 clear headings. The answer must be 8-9 pages (sides) in length to score above 15 marks per question. Questions usually contain 3-4 parts, each part carries equal weightage, so all parts must be discussed equally and proportionately.

Content & Argumentation: Always use examples from current and ongoing events to justify your arguments. Demonstrate strong analytical depth, not mere narration of facts. Support arguments with relevant data, reports, international indices, treaties, and recent developments.

Structure & Presentation: Begin every answer with an attractive, context-setting introduction. End with a forward-looking, well-linked conclusion that ties back to the question. Use headings directly derived from the question statement—pick words and phrases from the question itself. Alignment with the Question. Each argument must be explicitly linked to the specific part of the question being asked. If your heading is not aligned with the demand of the question, the content—no matter how accurate—will not be rewarded. Avoid generic or unrelated headings; precision is key.

Language & Visuals: Use subject-specific terminology relevant to international relations, geopolitics, economics, and security studies. Incorporate simple graphs, flowcharts, tables, or maps wherever relevant to enhance clarity and scoring potential.

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

17th 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. This 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. Imran Khan 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 strong 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. In the depiction of rise of muslim NATO power, middle eastern states appreciates Pakistan's stand of in muslim world. In a retrospect, Pakistan is ably 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

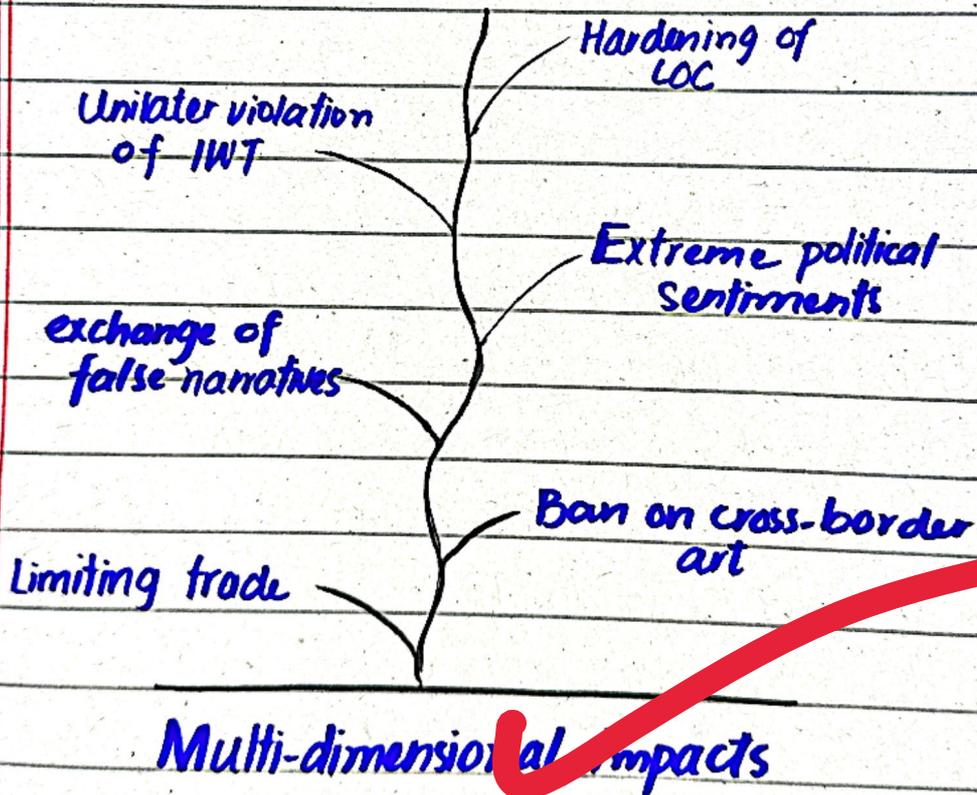
1. Introduction;

In the events of post-pehlagam adventure, India and Pakistan met eye to eye on 7th 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;



(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-PoK 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) Effect on the bilateral trade;

India and Pakistan was exchanging a trade of almost \$14 billion. But after the exchange of drones and missiles in post-PoK 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 propaganda added fuel to the fire worsening the bilateral relation. Resultantly, the tussle continued and a blame game started between the countries.

(g) Extreme political narratives;

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