

QNO2:-1) Introduction:-

BRICS is the acronym of **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**. It is an intergovernmental organisation, formulated in 2010 by the addition of South Africa. It was formulated /made to temper the US dollar hegemony as international currency. Due to its potential benefits, <sup>6 more</sup> many new countries joined it recently (Argentina, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia and Iran), because it allow the member countries to trade in local currencies.

It's geo-economic and political implications are far-reaching like it will help to strengthen the economies and currencies, challenging the hegemony of US dollar, countering US lead in the world, etc. But there are many hurdles like setting rules and regulations, like maintaining consensus, etc.

2) What is BRICS:-

It is the acronym of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa. It is

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an intergovernmental organisation formulated in 2010 <sup>previously BRIC</sup> with the addition of South Africa as BRICS.

### 3) Purpose of the bloc:

This bloc's purpose is to trade in their own local currencies instead of dollars. Some of the purpose of the bloc are briefly described below:

#### (a) Causing de-dollarization:

This bloc's aim is to cause de-dollarization, and ~~the~~ strengthen/bolster their own (local) currencies rather than dollars.

#### (b) To topple the economic leverage of US:

The member countries want to topple the economic leverage of US by not trading in the western-led currencies.

#### (c) To bolster their economies:

Trading in their own respective currencies would assist the bloc's members to

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bolster their economies.

#### 4) Geo-economic and political implications of the bloc:-

This bloc has far-reaching geo-economic and political implications. Some of the potential geo-economic and political implications of this bloc are described below:-

##### (a) Strengthening the economies of the member countries and their respective currencies:-

One of the geo-economic implication of this bloc is that it will help to brace and bolstering the economies of the member countries, and their respective currencies. According to World Bank, by 2019 the five members of this group <sup>is combined economy</sup> accounted for 24% of the world GDP. In this light, allowing more countries to become member of this will further strengthen the economy.

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### (b) Challenging the hegemony of the dollar:

Its' another geo-economic implication is that it will assist to challenge the leverage of the dollar, leading the world to switch to de-dollarization. Assimilating more members will help to make the multi-polar world.

### (c) Countering US lead in the world:

One of the anticipated political implication of this bloc is that it will aid in countering and tempering US lead in the world. This will help to topple the US's political hegemony in the world.

### (d) Reducing US's role in major decisions:

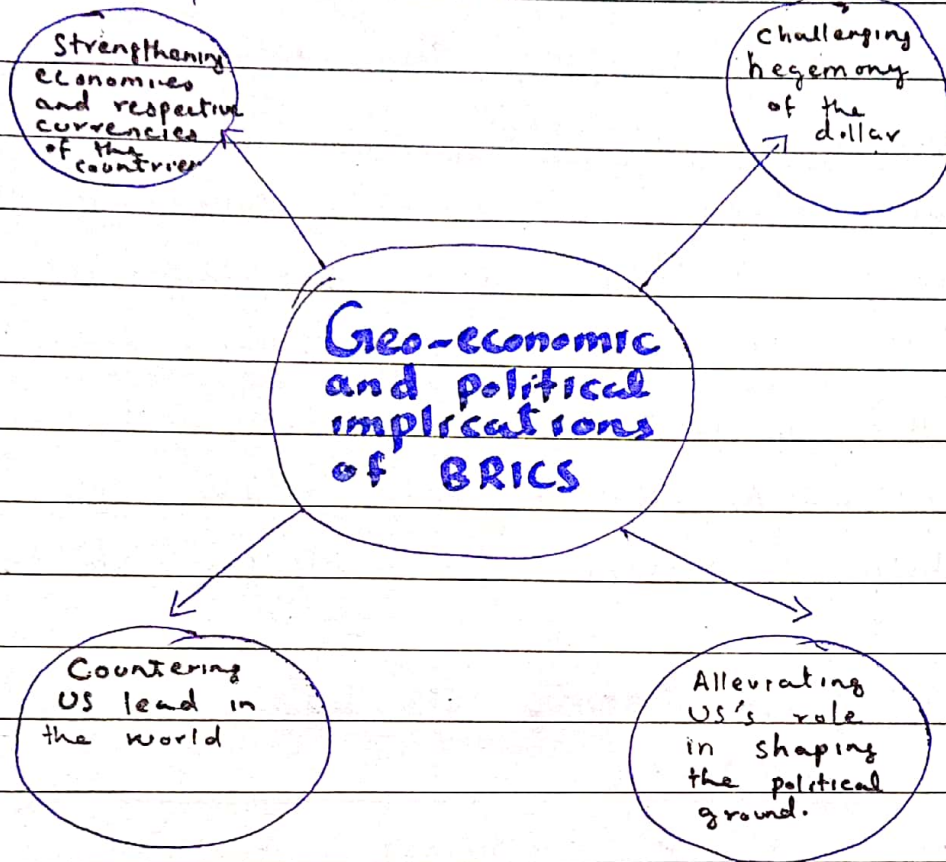
Another political implication is that it will assist to root out and (add) diminish US's role in major decisions and (key) driving the

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World's political scenario.



### 5) Hurdles for the blocs

At the same time, there are also many bottlenecks in the way of bloc to achieve its targets. Some of the hurdles in the path are described below:-

#### (a) Setting rules and regulations:-

This group has still remain unsuccessful in carving out its standard rules and regulations to operate and manage the affairs. This is a

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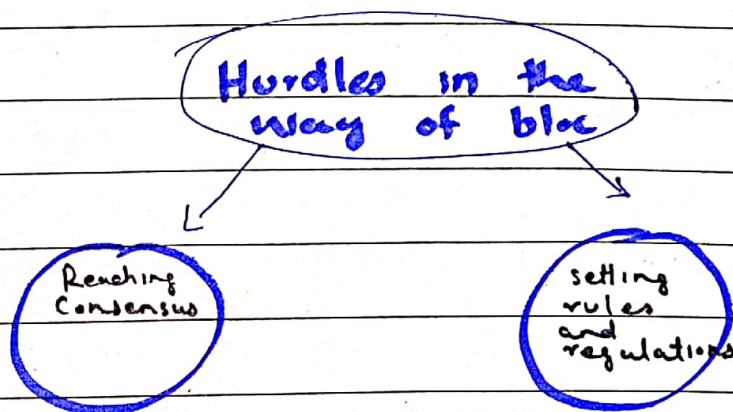
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envisaged impediment in the path of this bloc to achieve its' ambitions and realize its' objectives.

### (b) Reaching Consensus:-

The inclusion of six more countries in this bloc has made it difficult for the bloc to achieve its targets.

For example, the recent inclusion of Argentina and Iran has made it difficult and strenuous to achieve consensus. (Both) <sup>Argentina</sup> countries blame Iran for a series of terrorist attacks perpetrated on its territory.



### 6) Conclusion:-

In the nutshell, BRICS is bloc of five emerging economies of the world.

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- It is made to dethrone leverage of US dollar in the world, to promote and bolster economies and their respective currencies, to reduce US's role in the major political decisions, to make multipolar world etc. But concurrently, there are also many obstructions in its path like setting out rules and regulations, reaching consensus.



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Name

Saima Sultan

Roll NO

26808-Saima Sultan-036

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Current Affairs

QNO8:-

1) Introduction:-

China's emergence as the expected 2<sup>nd</sup> largest economy of the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century rang alarm bells to US to temper its growing strategic influence in the South-east Asia and the world. So, US under the leadership of G.W. Bush in 2006 promoted its relations with India in all fields ranging from technological to defense etc. Pakistan is also at disadvantage from the growing/flourishing US-India strategic partnership because it is benefiting from the CPEC project with China economically. On this deteriorating

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and straining situation, Pakistan can adopt certain policy measures to relieve it from the growing tensions like engaging/embroiling diplomatically with India, devising a policy which satisfies both the US and India without compromising its sovereignty, alleviating rampant tensions between US and China by playing its role etc.

## 2) Background of US-India Strategic partnership:

After the collapse of Soviet Union in late 20<sup>th</sup> century, US became a solo-power in the world in all fields either economically, militarily, defensibly etc and the world order shifted from dipolar to unipolar. But in <sup>the start of</sup> the 21<sup>st</sup> century, China started to grow / lift economically and it was the contender for becoming the sole-power in the world dislodging the US hegemony and leverage. This thing started to threaten the US's hegemony and it under the command of G.W. Bush in 2006 initiated

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a strategic - partnership deal with India (India was also in bone of contention with China over the issue of Ladakh) in multifaceted fields to mitigate and palliate the China's rampant influence in the world.

### 3) Implications of US-India Strategic partnership for Pakistan.

But this deal's implications are also discontending and severe for Pakistan.

Because Pakistan is enmeshed with China under the flagship project of CPEC to provide China, the land and short route to access the energy power of Middle East to spin the wheels of its economy by driving its industries. Some of the implications of US-India strategic partnership for Pakistan are described below:-

#### a) Internal security threats:-

Pakistan in this backdrop is facing some of the internal security threats which is a tactic of India under the

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the US-India strategic partnership deal to sabotage the security situation in Pakistan. For this, India is funding and radicalising the many outlawed outfits and the deprived/stripped Balochistan's people to carry out terrorist attacks on the Chinese working force under CPEC. In April 2022, three teachers from China and a driver were killed in a suspected suicide attack near University of Karachi and this was claimed by **BLA** (Balochistan Liberation Army)

### (b) Propagandising of the CPEC project:

The India is also playing a machination of propagandising the CPEC project, to undermine the CPEC project under this strategic deal. The desired outcome of this propaganda is to undermine the project internally by its own people to crack the thriving economy of China.

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### (c) Causing strained relations between Pakistan and China:-

Another implication of this strategic deal is that it is fostering strained relations between Pakistan and China to sabotage this project which is the largest source of income for Pakistan. India is subscribing the <sup>verboden</sup> outfits to carry out the militant attacks on Chinese workers and this is menacing good relations between both countries. Recently, China has also communicated its concerns over the victimization of its workforce.

### (d) Economic implication:-

This strategic deal also has another implication for Pakistan like i.e. economic. The recent exacerbating blitzkrieg on the Chinese officials and workers under CPFC project is declining and downsizing the probability of arriving investment in Pakistan which is intensely alarming for Pakistan.

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### e) Political instability:-

This deal is also resulting in political instability in Pakistan. Because, the people of Pakistan are discontented with the ruling political parties policies to counter the growing terrorism and to protect the livelihood of millions of people. (According) to this project, some **2 million** jobs are created.

### 4) Policy options for Islamabad:-

Islamabad can switch to certain policy options to safeguard itself from the implications of this strategic deal. Some of these options are given discussed below..

#### (a) Engaging diplomatically with India:-

Pakistan can avert itself from the negative consequences of this deal by engaging diplomatically with India. Pakistan should aware the Indian

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authorities of its (people's) intelligence agencies' hand / connivance in undermining this project.

### b) Devising a prudent policy :-

Pakistan should devise / formulate a prudent policy which abate all the concerns of US and India regarding the project. (Pakistan should recall / revise the US<sup>x</sup>)

### c) Recalling US that India is violating its sovereignty :-

Another option that Pakistan can take is that, it should recall US that it is its' responsibility to prevent India from violating its sovereignty. India is backing militant attacks on Pakistan's territory.

### d) De-escalating tensions between China and US :-

Pakistan should contribute to the retardation of flourishing tensions

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between the US (superpower) and China (an anticipated superpower). It should bring both the countries on the table of talks/dialogues to reach a detente. It could be expedient for Pakistan.

(E)

### Policy options for Pakistan

Engaging diplomatically with India and communicating its' concerns

helping US and China to reach a thaw

devising a prudent policy which abate all concerns of both US and India

Recalling US, India's connivance in the violation of its' sovereignty

### 5) Critical analysis:-

The US-India strategic partnership deal tried to undermine the CPEC project to counter the China's growing influence.

But Pakistan can avert its' implications by de-escalating tensions between US and China, engaging diplomatically with India etc and it is anticipated that the outcomes of these efforts would be fruitful for Pakistan and

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the entire region.

## 6) Conclusion:

In the nutshell, US-India strategic partnership deal to mitigate the rampant influence and growing economy of China is also inflicting serious implications for Pakistan. However, Pakistan can cope up with this situation by initiatives like helping both countries (US and China) to reach a detente, recalling US that India is violating its sovereignty etc.



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