

Q.1 The HTS Islamist rebels have toppled down Bashar-ul Assad

Outline

1- Introduction

2- Background behind Bashar-ul. Assad regime fall

3- Reasons of regime change in Syria

(a) Support of Assad regime had lost

(b) Military tactics of Rebels

(c) Organization of Rebels

(d) Regional and non-regional support to rebels

4- Implications on Syria

(a) Uprising civil war

(b) Struggle of for warpower

(c) Political and Economic unistability

5- Implications on Region

(a) Strengthen hold of Turkey on Syria

(b) a backlash for "axis of resistance"

(c) A sever blow to Russian hegemony

(d) Interference of west and Israel in Middle east.

6- Conclusion.

Introduction :-

After 87 years of dictatorship, finally the oppressed people of Syria has a win independence. After successful operation of HTS (Hayat-ul-Tahrir-Sham) under Abu-ul-Julani. Who is behind this force, though not known but the assumptions are given that may be Turkey or west is behind it. The fall of Assad regime had led the line of resistance and Russia in severe critical situation while Turkey and west may gain opportunity to neutralize the region again Russia and Iran.

Background behind Assad Regime fall :-

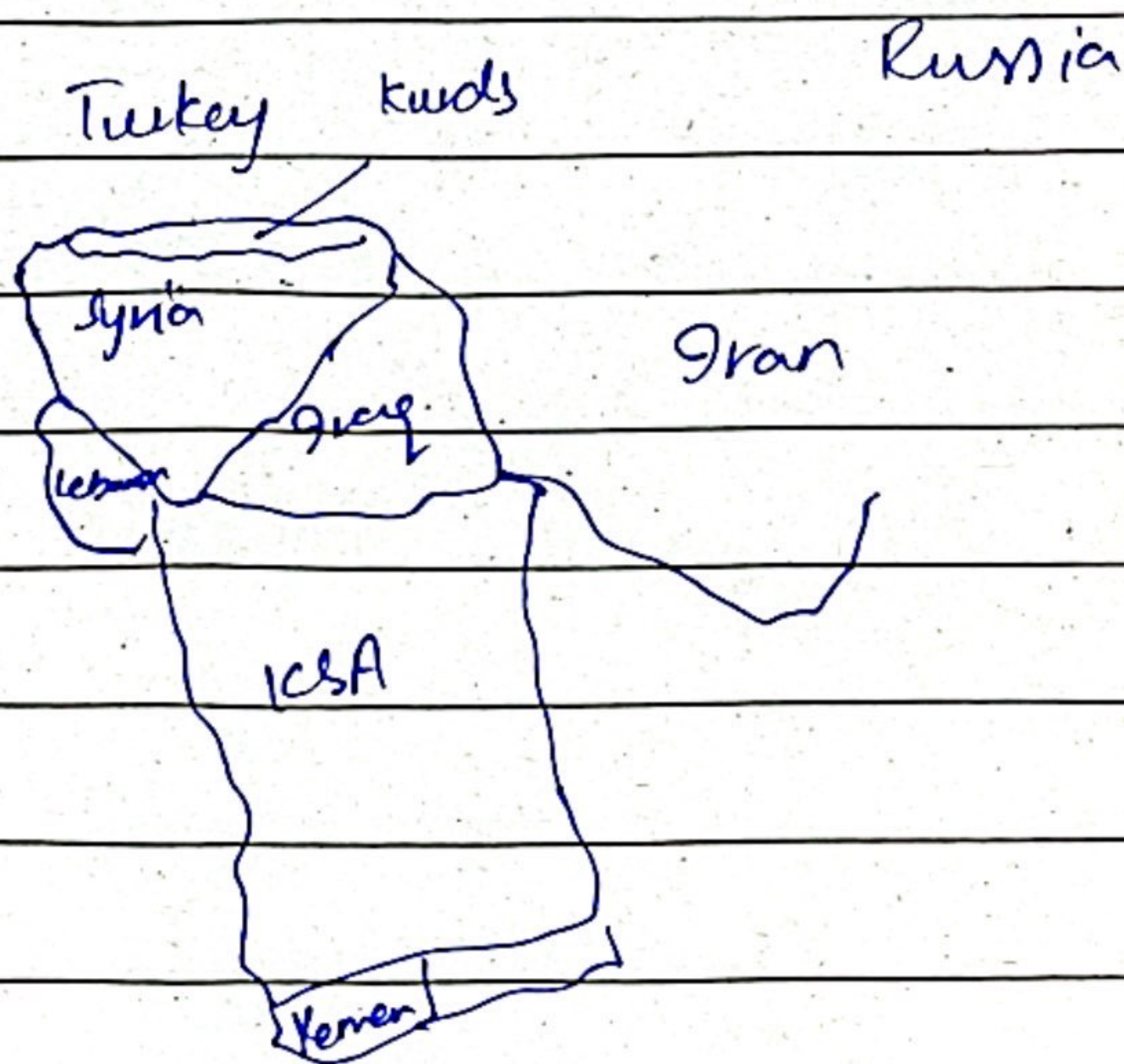
① Assad belong to Alawite sect of Shia Islam, while the major population of Syria belonged to Sunni sect. So, there was sectarian conflict in Syria since the inception of Baath Party in power.

② Political and economic coercion on Syrians :-

When Asad came in power at the turn of 21st Century, he continued the coercive policies of his father, though they claimed to be 'secular' but actually these policies were sectarian based.

③ Syrians rebels were constantly supported by regional and non-regional allies.

③ Reasons of Regime Change in Syria :-



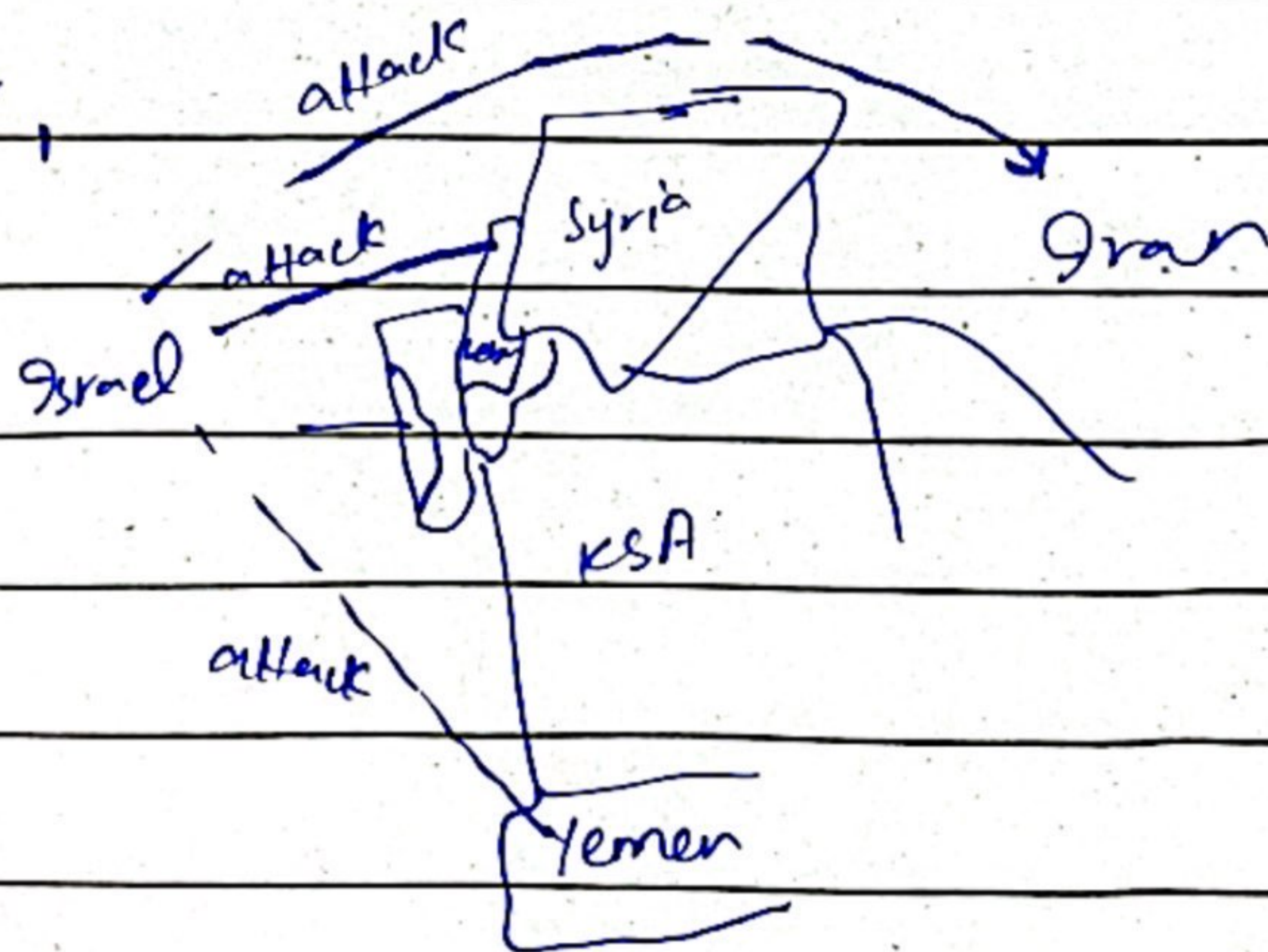
(a) Support of Asad Regime has lost :-

Asad Regime had been supported by regional allies including Iran and

Russia since Arab Spring, 2011.
 To overwhelm the Arab Spring
 Russia supplied ① Military weapons
 ② Drones ③ Helicopters ④ Russian
 troops. In this way Assad regime
 was restored.

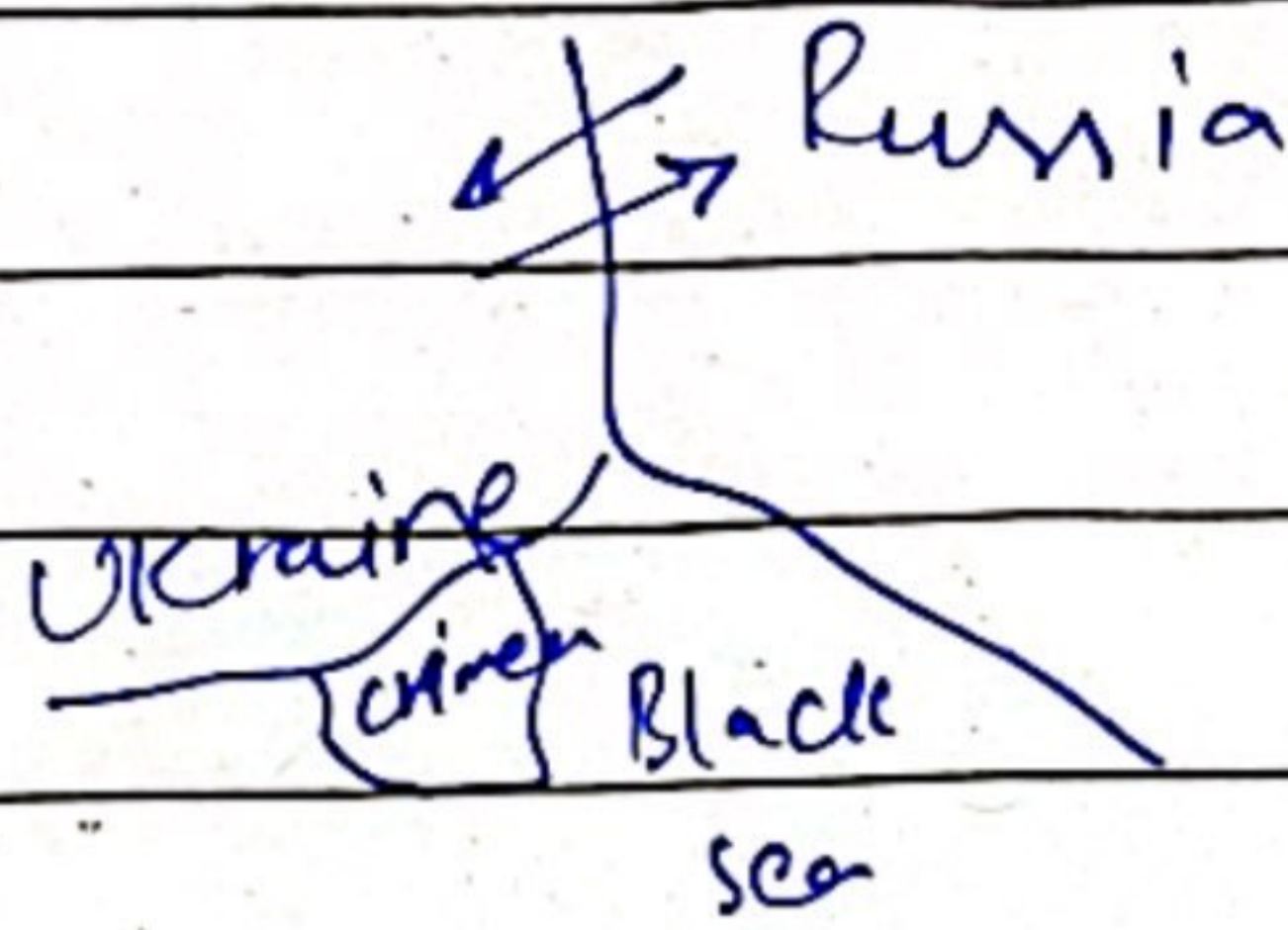
Russian airbase at Mediterranean
 coast of Syria was also
 helpful for so Assad regime.
 Iran also supplied military
 tactics and troops to Syria after
 2011.

After,



Israel attack on Iran and Iran
 attack on Israel in retaliation, the
 killing of ① Hezbollah leader
 ② Palestinian leader
 in Iran, Iran was busy in

Self-defence.



After Russia - Ukrainian war, Russian troops were busy against Ukraine. So, they could help Assad regime. Due to which he lost his hold on Syria.

(b) Military tactics of Rebels :-

Once Assad was successful to downsize rebels in Syria after 2011, Arab Spring, but the rebellion groups continued their struggle. Under Abu Julani leadership, the HTS military personnels were trained.

It is reported by BBC, that these military personnels are highly trained in night operations on the region of Aleppo, Hama were captured at in evening.

(c) Organization of Rebels :-

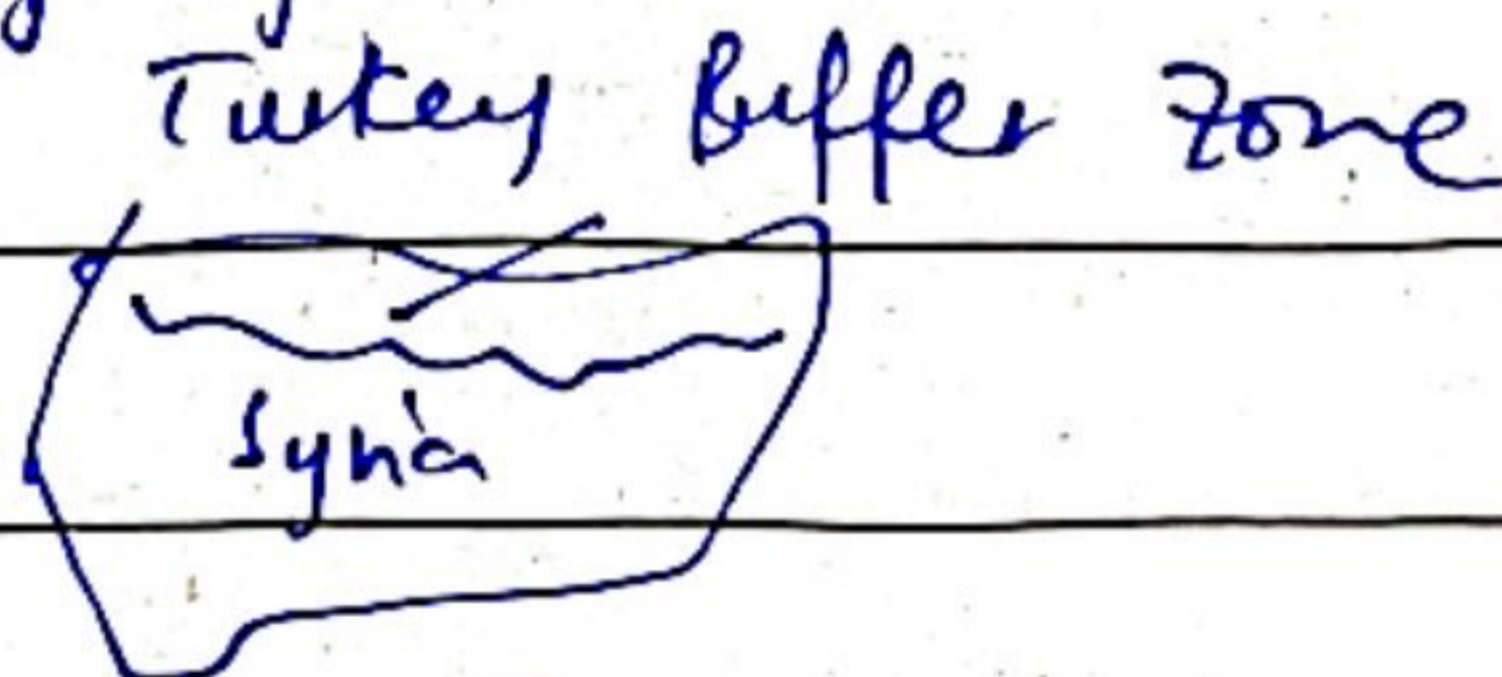
The rebellion group of HTS is highly organized under its leadership as compared to other rebels, like Kurds, who in past tried to capture Syrian control.

(d) Regional and non-regional support to Rebels :-

It is said that Turkey is supporting HTS along with USA.

Turkey Interest :-

To create ① buffer zone along border of Turkey and Syria so that militants can't attack on Syria and ② to settle the Syrian Refuges in this zone.



USA and West Interests :-

To weaken the support of Iran and Russia in Syria.

→ Iran supply weapons and
drones to Hamas through
Syria

→ Russian support to Lebanon
and Hamas was also through
their Syria.

→ To counter their hegemony
the west has captured Syria.

4. Implication on Syria :-

(a) Uprising civil war :-

There is a chance of rise of
civil war, because there are
many rebellion organizations in
Syria, so the situation may
become out of control. As recently
Turkey has launched operation
at northern border of Syria.

(b) Struggle for power :-

▷ Different factions in Syria :-

① Turkish backed → Syrian
National Army

② USA and west backed → Kurds
at the northern border of Syria.

→ Russian and Iranian backed →
 Baath Party with Alawite.
~~and~~ so there will be a struggle
 of power in Syria, the same
 situation as in 2021 war in
 Afghanistan.

(c) Political and Economic Instability.

After regime, the situation of
 politics and economic may become
 diverse. Especially the business
 community will suffer. As the
 economy of a state is proportional
 to political stability.

(5) Implications on Region :-

(a) Strengthen hold of Turkey
 on Syria :-

It is assumed that Turkey
 is supporting HTS, if it is
 correct than its position in
 Syria will be strengthen.

(b) a backlash for "axis of
 Resistance :-

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“axis of Resistance” is Iran.

Iran resist against west and Israel. But its position will be weaken because it could not supply support to Hamas against Israel. And the oppressed Palestinian will be under more atrocities of Israeli Forces. The situation of middle East has become drastically challenging for Muslim world.

(b) A Severe blow to Russian

Hegemony :-

Russian Hegemony :- in Middle East

as it had its naval base in

Syria but the downfall of Assad

regime might turn the ground

reality. It will be difficult for

Russia to counter west.

(d) Interference of west and Israel
in Middle East :-

As Israel is continuously launching attacks missiles on Golan

heights. Its main purpose is

weaken the Middle East.

US interests in Middle East

only to strengthen Israel by ensuring its security in M.E.

That's why in Past, US started an 'Arab Accord' to normalize relation between Arab world and Israel.

Conclusion

In the nutshell, the situation in Israel is gruesome both in terms of politics and economy.

Though in Past the situation was also not favourable because of Assad atrocities and rebellion protest. But now the ball is in Abu-al-Julani's court that how he would lead Syria in international forum.

DAY: _____
Q.3 State Owned enterprises have been a huge and persistent burden —

Outline

1. Introduction

~~2. Burden of SOEs on Pakistan economy~~

~~3. Privatization of SOEs: background~~

3. Why Privatization of State assets is necessary?

(a) Burden on State economy

(b) To serve the public efficiently

(c) To ~~facilitate~~ ^{attract} the investor

(d) Huge competition on international level.

(e) Inefficiency of state to raise their standard.

4. How these enterprises should be privatized?

(a) By ^{Active} Political participation

(b) By transparent bidding

(c) Finding a high caliber investor

(d) Restructuring the company.

5. Conclusion.

① Introduction :-

State owned Enterprises of Pakistan have become "blackhole" which gives no output. So, the government of Pakistan has decided to privatize them as soon as possible. Because these are burden on economy as well as their standard does not meet with that of international. So, it is highly recommended to sell them but their bidding must be transparent and efficient. The remodelling of enterprises can also make them to earn more profit.

② Privatization of SOE : Backgrounds-

Once in 1980's, the state owned enterprises were privatized but due to lack of political will, it remained ineffective. Now, in 2024, again the government of Pakistan has decided to privatize the SOE's. PM Shehbaz Sharif chaired the High level meeting along with Privatization minister and

commission to privatize ^{all} SOE's
 'either they are in profit or loss?'

The statement was made after
 IMF meeting with IMF delegation
 which reports that; In 2019, almost
 50pc SOE's of Pakistan were in
 loss.

→ Highly Prioritized SOE's

- (1) PIA (Pakistan International Airline)
- (2) Roosevelt Hotel in USA
- (3) Two coal power plants and other
 distribution companies
- (4) Railway of state etc.

3. Why Privatization of state assets
 is necessary?

(a) Burden on state economy :-

The SOE's have become only
 a burden on state economy.

Because instead of earning profit,
 Pakistan is spending money to
 run smoothly.

These SOE's have increased 'financial
 gap'. Now there is high

debt on these enterprises.

(b) To serve the public efficiently :-

These enterprises are privatized, and the main objective is :-

(1) To serve the public, as the incentives were given to those enterprises which instead of earning only consume money.

(2) In this way, the taxation system will be improved, the owner of those enterprises will pay the state and the economy will flourish.

(c) To attract facilitate the investor :-

When the major companies are presented for sale, the foreign investors attract to purchase them. In this way, the foreign investment will increase.

Now, it is essential to privatize them because it will become a life-line to save the

state economy.

(d) Huge Competition on international level 3-

There is much competition on international level, as many multinational companies are operating in Pakistan. With the advancement of technology, these companies have not made any progress, so, it is difficult for state to run those enterprises in a huge competition.

(e) Inefficiency of state to raise their standard 3-

The inefficiency of state in terms of :

(1) Accountability

(2) Check and balance

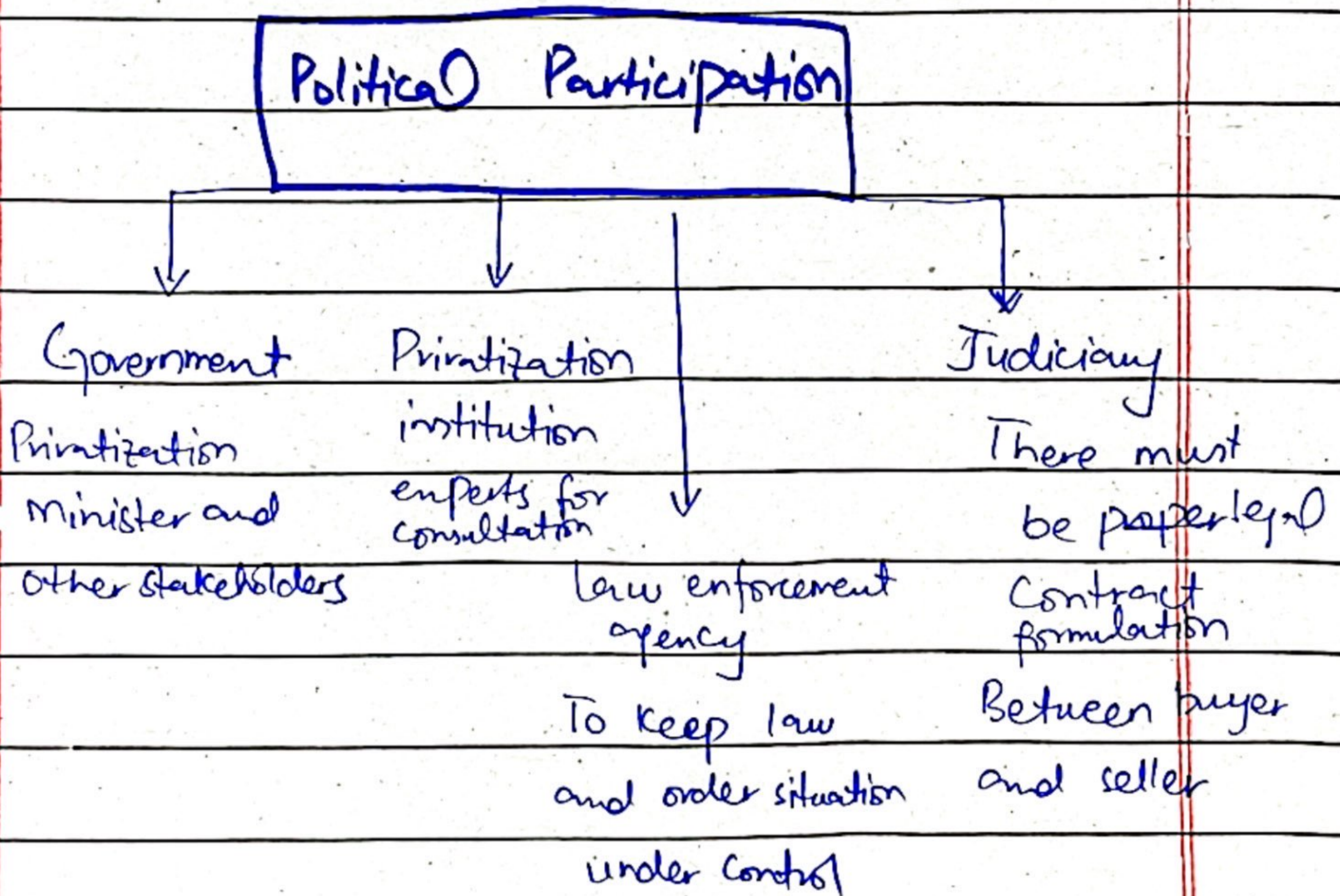
(3) Transparency

(4) CEO were appointed randomly without merit.

All these inefficiencies ^{could not} ~~plead~~ led the state enterprises towards international standard.

4. How those enterprises should be privatized?

(a) By Active Political Participation:-



Active political participation is essential to make the deal quickly and efficiently so as to avoid further loss.

(b) By Transparent Bidding

The bidding must be open, rather it must be on air on TV, so that everyone can participate in bidding. This is necessary because these assets belong to state and the nation has rights over them. Furthermore, to sell the enterprises at best possible cost it is mandatory that bidding should be kept transparent.

(c) Finding a high caliber investor :-

Finding a high caliber investor should also be state priority.

As in case, of first women bank, the dialogues are in process with UAE.

Similarly, for Roosevelt the dialogues in the way, because

its responsibility of state stakeholder to find the high caliber investor, who can purchase SOEs at maximum price.

(d) Restructuring the Company :-

Restructuring the company through :-

↓
Staff recruiting

↓
infrastructure improvement

↓
Renomation of SOE's as Rodierolt
can be renomated

In this way, remodelling the SOE's is useful to privatized them and to earn from them highly.

5. Conclusion :-

Therefore, it is summed up in this way that SOE's which were beneficial in past, and now have become only a burden on state economy and its people. These must be selled at best possible cost. And for that political participation and transparency is also necessary.

Russia - China growing economic, strategic and geo political collaboration is an effort to potentially challenge the US led world order. Discuss.

Outline

1- Introduction

2- Russia - China Relations in:

(a) Economy

(b) Strategic relations

(c) geo-political interest

3- Russia - China a counter block to US

hegemony

4- Conclusion.

1- Introduction :-

"Necessity is the mother of invention"

this proverb is suitable for both Russia and China. Once they were strong enemy of each other, but now on same page against USA.

Because their strategic interests in Far East, South Asia and in Middle East are convergent as well as their trade interests.

Both pose a severe threat to super power which is countering their hegemony through various alliances like AUKUS, QUAD etc.

2. Russia - China Relations in :

(a) economy :-

Russia and China signed a treaty of "good Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation" to enhance relations in :

- (1) Military
- (2) Security
- (3) Trade
- (4) Technology

Let us see the economic relations between two as follows :-

(i) Trade Turnover

Between two states the trade turnover has exceeded to \$100bn.

(ii) Eastern Siberia - Pacific Ocean Oil :-

In 2009, both states agreed on construction of Eastern Siberia - Pacific Ocean oil pipeline, now it.

is completed and operational between the two states, which is economically beneficial for the two.

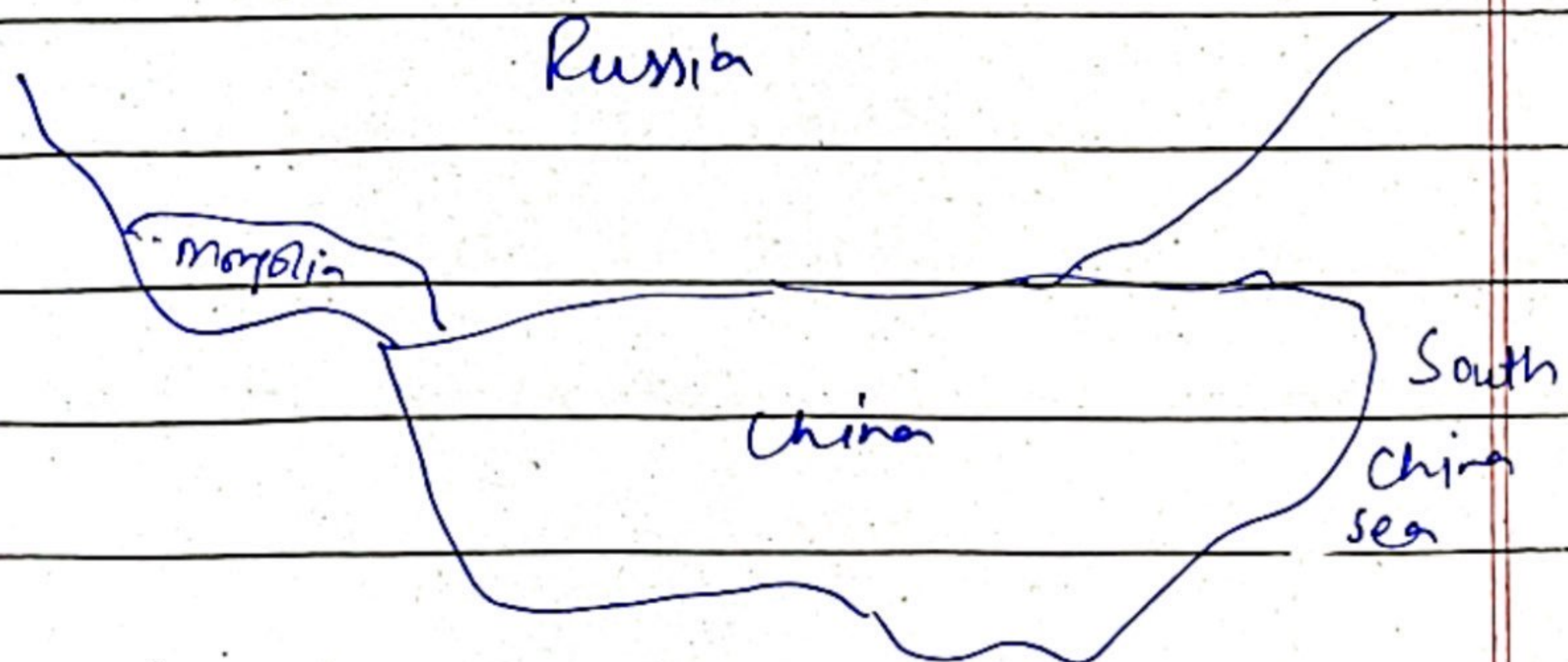
(iii) Russian withdrawal from SWIFT :-

In 2022, Russia has withdrawn from SWIFT and now it has started trade in Yuan.

Actually, both states want to end the dollar hegemony in trade and commerce.

(b) Strategic Relations :-

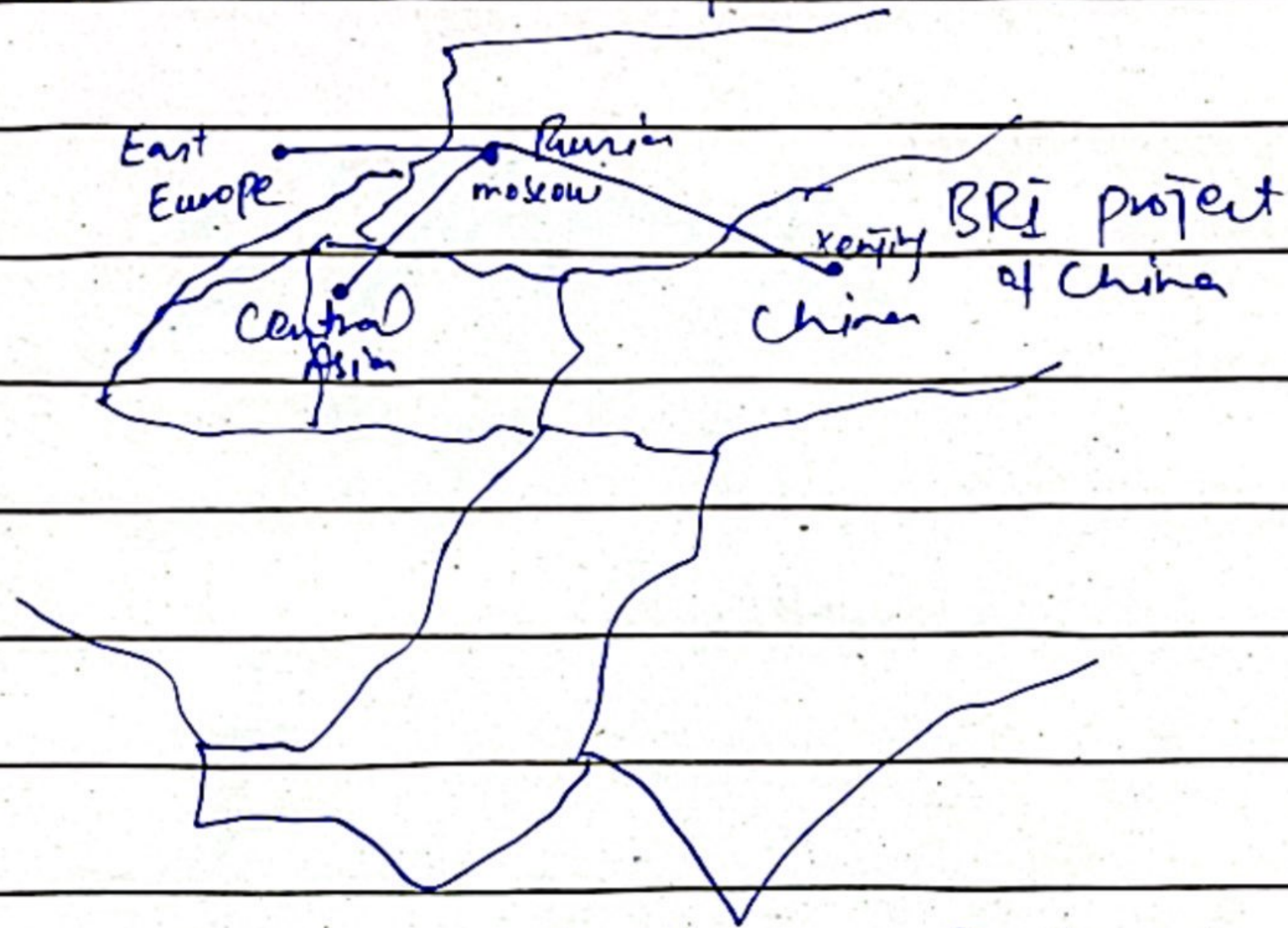
Russia and China are sharing longest border with each other.



China BRI project :-

China BRI project which is a mega project of its history

For it Russia is a transit trade route as it connects China ~~Russia~~ into Europe.



Russia - China Strategic Interests in Middle East :-

Both states have strategic interests in Middle East.

China :-

China want to expand its trade in Middle East. As it played a diplomatic role in the reapproachment of Saudi - Iran relations.

Russia :-

① Russia want to promote its soft image in Middle East, that's why it is providing assistance to Syrian refugees.

(2) To counter US influence in the middle East.

(c) Geo-political Interests :-

The geo-political interests of both are same as both are "Communist States". In both of them opposition is weak and they are against Capitalist states.

China's political Interest in Pacific Ocean :-

China claim on Taiwan, which is bone of contention between US and China.

China support towards N-Korea and US support towards S-Korea. These are major point of clash between USA and China. That's why USA is encircling China in Indo-Pacific region.

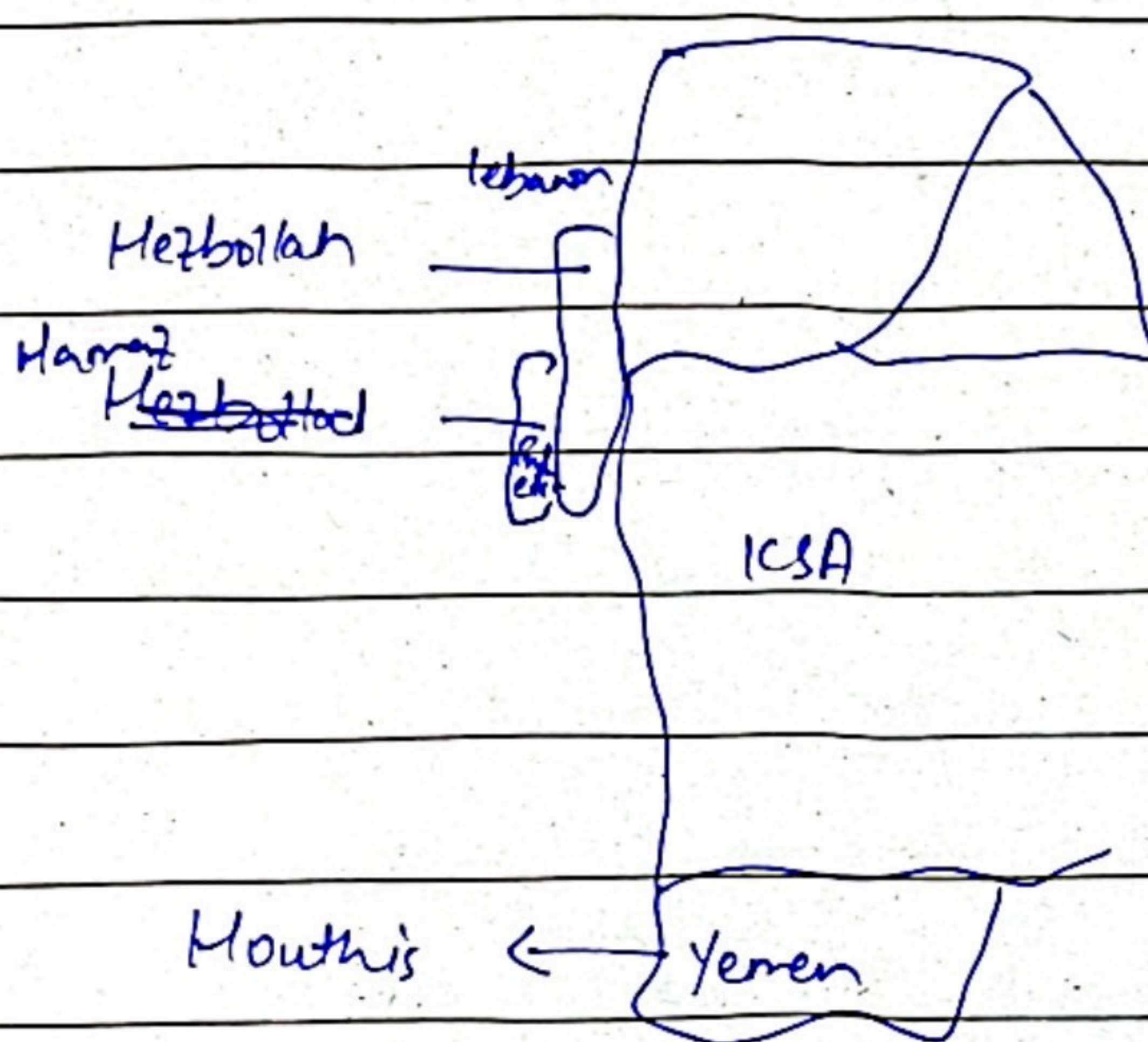
Russia's political Interest on Ukraine :-

USA want to include Ukraine in NATO to counter its enemy in Asia. That's why Russia attacked on Ukraine on Feb. 2022

to counter the influence of USA at its border.

Both Russia and China want their hold on their neighbouring regions.

Political Relations with Hezbollah, Hamas and Houthis :-



→ China invited both Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas leader in 2023 to resolve the Palestinian conflict.

→ China want a peaceful Middle East to expand its trade relations with Arab state and to import oil from them.

Chinese President denounced the

Israeli atrocities in Palestine in
United Nations General Assembly.

→ Russia also ^{voted} passed ~~money~~

~~ed~~ in favour of Palestinian cause
in United Nations Security Council.

→ Both states also support each
other cause in their respective

territories. As they conducted

joint "military-naval exercises"

at several occasions in 2022.

And in 2015, Russia started

selling Su-35 and S-400

air defence system to China

because both want to strengthen

their military against US.

3. Russia-China or counter block

to US hegemony :-

US strategy against Russian and

Chinese alliance :-

US is encircling China in

South China Sea by establishing

① QUAD

② G20

③ AUKUS

US has good relations with Philippines, Japan, New Zealand and Australia to counter China in South China sea.

US is supporting (1) militarily (2) Technological support to these states to strengthen their security system.

US support to Israel:

- (1) US vetoed many resolutions in UNGA aimed in favour of Israel.
- (2) It provided (1) NATO Troops (2) Funds (3) Military weapons to Israel.

US support to Ukraine:

US is supporting Ukraine both morally and militarily.

US and its allies has given (1) Funds (2) military weapons to Ukraine.

→ West has placed sanctions on Russia.

Russia - China Strategy to counter US and its allies :-

→ Strengthen their economy

Despite of Sanctions on Russia, China is doing trade with Russia to ease its economy.

→ Strong defence system

Both are strengthening their defence system. According to 'Voice of America Journal' from 2022-2023, China warhead increased 18% in number.

→ Strong relations with neighbouring

Both are extending their relations with neighbours to block US from the region.

Critical Analysis of US-based Thinktank:-

Both Russia and China are together, till their common enemy is USA. Once, USA collapse, both will compete with each other.

Conclusion :-

Hence, it is concluded, that as long as the interests are

same and the enemy is common they will fight with by backing each other. And in Asia especially in South China Sea, the authority of China is challenged by USA but its weaker position in Middle East has created a space for Russia and China to fill.

Q.8 Critically evaluate the reasons for the slowing down of CPEC projects.

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Slowing down of CPEC Project
3. Reasons for slowing down of Project
 - (a) Chinese security concern in Pakistan
 - (b) Political instability in Pakistan
 - (c) Worsening economy of state
 - (d) Expectations at Gwadar port have not been fulfilled
4. Recommendations & How to overcome the delay in project?

- (a) Pakistan should order its house
- (b) A ^{high level} ~~comprehensive~~ meeting between two states regarding security
- (c) Revision of project plan according to budgetary input
- (d) Initiation of cost-effective projects rather than roads and railways.

5. Conclusion.

1- Introduction :-

CPEC, "a flagship project of BRI", is seemed it has entered into blind alley. There are many reasons in slowing down of project like security concern of China, repayment of Pakistan's loan and political instability and worsening economy of Pakistan. But there are certain recommendation to overcome these problem like high level meeting between two states officials and Pakistan should order its house first then move towards 2nd phase of CPEC.

2- Slowing down of CPEC Project 8-

After Covid-19, there ^{are} ~~were~~ rumors that the project is not functional with the pace of expectations.

However, Pakistani former Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi said;

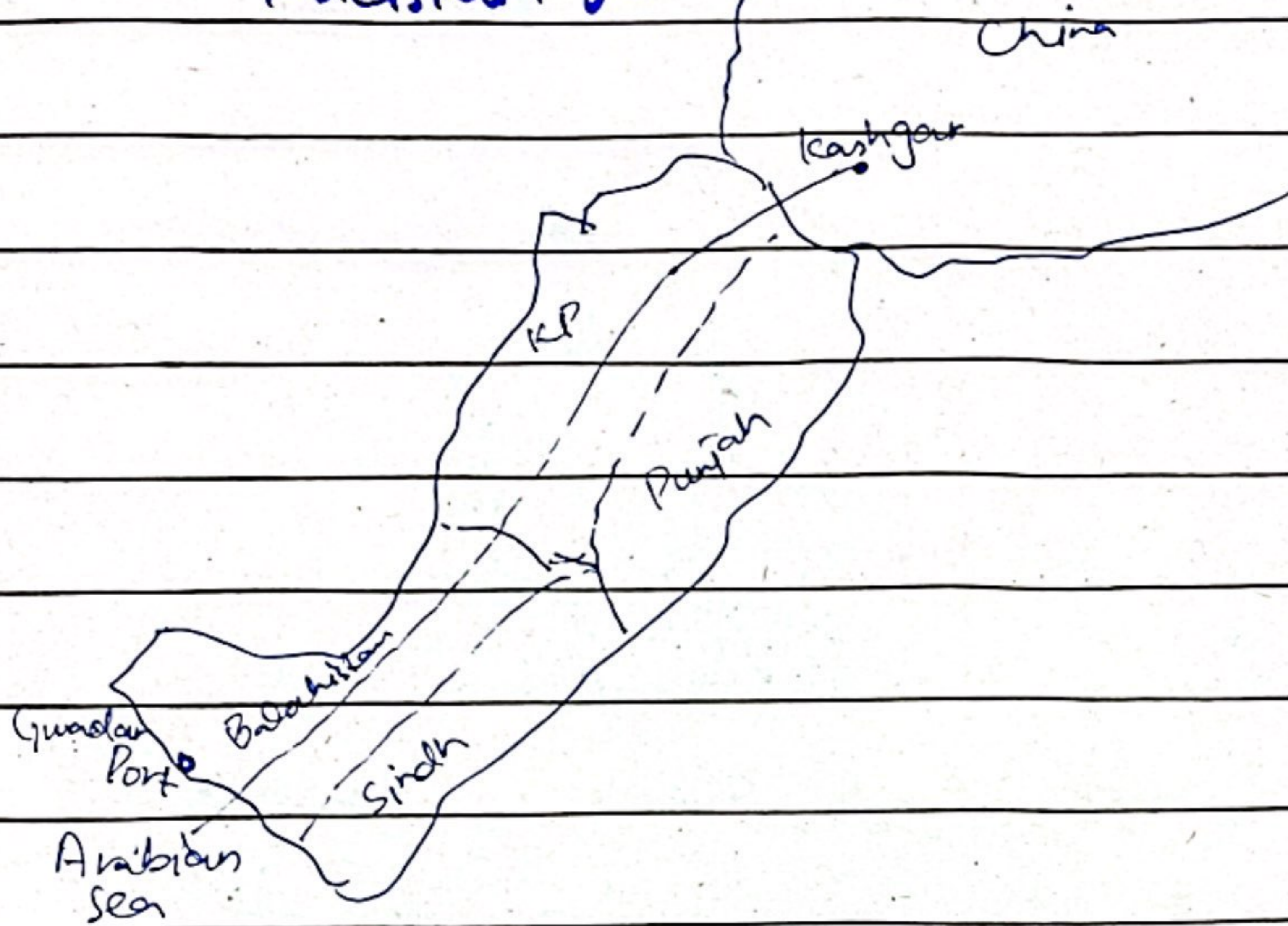
After Covid-19, the Project is operating with full speed and there is no truth in these fake news.

However, in recent years we have observed that the project in (Phase II) which is called "Economic growth Phase" is not pursuing with full speed. Rather than, only propaganda of west and non-state actors, there are many reasons in slowing down the Project.

3- Reasons in Statement OF Project 8-

Few reasons are as follows with respect to China and Pakistan-

(a) Chinese Security Concern in Pakistan :-



The project pass through western provinces of Pakistan, KP and Balochistan, where security situation is dire. Because in these provinces there are safe heaven of

① Balochi insurgent groups like
BLA

② TTP and

③ IS-K (Islamic State Khorasan).

Attack on Chinese Workers

→ In 2021, a suicide bomb hit Chinese worker's bus, in which 9 Chinese Engineers were killed.

→ Recently, in Southwestern province (Balochistan) an attack carried out on Chinese workers.

So, China has severe security concerns for his workers in Pakistan.

China Claims-

China asked Pakistan, to have its boats on Pakistani soil, which Pakistan rejected. This may be a bone of contention b/w the two states.

(b) Political Instability in Pakistan:-

Andly, the political situation of Pakistan is another reason of slowing down the project. Since, the ouster of former PM Imran Khan, the civil chaos has increased. After Feb. 2024 election, a weak coalition is formulated which is working but still the protests are common phenomena.

Recently, the firing on civilians

by in November by security personals
was highly criticized by
international media also.

(C) Worsening economy of states -

Furthermore, the worsening economy
of state is ^{under} further stressed
but no foreign investment by
other states.

→ Pakistan reliance on foreign
aid like IMF to pay its
debts and to formulate its
budget.

→ Pakistan demand to China
for another loan and the
will to rollover the previous
ones.

This has become a matter of
concern for China that how
would Pakistan pay back
such huge amount of money.

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(d) Expectations at Gwadar Port have not been fulfilled:-

Expectations of China that their

(1) Trade time

(2) Trade cost will be less

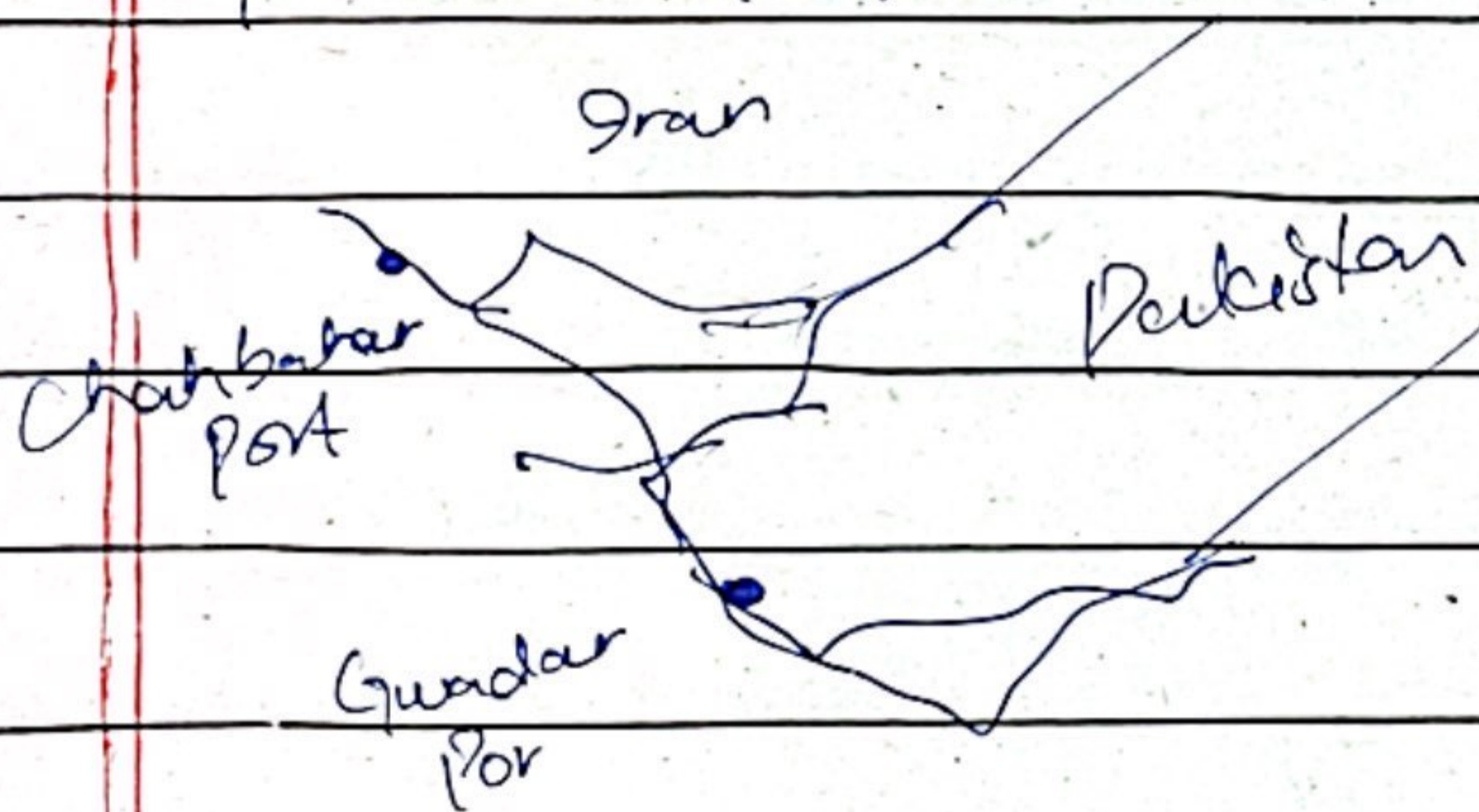
through Gwadar port is not

fulfilling because:

(1) Security concerns

(2) Gwadar port is not operating at level which was expected

Because, Chahabhar port of Iran is in competition with Gwadar Port.



Minimum trade is occurring at Chahabhar port rather than Gwadar port. Because Central Asian states and Afghanistan are using Chahabhar port because of their tense relation with Pakistan.

4. Recommendations: How to overcome the delay in Project?

(a) Pakistan should order its house :-

Pakistan should order its house means it must resolve its internal issues like :-

- (1) Political crisis
- (2) Economic crisis
- (3) Security issue

Pakistan should engage in dialogues with TTP and settle the dispute as well as also establish relations with Taliban.

Furthermore, the government should sit with opposition and address their concerns rather than political maneuvering.

(b) A high level meeting between two states regarding security :-

Both states should sit together

and resolve their issues at

high level means, From Pakistan's

side Defence Minister and Chief of Army staff along with FC guards head should take part to ~~remove~~ settle the concerns of China.

(c) Revision of Project Plan

according to Budgetary input :-

The plan must be revised according to the budget because there are concerns of Pakistanis that project is not actually benefiting the Pakistanis in case of job opportunities and also it has not benefited the state economy much.

(d) Initiation of Cost-effective projects rather than roads and railways :-

The main issue is release of funds from China, on which Chinese concerns are that Pakistan is not returning the previous loans. While Pakistan's concern is that, it has not earned

much from project. So it is high time to revise the project policies and plans and invest in those projects which provide more profit and jobs to people.

Conclusion:

At last, it is concluded that there are many reasons behind the derailment of projects like Chinese security concern, international media propaganda etc. But by adopting comprehensive measures like revision of project according to budget and high level meeting between two states regarding security.