

"Current Affairs"

#NOA-MOCK6*

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* PART - II *

* Subjective *

⇒ (Question # 08) ⇐

I. Introduction

CPEC projects is one of the pivotal projects of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). For now, there are numerous reasons that impedes its pace. It includes political instability in Pakistan, and the inconsistent economic policies of the incumbent government. Moreover, security challenges, Unequitable development projects and the also Corruption are among the top hindrances. To deal with these hindrances, Islamabad and Beijing needs to take doable blue prints. It encompasses timely completion of development projects, Addressal of reservations of local people, and equitable development projects among others.

II. Critical Evaluation of the Reasons for the Slowing Down of CPEC Projects.

There are numerous reasons for the slowing down of the CPEC Projects. The important ones are outlined below:

i. Security concerns of the Chinese People

Security concern is one of the significant reason for the slow pace of CPEC. The continuous attacks on the Chinese engineers, workers, and officials all around the country have created a sense of insecurity into the minds of the Chinese personals.

For instance,

- The recent attack on the Chinese nationals outside the Jinnah Airport, Karachi.

In this attack two Chinese nationals were killed. Hence, the continuous attacks have raised security concerns in the minds of Chinese nations.

ii. Corruption in the CPEC Projects:

This is also the reason for the impediment of the CPEC Projects. The different cases unearthed on the various sites of the CPEC Projects.

For example,

Hyderabad - Sukkur (M-6)
motorway land
acquisition scam.

This scam is one of the major scams around the country. Hence, the CPEC projects become halted.

iii. Unequitable Development Projects

Unequitable development projects around the country also playing major hindrances. The local people raise reservations. They demand basic needs instead of roads, and motorways.

For instance,

People in Balochistan demands basic needs instead of motorways, roads, and bridges.

Hence, this demonstrates that each province has their own unique needs. So, there must be equitable Development Projects.

iv. Political Instability in Pakistan

Political instability is one of the most important reason for

Slowing down of CPEC projects. Each government has its own economic policies and plans. So, with the change of government policies also change that in fact impedes economic policies.

Case in Point:

“The then Prime Minister Imran Khan slowed down all the CPEC projects and ordered for review.”

— Planning Minister,
Ahsan Iqbal

Hence, this shows that political instability is also one of the important reasons.

III. The options for Islamabad and Beijing:

Islamabad and Beijing needs some doable blueprints to make the project reintegrated

and make phase II tangible.
The important options are listed below:

i. Timely Completion of the Ongoing Projects

The timely completion of the ongoing projects will play a pivotal role in strengthening of the project. It will produce results and essences for the people. It will change their life style.

For instances,

Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway is in pipeline for more than 5-years.

As a result, it creates a sense of frustration among masses. Hence, timely completion is very important.

ii. Implementation of strong Security mechanism

The use of advanced technology for the security of Chinese nationals can play significant role. It will give security to the international citizens. Moreover, there is need of well-equipped and well-trained security personals for the security of Chinese nationals.

For instance,

Deploying of Chinese Personnels along with Pakistani Security forces.

Hence, this is one of the important options.

iii. Mechanism to Counter External Threats to the CPEC

There is need of strong security collaboration mechanism to counter external threats, such as BLA, TTP, and other

militant groups. Moreover, India, Afghanistan also plays their role of disruption in the way of CPEC Projects. Therefore, there is prompt need of security collaboration mechanism.

IV

Conclusion

“CPEC is the corner-stone of Pakistan's Socio-economic development.”

- Planning Minister
Ahsan Iqbal

Hence, this indicates that CPEC Project is very important for Pakistan. There is dire need to address the factors that impedes its way by taking some practicable measures.

~~Q#7~~

I. Introduction

It is true that war is not always a curse for everyone. In the ongoing conflicts in the middle east, there are beneficiaries and the losers as well. In beneficiaries, the U.S. and Israel are on top-notch. They left no stone unturned to exploit the situation. On the other, in losers, the countries Libya, Beirut, Palestine, Iran, Syria are among the losers for various reason.

II. The Beneficiaries of the ongoing conflict in the middle-east:

There are various countries that have benefited from the middle-east. The top-notch

Countries are listed below:

i. The United States of America

The U.S. is among the top beneficiaries of war. It has left no stone unturned to exploit the situation. From selling of war weapons to the diplomatic fronts, it has taken all advantages.

For example,

- According to Al-Jazeera report, in 2024, the U.S. approves 20bn \$ in weapons sale to Israel.
- It has also weakened its foe Iran by pushing it in the war against Israel.
- The U.S. achieved ouster

of Bashar-ul-Assad in Syria.

Hence, these all examples resonates the victory of the U.S. in Syria the war. Hence, the U.S. is the greatest beneficiary.

ii. Israel

Israel is also one the biggest beneficiaries of the war in the middle. Its important achieved targets are outlined below.

- Expansion of its occupation in Palestine

- Killing of all its anti-leaders

 - ↳ Hasan Nassrullah

 - ↳ Qasim Sulemani

 - ↳ M. Deif

 - ↳ Iemal Hamiy

 - ↳ Yahya Sinwar

- Expansion in Golan Heights

Hence, Israel is one of the beneficiaries.

iii. Losers of the ongoing conflict in the middle East:

The important countries are highlighted below:

i. Palestine

The Palestinians have lost their lives. They have lost their land.

“Almost 40,000 people have been killed in Palestine since Oct 7.”

-Al-Jazeera

Hence, this indicates the massive human loss of Palestine. For now, the remaining people are under the siege of Israeli Jews. Hence Palestine is among the greatest losers.

ii. Iran

Iran can also be considered among the losers for now. It is because Iran has lost strong control in its ally countries, particularly Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq.

- Iran lost its control over Syria.
- Lost important leadership in Lebanon
- Israel Encroachment towards Golan Heights

Hence, Iran can be considered among the losers of war.

iii. Russia

Russia is also one of the losers. It holds strong military bases in Syria. It also

Supported Bashar-ul-Assad regime. For now, it evacuated its all bases in Syria.

Russia lost its key ally Basharul Assad in Syria

Hence, it is also one of the losers.

IV Conclusion

There are various countries who have benefited the war. The U.S. and Israel are among the top. On the other, Iran, Palestine and Russia are among the losers, who have lost some control. However, as the adage goes,

“In war there is no winner.”

Question # 02

I. Introduction

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) is a coalition of northern Syria-based Sunni Islamist insurgent groups. The HTS toppled down the Bashar-ul-Asads government with the support of many external powers. The reasons for this unprecedented change are numerous. It includes the key ally of Bashar-ul-Asad were engaged in their own wars. Moreover, the U.S. support to the rebelous group. However, this change leads to severe implications.

II. The Reasons for Unprecedented Change in Syria:

The important reasons are outlined below:

- i. Russia's engagement in war against Ukrain

Russia is one of the key ally of Basharul Asad regime. Due to its engagement in war against Ukrain, it was did not supported the regime of Asad. The Russia could not played its role to resist rebel groups.

“Russia cannot engage itself in two way war.”

- Anchor Mahdi Hassan

Hence, this is one of the utmost reasons.

ii. Iran's war engagement with Israel in Iraq, and Leibnon,

It is also one of the reasons that Iran could not succeeded to resist rebellious groups in Syria. The HTS

easily captured the Damascus within few days.

iii. Greater Sunni Population in Syria

This is one of the reasons that led this ouster. The for long civil war in Syria between Sunni and Shia groups also played the role.

- Almost 65-70% of the total population is Sunni

- Basharul Assad is from Alawi sect of Shia

Hence, this also one of the reasons that usually cause civil war in Syria.

III. Implications of this Unprecedented Change

The important implications are described below:

i. The continuation of Civil between Sunni and Shia groups

This change will continue civil war in Syria. It is because these two different sects are supported by external powers.

- Iran Support Shia Group

- KSA, U.S. Support Sunni groups.

Therefore, the current group will face resistant from Shia population.

ii. Emergence of new terrorist groups in Syria

This unprecedented change can lead to the new terrorist groups.

For example,

ISKP reinvigorated in Afghanistan after Taliban Regime Take-over.

Hence, this exemplify the emergence of new groups.

iii. Instability in the middle east

This change can cause instability in the middle-east in the longer run. New powers will emerge in the country for their vested interests.

IV Conclusion

The unprecedented change in the Syria is based on various reasons. Many external powers support this sunni group. However, it will lead severe socio-political and economic implications not only in the Syria but also in the middle east region.

(Q#6)

I. Introduction

The Conference of Parties (COP-29) was held this year in Baku, Azerbaijan on 24 November 2024. In this conference, there were various significant commitments yielded. From Climate Finance to the Carbon Trading. On the other, Critiques also appreciate its some failures. It includes insufficient climate finance and lack of focus on transportation decarbonization among others.

I. Commitments of COP-29 Summit:

The significant commitments are described below:

i. Climate Finance

The Climate finance was one of the key commitments of the COP-29. The developed countries pledged to contribute greater financial support.

“\$300bn annually by 2035”

This is committed by the developed nations for developing nations.

ii. Carbon Trading

After decades of negotiations, finally COP-29 finalized agreement.

Under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

This establish rule for country to country trading

iii. Sectoral Initiatives

This was also one of the important commitments - The Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge was introduced in this Summit.

III. The failures of the Cop29 Summit!

The important failures are described below!

i. Insufficient Climate finance

The developing countries are not happy with this finance.

“Annually 3.1 trillion \$
Spended on weapons
globally”

- Zaid Hussain

Therefore, the developing
require more money
on Climate.

ii. Lack of focus on Transportation Decarbonization

The developed
argued that why
there is less focus
on the Transport
Carbon emission.

There is major
chunk of Carbon
emission by
Transportation

- EU

Therefore, there is
dire need to consider
this

IV. Conclusion:

The Cop-29 has
various significant commitments
as well as failures.
