

Part - II

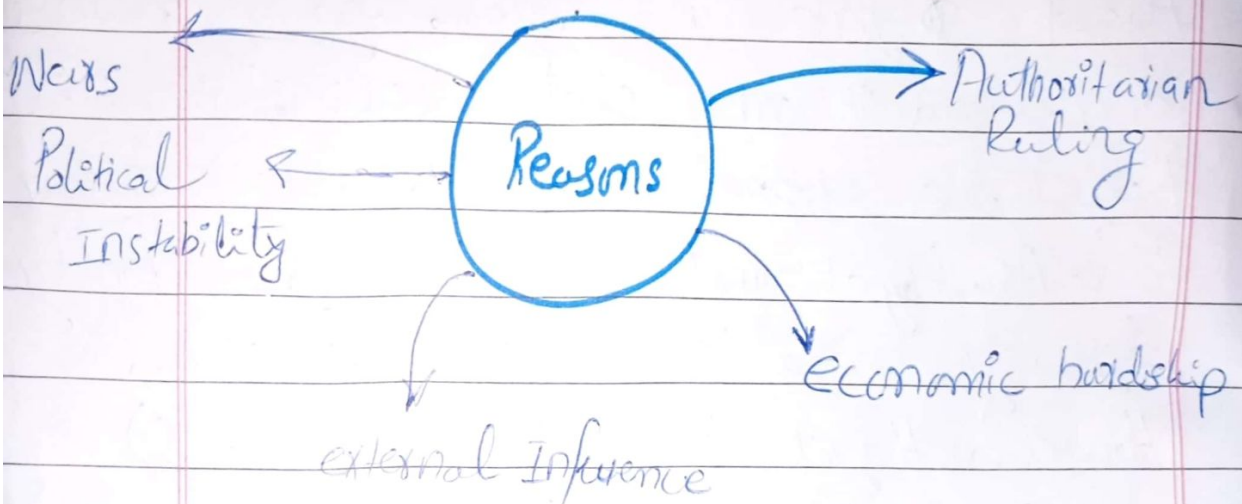
Q. NO: 2

i). Introduction

The HTS Islamist rebels have toppled down the Bashar-ul-Asad regime in Syria. Syrian rebels announced it on state television that they have ~~top~~ ousted President Bashar ul-Asad by eliminating a 50-years family dynasty in a lightning offensive. However, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) is the most powerful groups that exist in Syria. It was formerly an ally of Al-Qaeda. However, there are several reasons ~~behind~~ behind this unprecedented change in Syria, including authoritarian ruling, economic hardships, external influence, war and political instability. While the consequences of this regime change were far reaching, including setbacks to

Russia and Iran, instability in Arab regions, strategic gains for US and Israel, winning position for Turkey and uneasiness in transition. In short, Syrian regime change has brought multiple consequences.

Reasons behind Regime Change in Syria



i). Authoritarian Ruling

There were several reasons behind this regime change in Syria. One the leading reason was the authoritarian ruling of Assad and his father. Under Assad's ruling, Syria was marked by authoritarian governance. The regime

was totally against freedom of speech, political movement, and right to share information. According to a report published by Washington Institute for Near East Policy, the dictatorial attitude and rigidity left Assad with scant support that eventually led toward the regime change. Moreover, his father was also a brutal dictator. He ruled Syria from 1971 until his death in 2000, which is 30 years in power. However, after his death, Assad was thrown as the ultimate ruler of Syria. He ruled Syria for more than 20 years. During this period, he had done many types of injustice and brutalities. According to a BBC report, there were several hundred of people jailed in the underground prisons. Therefore, these brutalities forced the Syrian rebels to take control of the state by throwing Assad's 20-year ruling.

ii) Economic Hardships

Another Reason

behind the change of regime in Syria was the economic hardship being faced by the country. Syria's economy suffered from chronic mismanagement, corruption, and lack of diversification, leading to widespread poverty and unemployment.

It was mainly because the wealth was in the hands of few authoritarians, which exacerbated economic inequalities and social issues. According to a report published by International Rescue Committee, over 85% of the Syrian are in debt, and more than 90% of the individual are unable to

repay. Moreover, a ~~UNICEF~~ United Nations International Children Emergency Fund report shows that 85% of Syrian families struggle to make ends meet. Resultantly, it brought the passion of taking the country out of the economic hardship by a regime change.

iii) External Influence

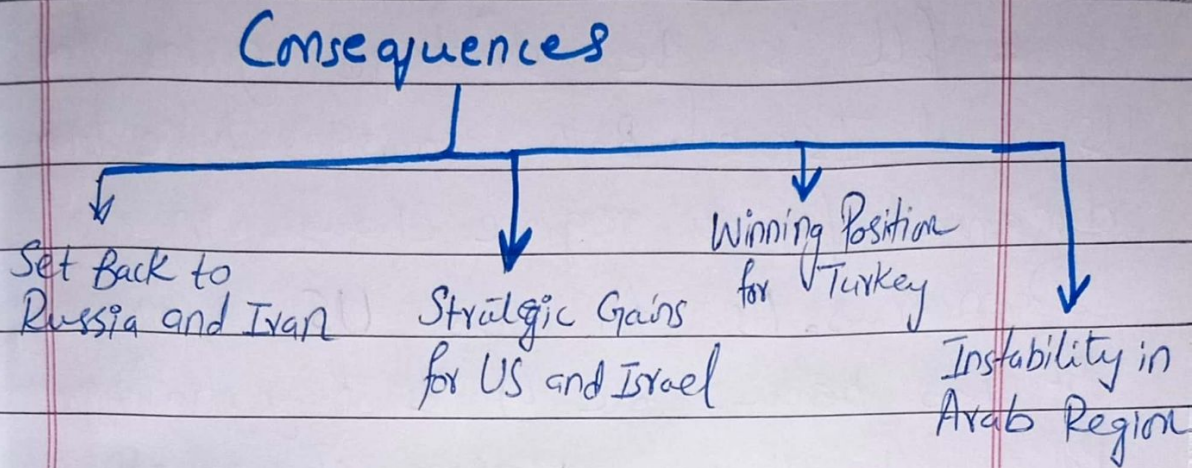
Another major reason behind the regime change in Syria was the growing external influence of regional and out-of-regional countries. One of the glaring example was the growing influence of Iran in Syrian matters. Iran was the most leading partner of Assad's regime. On the other hand, Russia's growing presence was another critical factor. Russia also support Assad authoritarian government. Therefore, it forced the rebels to take control of the matter of the state.

iv) Wars and Political Instability

Lastly, Syrian was and everlasting political instability also ~~had~~ played a role in the regime change. Syria has been under the influence of wars since long. For instance, ~~the~~ ~~2011~~ ~~Syrian~~ 2011 Syrian civil war is a

example. A civil war erupted in Syria against the authoritarian practices of the Assad regime. However, Syrian government used violence to suppress the war, eventually that led to a full fledged ~~not~~ war. Since then the government was facing the challenge of ~~a~~ independent militias, which eventually led to the collapse of Assad regime. Moreover, political instability also played a role in the collapse of Assad's regime. Assad and his relatives had not allowed any form of political activity to be carried out by the opposing parties. Therefore, it opened the doors of forced takeover of the country.

Consequences of Syrian Regime Change



i) Setbacks to Russia and Iran

One of the leading consequence of the regime change is the massive setbacks to Russia and Iran. Both Russia and Iran lost a key ally at the heart of the region. Both countries had for long militarily backing the Assad regime in fighting the war against rebellions. However, the collapse of Assad ruling means that the Russia has lost a close ally in Arab world. Whereas a central pillar of Iran's 'Axis of Resistance' is also fallen. While Tehran may emerge as the biggest ruler in the region.

ii) Strategic Gains for US and Israel

Another implication of the Assad regime fall is the strategic gains for US and Israel. Both countries have long dreamed for a regime change in Damascus. As for us US is concerned it has been one of its key strategic policy to bring a regime change in Damascus. However, Israel has been more happy to see the fall of Assad's regime because ~~the~~ ^{Tyran} ~~the~~ has lost a key ally. ~~and the~~ Israel has taken the benefit of the collapse by seizing territories of Syria. For instance, Israel occupied Golan's Heights, tearing up the 1974 agreement between the two countries. Moreover, Israel has continued air strikes on military bases in Syria. Therefore, it can be stated that the collapse of Assad's regime brought significant for United States and Israel.

ii). Winning Position for Turkey:

Another major implication was the winning position for Turkey, Turkiye, and especially Erdoğan, appear to be the immediate winners. Turkey has an influence over Kurdish region of Syria, and it may be a possibility of HTS. It is possibly expected that Turkey may influence the future course of the politics in Syria. Moreover, it also has a military presence in Syrian territory. Therefore, ~~Syria~~ Syrian regime change brought a winning position for Turkey.

iv). Instability in Arab Region

Lastly, regime change brought an instability in Arab region. The pace of events has stunned Arab capitals and raised fears of a new wave of regional instability. Middle Eastern countries specially Saudi Arabia and Dubai. Therefore, the instability resulted in Arab region.

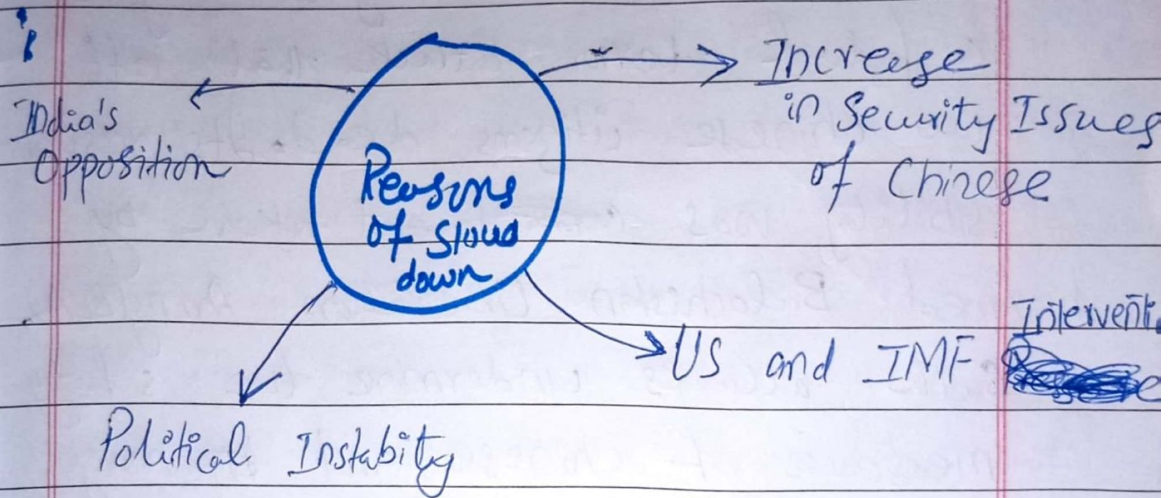
Q. No: 08

i). Introduction

There are several reasons behind the slowdown of the CPEC projects. Nevertheless, these reasons can be overcome by effective policies. China Pakistan Economic Corridor is an economic and development initiative between Pakistan and China. This project aims to develop Pakistan's infrastructure, energy and IT sector. It was inaugurated on April 20, 2015, when Chinese President Xi-Jinping and Pakistan's PM Nawaz Sharif signed the agreement. It was a \$62 billion ~~to~~ project which was projected to create 2.3 million jobs between 2015 and 2030. However, the work of the project, has significantly ~~been~~ declined due to several reasons that include rising security issues, United States and IMF ~~pressures~~, political instability.

and India's opposition. Despite these challenges, ~~But effective collaboration~~ ~~between the two~~ effective solution can re-invigorate the project.

Reasons Behind Slowdown of CPEC Project



i). Rise in Security Issues of Chinese

One of the leading reason behind the slowdown of CPEC project is the increase in security issues of Chinese citizens. Chinese workers and engineers have been the target of the terrorist outfits since the beginning of CPEC project. However, given the strategic importance of Pakistan-China

relations, such attacks present a rising threat to CPEC project. For instance, only days before the arrival of Chinese premier Li-Qiang in Islamabad for the inauguration of CPEC-II projects, Chinese workers in Karachi were targeted by a fatal terror attack that left two Chinese citizens dead. Its responsibility was ~~casted~~ and taken by banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA). Such attacks undermine the safety measures of Chinese, and ~~the~~ may lead toward a significant delay in ~~the~~ normal working of the projects.

ii. United States and IMF Pressure

Another reason behind the slowdown of CPEC projects is the intervention of United States and IMF in Pakistan's internal economic matters with China. United States of America has been directly involved in defaming and interfering

of CPEC projects. It has called ~~the~~ CPEC phase 1 and 2 as debt traps of China. It has also tried to present rival plans for CPEC and BRI such as B3W, Global Gateway and India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. However, all these projects failed to compete with Chinese projects. While ^{US} ~~the~~ main aim was to degrade CPEC projects and to put pressure on Pakistan. Moreover International Monetary Fund has also taken a critical instance on CPEC projects. This institution has multiple time stated that Chinese loans in the form of CPEC projects threaten Pakistan's debt sustainability. ~~Therefore~~ It has also pressurized Pakistan to phase out any type of incentive to the special economic zones (SEZs) in the second phase of CPEC.

iii) Political Instability

CPEC projects may be hampered by lack of political

Day: _____
Party works for its own interest, but
not for the country. ~~However~~ ^{In turn,} it
challenges the CPEC projects. For instance,
some sub-nationalist political parties
have expressed strong opposition to
the CPEC, claiming that the projects
of CPEC only benefit Pakistan's Eastern
provinces. In the same way, confrontation
politics also hampers countries' progress
and stability by leading toward a
decline in the phase of CPEC
projects. Therefore, it can be stated that
CPEC projects may face a decline due
to the political instability in the country.

iv). India's Opposition and Involvement

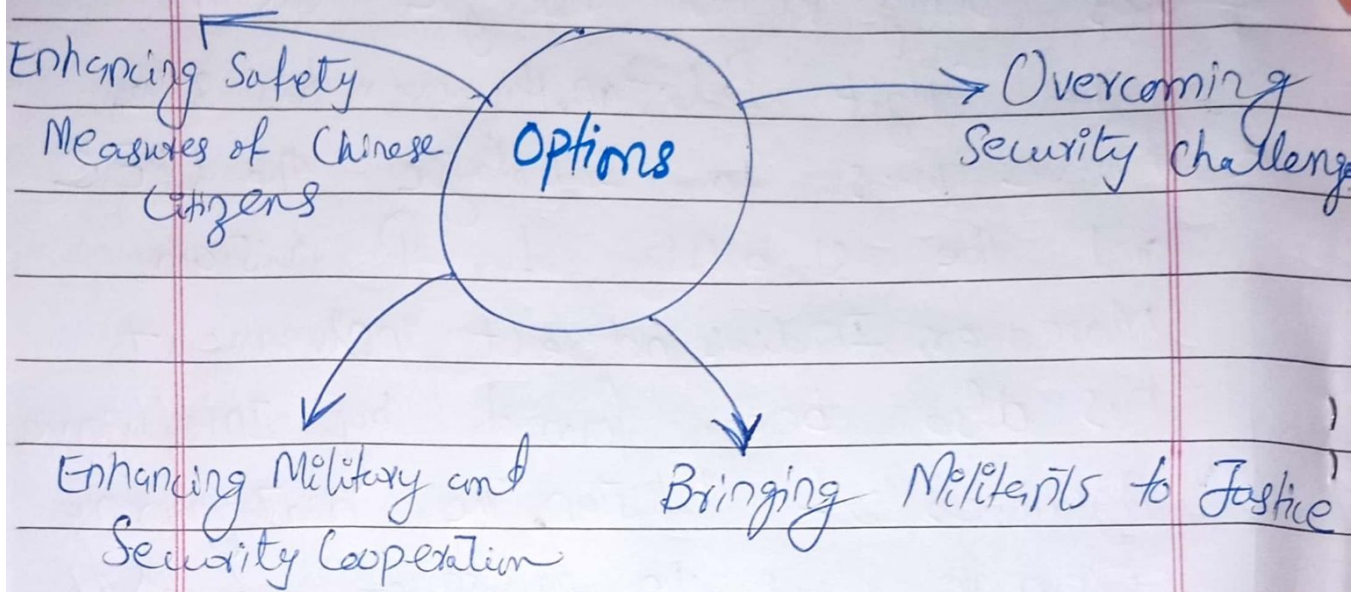
Lastly, India's growing opposition and ^{involvement} is also leading toward a decline in the working of CPEC projects. India has ~~been~~ always been involved in sabotaging peace and stability of ~~the~~ Pakistan. India has also questioned CPEC and its projects.

~~For ins~~

For instance, in September 2015, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited China to register his protest against CPEC. During his visit, he justified his protest by adding that CPEC was being routed through Kashmir and Gilgit Balistan. However, his sole motive was to sabotage the CPEC and the stability of Pakistan. Moreover, India's indirect involvement has also been found by Intelligence Agencies of Pakistan. The most glaring example was the presence of Kabboshan Yadav, in Balochistan province. Likewise, India still fund different terror organization to carry out attacks on Chinese workers and ~~and~~ CPEC projects. In short, ~~the~~ India opposition and involvement also pose a challenge to CPEC and its projects.

~~Options to EPEC~~

Options for the Re-invigoration of Projects and making the Phase II a tangible Reality



1) Overcoming Security Challenges posed by Chinese

One of the most viable option available for the reinvigoration of EPEC phase II project, is to overcome the security challenges being faced by Chinese workers and engineers. Pakistan's security apparatus has to address security challenges by ensuring the safety of Chinese workers and engineers. However, it can only be

Possible ~~with~~ when both sides work together. According to Chinese Premier Liu Qiang, as soon as security condition improves and firm steps are taken toward full proof security of its citizens, fresh investment can be expected. It shows that Chinese are more concerned with ~~the~~ regarding the ~~and~~ security of their citizens. Therefore, the security challenges should be addressed in order to utilize the benefits of CPEC phase - two.

ii). Bringing Militants to Justice

Another option for the refreshing of CPEC phase - 2 is the demand of bringing militants to justice. The militants involved in terror attacks against Chinese interest should be punished strictly and must be sentenced for life time. However, judiciary role is also important in this matter. Independent judiciary should play their role by sentencing the

perpetrators
~~perpetrators~~ and militants. ~~Restitutions,~~

It will help to boost Chinese investment, and will normalize the working conditions for the CPEC projects. For instance, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has insisted on Pakistan government to bring the perpetrators to justice. In short, Pakistan government and judiciary must work together to bring militants involved in terrorist attacks against Chinese into justice.

iii) Enhancing Military and Intelligence Cooperation

Moreover, ~~and~~ enhancing of military and security cooperation with China help to minimize the challenges faced by CPEC projects. Both countries must work together to enhance military and intelligence cooperation. For instance, ~~the~~ the intelligence agency of China, which is Ministry of State Security (MSS), and Pakistan intelligence agency such as Inter-Services

Intelligence, must collaborate and share intelligence to eliminate any type of terror attack against Chinese workers and engineers.

iv) Enhancing Safety Measures

Lastly, enhancing of safety measures of Chinese workers ~~is~~ is another option that helps to re-invigorate CPEC phase 2 and its projects. The Chinese citizens should be given full proof security. They must be considered as VIPs. Moreover, these movements should be ~~strictly~~ be done under ^{strict} standard operating procedures (SOPs). They also should be provided bullet proof vehicles. For instance, the Punjab Government approved for 37 bullet proof vehicles for the security of Chinese citizen in May, 2024. This number should be enhanced and every ~~citizen~~ Chinese engineer working on CPEC project should be increased.