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Name: Akeera Arim

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Subject: Current Affairs

Add flow charts

And maps

Q.8. Critically evaluate the reasons for the slowing down of the CPEC projects. What options would you recommend to Beijing and Islamabad to reinvigorate the project and make Phase-II a tangible reality?

Ans.8. In the year 2013, a project by the name CPEC - China Pakistan Economic Corridor - was signed between Pakistan and China. With this, the two neighbouring allies marked the onset of many economic and infrastructural developments, as well as employment opportunities for the people living in both the countries, specially Pakistan.

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The entire CPEC project was divided into three phases:

- **Phase I:**

Since CPEC is a flagship project of BRI - Belt and Road Initiative - a part of it was connected to the latter's agendas as well. BRI's objective was to connect Beijing to: Central Asia, South Asia, Eurasia, Middle-East and ASEAN Countries, via six different legs/routes. Phase I of CPEC facilitated the route of BRI that passed through Kashgar, then Gwadar and connected it to Beijing.

- **Phase II:**

This was all about industrialization. The formation of new and plenty of industries, specially near Gwadar, all by the year 2025.

- **Phase III:**

The phase III of CPEC constituted of the "final touches". It was

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about finishing the final few projects: SGG fibre optics, railway lines, two internal airports near Gwadar. Lot of collective effort in order to modernize Gwadar in every way possible.

## REASONS FOR THE SLOWING DOWN OF CPEC:

It is no news that Pakistan is currently at the receiving end of many crises. From insurgency, to riots in Balochistan, political instability and extreme terrorism, the country has got its hands full with chaos to deal with. That, as a whole, has impacted the country's social cohesion, peace, security and sanctity. The aforementioned reasons are discussed in detail below:

### a. Political Instability:

Since the elections in Feb, 2024, the

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Law and order of Pakistan has been shackled. Political riots, and debates, unorganized legal and justice system and a continuous fight for dominance has led to a severe social unrest within the country. It has also caused economic crisis.

b. Balochistan crisis:

The province is being targeted by extremist groups and is at the forefront of different organizations and groups, all fighting for power. The crisis has led to a lot of bloodshed, forced disappearances and manipulation of the people living there, and has put the entire state at unease.

c. Prevalence of terrorism:

Since the onset of Taliban government in Afghanistan, extremism and terrorist attacks are at a rise again in Pakistan. As a response, Pakistan sent back thousands of Afghan

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refugees and displaced them. The blood-spilling is at such a high in Pakistan that in 2024 alone, it has experienced over 2400 terrorist attacks, mainly in areas of NWFP, KP and Balochistan.

d. No national security:

Pakistan's security is at stake in the wake of such events. In October this year, two Chinese immigrants were killed in Karachi (Dawn), which raises concerns for the security of the Chinese people here.

e. Compromised image internationally:

Due to the consistent political unrest, security challenges, onset of terrorist attacks, etc, Pakistan's image has been compromised a lot internationally. The drawbacks of such situations is also this that regional cooperation of the state with other states is

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halted, trade is impacted, countries decline from engaging in partnerships due to the economic crisis of the country, etc.

Hence, these all reasons collectively played a role in slowing down the CPEC projects.

### • WAYS TO REINVIGORATE THE PROJECT :

1. Pakistan should engage in more trade with Afghanistan — the excessive interdependence of them on each other will create the by-product of "security" for both the countries, specially Pakistan.
2. Counter-terrorism mechanisms must be developed to cope with the unrest in various districts of the targeted provinces.
3. Peace treaty or peace talks between the country and the

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extremist groups / organizations  
creating a havoc within the  
state.

4. And lastly, possible measures to  
sustain the peace and harmony  
within the country must be  
taken, in order to build  
a sense of security, safety  
and stability.

Write conclusion

All these measures hold  
the capacity to pull Pakistan  
out of its tortuous loop of agony,  
despair and constant unrest. It  
will also diminish the major  
hurdles in the path of the  
ongoing projects of CPEC.

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Qno.7. Critically evaluate the beneficiaries  
and losers of the ongoing conflicts  
in the middle East?

Ans.

**MIDDLE - EAST CONFLICTS:**

The middle - East has been a  
war-zone since a few years.

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Initially, the conflict between Iran and 'USA'-backed-Saudia was hegemony in the middle-East had the entire region at unrest. The conflict was primarily on the basis of different belief systems and ideologies, which later transformed into a battle for dominance in the region.

Recently, following the fall of the Bashar-al-Assad regime in Syria, Israel has entered the race and begun occupying area of the country. Israel, backed by USA with the largest supply of weaponry and destructive materials, is now facing a conflict with not just Syria, but also Iran, the Houthis in Yemen and Hezbollah from Lebanon. I

Iran's foreign policy is to be at service of any Muslim country which is at unrest. Hezbollah,

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Houthies from Yemen, etc, are all are organizations famous for openly facilitating Iran with its agendas and military motives. Thus, when Iran jumped in to facilitate Syria, the rest followed.

## • CURRENT SCENARIO OF THE CONFLICTS:

### • Israel and Syria:

Following the overthrow of the Assad regime, the new interim prime minister of Syria Abu Muhammad al-Jolani from the HTS Islamist group. The Islamist rebel belongs to an extremist party, backed with US support. Israel's agenda to occupy areas of Syria is very much possible due to its strong military force and assistance. The Syrian

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youth is trying to counter-attack  
but a country, amidst struggling  
economy and crippling stability,  
can only do so far.

### • Israel and Iran:

In support to Syrians, Iran  
entered the conflict against  
Syria and launched a  
mission to fire full-scale missiles  
at Israel. Israel responded  
with a counter-attack, and  
the two axes exchanged air  
strikes.

### • Israel and Hezbollah:

Hezbollah, from Lebanon, fired  
at Israel, in support to  
Syria in this war, as well  
as Iran. Israelites, with their  
massive army, counter-  
attacked and seized many  
areas in Lebanon and  
occupied them.

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- **Israel and Yemen:**

Lastly, the Houthis from Yemen, who stood up to stand by Iran during its conflict with KSA, entered the full-scale war. But its although effective, but small army, could not evaluate and fight with the magnitude of the enemy's army.

- **BENEFICIARIES AND THE LOSERS OF THE WAR:**

- **BENEFICIARIES:**

1. The biggest beneficiary of the war is Israel itself. It has a big army and has a strong military assistance by USA, one of the leading world powers. It is fairly easy for Israel to win the conflict. And so far, it can be seen having the upperhand in the middle-

Eastern crisis.

2. The second biggest beneficiary is United States itself. Its long-sought quest to gain hegemony and power in the middle-East will be fulfilled if Israel manages to ~~colonize~~ the countries in war and capture their territories.

#### • LOSERS :

So far, the losers are the parties fighting back i.e Iran, Lebanon, Yemen.

Not do they just lack the collective strength to match Israel's level, but they also lag behind in the magnitude and strength of their respective armies. They can be seen losing their territory in the conflict, which is certainly

giving Israel the upperhand in this situation.

Hence, it can be seen that although the conflict is ongoing, the side which is worse-off is clearly suffering more than its rival. But

one must not ignore the fact that although Israel is ahead as of now, such wins have definitely come at the stake of them losing international ties from many, blamed for the most bloodshed in the history of the world, and isolated.

Israel is deprived of social cohesion and one must not neglect how that is a loss for this Jewish state as well. To bear the fruits of success, one must sacrifice.

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Q no. 4 Russia and China growing economic, strategic and geo-political collaboration is an effort to potentially challenge the US led world order. Discuss.

Ans. Today, multipolarity is a well-known concept. It mainly

refers to the concentration of power in the hands of leading world powers - like USA, Japan, China, Russia and UK. A close alliance with these countries would benefit just any country, and facilitate it in growing in various dimensions; be that economically, politically, militarily, and geo-politically. Amongst these, China - USA - Japan - Russia have persistently fought for dominance. So far, the "World Order" race is won by the United States, closely

Length should be 5 to 6 pages  
Add maps and flow charts

followed by China.

At one end, Japan has grown a close ally of America. On the other end, Russia and China have initiated collaborations in various economic, strategic and geo-political dimensions.

## • RUSSIA - CHINA'S GROWING COLLABORATIONS:

### 1. ECONOMICALLY:

Russia has recently engaged with China in its ongoing projects.

#### • CPEC:

CPEC is China's flagship project of BRI. Its main focus is on the utilization of the Gwadar port in Pakistan for economic and trade purposes. Now Russia is a part of this

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initiative as well.

• BRI :

"Belt and Road Initiative" of China is a project to connect Beijing with Eurasia, Central Asia, South Asia, Middle East and ASEAN Countries.

BRI has 6 legs, and one of them connects Beijing to Moscow, the capital of Russia.

These collaborations will open new ways of trade and partnerships between the two countries.

2. **GEO - POLITICALLY:**

Being engaged with similar projects, the two major leading world powers will engage in trade, providing employment and various other infrastructural opportunities.

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• Military Alliance:

Russia has a powerful army and weapon supply which can also benefit China.

• Resources of Oil and Gas:

Russia has one of the biggest reserves of natural resources like oil and gas. This will be an additional advantage to China.

All these will hence collectively strengthen their bond. It will also tend to their intention to form a powerful alliance in response to US, in order to challenge the states and its power.

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