

## PART - II

Q no 2

The HTS Islamist rebels have toppled down Bashar al Assad regime in Syria. Critically evaluate the reasons and implications of the unprecedented change in Syria.

### Introduction:

Syria is an important country in the middle east that is ruled by Assad family since 1970. Hafiz-al-Asad ruled the country from 1970 till 2000, from 2000 to 2024, it was ruled by his son Bashar-al-Asad. In the last week of November a rebel group HTS Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham lead by Abu-Mohammed al-Julani capture the Aleppo city of Syria. The attacks were continued till they capture the whole country and take control of Damascus.

## Reasons for the fall of Al-Assad Regime:

Syria was bunning  
in the civil war since 2011.

Asad govt. was a shia govt and ruled the sunni dominate country with the support of Russia and Iran. After the cut of support from these countries along with other reasons result in the fall of regime. Following are the reasons for this regime change.

### 1) Deficiency of financial support and use of outdated weapons:

As Syria was in war since 2011, Asad government spent alot of money on his army. Now, with passage of time the army become weak, the government could not provide funds for this army. Secondly, the weapons were outdated. Due to deficiency of funds, they were unable to upgrade their technology.



They were using Mig 29 fighter jets and other outdated helicopters.

## 2. Russian Support was stopped:

Russia was the country providing financial and military support to Assad government from a long time. As by now Russia is also stuck in the war with Ukraine. The Russian military was engaged there and cannot provide military support to Assad government.

Secondly, Russia is also facing economic crisis. The US has frozen 600 billion dollars of Russian accounts, therefore, could not provide support to Assad government.

## 3. Support from Iran also become Weaken:

Iran, like Russia also providing support to al-Assad government. Iran was the strategic partner of Assad government. But,



Iran is now also struck in its own crisis with Israel.

Iran and Israel were having multiple attacks on each other.

Due to their own tension, Iran support to Assad government was also become weaker, which ultimately result in fall of government.

#### 4) HTS got opportunity:

HTS got the required support from US, Israel and Turkey, yet no country accept the support for HTS.

But all these countries were the beneficiaries of HTS rise.

Turkey was attacked multiple times by a sister group of Kurds SDF called PKK lands. They want to take their revenge. US and Israel were also beneficiaries because as a result of Assad fall the effect was also on Moscow and Tehran that indirectly benefit the US and Israel.

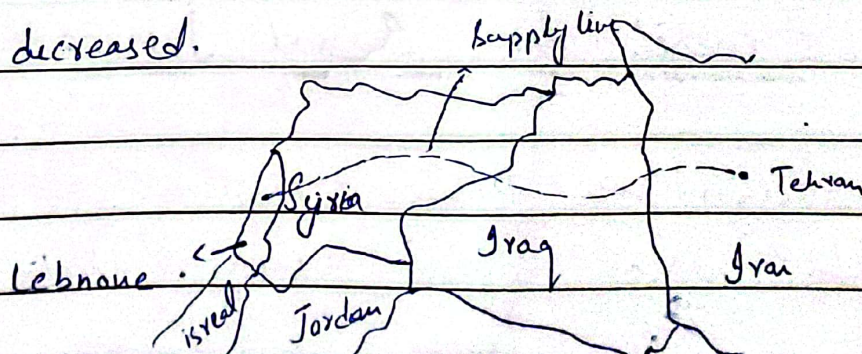


All these reasons result in the change of regime in Damascus.

## Implications of Regime Change:

### 1) Set back for Iran:

Asad government was the strategic ally of Iran. Iran has direct approach to the middle east through Syria. Israel was a common enemy for both Iran and Asad. Iran support Hezbollah against the Israel. They provide weapons through Syria to Hezbollah in Lebanon. This supply chain was from Iran - Iraq - Syria - Lebanon, but, now due to regime change the supply line break. As a result the Iran approach to the middle east was also decreased.





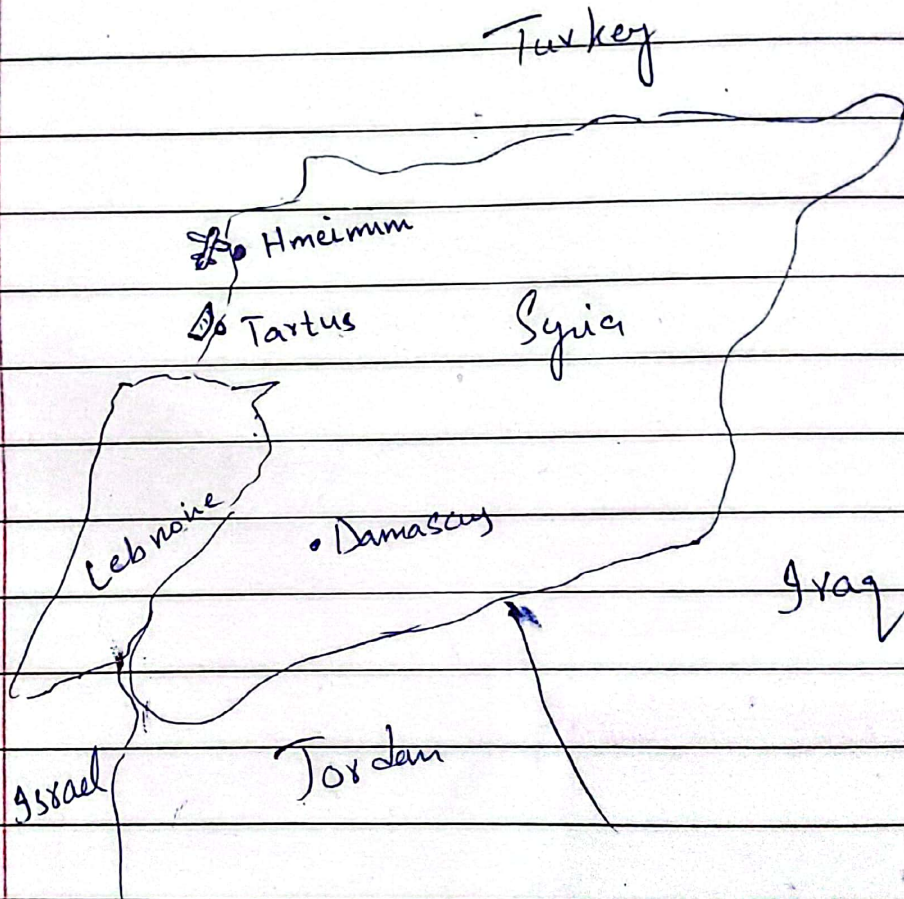
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## 2) Russia has lost a strategic

Ally:

Russia was the strategic ally of Assad govt. They had air base in Hmeimim and ~~air~~ <sup>Naval</sup> base in Tartus.

After fall of Assad government Russia vacate their air base and will soon vacate their naval base in future.



## 3) Benefit for US and Israel:

The reduction of Russian military in the region will benefit USA.



Secondly, Iran supply to Hizbullah was cut off, which was a threat to Israel. Therefore, Israel is also benefited with this regime change.

#### 4 Golan Heights:

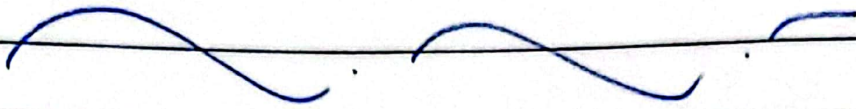
Israel capture the famous Golan heights from Syria. They had an agreement with old Syrian government, but with change in regime, they break the agreement stated that "it was with old Syria". These heights are strategically very important for Israel, therefore; it is also called radar height because it give clear view of whole middle region.

#### Conclusion:

The Fall of Assad government or the rise of HTS change the demograph of middle east. Russia and Iran lost their strategic partner. Russia vocale their.



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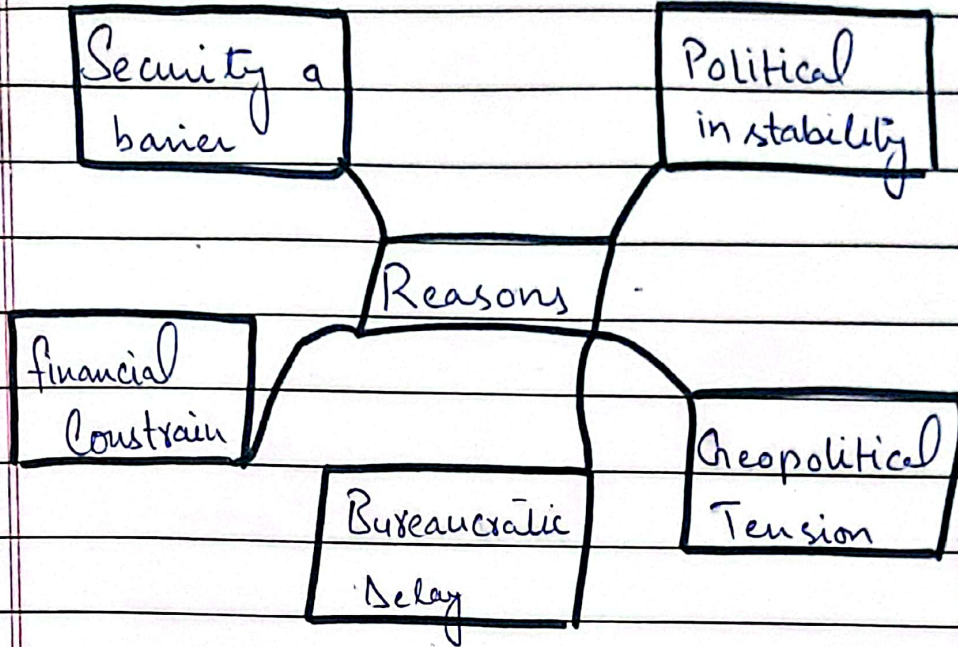
Q No 8

### Introduction:

China Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC) is flagship project of China's belt and road initiative (BRI), aiming to connect China with middle east, Europe through Pakistan. It was started in 2015 with multiple steps/phases. It 1st was completed in 2020. The 2nd phase was expected to completed in 2025. But, the project has slowed down in recent years due to various reasons.



## Reasons for Slowdown of the project:



## Political Instability of the Country:

Pakistan is experiencing continued political crisis since 2022. As an external investor China is worried about the political instability because of the risk of unrest and violence that may pose a threat to its national and interest in Pakistan. The enduring turbulence in political structure of Pakistan is critically important for bringing



Policy makers.

## Security threats to Chinese workers:

China is more concerned about security threats to BRI projects, which could jeopardise new investment and completion of projects. Chinese workers were also attacked many times in Pakistan.

In one of most recent attacks on Chinese engineer was stop by Pakistan military.

In 2021, nine Chinese workers were killed in a bomb attack on a bus in northern area of Pakistan.

## Geopolitical tension:

The resurgence of Pakistani Taliban (TTP) and Islamic state of Khorasan (IS-K) attacks in Balochistan is very concerning. The regional tension particularly between Pakistan and

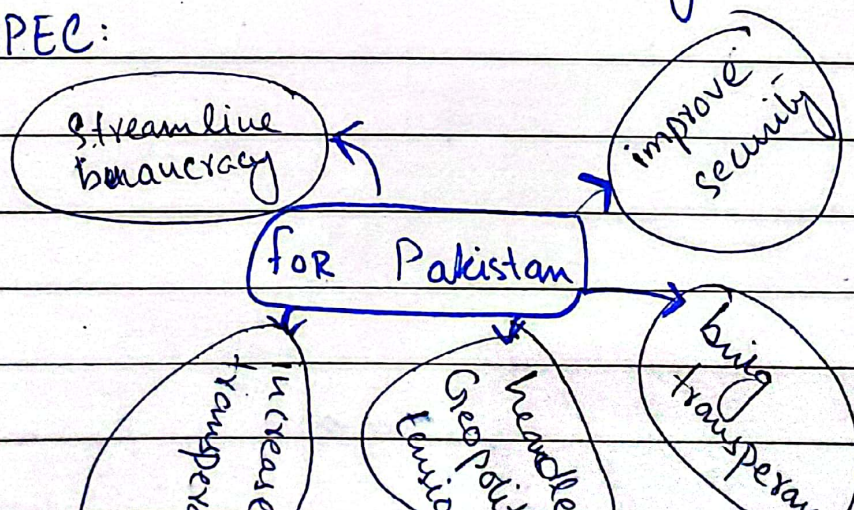


India have affected the corridor's viability. The tension from "white house" is also playing an interfering role in the projects.

## Financial Constraint:

The pandemic caused an economic slow-down that impacted financing and investment in CPEC project. One of the former head of CPEC in Pakistan has got a lot of money and built many offshore homes with his wife and brother name. Such incidents are back breakers for Chinese investors on the project.

## Recommendation to Re-invigorate CPEC:





For Beijing:

eliminate trust deficit.

Promote Peace

Beijing

Boost the finances

Insure security

