

(Current Affairs)
Test - 4

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QUESTION#02

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

Answer

INTRODUCTION :

As economy is the start and end of every sovereign state, so each nation state thrives for a self-sufficient and self-reliant economy. In this premise, CPEC is earmarked as flagship project of China's mega Belt and

Road Initiative BRI - CPEC is regarded as shared vision of prosperous future of Pakistan and China. CPEC is envisioned by China's President in 2013. However, its current trajectory portrays the nightmarish picture as the progress on CPEC projects has been slowed down. There are myriad of challenges including volatile security environment, political instability, lack of domestic consensus to name the few. However, dancing around the fire is not a solution.

The need of hour is to revitalize joint cooperation committee, provide safe and secure environment, ensure political stability, remove regional and global threats, eliminate tax and tariff barriers, and bring domestic consensus in order to re-invigorate the project and make CPEC phase-II a tangible reality.

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CPEC — An Overview:

China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a pilot project of China's BRI. It was envisioned in 2013 between China's President Xi Jinping and Pakistan's then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Under this project, total 51 agreements or MOUs were made worth of \$46bn, later raised to \$62bn. CPEC is aimed to socio-economic development, industrialization, agricultural modernization, tourism promotion and development of SEZs to attract FDI. The project aims to uplift the status of China's remote western region.

Five Corridors of CPEC

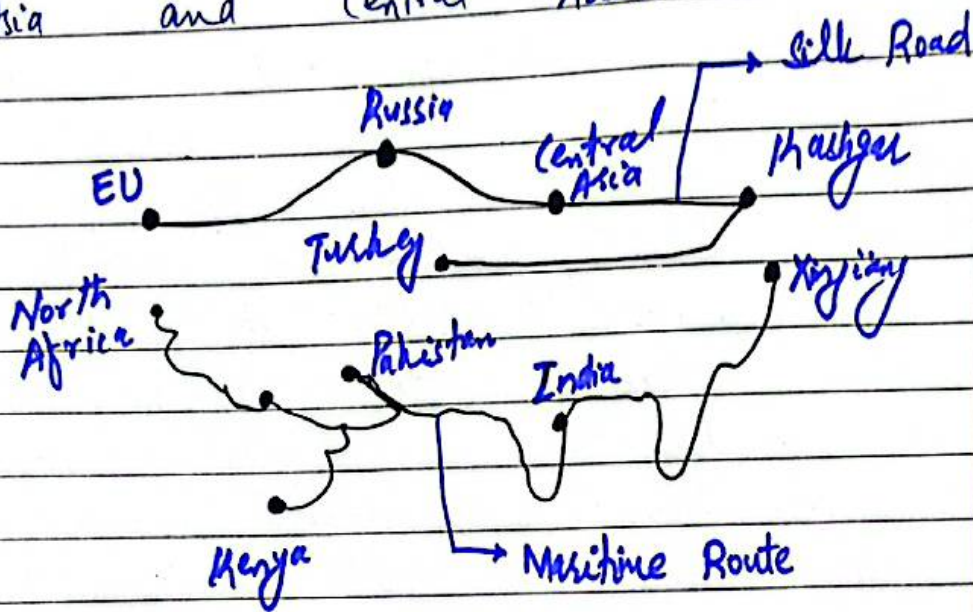
- 1- Corridor of Information
- 2- Corridor of Job Creation
- 3- Corridor of Green Energy
- 4- Corridor of Innovation
- 5- Corridor of Industrialization

Moreover, it supplies shortest route

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to China to import oil and gas from west. It also provides safest and shortest route to China to warm waters Indian Ocean. Nonetheless, it connects South Asia, West Asia and Central Asia.

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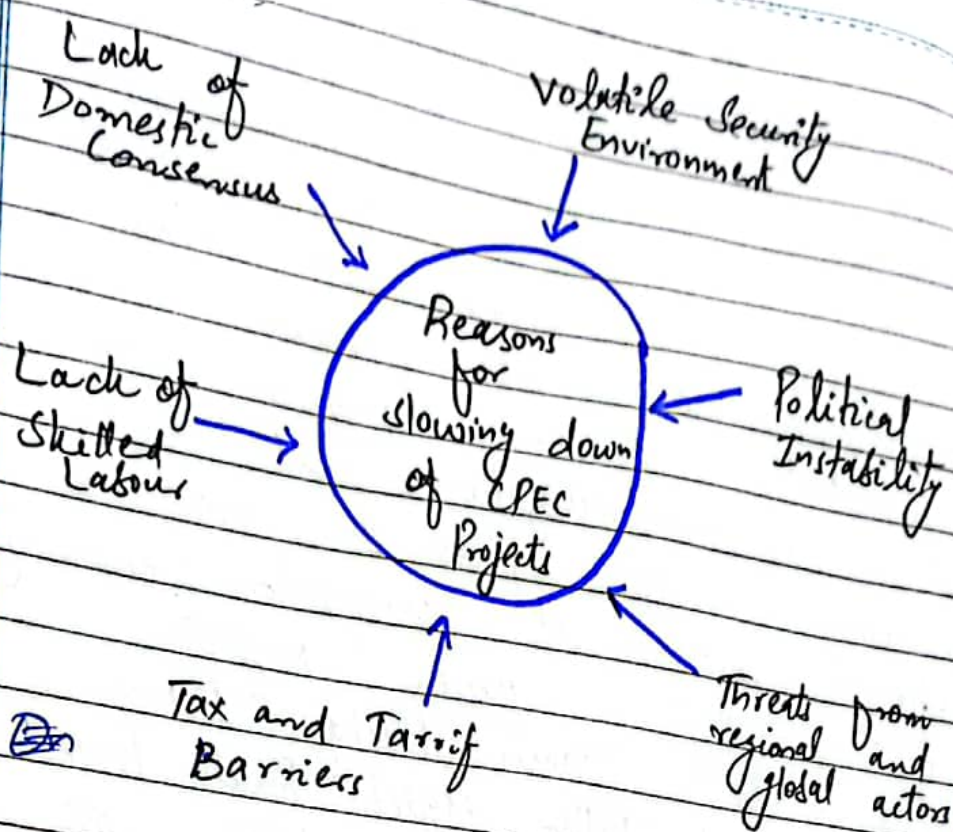


Key Bottlenecks in The Progress of CPEC Projects:

CPEC is a fusion of multiple developments across South Asia region. Woefully, there are umpteen of reasons for slowing down the pace of CPEC projects. First and foremost hurdle in way of

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CPEC is political schism. The growing political rifts and lack of domestic consensus is the stumbling block in the progress of CPEC projects. Some 22 energy projects under phase-I have been completed and 27 projects including IT sector, industrialization and blue economy under phase-II are in the process of completion. Lamentably, the hydel power projects such as Diamir Basha Dam and Azad Pattan Hydel Power Project have not been completed yet just due to non-consensus of Gilgit Baltistan. Similarly, the volatile security environment is another hindrance in the progress of CPEC projects. Dassu attack on Chinese labour illustrates the security dilemma of China's skilled labour. In the similar vein, tax and tariff barriers, lack of local skilled professionals and labours are the main reasons that CPEC projects have been slowed down.



On the same pattern, there is a regional and global threat to CPEC. Regionally India and globally USA are leaving no stone unturned to malign this magnanimous project. As USA's secretary of state warned Pakistan that no bailout package of IMF to Pakistan would be used to pay loan of CPEC.

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Prudent And Vigilant Measures

By China And Pakistan

To Reinvigorate CPEC And

its Phase-II A Tangible

Reality:

The slowing down of CPEC projects clamours for holistic measures in order to revitalize CPEC projects and to make its Phase-II a tangible reality. Following measures should be adopted by China and Pakistan to re-invigorate CPEC.

(2) Revitalize Joint Cooperation

Committee:

Joint Cooperation Committee is the highest forum of CPEC project - So,

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in order to brace
optimism and to mushroom
CPEC projects, Joint Cooperation
Committee should work
efficiently and effectively.
It is a constructive approach
that after an hiatus of
11 years, the conference
Joint Cooperation Committee of
has
been held.

(2) Provide Safe And Secure

Environment:

There is an ubiquitous paranoia
among Chinese labour
regarding safety and
security. There is a need
to ensure safety of
Chinese labour, so that pace
of CPEC projects can be
enhanced.

(3) Ensure Political Stability:

Pakistan needs to put a
pause on its political
rifts. CPEC demands all
stakeholders of Pakistan

and China to act unanimously and to gather at one platform. The need of hour is to remove distrust deficit of Balochistan and Gilgit Baltistan masses. Both regions are considered as heart of CPEC project.

(4) Avert Regional And Global

Threats:

As Pakistan has shifted its policy from geo-politics to geo-economics, so it needs to avert the regional and global threats to CPEC. Both India and USA are building a narrative of CPEC as China's project of debt diplomacy. Hence, both Pakistan and China need to join hands in order to meet this challenge and debunk this false narrative.

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(5) Provision of Local Skilled

Labour Force:

Pakistan needs to train locals and natives in order to produce a skilled workforce, so that progress of CPEC projects can be enhanced. CPEC will create 2.3mn jobs by the end of 2030.

Conclusion:

SP In a nutshell, CPEC is a magnanimous economic project to uplift China's remote regions and Pakistan's backward areas. This flagship project includes energy infrastructure, rail and maritime routes, tourism industry and agricultural sector. Lamentably, there are multifarious reasons that are blocking the progress of CPEC. Both China and Pakistan need to join hands in order to avert the cons and

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make
reality.

CPEC a tangible

Pak-China relations are
higher than mountains,
deeper than seas
and sweeter than
honey.

(PM Shehbaz Sharif)

QUESTION #03

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

Answer

INTRODUCTION:

The complex interplay of
geopolitics and ever-
evolving international relations

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landscape has witnessed
the growing Sino-Russia
bonhomie which is
posing a direct threat
to USA led world
order. Both nation states
have pledged a new-era
of partnership. Economically, Russia
and china are the
largest trade partners, Strategically
both sovereign states jockeying
their influence in order
to re-build world order
and politically, both communist
states wants to establish
communist-based world order.
This clearly elucidates that
Russia-china ties are
posing a challenge to
US based world order
and have aim to erode
USA hegemony.

Russia-China ties are
a large scale threat
to Europe and
Pacific nations.

(Antony Blinken)

Sino-Russia Liaison:

Great Threat to Global

Hegemone USA:

USA considers Sino-Russia relations
 as an elephant in
 the room and a
 ghost at USA-India's feast.
 The growing China-Russia
 ties aim to deter
 USA hegemony and to
 re-establish a new
 world order. Russian President
 Vladimir Putin visited China
 in 2024.

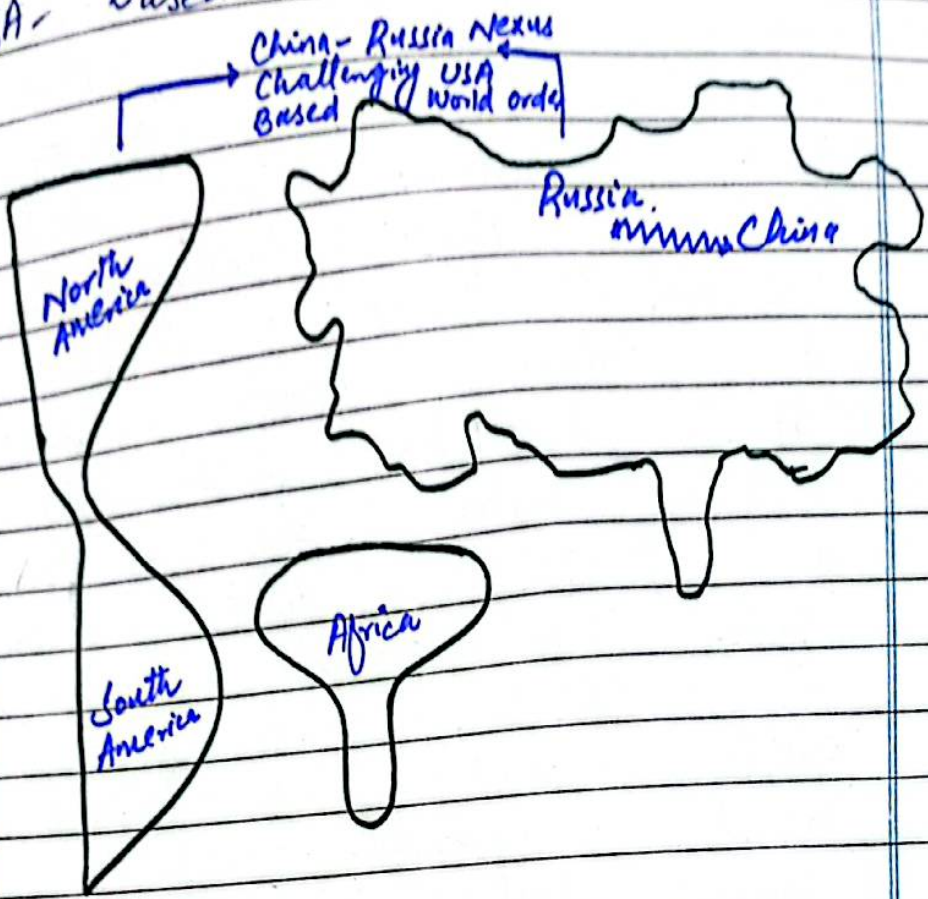
China and Russia
 relationship is growing
 having no limit.

(Xi-Jinping)

In every facet, both
 states are extending
 their hands in order
 to foster their links

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and USA-based to erode the world order.



(2) Russia-China Economic Ties

Eroding USA-Based World

Order:

As the world is shifting from vertical proliferation to horizontal connectedness, economy has gained a central stage

in international relations. Keeping it in view, both Russia and China have become trade partners. China is Russia's No.1 trading partner. Moreover, trade volume of last year stands at \$ 244 bn. Additionally, both states are members of BRICS - a giant economic bloc. Under the umbrella of BRICS, trade in Rubble and Yuan have gained momentum. Thus, it shows that Sino-Russia economic ties are a threat to Dollar-based world order.

(2) Sino-Russia Strategic

Relations Pose a Threat

To USA Based World

Orders:

Strategically, both states

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have grown their relations
in the face of
common enemy that is
USA - Sino - Russia bonhomie
goes with the maxim
that "The enemy of
my enemy is my
friend." Russia needs China
amid USA sanctions regarding
Ukraine war. This war
undermines sovereignty and
territorial integrity, the principal
hallmarks of existing world
order. Moreover, China's aspirations
to become global superpower needs
Russia. So, Sino-Russian nexus is
undermining US-based world order.

China-Russia joint military exercises
namely Live Fire Maritime Drills
in South China Sea and
Joint Long Range Patrols near
Alaska illustrate the strategic
relations of both states against
common adversary USA.

China-Russia Political Nexus

Undermining US Based World Order

On the political front,

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Russia and China share historical ties as both nation states are communist. They are flexing their muscles to spread communism across the globe. Both states are authoritarian in political nature. Russia and China are members of SCO which is a strategic and political regional bloc aims to counter USA superpower. Owing to these bloc politics and bilateral partnerships, USA based world order is in paraplegic situation.

Conclusion

Recapitulating the above data, it has been clearly elucidated that USA is now becoming a melting superpower and a lame duck amid rising multipolarity and Russia - China nexus. The growing Russia-china economic, strategic and political collaboration is posing a great challenge to rule based USA world order.