

QUESTION: 8

ANSWER:

Introduction:

CPEC (China - Pakistan - Economic Corridor) is one of the flagship project of Chinese connectivity project of BRI. CPEC will bring huge investment and improve the infrastructure of Pakistan. However, CPEC project is mired with several challenges which hinder the progress on the project. These challenges include security issues, economic constraints, political instability. In addition, administrative delays, poor infrastructure, land acquisition problem also act as a road block in the way of CPEC projects. Moreover, resistance from local people and foreign involvement further

impede the progress on the project. Therefore, both Pakistan and China should collaborate to eliminate the grievances of local people by employing them. In addition, both countries should launch intelligence operations and increase the security to Chinese workers. These corrective steps will help to increase progress on the CPEC.

Reasons For the Slow Progress on the CPEC:

(1) Debilitating Security Situation of Pakistan:

Since the revival of Afghan Taliban government, there is an upstroke in the terrorism attacks in Pakistan. As per Pakistan

International Peace Studies (PIPS), there is 83% rise in attacks after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

In the year 2024, there has been various attacks which weaken the security situation of the country and the progress in CPEC.

According to the Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), "there are 446 terrorist attacks in Pakistan in the first 8 months of 2024".

⇒ Attacks on Chinese Workers:

Several Chinese workers have been targeted by TTP and BLA in the area of Bisham, Dasy and Quetta. Increase the security to the life of Chinese has negatively

impacted the work on CPEC. As per the report, "Chinese officials have asked Pakistan to ensure the security of their works in Pakistan"

⇒ Attacks on CPEC Developers:

Similarly, attacks have been launched against CPEC developers like Frontier Work Organization (FWO) and National Logistics Cell (NLC) which have put off the work on CPEC projects.

(2) Political Instability:

Political instability in Pakistan, after the vote of no confidence against Imran Khan and 2024 elections, have badly impacted CPEC. Every now and then, parties launch protests in Islamabad

which disturb the business activities including work on CPEC projects. Moreover, due to political instability, the attention of the leaders is to get ahead of the rivals, rather than business activities, in the country.

3) Economic Constraints:

Due to economic constraints, government do not have ~~finan~~ capital to finance CPEC projects. In 2024, the government of Pakistan entered into 25th IMF Program.

a) Administrative delays:

Administrative delays like red tappism, the clearance of file for new projects takes alot of time. As a result, the work on CPEC projects is sluggish.

5) Debilitated Infrastructure of Pakistan:

Poor infrastructure like roads, motorway are not in the condition to facilitate trade activities.

6) Hurdles in Land Acquisition:

Chinese developers face several problems in acquiring land for CPEC projects. Moreover, due to the backlog of cases in courts, it takes more time to take permission for developing certain projects.

7) Absence of Technical Staff:

Local people are not adept in technology to facilitate the work on Chinese projects. As a result, the progress on CPEC projects has decreased.

(8) Resistance from Local People

Local people are dubious about the Chinese projects in Balochistan. Baloch people are not getting the benefit of CPEC projects. There is still shortage of electricity and gas there. Moreover, Chinese are fishing in their waters. As a result, they launched several protests and sit-ins.

(9) Influence of Foreign Actors

India and US want to sabotage CPEC project. India's intelligence agency RAW is involved in the funding of Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) to sabotage CPEC project. It has been validated from the

testimony of Indian spy Iqbal Usman Yadar.

2) Recommendation to Islamabad and Beijing to Re-invigorate the Progress on CPEC:

(1) Launching of Intelligence operations:

Both Pakistan and China should launch defense operations to sabotage terrorists and foreign funded groups who tend to sabotage project. In 2024, Pakistan has launched Azm-i-Istikhdam operation to launch intelligence operations against terrorists after Chinese pressure on Pakistan regarding the security of Chinese workers.

(2) Increase Security to Chinese workers:

Pakistan should deploy more forces regarding in the areas of CPEC project and to the Chinese workers. In 2024, Pakistan has deployed 10,000 LEAs for the security of Chinese workers.

(3) Socio-economic development in Balochistan:

Government of Pakistan with the help of Beijing should improve the socio-economic development in Balochistan. Government should develop school, hospitals in the less developed areas. Moreover, employment opportunities should be provided to local people.

(4) Confidence building measures with locally

Both countries, Pakistan and Beijing, should take confidence building measures to deter locals from joining militant groups like BLA. Moreover, the benefits of CPEC should be disloured with them.

5) Employment to local people in CPEC Projects:

Employment should be provided to local people in CPEC projects on priority bases. As a result, the local resistance to CPEC would be reduced.

CONCLUSION:

The work on CPEC has been slow down due to security threats, political instability and foreign involvement. By increasing Pakistan and China collaboration to tackle security issues and eradicate the grievances of local peoples, the progress on CPEC can be ensured.

QUESTION: 5

ANSWER:

Introduction:

BRICS+ is the multilateral forum of global South to increase cooperation and challenge western hegemony. US has historically used dollar and SWIFT system as a tool to subjugate global South and influence their foreign policies in favor of them. However, from the platform of BRICS+, countries have joined hand to reduce western hegemony by increasing bilateral trade. In addition, the establishment of financial institute like New Development Bank (NDB), Crossborder Interbank Payment system (CIPS) an alternative to SWIFT also challenge US hegemony of

Financial institutes like IMF and World Bank. Moreover, some other measures include trade in local currency, trade of oil in local currency and one common currency will further sabotage US hegemony in the world.

Dollar and SWIFT as geo tools against Global South:

US has historically used dollar and SWIFT system as a tool against global South. For instance, sanctions on Pakistan in the wake of nuclear program and sanctions on Iran proved the point. By means of these sanction countries could not trade and had to surrender to the US commands.

From BRICS to BRICS+

It was originally the group of Brazil, Russia, India and China. In 2011 South Africa was added. In 2023, its membership was extended to Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Argentina. As a result 5 new members have joined BRICS, and BRICS+ came into being.

Measures taken by BRICS+ to Reduce Western Hegemony:

- (i) Increase bilateral trade among member countries:

Members of the BRICS+ have increased bilateral trade to become economically stable to challenge western hegemony and influence on their policies.

	Countries	Bilateral trade
(i)	China - Red Sea - India trade	\$110bn
(ii)	China - Russia trade	\$190bn
(iii)	China - Brazil	\$40bn

(iii) New Development Bank - An alternative to IMF and WB:

BRICS+ have established New Development Bank (NDB) which is an alternative to the western exploitative financial institutes. The NDB has no hegemony of a single country. Decisions are taken by consensus. NDB provided loans to country on soft terms. Moreover, it has invested \$40bn in the member countries.

(iii) Contingent Reserve Agreement: (CRA)

This institutes of BRICS+ provided loans to countries facing with current account deficit. Thus, Contingent Reserve Agreement (CRA) reduce the hegemony of US financial institute like IMF which entangle global south in debt trap.

(iv) Currency Swap Agreement:

Countries have joined currencies swap agreement to challenge dollar hegemony. This agreement help countries to trade in local currency which are under US sanctions like Iran and Turkey. Moreover, it facilitate countries facing dollar crunch. China have signed currency swap

- agreement with 44 countries.
- China and Russia have signed "oil trade" via power of siberia pipeline, of 400bn yuan in local currency.
 - China trade with USA in yuan worth \$ 7bn.

As per Chinese commerce ministry, "\$1.3 trillion trade in yuan" has taken place in 2023".

iv) Cross Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS) - an alternative to SWIFT system:

SWIFT, a financial transaction system of US, was used by US against Iran and Russia to cripple their economies. Now, China has introduced CIPS an alternative transaction system. As per the report in the Economist, "Russia have used CIPS

for \$1 trillion trade with other countries".

(vi) Setbacks to Petrodollar in the wake of petroyuan oil trade:

Since 1970s dollars have been used for the purchase of oil. To challenge western hegemony of dollars, China has conducted oil trade in yuan with Saudi Arabia. According to the KSA trade minister, "Saudi Arabia is ready to trade oil in local currency to increase trade volume of the KSA."

(vii) One Common Currency of BRICS & EU:

Just like European Union, BRICS+ has proposed a common currency for the trade of BRICS+. This move if implemented

Date: _____

18

Day: _____

would severely hurt the US hegemony of SWIFT and dollar.

CONCLUSION:

BRICS+ have introduced NDB, currency swap agreement, bilateral trade, CIPS as measures to challenge the western hegemony of dollar and SWIFT system. As a result the global south will not be influenced by the US dictate.

QUESTION: 2

ANSWER:

Introduction:

Syria, which was influenced by Arab Spring, was under the leadership of Bashar-ul-Asad who was ruling Syria for years. Bashar-ul-Asad was ruling with the help of foreign actors. However, Hayat Tahrir Al-Shams (HTS) group was successful in toppling his government due to internal reasons like the government inefficiencies, rampant corruption, less popularity of Bashar among public and organization of HTS group over the year. Moreover, the involvement of Iran and Russia in Gaza and Ukraine war respectively has given HTS the pretext to topple the government.

This move would have serious repercussions for Middle East as it is already in the flames and Israel-Gaza war. Moreover, Syria will become a battle ground for proxy war and power tussle among different factions will start. Moreover, there would be decrease in the influence of Iran and Russia in the Syria.

Reasons Of HTS to topple Bashar-ul-Asad Government in Syria:

⇒ Internal Reasons

(i) Government Inefficiencies

The government did not improved the life

of general public and work for their socio economic development.

ii) Rampant Corruption:

Corruption was rampant in Syria. Officials were involved in several cases of corruption. There was no accountability.

iii) Unpopularity of Bashar-ul-Asad:

Bashar-ul-Asad was not the popular leader among the public. Public perceived him to be a dictator and puppet in the hand of Iran and Russia.

iv) Increase networking of Hayat Tahrir Sham's (HTS) group:

This group has increased its networking with the passage of time and

converted into a large powerful group. When the government situation was weak, it toppled the Bashar government.

= External Causes:

(ii) Involvement of Iran in Gaza-Israel war:

Due to Gaza-Israel war, Iran attention was directed from Syria. Thus, due to the absence of help to Bashar government, HTS toppled his government.

(iii) Involvement of Russia in Ukraine:

Similarly, Russia was involved in the Ukraine war. As a result, the Bashar government was weak due to the absence of foreign help. Thus, HTS toppled Bashar government.

Implications of HTS move of toppling Bashar Government:

(i) Destabilization of Middle East:

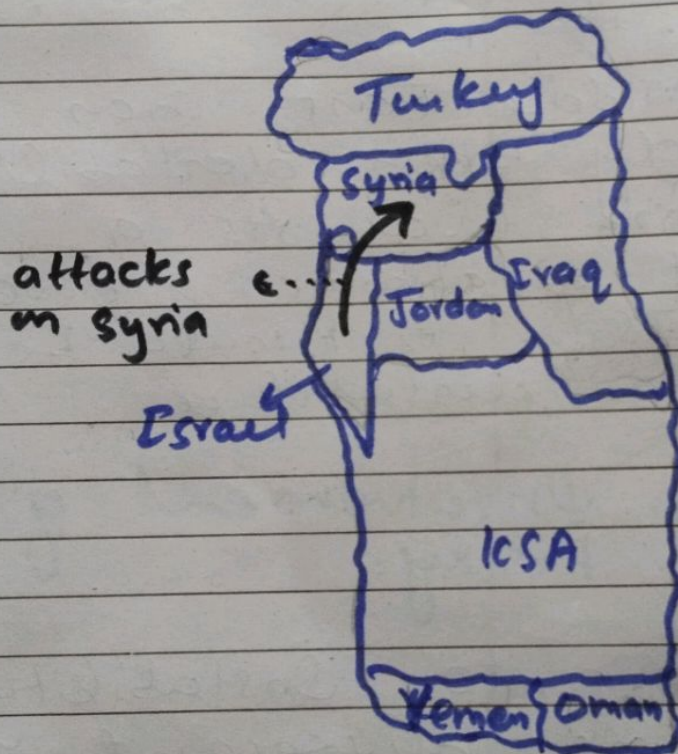
Middle East has already been destabilize by Gaza War. As a result of change of government by HTS, it would be further destabilize.

(ii) Involvement of Proxy:

Due to instability in Syria, different proxies like Houthi will get involved in the country. As a result, Syria will become a battle ground for proxies.

(iii) Attack of Israel on military facilities of Syria:

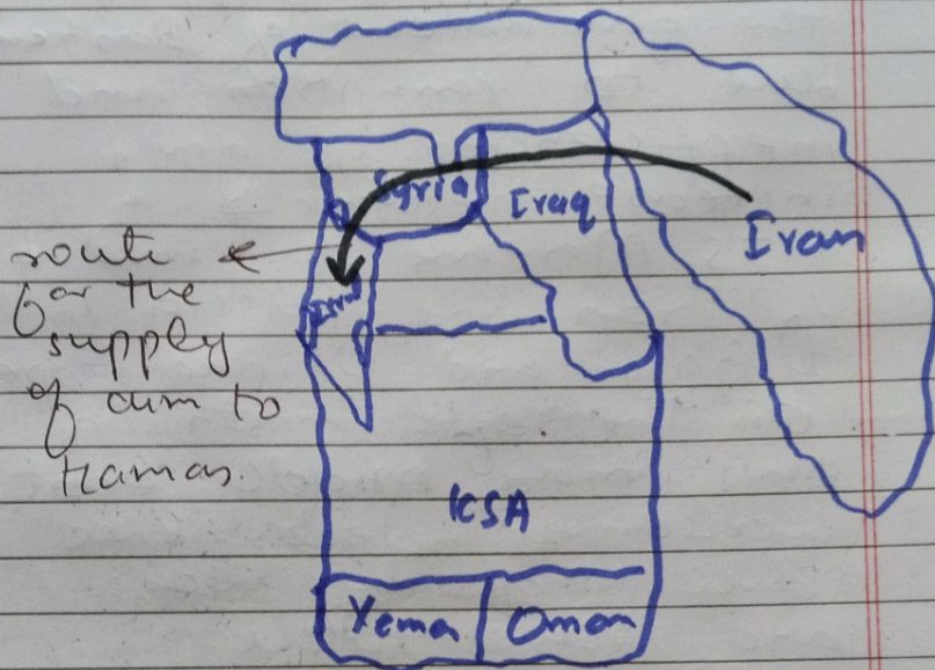
After the toppling of Bashar's government, Israel has launched several missiles on the military facility of Syria to prevent it from using against Israel.



(iv) Disruption of Arm Supply to Hamas:

Iran would provide arms to Hamas through Syria. After the toppling of Bashar's government,

arms supply to Hamas
would be disrupted.



(v) Reduce Influence of Iran and Russia:

After HTS assuming power, the influence of Iran and Russia would be reduced in Syria.

(vii) Power tussle in Syria:

Different factions would compete with each other for assuming power in Syria.

CONCLUSION:

MTS has toppled the government of Bashar due to corruption and inefficiencies of gov, increase networking of MTS. Moreover, the involvement of Iran and Russia in Gaza and Ukraine respectively, on the aftermath of this move, middle east would be destabilize due to proxy wars and power tussle.

QUESTION: 3

ANSWER:

Introduction:

State own enterprises are considered assets of a country. However, in case of Pakistan they have proved liability. Therefore, SOEs should be prioritized to increase efficiency, competition, GDP growth, tax collection and avoid subsidies given to SOEs. Moreover, SOEs which was previously privatized are profitable entities today. The government should give to private company a good credentials. Moreover government should regulate the activities of it for the best interest of a country.

Reasons For the Privatization of SOEs:

i) Increase efficiency of SOEs:

Currently these are huge burden on economy. After privatization its performance should be improved by the effort of private entities. For instance, Fly Jinnah is a government entity, but under private owner. As a result, it is efficient in its performance.

ii) Increase Competition:

After privatization, it would have to compete with other entities. This would give rise to improve performance in the competitive environment.

(iii) Improvement in GDP and tax collection:

After privatization, tax would be payed by private entity. This would improve tax collection and GDP of the country.

(iv) Reduce government subsidies to SOEs:

Currently the government is allocating ₹ 200bn in subsidies for SOEs. After privatization, the amount of subsidies would be used for developmental work.

Model for Privatization:

(i) MCB - Profitable entity:

It was privatized in 1990s. Today, it is earning ₹ 100bn rupees and paying ₹ 20bn in

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taxes. Moreover, 14000 people are employed in it.

(ii) Thatcher Model of Privatization:

Margaret Thatcher, PM of UK, has privatized SOEs which turned to be profitable. It generates income and employed several people.

Ways to Privatize the SOEs:

(i) Credible Private Entity:

The government should ~~privatize~~ privatize SOEs by giving it to a credible private entity.

(ii) Gradual Process of Privatization:

The privatization process should be

gradual to check the efficiency of this process and private parties.

(iii) Regulation of the performance of private entities owners:

The government should regulate the work of private owners to avoid corruption and inefficiencies.

CONCLUSION:

The SOEs should be ~~privatized~~ privatized to increase competition, profit and tax collection. It should be privatized by giving it on lease to private parties after thorough deliberation and gradual process of privatization.