

Fazal-ur-Rehman

Q no 2

Russia-China growing economic, strategic and geopolitical collaboration is an effort of potentially challenge the US led world order.

① Introduction:

In history, the great powers did not sustained for permanent time period, every power faced a fall no matter it was the Great Alexander, Rome, Muslim Caliphate, Mughals, British supermacy. Each have faced a decline in their hegemony. US has remain dominant since the end of world war II, the slow decline in its hegemony can be noticed in contemporary time due to the rise of multipolarity in global world order. The great players of this change are Russia and China who are implementing policies of mutual friendship and regional influence through international organization. This soft power and de-dollarization policies are directly targeting US hegemony.

② Economic collaboration of China-Russia

The treaty of their friendship and mutual collaboration helping both countries in their economic independency.

(i) China is the buyer of huge energy from Russia:

The rapid industrialization in China created great demand of energy. China has done multiple trade agreements with Russia in buying its energy resources, helping each other in economic sector creating them independent economies.

(ii) Launching BRICS+ organization to create influence in the region:

The rapid expansion of BRICS created a greater market for both of these countries. The inclusion of recent (5) countries in start of year 2025 and (40+) countries are in que to join BRICS+.

(iii) De-Dollarization policies of both of the countries through the platform of BRICS+:

Chinese president Xi Jinping coined the term of BRICS+ currency and Russian president Vladimir Putin supported this initiative by providing this idea in the 2024 summit in Russia.

(iv) Helping the US sanctioned targeted countries by increasing their exports:

China is the buyer of Iran's more than 50% of oil.

And Russia is buying weapons from IRAN. This create Iran to remain sovereign and lesser dependant on the global north.

③ Strategic Alliance of China and Russia creates question on US hegemony:

Russia and China both are involved in strategic alliance and military practices in the global south region.

i) Mutual Activities of Russia and China:

Both these countries have been doing mutual military practices in the global south and in the South China Sea. This creates troubles for Taiwan and Japan who are the strong allies of the US.

ii) Role of China in strategic alliance in the region:

China has been involved in selling its military weapons and technologies in the whole region.

creating deterrence. The selling of fighter jets to Pakistan, Iran and Myanmar has created the potential of multipolarity in the region.

"The US drone market is 80% dependent on DJI Drones which are owned by China"

iii) Russian strategic alliance in the middle eastern region:

Before the fall of Bashar al-Assad the Syria was the core ally of Iran and Russia. The Syrian port were being used by the military ships of Russia for the purpose of refueling and repairment. The involvement of US in the fall of Assad depicts the tension of the US hegemony that the alliances of Russia were creating.

"Russian fighter jets helped

Bashar al-Assad to mitigate uprisings against him in 2011-13"

④ Political Collaboration of Russia and China creating the rise of multipolarity.

Russia and China has supported each other in global politics. They were historically against the rise of capitalism and always tilted towards socialism.

i) China remained silent on the Russian invasion of Ukraine and supported Russia through backdoor.

The expansion of NATO made Russia invade Ukraine in 2022.

"The decision of Biden on the expansion of NATO into Ukraine was a foul"

Donald Trump

China has supported Russia in the invasion on Ukraine to tackle the influence of US through NATO in the global south.

(ii) The diplomacy of China was able to create arbitration between Iran-Saudia:

China play vital role in decreasing tensions between Iran and Saudia. Iran was the sole deny of US in the middle eastern region and Saudi was the main ally of US in middle east. The arbitration and smoothing of their relations through chinese diplomacy is a big blow on US hegemony.

(3) Conclusion:

If the collaboration of both these countries continued in the same pace. The rise of multi-polarity is greater in chance. But in history whenever the global power shifts the chances of wars also become greater.

"I have seen in 500 years history, the shift of power created wars 12 times out of 16" Graham Allison

Q No 5:

The reasons of slowing down of CPEC projects. Recommendations for China and Pakistan to re-invigorate the Phase II.

① Introduction:

CPEC project in Pakistan is the flagship project of BRI (Belt Road Initiative) which will be expanded into 140 countries of the world. The 60 Billion dollar project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor is divided into multiple phases. The 1st Phase was completed during 2015-19. The core ambition of Phase-I was to build road infrastructure which is 90% complete. The Phase-II is of building 9 economic zones, which is very slowed due to political and security issues that risen significantly in Pakistan after 2021 USA's exit from Afghanistan.

② Reasons of slowing down of CPEC Phase-II in Pakistan:

The core two reasons of slowing down of Phase-II are the political instability in Pakistan and the second is rise of terrorism and insurgencies in the region. Both these are directly affecting the projects of CPEC.

③ Security issues that are creating hurdles for the success of CPEC:

There are multiple issues regarding the security which are creating troubles:

(i) Baloch insurgency:

The region of Balochistan which is the most important role player in the CPEC. The separatist movements were the historical issue of

Baloch people but in recent past two years the events were intensified. The core target of these separatist insurgents have become the people related to the CPEC project. The Chinese officials have been targeted multiple times which are creating concerns in the smooth development of CPEC project.

• The attack of suicidal insurgents of Baloch organization on the Chinese officials in Karachi University and Karachi - Airport in (2022 and 2024)."

Created serious concerns about the development of Phase-II.

ii) Rise of Taliban (TTP) after the US exit:

The Tehreek Taliban Pakistan

peaked in Pakistan just after the exit of US. These people are now safe in the Afghanistan region as the current Afghan government is not able to stop these organization due to their historical mutual alliances against the US (NATO).

The attacks of these people belonging to (TIP) got severe in just- two years.

"The year 2024 is the bloodiest- year in history of Pakistan in term of terrorist attacks"

DG ISPR

Hundreds of attacks have been occurred in whole Pakistan targeting military personnels, security institutions and Chinese officials

"In March 5 Chinese have been killed in TIP attack in Besham KPK"

iii) Role of India in slowing down of CPEC project:

India is historical enemy of Pakistan and China both on the issue of Kashmir and Tibet region. India is not in the favor of the development of both of these countries in any sector. The CPEC has potential of contributing 500 billion in China's economy and 60 billion in Pakistan's economy each year which is the major concern of India.

"Indian spy caught in the coastal highway region of Balochistan, Kalbushan Yedav who was involved in funding non-state actors" MOD Pakistan

④ Political instability in Pakistan is another major cause of slowing down of CPEC:

The political history is full of polarization. The different political parties were always in clash and never allowed any government to complete its tenure in the whole history.

(i) Political polarization affecting CPEC:

The different governments in short tenure of time create many hurdles each comes with its own policies which directly and indirectly affect the project.

(ii) Bureaucratic hurdles:

The bureaucratic sector has remained the most-corrupt sector in Pakistan. In ranking the police is on number one and judiciary is the 6th most-corrupt department of

of Pakistan, eventually creating hurdles in the clearance of documentations.

"An official in Sindh Govt demanded a residency in Bury Khalifa from Chinese investors: reported to NAB"

January 2025

⑤ Recommendations to Islamabad and Beijing for speeding the Phase-II of CPEC:

There are many solutions to these hurdles that are affecting Phase-II. Some are

(i) Solid Structural Reforms are needed in Pakistan governance system:

To mitigate corruption and hurdles, Govt of all Pakistan need to strengthen its accountability and security departments. The structural

reforms must include under one roof solutions for the Chinese investors.

(ii) Security issue must be resolved:

In case of Baloch insurgents the govt has to do dialogue with them. They are not from any enemy country they are the owner of the land. The govt must make some policies that may benefit them in term of jobs and percentage in profit from the CPEC project. The sense of ownership will automatically decrease the insurgency in that region. Their demands on missing persons must be fulfilled to ensure them that the system is also with them.

iii) Countering the TIP:

Tehreek Taliban Pakistan

are also the people who once were supported by the Pakistan. Now totally neglecting them will create imbalance. The dialogue must be assured between TTP and Pakistan. If dialogue doesn't work then Pakistan can use force. Use of force without dialogue can create further intensification of the issue.

⑥ Conclusion:

CPEC holds very much importance for both Pakistan and China. Protecting this project is the responsibility of Pakistan. It has to be ensured that the safety of Foreign Direct Investments is the priority for Pakistan. As a developing country is always in rely of FDI's. Resolving the soft and hard issues, political and security concerns can only smoothen the process with it CPEC will be in hurdles always.

Q No 6:

To turn around the economy and end the repeated boom and bust cycle. The need of comprehensive structural reforms in Pakistan.

① Introduction:

Economy, for a country is like breathing for any living thing. In this era of globalization the country who possess some abilities in term of economical advantage can be run smoothly. The one with lesser abilities are difficult to survive in this era of globalization. For Pakistan it has seen many booms and bust of economy. In history it has shown 6% of constant growth of GDP's but also it has shown sudden busts from 6% to 1% or even negative in some year. Solid structural reforms can only work for Pakistan's consistency.

② History of Economic reliance of on foreign resources:

Having such huge potential in term of exports, work force and resources Pakistan still relied on many foreign services of WB, IMF, NGO's and fellow countries. This failure is just because of the internal problems in term of political instability, corruptions and lesser accountability and transparency.

③ Solid Structural Reforms are required to make Pakistan's economy consistent and self reliant:

There is an urgent need for Pakistan to tackle these issues otherwise it will continue to be trapped in loans, and will face a continuous decline in its whole future.

(i) Incentivising the exports by reduced tariffs:

Those sectors which are involved in exports are needed to be motivated by reduced tariffs and which are not involved in exports, the government needs to motivate them by providing incentives.

(ii) Reducing the rates of basic necessities:

The hike in electricity prices and gas prices making situations for those industries which are working hand to mouth. They are trying to opt different options.

"Bangladesh's economy boosted due to cheap electricity and gas rates, many of textile industry shifted from Pakistan to Bangladesh."

iii) Modernizing the agriculture sector and implementing tariffs on it:

Pakistan's economy is dependent on its agriculture, and most of the agriculture sector is still in old procedures. The China has boosted its crops output by 3x through implementing modern scientific techniques. The tax amount which the agriculture landlords enjoying due to zero tax must needed to be taxed as they hold equal responsibility as a salaried man does.

iv) Reducing indirect taxes and increase of direct taxes is required:

The cost of living in Pakistan is increasing from time to time due to the increase of prices of the basic necessities.

The reason of increase in the prices of basic necessities are the irregular taxation of the regulators. Pakistan is unable to collect tax from the real business upto 40%, But it is successful in collecting taxes from maximum salaried class.

This polarization in tax system creating inequalities in the system and poverty ratio is increasing each year.

"In 2023 the below the poverty ratio population was 23% but just after one year in 2024 it surged to 25.2%."

v) Implementing policies that can lead to self reliance of Pakistan:
Most of the policies

are idealized by system through providing subsidies in shape of reduce petrol and electricity rates. This makes further dependency on the IMF loans.

As country isn't able to implement such policies that can generate income within the country.

"Pakistan has taken loan from IMF-25 times, the most number of times in this whole region"

vi) Increasing skills in the youth by mitigating time wasting platforms:

Pakistan has a youth bulge which maximum country's like Japan, Russia, Germany are trying to achieve. But the youth of Pakistan is being wasted in useless spending time on social media platforms instead of physical and

skilful activities.

" Out of thousands only 260 were able to clear the physical test of the posts of Pakistan Railways in 2025 "

If the youth is utilized by the country the skills can be sold into the global markets in form of services and freelancing which eventually create dollar import at the end.

vii) Strengthening the accountability and transparency of the system:

The corruption is been a hurdle for Pakistan the most of the time. The regulators and authorities which are made to mitigate this issue are politicized and the third party influence of has increased in these institutions. The out of the court

settlements increasing consumption instead of decreasing it.

viii) Instead of raw material exports Pakistan has to do value addition in its products:

Pakistan exports cotton, fruits and multiple items in raw form. Instead it can do value addition in its products through converting its cotton into merchandise. The cotton used in making a t-shirt cost less than a dollar but the shirt can be sold more than 10\$. This value addition can turn into justified economy addition.

Conclusion:

Above mentioned are some of the structural reforms that Pakistan can do to create lesser dependency on others and stop its economy from booming and busting.

Q no 7

Political stability is the pre-requisite for socio-economic stability in the country. Political dialogue is necessary for putting country on the right-track.

① Introduction:

Stable policies depicts positive image of a country. As the constant policies can only produce stable economic outcomes. Political instability acts as vice versa. Pakistan has been facing from irregular stability due to the political polarization since history. The sitting on a single table from all the political parties has become a significant need for the country's well being. All the other roads lead to further worsening of the political conditions of the country.

② Strategies that can lead to political dialogue:

Political dialogue is the final solution for stabilization of political sector. Here are few strategies that can lead to political dialogue:

i) Giving this choice to the people of the country:

Instability is only possible in a country when a mass of people of the country are not accepting the leadership. Creating a fair election and selecting a true leadership can reduce the mass of people coming out on streets.

ii) Taking oath from all of the party leaders to accept the leader of people's choice:

Before the election all of the party leader should agree

on the solution. The mediator must create some repercussions for the one who disobeys in future.

iii) The mediator must need to be neutral and unbiased:

Choosing a mediator from all peoples choice. The mediator must not have any kind of perks and benefits from this deal and he should only get a stable political system in the country.

iv) There should be zero role of the security institutions in this mediations and policies of political stability:

Over 30 years of military dictatorship in its 77 years history Pakistan can not accept further interventions of the military. Separating this security institution in fullest form

can only increase the democratic role of the political parties.

v) The role of Election Commission of Pakistan must be independent with any institutional overlaps:

The elections must be conducted fair and unbiased without any third party involvement. The people of Pakistan then only can accept the leadership of any party which in the end create stable political role.

vi) Positive role of the judiciary is required in this political dialogue:

The independent judiciary without and control can play positive role in this political dialogue. Judiciary holds the power of punishment to the party who backfoot from the acceptance of truly democratic leadership.

vii) The mediator must be a global power that supports democracy in Pakistan:

China is facing a lot of issues in the CPEC project

In form of security issues and irregular policies. China can play a vital role in the mediation.

The China can make this dialogue possible and shift into reality. This dialogue in the end will bring more investments in the country at the end the betterment of the country due to stable politics instead of polarized one.

viii) No personal targets should be allowed after one party comes into power:

In the history of Pakistan it can be noticed, one party comes into power targets its competition by creating cases

and punishments. leading to the imprisonment of the leadership of the other party. Mitigation of this activity must be ensured to decrease further future political polarizations.

ix) Creating realization among the political leaders about the loss of sovereignty that is created by instability.

The real and country loyal leaders will realize about the negative impacts that created through political polarization. This realization can reduce parous activities of those leaders and enhance stability in the country.

x) Providing significant roles to the leadership of the lost party can also reduce the instability:

Giving some positions to

the opposition which have significant role in the running of the country, can reduce instability. This incentivization can make the opposition party to work harder for creating better chances in future elections. These parallel efforts in end will be in favor of the betterment of the country.

Conclusion:

This political dialogue scenario can create stable political system in Pakistan, eventually benefiting the socio-economic policies in the end. The rise of Pakistan's economic and social image in the region is majorly dependent on the stability of the political sector of Pakistan. This pre-requisite must need to be fulfilled to create prosperity in Pakistan.

"The future belongs to those, who believe in the beauty of their dreams" Eleanor Roosevelt