

Q2:

Introduction:

Russia and China's growing economic, strategic and geopolitical collaborations are an effort to potentially challenge the US-led world order. The reason of it lies in historical grievances of Chinese and their proclaimed "century of humiliation," meanwhile for Russia it lies in the cold war aftermaths and disintegration of USSR that was the defeat of soviet Russia.

But the goals doesnot include just to compensate these past grievances but also to uplift the Global south that has been historically backward due to the colonialism and exploitation. Furthermore, to advance and sustain in the present world while keeping their values intact. A number of

countries have joined these two in the journey, leading to the formation of organizations like BRICS and SCO.

History:

Russia was the leader of USSR and main opponent of US led world order during the Cold war. Although, the defeat of USSR and its disintegration lead to a Uni-polar world where US was the only sole Super power, which not only disturbed the balance of power but also created its hegemony over the world.

Meanwhile, China emerged as a weak state after the WWII and had a per Capita ~~GDP~~ income of \$180 in 1980's. China call it the century of humiliation for itself with worst crisis.

## Geopolitics :

Russia is the largest country in the world with plenty of natural resources and topography. It borders North Pacific Ocean and also Baltic Sea through the Gulf of Finland that open it's way into the Atlantic Ocean. It's neighbouring Central Asian countries, East European countries, Mongolia and China, makes it an important and geostrategic country.

Similarly, China also borders Pacific ocean in the east. Then the Central Asia, South Asia and South East Asia as well. This makes China and Russia, very important geostrategic players due to their position on the world map. China also have plenty of natural resources and varying topography, alleviating it's importance even more.

## Challenges & Reason:

### ~~Objectives:~~

- - Russia has been facing sanctions due to its war in Ukraine and influence in Middle East. EU and U.S has put heavy sanctions on Russia that makes its trade very difficult.
- - China, due to its growing ~~economy~~ economy and influence has also been targetted by negative diplomacy, especially by West. That poses issue for its trade as well.
- - Militarization of of South China Sea by the U.S over Taiwan issue has also been a headache for Chinese trade.
- - NATO's expansion in Eastern Europe is also perceived by the Russia as a threat to

its sovereignty and influence in the region.

- - U.S and its allies like Israel have been fueling up war in Middle East that poses serious issues for geographically closer Russia and China in form of refugees, oil trade with these nations, increasing radical and terrorist factions etc.
- - Dollar-Swift model is only beneficial for U.S and gives U.S the power to halt any economy in the world, posing great threat to both.

### Objectives :

- - Russia and China wishes to maintain the balance of power of the world by making a multi-polar world.

• - Both countries wish to maintain and protect their sovereignty, while also keeping their influence intact in the region, which makes U.S. an opponent.

• - Increase Trade and boost economy by trading with their neighbouring countries without any intervention from U.S. or NATO.

### Outcomes:

• - Increased bilateral Collaborations

Both countries have signed many treaties and agreements to increase their trade and cooperation. Russian Military and Chinese technology are the best thing to ever happen in the recent times. Russia is unable to trade with other nations due

to sanctions, hence China, which has enormous population and demand, is buying Russian oil which cost less to import from other regions of the world. Since, Crimean War 2014, China has signed various such treaties.

• - Increasing Regional Influence and collaboration/cooperation:

China has launched BRI in 2014, same year as Russian invasion of Crimea and has now connected various countries through BRI, using Russia's land bridge and Pakistan's historic silk route, connecting Europe with Central Asia, South Asia and South East Asia. It is an intimidation of U.S Marshall plan. The result is increased Chinese influence in all these countries and softer image of

China among masses.

• - Increased Global South cooperation:

Organizations like SCO, BRICS and CIS have been working to mutually develop the nations in Global South that have been exploited by the Global North for centuries. This has not only uplifted these countries but also increased the influence of China and Russia, countering U.S. feared influence.

• - BRICS new currency:

To pull the world out of Dollar-Swift loophole of fear and U.S. hegemony, China and Russia have introduced a new currency and currency swap system through BRICS forum.

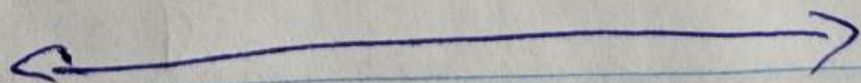


This could mark the end of nations' dependency on U.S. dollar for trade and uninterrupted trade. This will mark a blow to the U.S. hegemony and its strength of currency. A number of countries have already adopted the new model and a lot have shown interest.

### Conclusion:

Increasing cooperation in various fields and starting a new currency swap model are a serious blow to U.S. economy as it was the strength of its currency and economy.

Increasing political influence in different regions of the world shows that it might be the end of U.S. led world order and start of a new multi-polar world.



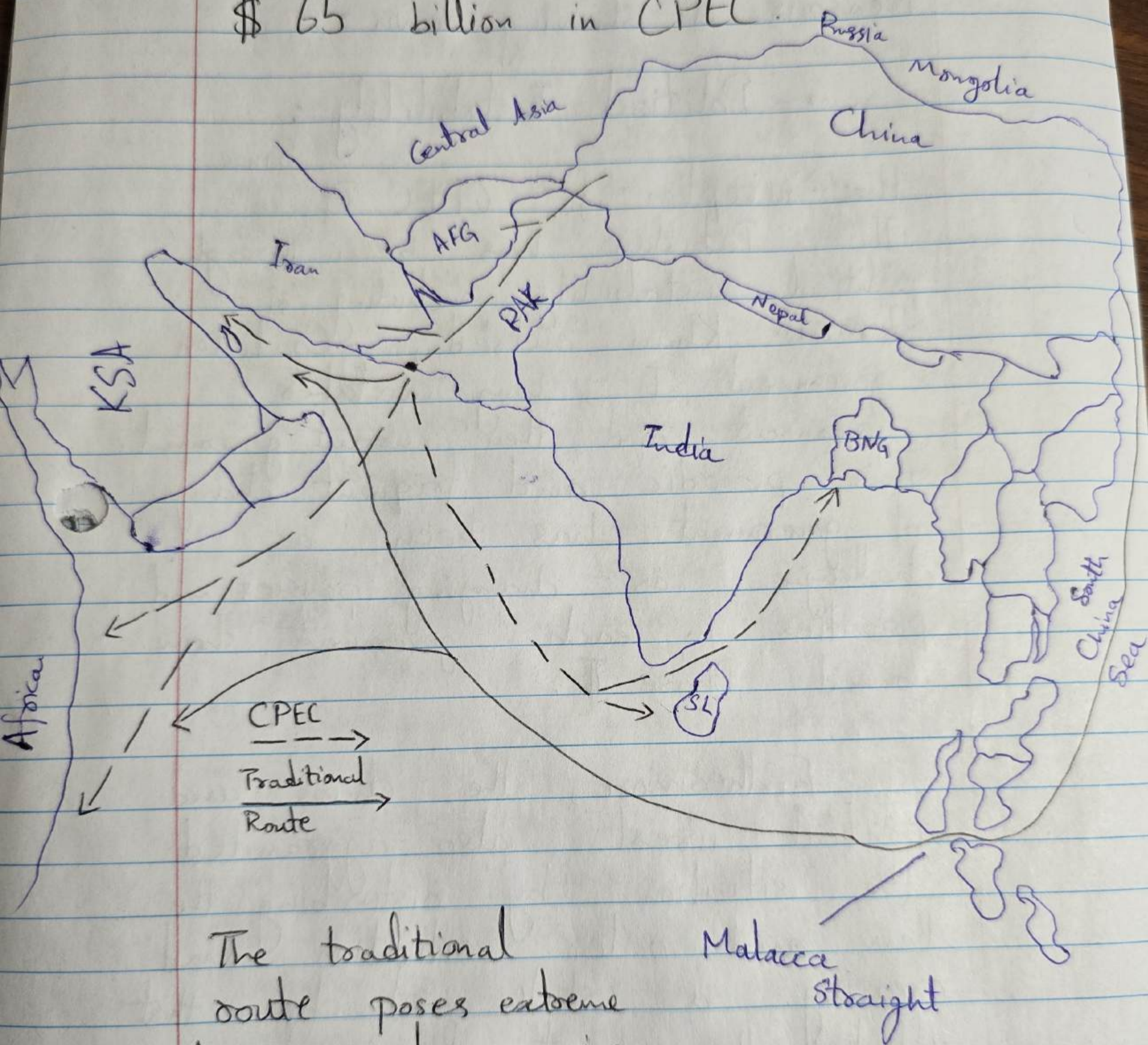
Q3 :

Introduction :

CPEC is a flagship project of BRI that aims to connect China's western side to Pakistan and then the Arabian Sea. The heavy militarization of Malacca Strait and South China Sea, poses a great challenge to China to continue its trade. Hence, CPEC is the shortest and safest access for China to reach Middle East, Africa and even farther.

But recently, after the initiation of Phase II of China, there have been various terrorist attacks and other factors that have slowed down the progress of CPEC Phase II. Phase I was a huge success of CPEC and China had already invested

\$ 65 billion in CPEC.



The traditional route poses extreme danger and expensive trade for China due to distance and U.S. presence in the South China Sea.

Reasons of slowing down :

• - Political Instability :

Since the inception of CPEC Phase II, Pakistan has been through political instability including of Imran Khan ousted, Coalition government I, long caretaker government and then current government. This periodic and frequent change of government has been a challenge as changing policies and priorities in each government slow down Phase II.

Furthermore, the chaos and political unrest also aggravated the situation by disturbing the law and order situation and creating a state of chaos that affects the trust of investors and halt the economic activities, further slowing down Phase II.

• - Separatist organizations and terrorism :

Fractions like BLA and BLF have frequently been attacking CPEC and its infrastructure to stop the project. India has been backing such organizations to keep Pakistan from becoming economically stronger. Kulbhushan Yadav is its evidence.

Recently, in January 2025 five security officers were martyred in Turbat by BLA, as Balochistan is an important part of CPEC and using the historical grievances of the region to halt CPEC has costed a lot of lives. Attacks on the Chinese engineers and civilians working on CPEC site has affected the trust of Beijing and slowed down Phase II significantly.

## • - Extremist and Radical fractions:

ITP and East Turkistan Freedom Movement has been attacking CPEC and Chinese civilians to halt its activities in the Gilgit Baltistan and K.P.K. The increasing terrorist attacks have resulted in the slowing down of Phase II

## Solutions:

### • - Strong Diplomacy:

Pakistan must ensure the Chinese Foreign office that the Chinese workers will be protected here after at any cost and there would be no compromise on their security. Pakistan must also ensure the safety of already invested amount and time of CPEC by China to strengthen Chinese Trust.

## • - Political Stability and Will:

All political parties must cooperate and build a consensus among each other that regardless of the party in power, CPEC must be carried out with the same pace as left by the previous party. As CPEC is a game changer for Pakistan, hence it is possible to build such consensus.

Pakistan must also ensure democracy and transparency in the political process, ~~to~~ so that such chaotic and tense situation does not arise that could halt the progress of CPEC.

## • - Crackdown on terrorist and extremist fraction:

Both Pakistan and China should invest their

military, financial and diplomatic resources to ensure the end of terrorism and extremism. This is possible by covert operations and capacity building of local police force. Additionally, both countries should strengthen their ~~integ~~ intelligence cooperation to halt terrorist activities. Fractions involved in such acts should be held accountable at any cost.

### • - Uplifting of remote areas:

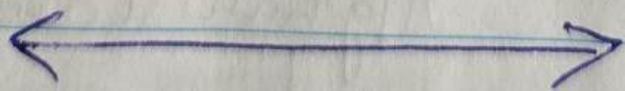
Both China and Pakistan should invest more in uplifting and building trust of local people in regions like Balochistan and KPK to ensure that the support of terrorist fraction in local people would end and historical grievances will be compensated, that would end the resistance among locals.



Conclusion :

Building trust among locals in remote areas and building trust of China can help Pakistan to navigate through this hard time and slowed period of progress in CPEC.

Just like Pakistan achieved the completion of Phase I of CPEC, Phase II is also possible with a strong will and stability. For that Pakistan must end all the terrorism in its territories and ensure the safety of Chinese and its own people so that Phase II of CPEC could be a tangible reality.



Q4 :

Introduction:

Pakistan and Afghanistan has always had strained relations but after the Taliban retook control of Kabul on 15 August, 2021, Pakistan hoped for a bright and safe future with Afghanistan.

Although, recently Islamabad has shown its concerns to Kabul over the issue that TTP has been using the Afghan soil to conduct attacks on Pakistan which has aggravated the situation among both countries.

Geopolitics:

Afghanistan shares a 2670 km border with Pakistan that is porous and the mean of cross-border illegal activities.

The border areas of both countries are rugged mountains with lack of infrastructure that makes it difficult for the military to commute and respond.

### Objectives :

- - Pakistan : Pakistan wants to ensure safety of its citizens and protect its sovereignty. For that purpose, Pakistan has conveyed to Afghanistan that any cross border terrorist activity is totally unbearable and will not be tolerated.

- - Afghanistan is currently governed by TTA and it holds sympathy for TTP due to similar belief and goals. Hence, Afghanistan has been showing soft side to terrorist factions.

Like TTP. ~~are~~

- - Pakistan also wants regional peace and stability and for that eradication of fractions like TTP is very important.

Domestic influences:

- - Afghanistan's majority population supports Taliban and share their views, that's why they tend to give support to TTP as well, strengthening it and keeping TTA to take action.

- - TTP poses a threat to Pakistan's stability and its economic progress like CPEC. Hence, ~~at~~ at every cost Pakistan is determined to put an end to the TTP and pave way to its progress.

## Solution :

### • - Diplomacy :

Pakistan should bring Afghanistan to the table and build trust over the issue to maintain peace and regional stability. Pakistan should use regional players like China and Russia to urge Afghanistan to take action against TTP.

### • - Border Development :

Pakistan should ensure a complete halt to cross-border activities including smuggling and human trafficking. By doing so and ensuring safer borders, TTP would not be able to cross-border and carry out its activities that were done in disguise of other illegal activities. Afghanistan should also be urged to do the same.

## • - Infrastructural Development:

Pakistan should build infrastructure in its remote border areas to ensure smooth commuting and response time decreased.

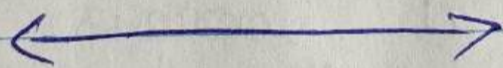
Additionally, this would also help to compensate the historical grievances of these areas.

• - Pakistan should urge the TTA to put an end to their support for TTP and end their bases in Afghanistan. But Pakistan must also keep it straight forward that if the necessary action is not taken then Pakistan being a sovereign, independent and ~~an~~ a nuclear state, holds the right to make things right and take any necessary action to put an end to TTP.

## Conclusion :

Pakistan has been an advocate for peace and stability. That's why, Pakistan must urge Afghanistan to take action against TTP and stop supporting TTP to ensure cross-border peace and stability.

Pakistan can use diplomacy for that through China and OIC to ensure that Afghanistan take necessary action. This could ease the tension between the two countries.



Q 6 :

## Introduction :

Since its creation, Pakistan has been fighting the evil of economic distress. Political instability, poverty, terrorism and extremism, corruption and incompetent machinery are some

of the reasons.

Pakistan needs comprehensive structural and administrative reforms to end this repeated boom and bust cycle and improve its economy just like China and India did recently.

Historical context:

Widespread corruption and poverty were the gifts of Colonial era, followed by heavy influx of ~~the~~ refugees at the time of creation of Pakistan. Wars at various times also contributed to the decline of economic progress.

Military interventions and political instability have been another hurdle for democracy that is a pillar of progress and socio-economic growth.



## Need for reforms:

- - Slow economic growth:

Pakistan's economy has been unable to keep pace with the world due to various factors and that shows the need for reforms. Unequal distribution of resources and lack of political will made remote areas of Balochistan and KPK poorer, that actually had a lot of potential and could have changed the fate of Pakistan.

- - Political Instability:

Rapidly and frequently changing regimes throughout Pakistan's history has resulted in the change of policies and priorities that created hurdles for the economic progress. Military interventions also contributed

in this a lot.

•- Incompetent machinery: Out of merit and quota induction has costed a lot to Pakistan. Political interference with system to increase their vote bank and giving designations to their dear ones has resulted in a total incompetent government machinery that is more like a burden on economy rather than potential.

•- Under-developed human resource:

Pakistan has 64% youth population but unfortunately the necessary skills, training and education is not provided to make the human resource competent to run state machinery or compete in international market.

• - Corruption :  
Wide spread corruption in Bureaucracy and political frameworks also demands reforms, in order to lower the burden on economy and utilizing those funds for economic progress.

• - Unprecedented unproductive costs :  
Pakistan spends billions every year for unproductive costs that have apparently no return, including increased defense budget (mainly due to terrorism, not the usual defense budget) and State owned enterprises that are a burden on national treasure.

Solution :

• - Democratic Political stability:

To build a strong economy

and get out of this loophole, Pakistan must ensure a strong political framework that is free from non-democratic intervention and fair. This would open the way for stable policies and approach for stronger economy.

### • - Privatization of SOEs:

Pakistan has to bill out state owned enterprises ~~to~~ every year. and almost all of these are in loss.

Privatizing these state owned enterprises would decrease the operational cost, end the loop of losses, increase tax revenue and better competent services to the public. K-Electric, for instance has 16% line and distribution losses while state owned

electric supply companies have 33% losses, as private sector tends to be competent to ~~it~~ increase their profit and public trust.

- - Stronger accountability:
  - - Educational reforms
  - - Capacity Building of Youth.
  - - Ensuring stability and peace to bring more FDI
  - - Investment in under-developed areas with higher potential like Balochistan and KPK.
  - - Increase cooperation with neighbours and regional powers.
  - - Getting out of IMF debt trap.
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