

## CURRENT AFFAIRS PAPER

### QUESTION NO : 5

Answer

#### INTRODUCTION :

Dollar and SWIFT have been used by the US as a weapon against the global south. It wants to put pressure and tries to dissuade member countries, and those which have intended to join the platform formally. On the other hand, the member countries have not yet been deterred by the US response, and have pledged to replace dollar and SWIFT platform. In this regard, the global south and have experienced the US approach by freezing Russia's assets in western countries. Therefore, the BRICS+ could counter the US methods and to get rid of the western exploitation or permanent bases.

1. REPLACING DOLLAR CURRENCY BY LOCAL CURRENCIES :

To begin with, the BRICS+ have pledged to replace dollar by local currencies. This prudent move on the part of the BRICS+ was discussed by member countries of BRICS during 16 summit of BRICS in Kazan, Russia. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, the BRICS+ will commence the process of abandoning dollar, while start trading in local currencies. Due to this effort, they have formally developed New Development Bank for start transactions under the bank. Therefore, it can be said that replacing dollar by local currencies could counter this, and get rid of the western exploitation or permanent bases.

3.

## 2. ESTABLISHING ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM:

The member countries of BRICS+ need to establish an independent

Cross-border payment system with the intention to reduce reliance on the SWIFT. The SWIFT is the US transaction system mechanism under the control of the US. Through SWIFT, the US, along with its allies have seized Russian assets in the West. Those assets were worth billion of dollar due to Russian invading Ukraine. Hence, it can be argued that through this mechanism, that if they found establish separate transaction channel system the BRICS+ can counter the US move against the global south.

### 3. FORMING AND PROMOTING ONE SINGLE RESERVE CURRENCY :

The United States has dollar, which it has been using for and leveraging for gaining geopolitical

motives. In a similar way, the BRICS+ should form separate and a single reserve currency, and then start promoting in order to decrease their reliance on US exploitative currency. They should form gold or other such like material to get rid of the US dollar. So, it can be opined that the BRICS+ can replace the US based dollar by forming and then promoting this reserve currency.

#### 4. EXPANDING TRADE NETWORK:

Although the BRICS+ countries have been trying their best to replace dollar and SWIFT network mechanism, they should expand their trade networks. They should integrate non-permanent members of the BRICS+

Countries. So, they can start trade in local currencies, while abandoning the US dollar and its SWIFT system.

### CONCLUSION :

To conclude, it is pertinent to mention that the US has been leveraging its dollar and SWIFT for geopolitical motives. Yet, the BRICS+ countries can replace the US and SWIFT through ~~to~~ carrying-out appropriate and necessary measures in the form of replacing dollar by local currencies, establishing alternative payment systems, promoting reserve currency, and last but not least, expanding trade network. Through these ways and methods, the BRICS+ can counter the US dollar and SWIFT, and get rid of the Western exploitation as permanent bases.

## QUESTION NO : 8

### INTRODUCTION :

The China - Pakistan - Economic - Corridor, which aims to connect Gwadar with Xinjiang province of China, faces myriad of challenges. However, those challenges can be rein-in through carrying-out prudent measures.

### i) PERSISTENT POLITICAL INSTABILITY :

Pakistan has been facing political instability from the early days of its existence.

This political instability can be witnessed when the then former Prime Minister, Imran Khan, was removed from his office through non-confidence motion. From there on, the previous government changed the Khan's economic

policy for CPEC project, which installed its own economic system. Apart from this issue, the country can witness any type of protests and public gathering. These protests can dissuade and slow the pace of CPEC project. Thus, it can be said that persistent political instability can slow down CPEC project.

## 2) CONTINUOUS ATTACKS ON CPEC SECURITY PERSONNEL:

CPEC has been operationalised from the very beginning days of the project routes in Balochistan province.

The province, however, is the base of outlawed groups, such as BLA and Majeed Brigades. These groups aim to halt the CPEC project of China.

The reason is simple: their grievances have not yet been addressed by Pakistani governments in the past and present. These groups have been airing their grievances, but the governments have in the past not yet addressed them properly and timely. In response, they target security personals of both China and Pakistan. Hence, it can be said that continuous attacks on security personals have slowed the pace of CPEC project.

### 3) GEO-POLITICAL TENSIONS

In the current landscape, China and US have been engaged in cat and mouse game, leading them to give birth to geo-political tensions. Pakistan has been grappling with economic

Challenges. The country has been dependent on foreign donors, especially such as IMF, World Bank and friendly countries. The World Bank and IMF are under the aegis of US. When Pakistan needs IMF bailout packages, the US gives a signal to these institutions to grant it packages. But the US puts conditions to Pakistan. If it follows those conditions, the US grants it those packages. One of these conditions is to not cooperate with China under CPEC project. These geopolitical rivalry, therefore, stops the CPEC project.

#### 4) Local Resistance

In certain areas of Balochistan,

The CPEC project faces local resistance, leading to present challenge for both — China and Pakistan's governments.

They argue that project of CPE could exacerbate the conditions of local people.

For instance, the "Haq Do Tehreek" (Quader Rights Movement) demonstrations in November and

December 2014, were the latest outburst of Baloch resentment against the China - Pakistan

Economic - Corridor. So, it can be stated beyond any doubt that the local resistance faced by local people of Balochistan has slowed down CPEC projects.

### → CONCLUSION :

To cut a long story short, it can be opined that although CPEC project faces

multifaceted challenges

→ REMEDIAL MEASURES :

i) PUTTING AN END TO POLITICAL INSTABILITY :

Every problem has its solution. In this regard, it can be stated that, although CPEC project grapples with multifaceted challenges, they can be mitigated by putting an end to political instability. It is the first towards mitigating the challenge faced by CPEC project. The government of any country steers its ~~country~~ country in any direction. If Pakistan needs to stable its political environment, it should form legitimized government.

## 2) ENHANCE SECURITY

Pakistan has a very strong and effective military. The country can leverage military in certain areas of Balochistan in order to quell or militancy in the region. Not just Pakistan's military, the Chinese also carries strong military. Together, they can put an end to security dilemmas in

Balochistan. As per the report published by Muhammad Amir Rana, a security analyst says that Pakistani and Chinese personnel security personnel were succumbed to death mostly in Balochistan. Thus, it can be said that enhancing security in the region by both countries can eradicate the issue of militancy.

## → CONCLUSION :

The remedial measures for the slowdown of CPEC require a multi-faceted approach by addressing political, social, and security issues. Pakistan can certainly ensure CPEC stability and can stimulate CPEC project through carrying out the above-mentioned measures. Effective implementation of these measures would make CPEC a sustainable and transformative project for Pakistan and China in particular, and the world, in general.