

## QUESTION 3

## Introduction:-

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Russia and China celebrated 25 years <sup>strategic</sup> alliance in 2024 and have further agreed on mutual trade, growing economy and strategic support to each other. The growing Russia-China collaboration in economy, strategic and geo-politics is seen as a potential challenge to US-led world order. As both share mutual ~~grievances~~ and opposition to US.

## Russia-China Growing Alliance:-

Russia and China's relationship is growing and is seeing new developments as

both Presidents Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin agreed on bilateral agreements and mutual economic and geo-political support to each other. With shared strategic goals of both the countries, and the alliance has multiple facets from trade agreements to support in technology and natural resources.

## Challenging U.S led World-Order

The U.S led world order is a unipolar world order with United States at the top of the game with a control on financial transactions, dollar dependency

and greatest military might. But the world order is being challenged by growing economy China in support with Russia. As both countries are moving forward to challenge U.S in all domains.

## 1) Russia - China Economic Alliance:-

Russia and China are economically supporting each other with a bilateral trade of more than 150 billion dollars aiming for 200 billion \$, as both the presidents agree to it. China's economy is flourishing and Russia's is getting back on its feet due to the economic alliance.

## 2) Aiming for Multipolar World Order.

Russia and China both are frustrated with US hegemony in the world over all of the spheres and is challenging it directly by providing mutual support to each other in trade and infrastructure. By decreasing America's influence in Asia and a constant improvement in economy, there are challenging US's influence in the region.

## 3) Challenging dollar dependency:

Russia and China have established their own financial management systems and are avoiding the usage of dollars and are undergoing trade in local currencies. Both the

countries are challenges US's control over the international financial system with each other's support

#### 4) Increasing regional influence:

Russia and China are mutually supporting each other in their regional matters. Though China does not openly support Russia against Ukraine but it is also not hostile and has continued its bilateral relation. Similarly Russia supports China's claim over Taiwan. Thus both the countries are improving their regional influence by backing each other.

#### 5) Mutual dependency:-

Both Russia and China

are dependent on each other. As  
Russia is <sup>economically</sup> sanctioned by US and  
Western world, China provides  
economic support and trade  
opportunities. Similarly US's strict  
tariffs and restrictions on  
the Chinese products have  
affected China's economy. Here  
Russia supports China by  
provide natural oil and  
China supports ~~with~~ technology  
and semi-conductor chips.

## 1) Shared grievances against US

The Russia-China growing  
collaboration's basis is the  
shared grievances and mutual  
opposition of United States  
and it's ~~hypocrite~~ and biased  
policies supporting only one  
group. So, all the economic,

Strategic and geo-political collaborations are a way to challenge US's unfair policies and hegemony in the world.

## 7) Enhancing Partnership through SCO and BRICS:

Russia and China both are a part of SCO and BRICS. These are joint efforts to improve mutual force and economic might against US.

Both the countries are leveraging from each other's support through these new economic blocs.

## US' Response to Russia-China Alliance:

- United States have always maintained a clear stance against

both the countries individually and against the growing alliance. Though United States has always adopted ways to curb both of the growing powers but is very cautious of the alliance. They have openly criticised and adopted ways to curb them by imposing sanctions on Russia and high tariffs and bans on Chinese products. Despite growing concerns for US, many western thinkers believe that the alliance is imbalanced and sooner or later would end due to conflicted interest and topographic issues.

## Conclusion:

(United States)\* Russia and China are continuing to



support each other and collaborate on economic, strategic and geo-political grounds. It is an effort to challenge US led world order and its hegemony. By improving their economy and military might they are challenging US' strict and unfair policies and strong command over the world. Though US' is cautious about the alliance and considers it an open threat to US hegemony, there is a long way to go for both the countries to actually realize its dream of multipolar world order.

## QUESTION 1:-

### Introduction:-

Pakistan and China initiated the CPEC in 2015 under China's

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The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with investments of (more than hundreds of) billions of dollars, CPEC has undergone multiple projects from developing infrastructure to special economic zones, from transport infrastructure to energy production projects. (CPEC has) China has invested billions of dollars in Pakistan, but the projects have seen a very slow progress and are continuously hindered by many issues. As Phase II began in 2020, both Islamabad and Beijing need to find ways to improve the performance of CPEC initiatives.

## Slowing Down of CPEC Projects

The initiatives under CPEC

in Phase II have seen very slow progress since 2020 and sees continuous delays and pauses. The CPEC plan is behind its initial timeline, which is causing financial losses to both the countries. Both the country representatives met in Oct 2024 to re-strategize, look at the feasibility and to renegotiate ~~renegotiate~~ its future plans for CPEC.

## Reasons for Slow Progress of CPEC (Phase II):

CPEC Phase II has seen a number of hindrances leading to its slow progress. Some of the reasons are as follow

### 1) Security Concerns:

The first and foremost issue

of the hindrance in CPEC is the security issues faced in Pakistan. A number of attacks have taken place on the CPEC sights in Pakistan by extremists and terrorist organizations in the country, with a number of Chinese workers, Pakistani citizens and security officers losing their lives.

## 2) Balochistan Insurgencies.

CPEC initiatives are all around Pakistan but Balochistan has the greatest number of projects. These projects are frequently hampered by Baloch Insurgents due to their personal and territorial grievances. This has proved a very big reason for slow progress of the CPEC projects.

### 3) Constant Political Unrest

Pakistan sees a constant political unrest in the country. As the leadership keeps changing, it hinders the already going projects due to re-evaluation and re-initiation. This significantly hampers the performance of the projects. This is one of the biggest reasons of slow progress.

### 4) Lack of Skilled Workers:

Pakistan lacks the required skilled workers to finalize the CPEC projects. Chinese workers and officials are needed to undergo the project in Pakistan. This is also another reason for slowing down of CPEC projects.

### 5) Operational Challenges:

The CPEC projects are spread

all around Pakistan from the  
Gwadar Port to Karakoram Highway.  
These projects have seen a  
number of operational challenges.  
For example rugged terrain in  
northern Pakistan have created  
significant engineering and logistical  
challenges. Similarly Gwadar  
Port has seen challenges like  
land acquisition and connectivity  
issues.

## Recommendations to re-invigorate the Project -

It is essential for both  
the country's government to  
re-evaluate and re-invigorate the  
project to improve its feasibility,  
fast progress and finality. Some  
of the recommendations are  
as follows:

## 1) Improve Security Challenges:

Pakistan needs to improve its security issues in the country. As many CPEC sights have seen attacks from terrorist, insurgent groups and terrorist organization. The internal security needs to be improved to for the finality and fast progress of CPEC projects.

## 2) Improving Bureaucratic Processes:

By streamlining the bureaucratic and governance processes, all sorts of delays due to poor governance can be removed. The expeditious of the CPEC project is possible by removing barrier of governance and managerial management.

## 3) Engaging local bodies.

The CPEC projects have seen the biggest backlash from local people and organizations. By bringing them on board and as they are also the direct stakeholders of these projects, removing their grievances and catering to their opposition, smooth and fast functioning of CPEC initiatives is possible.

## 4) Local Skill development:

As Pakistan lacks skills to undergo the CPEC projects, solely, so help from Chinese workers is required. By developing skills and engaging the local people, the projects can improve as local people would be more aware of local challenges being faced by the Chinese.



workers. So developing skills & among natives and engaging them in CPEC projects will help improve the progress of the projects.

### Conclusion:-

The Phase II of CPEC has seen great delays and hindrances in its way. A number of reasons have been identified that need to be acknowledged and catered to by both Islamabad and Beijing to improve the progress and feasibility of CPEC in making into a reality.