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Question No: 01

11/20

Introduction:

The slowing down of China's Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in Pakistan are an amalgamation of political, security and economic challenges. CPEC is a threat for US and India for regional connectivity and China's hegemony. Many internal and external factors are there to oppose the CPEC's project completion. Islamabad and Beijing needs to put attention to counter these issues and vitalize the project and make phase II a tangible reality.

Strengths of CPEC Projects

The strengths of CPEC projects lie in its

ability to transform Pakistan's economic needs such as infrastructure, energy security and industrial growth. Regional connectivity, Bilateral ties with China and counterbalancing regional rivalries are its vital strengths to focus on. Pakistan will have more gateways for future investment and a part of a larger vision.

Reason for the slowdown of CPEC Projects

Economic Challenges:

Pakistan's economic instability, persistent woes including high debt levels, dwindling foreign exchange reserves and inflation, have limited its capacity to finance its share of CPEC projects. Delays in payments to Chinese contractors and concerns

about loan repayments have created bottlenecks in ongoing projects.

Political and Bureaucratic Hurdles:

Political instability have disrupted the momentum of CPEC projects. New government with new policies reassesses the terms. Decision making and implementation is disturbed by the lack of interdepartmental coordination. This inefficiency leads towards slowing down the projects.

Security Concerns:

Militancy and Terrorism attacks on Chinese workers and then infrastructural damage by insurgents, particularly in Baluchistan, have raised the concerns and discourage further

investment. Lack of peace in local communities and woes of environmental degradation resisted certain projects.

Geopolitical Pressure:

India's opposition to CPEC, which passes through disputed territory in Gilgit-Baltistan and its efforts to lobby against the initiative, have added pressure. US-China rivalry is growing tensions on China's funded projects globally, Pakistan is hesitant to fully embrace CPEC.

Shift in China's focus:

China is diverting its focus from CPEC because unsustainable growth and unreliable debt in partner countries. Beijing focuses on high return and digital initiatives

in other regions, therefore its attention is diluted from traditional projects under CPEC.

Recommendation for Islamabad and Beijing to revitalize CPEC projects

Economic and Financial Reforms:

Islamabad must address macroeconomic vulnerabilities through structural reforms and ensuring stable financing. Financing mechanisms such as Public Private partnerships (PPPs), Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) agreements or joint ventures to reduce dependence on loans

Enhance Administration Coordination:

Administration on Islamabad side needs to establish a central authority

with robust oversight powers to fast-track approvals and remove ^{the} bureaucratic hurdles. Islamabad must create bipartisan consensus on CPEC to insulate projects from political transitions and short term shifts.

Strengthen Security Measures

Security arrangements for Chinese workers and infrastructure protection should ensure to collaborate with military and local law enforcement.

Expand Project focus

Islamabad needs to emphasize industrial cooperation, agriculture and technological transfer to create a sustainable economy and attracting private sector investments.

Fostering Regional and International Cooperation:

Engagement of regional stakeholders including neighbouring countries such as Iran and Central Asian States in CPEC to enhance regional connectivity and shared economic interests. Seeking of investment from bilateral loan will reduce dependency on loans.

Revitalize bilateral investment.

High level diplomatic engagement between Islamabad and Beijing is crucial to address mutual concerns and reaffirm commitment to CPEC. Both should conduct joint reviews of underperforming projects to identify and address inefficiencies while focusing on high impact initiatives.

Conclusion:

Revitalization of CPEC needs a multifaceted approach that addresses economical, social, political and security challenges, while fostering stronger collaboration between Islamabad and Beijing. By focusing on sustainable, inclusive solutions, both countries can ensure that phase II of CPEC becomes a tangible reality. By addressing existing bottlenecks, Islamabad and Beijing can fully capitalize its strengths, ensuring CPEC's success as a driver for sustainable development and regional integration.

Question No: 03

Introduction: 11/20

Russia and China has a growing economic, strategic and geo-political partnership that strengthens the regional integration and development. China and Russia are in strong bilateral relationships to boost their economical and regional hegemony. Russia is the opponent of US in the context of Ukraine's support and China also has a trade war with US. Both are having their vested interests to counter US hegemony. US has concerns about their growing partnership as they both have potential to create potential challenges for US.

Russia - China Partnership

a threat for US led

World Order:

Economic partnership between
Russia and China:

Russia is a resource rich nation, with vast reserves of oil, gas and minerals which align well with China's demand for energy and raw materials to fuel its economic growth. Trade between the two countries has surged with deals such as the Power of Siberia gas pipeline exemplifying their energy needs. Efforts to de-dollarize trade and promote alternatives like the Chinese Yuan and Russian Ruble further

signal their intent to reduce dependence on western financial system

Strategic Cooperation in multidimensions:

Joint military exercises and defense collaborations such as the Vostok and Naval interaction drills, demonstrate a growing level of interests and interoperability between their armed forces. Technological projects especially in areas like space exploration, 5G infrastructure and artificial intelligence, aim to rival western capabilities.

Geopolitical Synergy:

Russia and China countering US by maintaining their soft image on economic grounds with cooperation and managing competition between China's

Belt Initiative Road and Russia's Eurasian Economic Union. Their positions on global issues such as Taiwan and Ukraine, increasingly align, presenting a united front in the face of western criticism.

Russia and China's hidden opposition towards US Hegemony:

Both countries oppose the vested interests of US as a unipolar world dominated by US. They seek to promote a multipolar international system where their influence is more. They have shared grievances including sanctions, NATO expansion, UN's hegemony and most important the presence of US military alliances in their respective regions.

Suggestions to counter
US led world order
by Russia-China's bilateral
ties:

Erosion of US influence by
Promotion of Anti-US strategies:

The deepening
ties between Russia and China
create a counterweight to
US-led alliances such as
Quadrilateral and NATO. The
promotion of alternative
institutions, such as the Shanghai
Cooperation Organization (SCO) and
BRICS - Brazil, Russia, India,
China and South Africa. China
and Russia can undermine the
dominance of western led
organization for financial aid
such as IMF and World
Bank (WB) by introducing
their shared common currency and
banks.

Regional integration of two great powers elevate the regional instabilities:

Moscow and Beijing's integration leads towards the regional stability in countering the external support of terrorist groups to destabilize the region. Strong regional connectivity cause to oppose western policies that can exacerbate regional tensions.

US will lose its control over the regional from Middle East to Southeast Asia.

Local Currency trade will be challenge to the Dollar's hegemony:

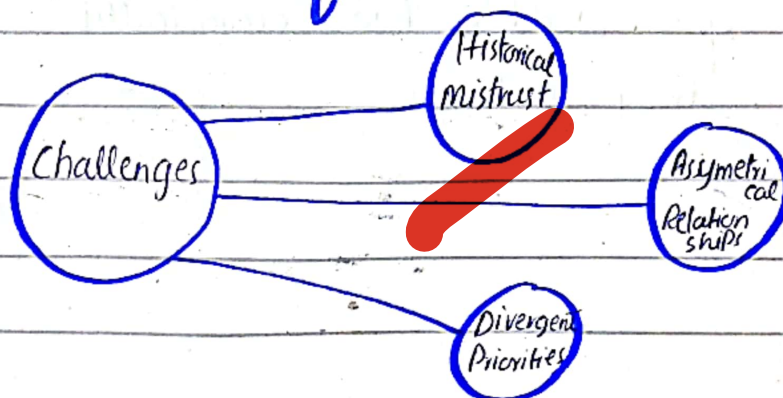
Beijing and Moscow build mutual trust by conducting trade in local currencies and develop alternative financial system challenges for Dollar's status

that serves ~~as~~ the global reserve currency.

Technological and Ideological divide may affect the US's hegemony over the world:

US and Russia have ideological differences as US belongs to a capitalist block and Russia is a communist in the back historical terms. They have even division of thoughts on the usage of technology. Their thoughts of ~~sovereign~~ internet policies and control over technology contrast with western models of openness and freedom, practically bifurcating the global digital landscape.

Limitations of Partnership



Conclusion:

The Russia-China collaboration represents a significant shift in global dynamics. While their partnership is a base threat for US-led world order, its effectiveness and results depend upon their ability to sustain collaboration and address internal disparities. Russia-China partnership have implicit interest in countering US hegemony, to destabilize dollar by trading in their national currencies. The upholding of SCO and BRICS+ is a great initiative to challenge NATO and IMF dependencies. US led unipolar world order is in danger with the deepening ties of world's two economically strong nations.