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Introduction:

The geo-economic significance, under the Belt and Road Initiative of China, of Pakistan has tremendously increased. Pakistan's location is ideal for trading purposes connecting Central Asia to the Arabian Sea, providing an alternative route for China, which resolves the Malacca dilemma for China. Apart from it, the routes that pass the Hormuz Strait, Bab-el-Mandeb and the Suez Canal, all pass the waters of Pakistan on way to the other. East Asia and South East Asia's trades are overwhelmingly dependent on the routes passing the Arabian Sea, which borders Pakistan. As per IPRI more than 500 billions of trade pass the Arabian Sea, making daily, making Pakistan an important geo-economic partner for China and

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its Belt and Road Initiative. Moreover, the evolving regional alignment in Asia, including the Saudi-Iran normalization, Pak-KSA defence pact, India's procurement of arms supply agreement with America, and the investment of China in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka has indeed made Pakistan even more important. The recent meeting of Pakistan's foreign minister with his Chinese counterpart topped the Pak-China relations as "friendship lasting forever". Pakistan has historically played a huge role in balancing relations between Iran and KSA and with the recent ouster of Sheikh Hasina from Bangladesh, the pro-Pakistani parties have taken the forefront and would be normalizing ties with Bangladesh in the coming years. Parties like Jamaat-e-Islami which sided with East + Unified Pakistan in

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1977.

Central Asian Routes — connected with the Arabian Sea:

China is investing heavily in Pakistan. So far, around 60 billion USD trade investment have been completed. Motorways and highways are built that connects the whole country with the Arabian Sea. This development allows the Central Asian states to transit trade through Pakistan, more easily and efficiently. As China is also pouring money in Central states, this will further enhance connectivity and increase the geo-economic significance of Pakistan even more.

Resolving The Malacca Dilemma For China:

China imports and exports its products

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through the Malacca Strait. America and its allies surround that Strait and they can choke China whenever they want. Pakistan provides an alternative route for China through the Gwadar, connecting the Xianxiang province of China with the Arabian Sea. This increases the geo-economic significance of Pakistan five-fold.

Evolving Regional Alignment And It's Impacts on Pakistan.

Pakistan-Iran Alignment: & Its Impact:

Pakistan gained enormously from Pakistan-Iran normalization. Pakistan now have an open-hand to build relations with both states. It no longer needs to choose between the two and create complexities for itself in its foreign policy. It increases the political alignment of Pakistan as well and increases Pakistan strategic relevance.

② Pakistan's Re-alignment with Bangladesh:

Pakistan can build cordial relations with Bangladesh after the ousting of Sheikh Hasina. The pro-Pakistan parties like the Jamaat-e-Islami has potential to dominate the politics and develop beneficial relations with Pakistan. Apart from it there is much tilt in the youth of Bangladesh towards Pakistan. All this scenarios has given Pakistan the opportunity to further enhance its strategic relevance.

India's Renewment of Arms Deal with USA - An opportunity for Pakistan:

India has renewed an arms deal with America, signed in 2005. This shows the strategic tilt of India towards America, which creates a threat

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China
for Pakistan. This provides an opportunity
for Pakistan to develop more friendly
relations with China and secure trade
and arms deal enhancing its defence
and economy.

Conclusion:

The geo-economic significance
and Pakistan's strategic relevance
will only grow with the
passage of time, if the scenarios
keeps taking place as they are
right now. Pakistan has immense
opportunities, it needs to cash them
with competence and keeping in
view all the economic and
political and strategic factors.