

# CURRENT AFFAIR

**QUESTION:** Discuss The prospects and challenges to the construction of CPEC. How will CPEC become a game changer for the region.

## Introduction:

CPEC is the sub project of BRI that connects the countries with each other. China announced BRI projects and there are 138 countries which is going to be a part of BRI. CPEC project in Pakistan will be a game changer though it will have many challenges along with benefits as well.

## 1 China Interest In CPEC:-

The CPEC is a sub project under BRI and it has a great importance for china.

### • Malacca Dilemma:

As we know China is the major exporter in the world; so china's only trade route is in Strait of Malacca near south china sea, but US policy "To contain china." US deployed its naval forces in south china sea as well as QUAD and AUKUS alliance forces were there in south china sea to contain china which is a major threat to china economy as well as global economy, so to counter this malacca dilemma, china thought an alternative option which is through CPEC mainly Pakistan reaching middle east and all over the world the shortest route to china.





## b- Chinese Hegemony:

In the past in all over the world there was Chinese influence around the Europe and Africa because China was a major exporter silk. So China wanted to Revive the Past-chinese and also wanted an influence on Regional and Global world.

### Phases of CPEC:

There are three Phases of CPEC

- 1 Short Term Projects (2015-2019)
- 2 Medium Term Projects (2019-2025)
- 3 Long Term Projects

### 1- Short Term Projects:

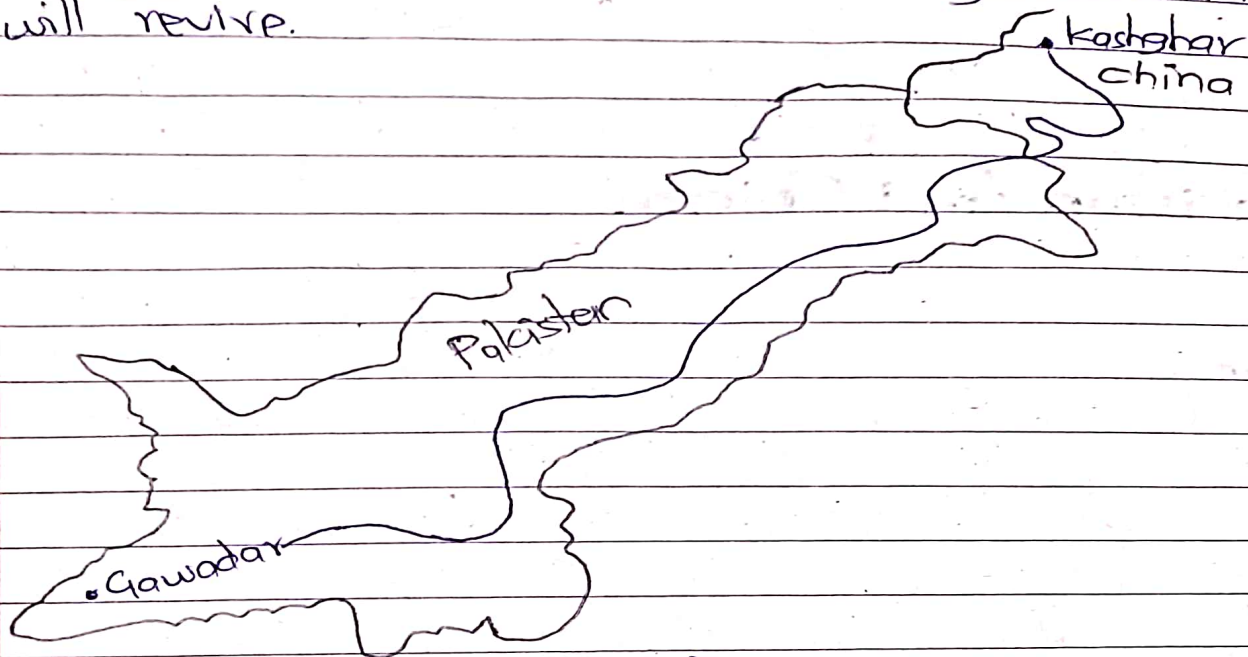
a- Investment in Infrastructure

Construction of motorways, transportation etc

- Investment in energy sector.

Energy sector is very important for CPEC that is why around 70% is invested in energy sector. In Pakistan there have been energy crisis

and due to this Pakistan economy is devastated because of no energy, Pakistan industries are closed and some textile industry shifted into Regional countries like Bangladesh which was a major set back to Pakistan economy. So through CPEC Pakistan energy crisis will be resolved and again Industries will revive.



## 2- Medium Term Projects:

- a- Special Economic Zones and Main Line 1 and Main-Line 2
- b- Gawadar development

## 3- Long Term Projects:

- a- Special Economic Zones - completed all nine
- b- Sea ports.

## GOALS OF CPEC =

- 1- Poverty Alleviation
- 2- Agriculture
- 3- Industrialization
- 4- Technology and innovation



# Why Pakistan Join CPEC:

## i- Economic Interest:

This was the first time Pakistan ensuring its Geo-economic interest instead of Geo-strategic interest.

## ii- Political Interest:-

Pakistan no more wanted to be a part of Global Power rivalry and also CPEC would help Pakistan to sustain its economy and its defence.

## Impacts of CPEC:-

### Pakistan And China:

As we know CPEC is a project through which both Pakistan and china is mutually benefited.

## 1- Economic:

In CPEC goals, there is Industrialization, so if through CPEC Pakistan industry will be revived and Pakistan economy will be sustained, also when industry will revive there will be more opportunity for people moreover, there will be employment and technology and innovation will be in the country so more foreign investors will come to Pakistan or investing in Pakistan. In case of China, as we know china economy grows faster or rapidly increasing day by day. So to china it will be a biggest opportunity to grow its economy world wide and the time is near when china will become a Super Power.

## 2- Political:

In case of Pakistan, its geo-economic importance will grow and it will improve Pakistan relations with regional countries as well as global powers.

## 3- Security:

CPEC will help Pakistan to achieve National



Security whether its external or internal.

a- Internal:

As we know Pakistan is facing Internal threats like insurgencies. So with improved government and good governance and also with increase development Insurgents will likely to loose their stream, because insurgents emerge when there is unemployment or under development.

b- External:

Pakistan is also facing external threats because of India and Afghanistan. So CPEC will help Pakistan Geo-economic importance and will act as deterrence to India and Afghanistan.

**Importance Of CPEC:**

**For Pakistan: Game Changer**

- 1- Infrastructure
- 2- Communication
- 3- Energy sector will improve
- 4- Motorways & Transportation
- 5- Agriculture: innovation, yields enhancement, technology in agriculture, water management
- 6- Science and technology

These all are the prospects of CPEC.

**Challenges:-**

1- Economic:

The major obstacle in the way of CPEC is Pakistan economy, because Pakistan's economy is really weak and deteriorated deteriorating economic conditions, Pakistan did not have stabilize economy but if Pakistan cannot stabilize their economy then Pakistan will not get maximum benefit from CPEC.

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## 2 Political:

Pakistan is politically unstable at the time of emergence. There is not a single year Pakistan become political stable. Changing or dissolution of government in Pakistan is common and not a single Prime minister completed its tenure. There is no civil-military harmony in Pakistan and there is many Intra-civilian conflicts, which had adverse impact on Pakistan economy and particularly it deters potential investors.

## 3- Security challenge:-

There have been many security threats in the way of CPEC.

- 1- In Afghanistan emerging chaos and civil war because Kawadar part has proximity with Afghanistan
- 2- There is a threat or security threat to Chinese laborers working in CPEC projects, many got killed or injured by insurgents
- 3- Indian threat, Proxy wars and thus India is sabotaging CPEC because of India and China rivalry
- 4- Resolution of Iran's Nuclear issue, if Iran's nuclear issue is not resolve it can create a mass of chaos and conflict occurs between or Iran can initiate war with USA, which is a destabilizing factor to CPEC
- 5- There is a criticism on CPEC that China is trapping other countries on debt by their "debt trap diplomacy" is another challenge for the CPEC.

## Conclusion:-

CPEC is a game changer because Pakistan



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will be benefited its economy will be revive, industry infrastructure etc and for China it will be shortest trade route and it will encounter US policy to contain China. Although there are many challenges in the way of CPEC but it has also many prospects for Pakistan as well.