

## Current Affairs.

Q#01 China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is considered as a game-changer. How the CPEC can be helpful to uplift the Pakistan's economy? Discuss.

Answer.

### 1. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor a game changer.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one of the most influential part of Build and Road Initiative. It is the world largest infrastructural program of which CPEC is the most important. It is a game-changer for both Pakistan and China. First Bilateral relationships of both countries are get closer. Secondly, it provides China the world short <sup>trade</sup> route to the global markets. On the otherhand, it will prove as a saviour for Pakistan's dangling economy.

### 2) - largest Investment in The history of Pakistan.

CPEC is the largest investment in Pakistan throughout its history. It gives unlimited opportunities to both nations. It will solve the Pakistan's economic problems.

### 3) - largest investment in the energy sector

Coal projects and Hydral projects under CPEC nine <sup>larger</sup> coal project are included. Out of which five are completed and others are operation. Three coal projects are rental. Their power plants are imported in rents from Africa. All these ~~are~~ have capacity

to produce 1350 MW power each. There are two projects under Thar Coal project with the capacity of 1100 MW each. One project in Suki-Kanani Hydro-power project. It has capacity of 880 MW. Five <sup>Hydro</sup> projects are operational in Gilgit Baltistan with power generation 100 MW each.

(ii) Civil - Nuclear Energy projects.

It includes Karachi-1, K-2, K-2 and Chashma-5.

(iv) Solar - Energy.

Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park Bhawalpur is included in this project. It has a capacity of 900 MW power generation. It is clean energy.

How investment in the energy sector will helpfull in uplifting economy?

In Pakistan from 2006 to 2011, there was electricity shortfall of 18000 MW. In the rural centers routine load shading was about 10-12 hours per day. While it was 16-18 hours per day in rural areas. The biggest reason behind this was less supply and more demand. Till 2016 1000 MW was added in the system. Technically, shortfall should be ended but problem was not solved. It is because of the reason that Pakistan more source but less installation capacity. Pakistan energy circle is largely depends upon imported hydrocarbons. That is the major reason of trade debt deficit and fiscal deficit. To overcome these crisis Pakistan

needs to take a step. China - Pakistan economic corridor is proved game changer in this case.

Under CPEC, till 2030 Pakistan will produce energy of 18000 MW. That will be sufficient to fill the energy gap of Pakistan. Moreover, it has brought lots of employment opportunities for Pakistani nationals. In this it will contribute in Pakistan's economy.

#### 4). Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

There are nine <sup>most</sup> important special Economic Zones. Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone Faisalabad is the largest industrial zone of Pakistan. Under it, there were 500 industries installed. It will provide job opportunities for 2 million people. In this way, it will be helpful to eradicate the woe of unemployment in Pakistan.

#### 5). Transport sector.

Bullet Train Project is the significant project of CPEC. Its characteristics included are double track and signal free. It connects the corridor of Pakistan with the Chinese city Kashgar. Motorways and highways projects are included in transport project. It provides the shortest trade route to global market.

#### 6). Sea-port.

Cwader is the deepest sea port of the world. Cwader has the great importance for China as well as Pakistan.

It will provides the jobs opportunities as well as the energy rich middle-eastern countries.

### 7. CPEC as a "bridge":

CPEC is a bridge between China and middle-eastern countries. It has provided the China shortest access to the global market in return China will provide economic benefits to Pakistan. Pakistan has a sharp opportunity to take energy benefits from these countries. China helps Pakistan to burn the Pakistan-Iran Caspian agreement with Iran.

### 8- Opportunity for Clean Energy development

China has promoted clean energy. All the projects excluding coal project under CPEC are the clean energy project. At this project where Pakistan has become the world's most vulnerable country to the climate change disasters. It is really helpful in the protection of climate <sup>Directly</sup> and <sup>Indirectly</sup> it will solve the economic issues of Pakistan.

### 9). Tourism.

CPEC has worked on the tourism sector. Highly developed infrastructure will attract more tourists which in turn will help in revenue generation. Therefore, it will be helpful in uplifting economy.

## 60). Job Opportunities

CPEC has provided 2 million job opportunities. Unemployment is the major contributor in the economic crisis of Pakistan. It will create more job opportunities in the future.

## 11). Central Asian Republics access to Indian Ocean.

CPEC has connected the landlocked Central Asian Republic to Pakistan which can get access to Indian Ocean. They are highly resource rich countries. Pak can build ~~strong~~ strong diplomatic ties with them and can take benefits from them.

## 12. Strong diplomatic ties with China

Pakistan and China already have strong friendship. CPEC has further sweetens the ties that <sup>has</sup> make them unbreakable. Pakistan is the largest weapon buyer of China. China has always support Pakistan in crisis. Pakistan and China with each other could go more stronger.

## 13. Through CPEC Pak-China alliance is a deterrence to US-India alliance

With growing US-India alliance Pakistan has a higher security risk. Because United States is continuously providing India modern technology and war weaponry. In this case China-Pakistan stronger strategic relationship will be the best counter of India.

## 14. CPEC will attract more foreign investors.

CPEC has attracted foreign investors because of its infrastructural and industrial development. It has strengthened the interest of investors. It will help a lot in increasing Gross Domestic Product ratio.

### Conclusion:-

To conclude, CPEC has provided a lot of economic, political and social opportunities to Pakistan. It has the potential to meet the energy demand of the country. It has provided employment and tourism opportunities. It offers many strategic and diplomatic options to Pakistan. It has a potential to minimize the debt crisis of Pakistan. Therefore, CPEC is a gamechanger, because it has a potential to uplift the Pakistan economy and convert it into a stable one.



1.5 hrs