

Q Discuss the project idea of CPEC which is a great leap forward of economic regionalization in the globalized world. Explain the potential advantages, challenges and future prospects.

1 Introduction:

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of BRI. CPEC is one of the 6th projects of the BRI. CPEC project shows the depth of relations between Pakistan and China. CPEC is a game-changer not only for Pakistan and China but also provides equal opportunities of socio-economic development in the region. The CPEC is a low hanging fruit for the whole region. CPEC was signed in 2015 when Chinese president ~~Xi Jinping~~ Xi Ji Ping visit Pakistan. CPEC consist of three phases. One phase have completed and it is entered into second phase. This project will complete till 2030.

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CPEC and the whole region.

CPEC is providing equal opportunities to all regional players such as Iran, Afghanistan, India, Russia, Central Asian Republic (CAR) countries etc. CPEC will not only provide economic benefits but also provide and help in the building infrastructure in these countries. Such as Afghan Trans Railway project which is signed in July 2023, which will connect Pakistan, Afghanistan and other CAR countries. Through this projects, landlocked countries would be able to access Grawader port which offers safe and shortest route to Gulf countries. CPEC also provide opportunity to India to access CAR countries and establish good trade relations with Afghanistan by passing through Pakistan. Russia has always been interested to access warm waters, So, CPEC

provide him an opportunity to access warm waters and gain economic benefits. It also provide equal opportunities to all countries in the region to cooperate with each other and, establish good relations, peace and prosperity.

~~Potential Advantages of Pakistan~~

3 Potential advantages of CPEC

3.1 Potential advantages of CPEC for Pakistan.

① Economic Benefits:

CPEC is providing economic benefits to Pakistan. It contributes 2 to 2.5 percent of GDP. CPEC will help Pakistan to boost its economic and make it economic developed country in the region.

② Infrastructure Development:

CPEC will help Pakistan to build and improve its infrastructure. Development of Roads, Hospitals and Educational institutes, provide a great benefit to Pakistan and it help and provide advantages to public.

Energy Projects

Pakistan is facing severe energy crisis for many years. Energy is very important for industrial revolution. So, CPEC will help Pakistan to meet its energy needs by developing solar, coal, hydroelectric and wind projects. 14 out of 19 projects have completed and 4 projects are under considerations. 14 complete projects provides approximated 8000 MW electricity.

Skillful Youth.

Pakistan is the ^{5th} most populous country in the world. 4th young ~~part~~ population consist of more than 60 percent. ~~Population~~ Population is a great resource for any country if it is skillful. China is helping Pakistan to building vocational training institutes in Gawader.

Peace and prosperity in Pakistan.

CPEC projects will bring peace in the Pakistan by establishing Hospitals, educational institutes and

by providing them facilities of trade and agriculture.

Job opportunities.

CPEC has provided many thousands job to Pakistani people. More than 150000 jobs produced by CPEC project. It is helping people to improve their socio-economic conditions.

Benefits for China.

Shortest route to access Middle East.

CPEC is connect China through Gwadar to Middle east just at the distance of 1300km. It reduce not only distance but also reduce the transportation cost which will help China to boost its trade in the world.

Economic Gain.

Through CPEC project, China would be able to access Middle east, Africa and CAR countries and also Europe. It will do this by using the shortest route of Gwadar which help China to increase their competency in the world.

Western Province Development.

China will develop its western provinces because they have been marginalized for many years. Its western province is backward area where militants perform their heinous crimes. By CPEC, these areas will get the opportunity of development, peace and prosperity.

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Influence in the region:

CPEC and BRI projects will help China to establish its good relations with Asian, Europe and African countries. This will help China to hold its influence in the region.

Energy Demands fulfillment.

China is accessing Middle east through the state of Malacca which is 18000km away from Middle east. But now China can access Middle East just at the distance of 13000km. It helps China to meet its energy demands. It will help China to engage with all oil

rich countries and fulfill his needs.

Challenges to CPEC.

US-China Confrontation.

China is growing very fast in the world. US sees China as a threat to his position. When CPEC will be completed in 2030, it will also help China to boost its economy more fast. It will help China to become an economic super power. So, US will try its best to create obstacles in the fulfillment of this project.

For this purpose, US has ~~created~~ engaged with Allies such as AUKUS, AEFAN etc to counter China.

Terrorism

Terrorism is the biggest threat not only to CPEC but also the whole region and world. Terrorist attacked many times Chinese workers and tried to stop CPEC projects.

For this purpose Pak army establish special units for the protection of ~~China~~ workers who are working on the

CPEC but it is still a threat.

India concerns:

India is an ally of western countries and US. So it does not like CPEC and BRI. It recorded many times protest against CPEC.

Recently in the SCO summit, Modi criticize CPEC and BRI. This is also found that Indian RAW agency is involved in terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

Afghanistan Instability:

Afghanistan instability is posing threats to whole region, especially CPEC because ~~ISI~~ All national and international terrorist found safe heaven in Afghanistan and they have contacts with many other terrorist organization. TTP and other groups are attacking on Pakistan by using US left advanced weapons from the soil of Afghanistan. So Afghan instability is threatening CPEC.

Future Prospects :

CPEC will provide equal opportunities and will provide benefits to all the countries in the region. CPEC will be completed in 2030. CPEC will enable Pakistan to be involved in the group of G20 and boost its economy to \$1 trillion. For this purpose Pakistan has created (SIFC) Special Investment facilitation council to help the foreign investors in the investment in Pak. CPEC is also expanding its projects. Many CPEC projects have completed. Few projects are in under consideration which will both Pakistan and China to deepen its relation further. CPEC also help Pakistan to make its transit corridors and establish good and wide relations with all countries. Through CPEC Pakistan would be able to ~~impr~~ exploit the benefits of its geostrategic location. So all the countries must

join hands together for its successful completion. Because it is an opportunity for the whole region.

Conclusion:

All the above discussion shows that CPEC is a game changer for the whole region. To gain all the benefits of CPEC, we must take all the measure to curb terrorism and tackle with all enemies. But Pakistan must maintain balance with China and US. Pakistan donot show US as anti-America. Pakistan remains neutral. Pakistan and China should engage Andhra and should try to resolve conflicts and confusions. Because CPEC will also help Asia, which has the poor people, to improve the socio-economic conditions of their people. In Asia, there are many atomic powers countries, so they engage in a ~~pece~~ peaceful manner.