

PAK - China Relations

Q Analyze the significance of the CPEC in Strengthening bilateral relations between Pak and China. How has CPEC impacted Pakistan's economy and what are the future prospects of this strategic partnership?

CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) is basically a part of China's BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) project. It is a grand infrastructure ^{development} project with an aim to enhance trade & regional connectivity by linking Xinjiang Province of China to the Gwadar Port in Pakistan. It has led significant impacts on Pakistan's economy like infrastructure development, industrialization and foreign direct investments etc. If CPEC projects are implemented in a progressive way, there will be a bright future ahead for this region especially for Pakistan and China as well.

Significance of CPEC

The following are the ^{significant} ~~significant~~ features of CPEC which play the crucial role in ~~in~~

Strengthening bilateral relations between China and Pakistan.

• Infrastructure Development

CPEC is a massive project of infrastructure development within Pakistan comprising approximately \$62 Billion investment. It has built roads, railway and highways in Pakistan. It has built Karakoram Highway (KKH), which is the most significant one connecting Xinjiang to Gwadar Port in Balochistan. Furthermore, it has also built Peshawar-Karachi Motorway, Multan-Faisalabad Motorway and Eastbay Expressway in Gwadar, Balochistan. Moreover, it has built Orange-Line Metro Train in Lahore, ~~enhance~~ enhancing regional connectivity and trade within Pakistan and outside Pakistan as well.

• Energy Projects

CPEC has also ~~initiated~~ initiated several energy projects in Pakistan to meet the energy shortage problems which is very severe in Pakistan. It has built several coal, hydro and renewable energy projects and has also diversified our energy resources. Moreover, it has ^{successfully} added 10,000 MW of electricity to our National Grid.

meeting our energy shortages

- Gawadar Projects Development

CPEC has initiated several Gawadar projects in Balochistan, which is the least developed province of Pakistan. Due to the terrorists and militants attacks threats in this province, our ~~govts~~ governments has done nothing to this province since Pakistan's inception. However, CPEC has proved to be the most beneficial project for Balochistan. It has developed Gawadar International airport, Gawadar Free Zone, Gawadar port and Gawadar Eastbay Expressway etc. making it a regional trade ~~hub~~ hub for international markets.

- Industrialization

CPEC has built industries in Pakistan and developed Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Pakistan, enhancing economic conditions here. Pakistan was having worst ^{industrialization} ~~economic~~ conditions and poor infrastructure. CPEC has made conditions better and by SEZs development, it has attracted foreign investors and increased FDI in Pakistan. Thus, making our economy better day after day. Moreover, it has also creating

job opportunities, thus addressing the other major problem of Pakistan i.e. unemployment.

• Regional Connectivity

CPEC has enhanced regional connectivity and trade. By linking China to Arabian sea, it has given China with the access to trade with the Central Asia, South Asia and Middle-East. It has also opened up way for Pakistan to start its trade beyond region. As far as China is concerned, without CPEC trade routes it was difficult for it to reach beyond region. So in this way CPEC has enhanced regional connectivity & trade.

Impacts on Pakistan's Economy

CPEC has impacted Pakistan's Economy very significantly. Like anything, CPEC also has both positive and negative impacts. However, by boosting positive impacts and by finding peaceful alternatives/^{solutions} to the negative ones, we can enhance the CPEC's benefits to our economy. Here are few impacts of CPEC

on Pakistan's economy.

- Economic Growth

CPEC has developed railways, roads and highways, thus improved our infrastructure and made a lot of improvements in energy sectors and in industries with a special focus on exports, has improved Pakistan's economy very much. Before CPEC, Pakistan was facing shortage of electricity, poor infrastructure and worst industrialization conditions with low exports, which hinder our economic growth. But CPEC has made a turn to our economy.

- Creating Job

With the development of industries and ports and infrastructure, CPEC has created a lot of job opportunities for ~~pe~~ locals and foreigners. It has created jobs in transportations, ~~logistics~~ logistics and related services. ~~with the~~ Thousands of jobs have been created in construction and infrastructure development. Various industries have various job vacancies for individuals with different qualification as per the requirements of the job. Moreover, it has also developed training and vocational center to enhance

people's skillset and their employability.

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

By building various SEZs (special economic zones) and enhancing industrialization in Pakistan, CPEC has attracted foreign investment in Pakistan and ultimately increasing the FDI (Foreign direct Investments). Increase in FDI is directly related to ^{economic} ~~economy~~ growth. It will enhance/improve currency exchange and make our currency stable and thus boost our economic growth.

- Debt Burden

CPEC has increased debt burden to our economy. It is has trapped us in a debt cycle. Every project under CPEC is directly financed by the loans from China and we have to repay ^{them} all these loans with interests. It has built pressure on Pakistan's economy that how we will repay them back if somehow we do not get the outcome that are anticipated from CPEC. Might possible in this case, we take loans from other countries to repay back to China, in this way we will trap ourself in debt trap.

• Security Risks

CPEC projects especially in the areas like Balochistan and KPK has increased security risks. Terrorists and Militants in those areas might attack on ^{CPEC} these projects. There is also a threat to the lives of workers and personnels. Therefore, we have to invest more over their security and safety of CPEC projects.

Future Prospects

Future prospects of strategic partnership between China and Pakistan are very promising as CPEC has strengthened bilateral ties between of both of them.

• Deepening ties

CPEC will further deepen the ties between Pakistan and China. Both countries will continue to cooperate with each other. They will continue to share technology and help each other in trade. Furthermore, they will collaborate with each other in combating terrorism. They can have joint operations in this regard. Their history tells that their strategic partnership

is going to have a bright future ahead.

• Regional Stability

Both countries are committed to promote stability in the region. As they want to ~~also~~ enhance trade and connectivity in the region and want to excel in economic growth and both of them want a prosperity for their country, they both prefer stability in the region and for that they can do anything. Because instability can hinder in their way to success.

Conclusion

In the conclusion, I would say that CPEC has further strengthened the bilateral ties between Pakistan and China which are already cordial throughout the history. As far as its impact on Pakistan's economy is concerned, it has both positive as well as negative impacts. However, Pakistan should renegotiate the negative impacts of it with China and seek a peaceful solution of it. Like for debt burden, it should re-negotiate

it with China and seek a solution which is sustainable and helpful for Pakistan to break the debt trap. Furthermore, by collaboration and cooperation with each other both of the countries will go to have a bright future ahead as it is the only way to ~~excel~~ excel.