

Pakistan Affairs

Q:- SIFC is expecting huge FDI from Middle East and China. How do you see change of investment in Pakistan.

I. Introduction

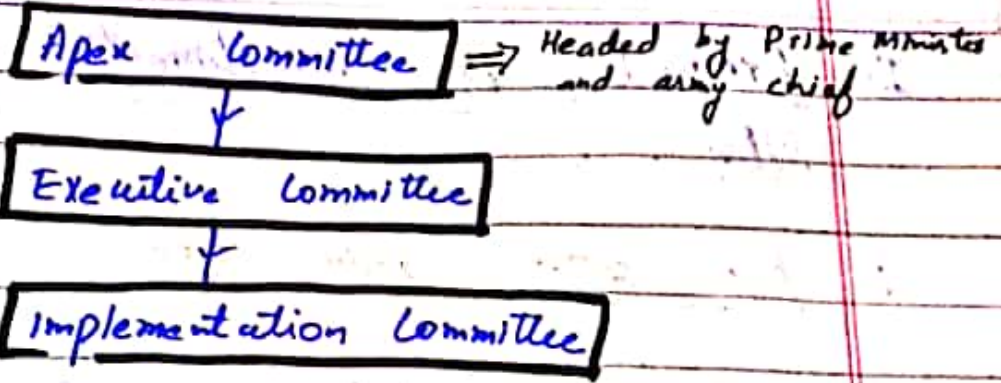
Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) holds profound significance in the realm of socio-political and economic stagnation of Pakistan. With the inculcation of military role, it promises to bring the country out of economic crisis. Moreover, the special focus ~~is~~ in SIFC has been placed on the attraction of foreign direct investment, particularly from Gulf countries and China. For that, many provisions are in place to ensure the 'conducive' environment of business. Furthermore, it acts a attracting ground for investors by negating the challenges which deemed to hinder the business environment in Pakistan. Thus, Pakistan, with proper implementation of suggested provisions under SIFC, could experience a better economic growth due to huge influx of investment facilities.

II. What is SIFC?

Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is a hybrid model having civil and military officials. The council has emerged at the time when Pakistan is at the brink of economic catastrophe. With bleak economic indicators, SIFC would serve as a guarantor for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) to make the country's growth on right track. For that purpose, the role of army has been added so that it would ensure the smooth process of business for foreign investors.

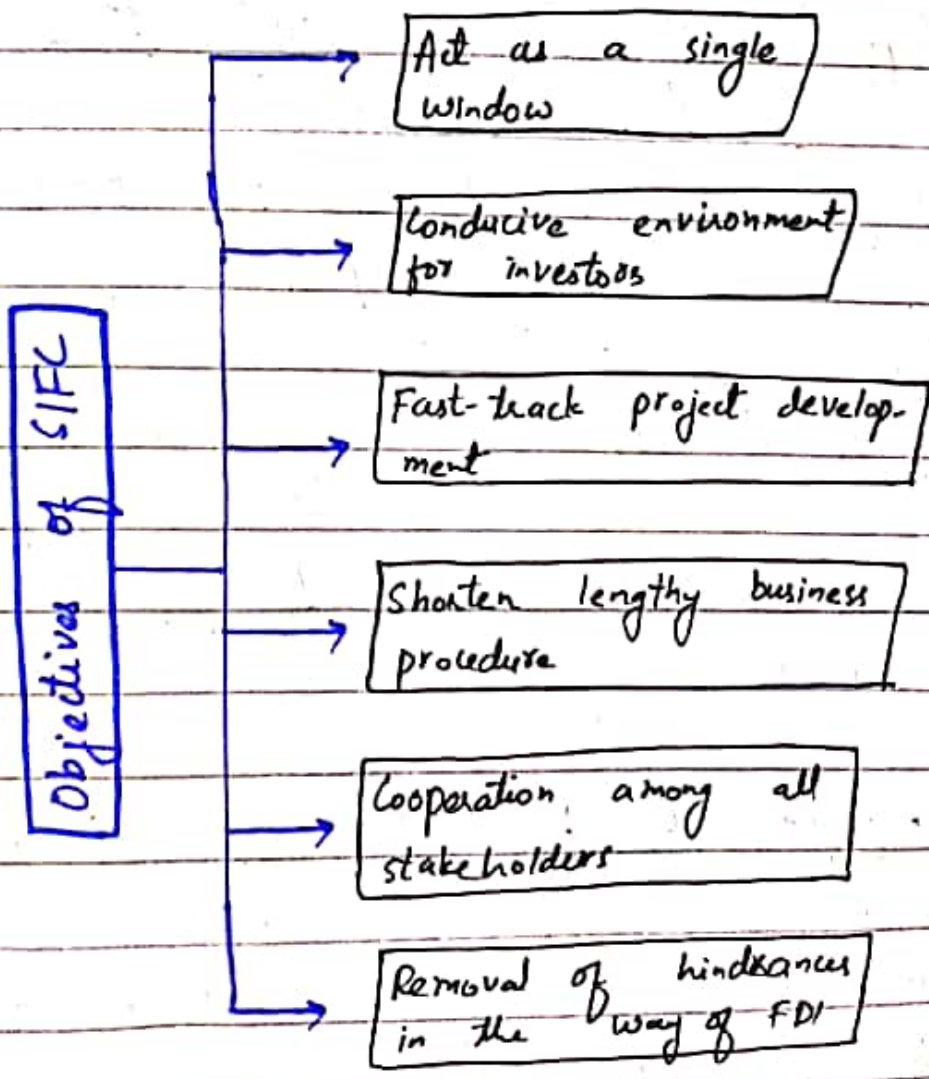
III. Composition of SIFC

The framework of SIFC consists of unified approach for addressing economic disparities. It institutionalises the army's role in the decision-making body to make investors comfortable with the business environment.



IV. Objectives of SIFC

With the focus on improving the economic conditions of the country, SIFC has the following objectives.



IV. Prospects for investment under SIFC

i- Key sectors under SIFC

SIFC has promised to bring an ample benefit by focusing on certain key areas. Such dimensions consists of Defense, Information Technology, energy, mining, agriculture, domestic and foreign investment.

ii- Approval of projects under SIFC

Many projects have been approved under SIFC. For example, Saudi Aramco Refinery, Thar Coal Rail Connectivity, hydropower projects of 245 MW in Gilgit Baltistan, construction of Diamer Basha Dam, investment in agriculture sector and many more.

iii- Improving visa policy to ease investment

To ease the investment in Pakistan, new visa policy has been introduced.

To Removing the long procedure for acquiring visa, SIFC has come up with the policy of providing visa within 24 hours.

There are many provisions of providing five years, three years, and one year visa policy.

iv- Pro-active diplomacy increasing the prospects of investment

Pro-active diplomacy involves the negotiation and dialogue of Pakistan with many countries for FDI. Special focus has been given to Middle East countries, Gulf countries, and China. Such diplomatic efforts are crucial for invitation of FDI.

v- Legislative plan for cooperative framing on private land

Many procedures are involved to safeguard land and increase the prospects of agricultural investment.

V- Reorientation of the path of FDI through SIFC

Various areas have already been addressed under SIFC, as indicated by caretaker prime minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

i- Repatriation of dollar

Considering the severe depletion of foreign exchange reserve, SIFC has come up with practical approach to attract dollars in the form of investments and remittances.

ii- Removal of bureaucratic hurdles

Bureaucratic red-tapism, which has undermined the business culture, is now addressed with due consideration. For instance, it includes the permission ^{for business} which would be given within 15 days for foreign investors.

iii- Organisations of investment platforms

The organisation of Pakistan Investment Roadshow by SIFC in Dubai under

G2G (Government to Government) and G2B (Business to Government) have opened vistas for FDI in Pakistan

iv. Expanding the role towards local investors

Local investors also uphold the profound significance for economic growth in Pakistan. Thus, special focus to local investors has also been given.

v. Army role as a guarantor

The role of army has observed as a guarantor for continuity of policies. Moreover, it also provides security to investors.

vi. The role of SIEC in economic development

Increase in economic growth

Opportunities for employment

Reduction in poverty rate

Conducive environment for business



A new wave of Industrialization



Privatization of SOEs

VII. Conclusion

To conclude, the SIFC's role in maintaining ^{better} economic sector of the country through attracting FDI cannot be denied. A civil-military hybrid framework could serve as a platform, where foreign investor could find a chance to invest in different sectors without any threat of non-implementation strategies. Moreover, the economic indicators of the country would be improved when FDI provides a chance of employment opportunities, poverty reduction, and building effective trust mechanisms. Hence, SIFC holds the chance of making Pakistan a better country economically.