

QUESTION N.O 5

Discuss the prospects and challenges to the construction of "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor." How will CPEC become a game changer for the region?

Geo-strategical importance

Pakistan and China are strongest partners and allies for each other strategically. As Western block and America wants to contain China in Middle East with the help of India, Japan and Australia, the location of Pakistan got importance for China. Through CPEC, China will get access to Middle East with shorter route. America is portraying china as emerging **military hard power**, that is sabotaging the human rights by forcing the Muslims of China to convert into other religion. Western block generally and America specifically trying to instigate the Muslims of china to fight for separate country i.e **east Turkistan**. China is facing insurgency in Sinkiang Issue. Same is the case with Balochistan, Pakistan, who is facing these

Separatist movements Balochistan is under-developed thus deprived from its actual right; same situation as **Sinkiang**. Both Sinkiang and Balochistan is northern-western part of their countries. Thus a same solution can be provided to resolve the same problem that is CPEC.

Prospects:

CPEC is divided into three phases. The first phase is short-term phase; which includes the developments of plans and infrastructural zone (2015-2020). The second phase is mid-term phase, Industrial zone, which aim to establish thirty-three (33) special economic zones (SEZs) with 9 SEZs to begin with. The first SEZ is **Allama Iqbal Industrial City** in Faisalabad which became operational in early 2020. The second SEZ is **Rashakai, KPK** and is under-construction. The third SEZ is **Dhabeji, Sindh** and is also under-process. **Bohstan SEZ Balochistan** has been launched. The first phase is completed which provide a direct investment of **3 billion RMB**. The second phase which is 36 times larger in size is under-process.

Out of **nine**, three is under-construction and five is yet to come. According to the current scenario, the phase two will not be able to get its destination by 2025. As it is already 2024, and 24 more SEZs are yet to come.

Challenges:-

The challenges which is being faced by Pakistan or CPEC as whole is given below:-

- 1- India investment in IRAN
- 2- Terrorism
- 3- Alternative route
- 4- Corruption.

1. Indian Investment in IRAN:-

India, in response of building Gwadar port, is pumping huge resources in the construction of **Chabahar port** of Iran. India is also making good relation with Afghanistan to encircle Pakistan and to counter the Chinese supremacy in the region.

2. Terrorism:-

Foreign rivals who want Gwadar a failure has already started highlighting ~~mai~~ issues as mainstream, as well as social media, through Pakistani aides-de-camp, of missing persons. Under the banner of **Un-silencing Balochistan**, they are trying to escalate the Balochistan Liberation.

On the other hand, terrorist organizations like foreign funded **Balochistan Liberation Army** is looking for an opportunity to sabotage the oil pipelines and trade routes, once full-fledge construction of port begins.

3. Alternative routes:-

Political rivals has also strated creating unrest by stating alternative route to CPEC from **Makran Coastal Highway** over to Lahore-Karachi highway and all the way to Kashgar in China. Other parties want that route of CPEC will only pass through **KPK** and enter in Balochistan and also started clamouring about not getting their fair rights. Infact, the other routes are used for the purpose that they are more secure for the

corridor other than KPK route at the moment.

CPEC, A Game Changer :-

For China :-

- Through CPEC, China will be able to get access to Middle East, GCC and rest of the world for **global trade**. With the completion of CPEC, the Trade time will also shorten as China Sea Trade through South sea is 16000 km and from CPEC it will be 2500 km. China reach in European region in two month, but with CPEC this time will be reduce to two weeks which is less than half.
- From Gwadar naval base, China get a close access to strait of Hurmoz for its **defense** against America in Persian Gulf and against India in the Arabian Sea.
- China trade volume is 16 trillion dollar, with CPEC it will increase this number in shorter period of time. It is estimated that America will have 21 trillion dollar of **trade volume** and China will exceed

America with the help of CPEC and thus become the number one trader. That's why CPEC is called flagship and a game-changer for China and countries involved.

- China want to celebrate it's golden jubilee as a **global super power**. The China will attain this title with the successful operation of **CPEC** and **BRI**. China has given fifteen years to CPEC and next 19 years is for the rest. That's why china is more focused on this project.

For Pakistan:-

- The project of CPEC will include a **New Airport**, **New Infrastructure** like linking roads, 1800 km railway track from Gwadar to Kashgar, Oil pipelines installation from Gwadar oil storage tanks and all the way to Kashgar, Xinjiang in China.
- Future plans for Gwadar includes building of oil storage tanks, oil refineries, establishment of petrochemical industries, ship repair yard, shrimp farming, vessel building industries, cold storage, and ice factories and recreational water sports activities. These industries and activities will provide

employment and thus improve the economy and also engage Baloch in it.

- CPEC is a hen that lay golden eggs for Pakistan and if they slaughter it, this will be of no use.

Conclusion:-

CPEC is actually a game-changer for the region. By curbing terrorism and securing the project from corruption and un-ethical activities, CPEC will prove a fundamental success. Unless the challenges are being addressed, CPEC will get its destination.

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4. Corruption:-

(Missing point of challenge)

Pakistan has to tackle the corruption for the in time completion of this project.

As in 2017, Pakistan faced grave criticism on corruption and Beijing stopped its aid for three major road projects. Due to the charges of corruption and resentments among the people, Pakistan has to stop that construction which hinder the in time completion

(60 Minutes)