

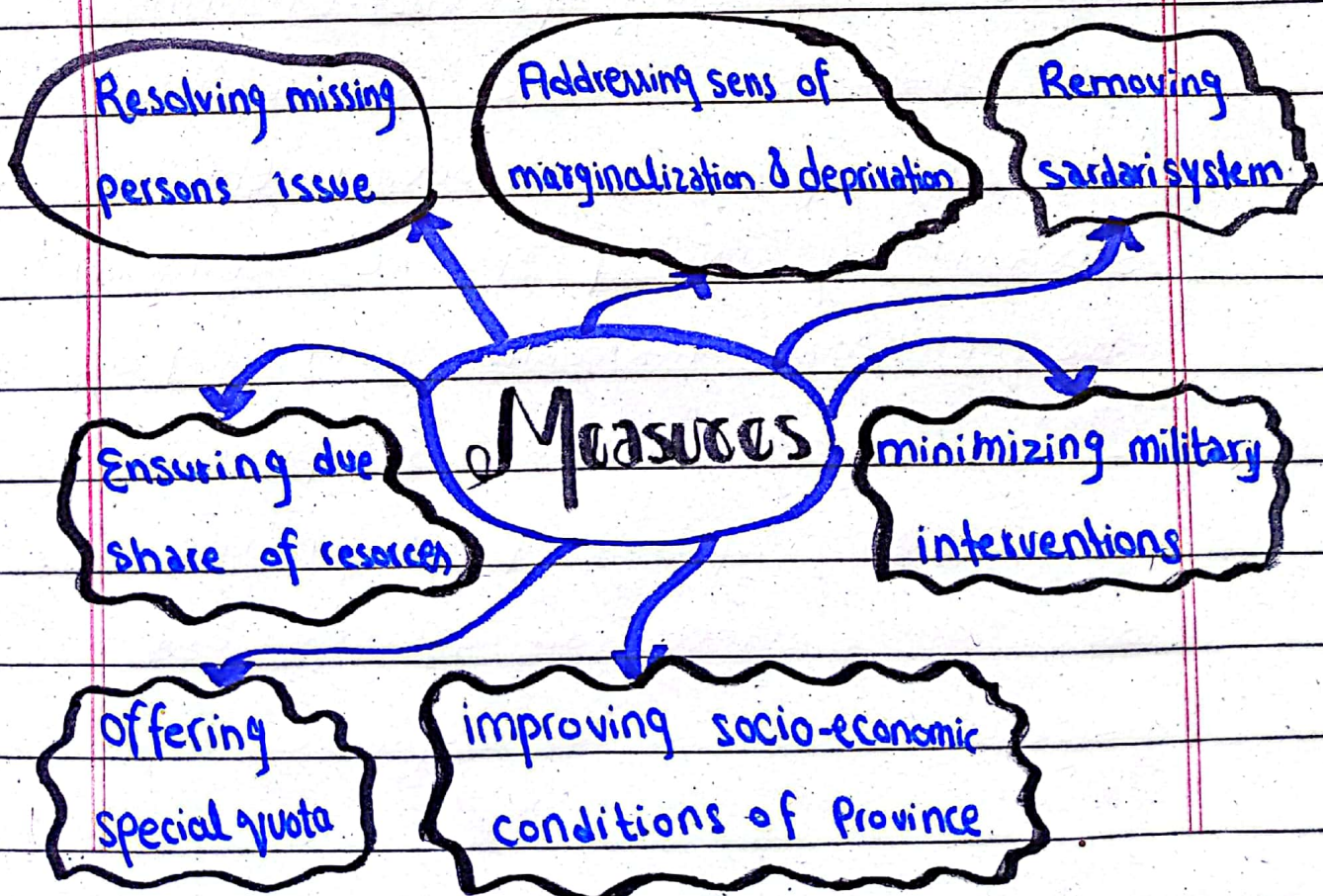
What measures do you suggest to improve the security situation of Balochistan with respect to...

Introduction:

Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan, enriched with many minerals and resources. The security situation of Balochistan with respect to CPEC can be resolved through addressing the sense of marginalization and deprivation, resolving the issue of missing persons, ensuring due share of resources and revenue to the province, removing the Sardari system of province, minimizing the military intervention, improving the socio-economic conditions of province, and offering special-quota for the locals of province. Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan should negotiate for counter-

terrorism efforts, achieving the confidence of Baloch nationalist to reduce the influence to India, establishing the technical and vocational training institutes with the help of China, Pakistan should act as a mediator between Iran and China, and enhance international relations to strengthen CPEC.

Measures to improve security situation of Balochistan in respect to CPEC:



i) Addressing the sense of marginalization and deprivation:

The locals of Balochistan are afraid of the domination of Punjab province and foreigners in the mega projects development like CP&EC in the province. The government should reduce these feelings of deprivation by increasing the locals participation in CP&EC.

"The attacks on Chinese workers started due to grievances of people of Balochistan." Source: ISSI

ii) Resolving missing persons issue:

The government has failed to resolve missing persons issue which resulted into widespread protest by locals.

"The government should set up judicial commission that has the trust of families of missing persons and solve the cases filed against them." Source: ISSI

iii) Removing the Sardari system of province:

The Sardari system of province is major obstacle for the province to leverage from the benefits of CPEC.

"The government should remove Sardari system which is the major cause of grievance of people of Balochistan, to benefit the locals." source: ISSI

These Sardars should be held accountable for their conduct of affairs.

iv) Ensuring due share for the province in revenue generated from the resources of province:

The government has always exploited the province's resources and has not (general) provide due share to the locals of province.

"The government should give due share to province in Reko Diq minerals project."

Source: ISSI

iv) Minimizing military intervention in the province to pacify anti-government feelings:

Balochistan has faced various military operations against the terrorist groups. These operations severely affected civilians and provoked anti-government feelings.

"The role of military in the Balochistan should be limited to pacify anti-government feelings." Source: ISSI

vi) Offering special job quota for province to reduced unemployment:

Due to the lack of skills and education, the locals of Balochistan are unable to secure jobs in CPEC projects.

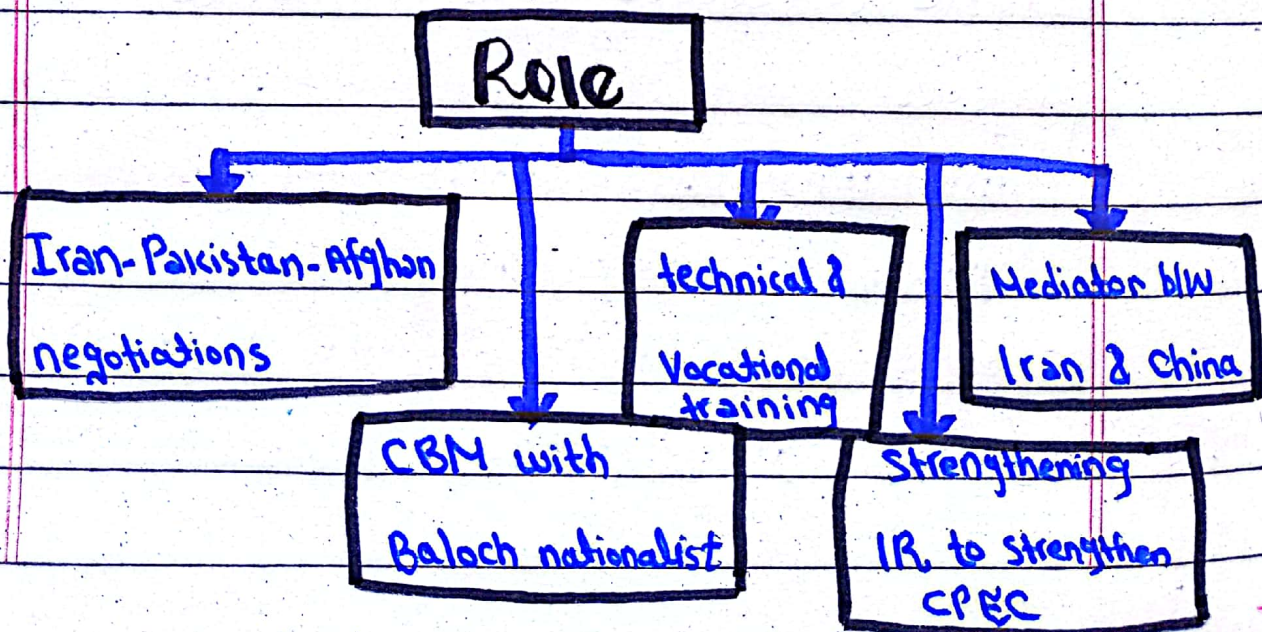
"The government should offer special quota in every field for the people of Balochistan. The special quota package range from 18 to 20 grade." Source: ISSI

vii) Improving Socio-economic condition of province:

The basic health services, access to education and employment is very poor in the Balochistan. The studies of World Bank also show that the progress of Balochistan is very low as compare to other provinces.

"The government should allocate special fund for the health and education improvement. This will not make favourable environment for TTP." Source: ISSI

Role of regional powers to sabotage security concerns:



i) Iran-Pakistan-Afghanistan negotiations for counter-terrorism effort:

Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan share borders which helps the terrorist to conduct activities in one country and escape to another country.



"Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan should reduce irregular movement at border to reduce terrorist activities." Source: ISSI

ii) Establishing CBMs with Baloch nationalist:

India is taking full advantage of the depressed feelings of the

Baloch people. It is providing financial aid to the terrorist groups to conduct hostilities.

"The federal government should establish Confidence Building measures with Baloch nationalist to reduce India's influence in province." Source: ISSI

iii) Establishing technical and vocational training institute with the help of China:

Due to poor socio-economic conditions of province, there is a favourable environment for the TTP to recruit new members.

"The government should engage with China to establish technical and vocational training institutes to produce skilled labor." Source: ISSI

This will boost employment opportunities for the locals in CPEC project.

iv) Pakistan as a mediator between Iran and China:

The strategic cooperation agreement between Iran and China was ended in 2021. This enabled India to engage with Iran for the establishment of Chabahar port.

"India has invested \$85 million for the establishment of Chabahar port to counter CPEC." Source: IPRI

Pakistan should act as a mediator between Iran and China to reduce India's influence.

v) Strengthening international relations to strengthen CPEC:

China Pakistan Economic corridor (CPEC) is facing resistance from India and US. Both the countries are opposing CPEC due to their

own national interest.

"Pakistan should engage with the regional and international countries and offer participation to these countries in CPEC."

Source: IPR

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, the security situation in Balochistan are causing slow progress of CPEC. The government should address these security concerns by adopting various measures. The regional powers should also play active role to sabotage it.