

Essay:-

China - Pakistan Economic Corridor  
(CPEC) and its socio-economic  
implications for the region and  
the world.

## Outline

- 1) Introduction
- 2) CPEC (Overview)
- 3) Prospects attached towards the fulfilment of CPEC.
- 4) challenges linked to the construction of CPEC
- 5) Factors delineating CPEC as a regional game changer.
- 6) Conclusion.

## Introduction:-

Developing countries are sought to be engaged in bilateral and multilateral projects to economically and socially uplift their respective regions.

Taking into account China's bring out China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in April 2015 as flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Undeniably, Economic Corridor between two Iron brothers aims to promote bilateral trade, regional connectivity, logistics, and

people to people interaction through a wider network of roads, railways, pipelines and ports, primarily Gawader Port in Pakistan to China Xijnping region. Moreover, CPEC presents numerous opportunities for Pakistan in term of economic growth, infrastructure development, and energy sector. Likewise, it emerges as a transformative project for the country, enhancing its geostrategic position in the South Asia region. However, challenges to the construction

of CPEC stand still in  
term of security concerns,  
and geopolitical tensions at  
both national and international  
level. Nonetheless, CPEC holds  
the potential to be a  
regional game changer in  
upgrading the regional  
economy, shifting  
the balance of power,  
and enhancing regional  
connectivity and cooperation.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor  
(CPEC): Overview.

CPEC is a framework  
for economic development  
and regional connectivity

that focuses on enhancing trade, cooperation, and cultural exchanges. It dates back to 2013 when Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan and announced the Silk Road Economic belt, and later on 4 April 2015 CPEC was included, as its flagship project. The geoeconomic corridor was divided into three phases.

|                                  |                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Short term phase<br>2015-2020 | Early Harvest projects (EHPs)<br>Energy projects & infrastructure development                |
| 2) Medium term phase<br>2020-25  | Focus on establishing industrial<br>Parks and special Economic Zones                         |
| 3) Long term phase<br>2025-2030  | Aim to develop railway infrastructure<br>promote tourism and Human resources<br>cooperation. |

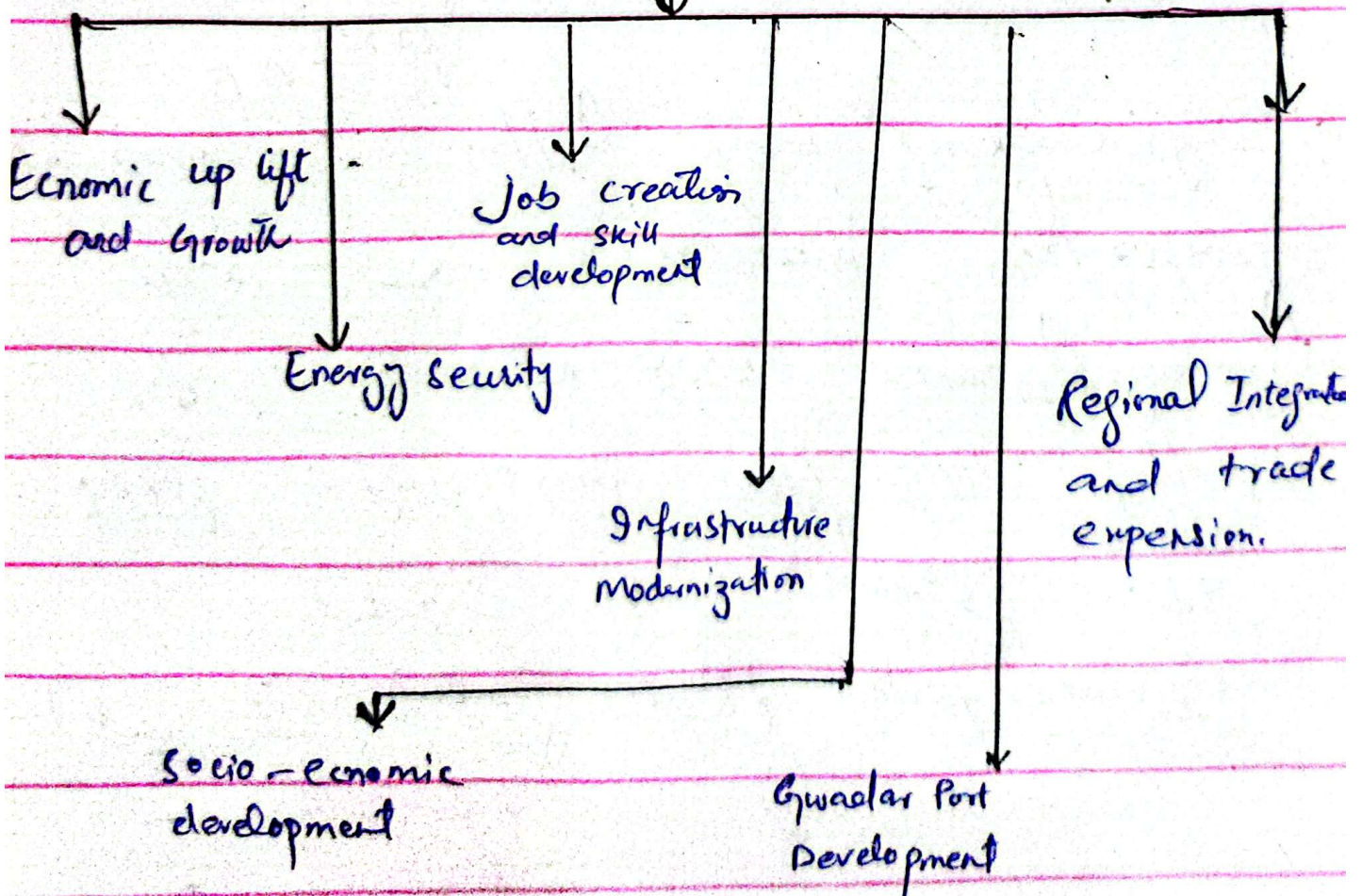
Apart from economic and infrastructure development, CPEC extends cooperation in multiple disciplines, including agriculture, energy, industry, science and technology and transportation.

Initially it ~~start~~ ~~from~~ valued at 46 billion USD, and in later on increased amount 46 to 65 billion USD. ~~likewise~~

Likewise, Pakistan acknowledges the role of CPEC for the existence of survival, mid-term need of stability and long term sustainability.

Prospects attached towards  
the fulfillment of CPEC.  
The successful  
completion of CPEC offer  
several promising prospects  
for Pakistan in economic,  
and geopolitical term.

Key prospect of CPEC



① Economic Uplift and growth:-  
CPEC is expected to  
boost Pakistan ~~GDP~~ GDP by  
up to 2 to 2.5% ~~annually~~ annually  
due to improve infrastructure,  
energy, supply, and increased  
trade.

② Energy Security:-

Addressing energy shortage  
CPEC include numerous power  
projects (coal, hydro, solar, wind)  
aimed to resolving Pakistan's  
chronic energy crises.

③ Job creation and Skill development

CPEC project are expected to create hundreds of thousands of jobs. Collaboration with Chinese firms may lead to technology transfer and skill training for Pakistani workers.

④ Infrastructure Modernization.

Construction of modern highways, motorways and railways, and railways across the country will enhance connectivity. Moreover, Development of cities around economic hubs and ports will drive urbanization and modernization.

## ⑤ ~~Gro~~ Gwadar Port Development:-

Gro Gwadar is a major deep-sea port, connecting China and central & Asia to global markets. Gwadar port development could transform into a regional trade and logistics center, comparable to Dubai or Singapore.

## ⑥ Regional Integration and Trade Expansion:-

Link with Central Asia, China, the Middle East and

Africa will open new Trade corridors. Better logistics and production facilities can boost Pakistani exports and attract foreign direct investment (FOI).

## ⑦ Socio-Economic development.

New economic opportunities can help lift people out of poverty, especially in marginalized regions.

Development in educational and health sectors can improve quality of life and better living.

### Challenges linked to the construction of CPEC:-

At the national fronts security concerns in the form of opposition, terrorism and insurgencies.

the feeling of isolation  
and alienation in tribal  
communities of GB, KPK and  
Balochistan fueled by militant  
and ethno political groups  
turn youth and local  
into radicals and extremists  
creating a climate of  
~~fear~~ fear and uncertainty  
for million-dollar project  
to be formulated effectively.

Taking into account the  
March 2024 attack in  
Shangla, the Dargu bus  
attack in 2021 and  
the 2022 attack on Karachi

university's Confucius Institute,  
the scale of vulnerability  
of Chinese engineers and  
working personnel in  
Pakistan is evident. Significantly  
local terrorist group such  
as the ~~CPEC~~ projects,  
hamper TTP, Balochistan, Balochistan  
Liberation Army (BLA) etc,  
continue to raise violence  
against the CPEC projects,  
hampering the construction  
efforts. It would adversely  
impact the cordial  
relation between the Iron  
brothers, which are needed to  
accomplish the Economic Corridor.

At the international level  
multidimensional concern from  
regional player surround CPEC,  
giving rise to geopolitical  
tension, Iran views CPEC  
and Gwadar port as an  
economic threat to China's  
hegemony in South  
Asia and the Indian Ocean.  
In 2017, Indian prime minister,  
Narendra Modi, expressed his  
concerns over the CPEC  
during his visit to China.  
Moreover, India's close engagement  
with the US, Russia and  
the Middle East after

The introduction of CPEC elucidates its efforts to limit Pakistan's sphere of influence in the region. Afghanistan represents a permanent security threat to hamper CPEC projects due to the presence of global terrorist (TTP, ISK-P, Al-Qaeda) and their close alignment with the Taliban in Pakistan. The US opposes CPEC in order to maintain its dominance in the South Asian region and the Indian Ocean, which would be compromised by

growing chinese influence.  
In short, Pakistan needs  
a balanced approach  
to overcome geo-political  
tensions and maintain  
peace for long-term economic  
development.

Factors delineating CPEC  
as a regional game  
changer:-

CPEC as a regional  
game changer intensifies  
upon examining its vast  
range of economic benefit  
for South Asian countries.

The Scalability of CPEC development project open up vast opportunities for cooperation in multiple domains, including Industry, Science and Technology, and agriculture. Moreover, Gwadar port plays a crucial role in driving economic globalization in the South Asian region by significantly enhancing economic prosperity through seaborne trade and the shipping industry.

## Conclusion:

To cap it all, CPEC is of substantial importance to both Pakistan and China, as it provides a mutually beneficial model for both the two countries.

CPEC is a transformative project that will benefit Pakistan economically, politically and strategically, offering a vast array of opportunities. Contrarily, the extent of challenges regarding security concerns and geopolitical tensions undermine the

ecology of the regional  
economic corridor. Moreover

it also raises questions  
about the competency of  
Pakistani institutions in

managing the huge,  
multi-billion-dollar collaboration  
and maintaining a long-term  
shared future together.

Despite the abovementioned  
challenges, CPEC has the potential  
to be a regional game changer by  
economically upgrading in the  
South Asia region. Thus, the  
vision of economic corridor is to create  
a connected, stable and prosperous region  
for smooth cultivation of trade and businesses  
from around the world.