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Question no 4"CPEC Phase II"1. Introduction:

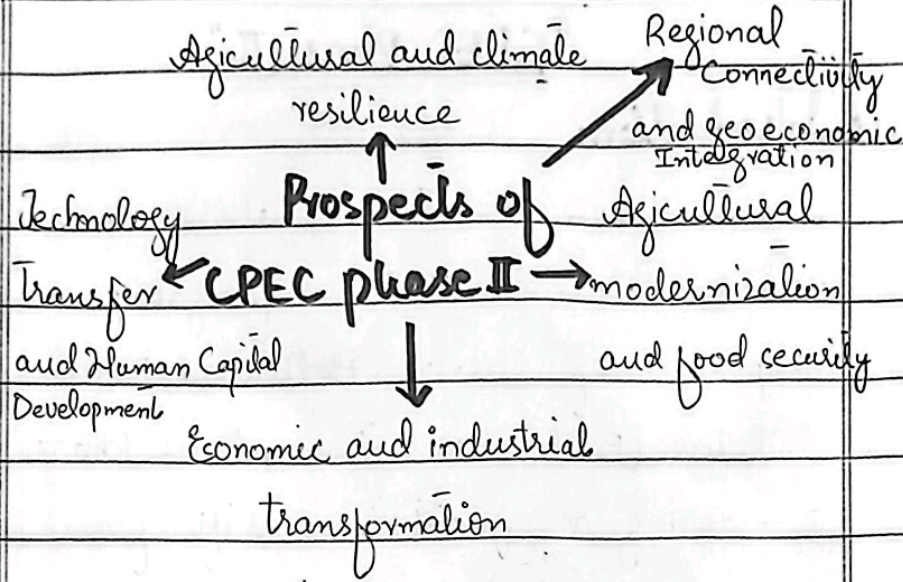
The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship component of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has entered its Phase II marking a qualitative shift from infrastructure-led growth to industrial cooperation, socio-economic development, agricultural modernization. Phase I aims to ensure economic viability, employment and long term productivity. CPEC amid intensifying US-China strategic rivalry, Pakistan's economic fragility and regional stability. Phase II is not merely an economic project but a test case of Pakistan's ability to pursue geo-economic while maintaining strategic balance between China

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and US.

2- Prospects of CPEC phase II:



(i) Economic and Industrial transformation:

CPEC phase II prioritizes Special Economic Zones (SEZ) such as Rashakai, Allama Iqbal and Dhabeji. CPEC offering prospects of:

- Export oriented industrial growth
- Employment generation
- Import substitution

Special Economic Zones can shift

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Pakistan from a consumption based
to a production based economy.

(ii) Agricultural modernization and food security:

CPEC phase II

emphasizes small agriculture, value addition in agro products, cold storage and supply chains. This one can enhance productivity, ensure food security and boost rural incomes.

(iii) Technology Transfer and Human development:

Phase II joint ventures in

Information technology, artificial intelligence, renewable energy and vocational training. This can help Pakistan bridge its Technological deficit and reduce dependence on low skilled labour exports.

(iv) Regional connectivity and geo-economic integration:

CPEC strengthens

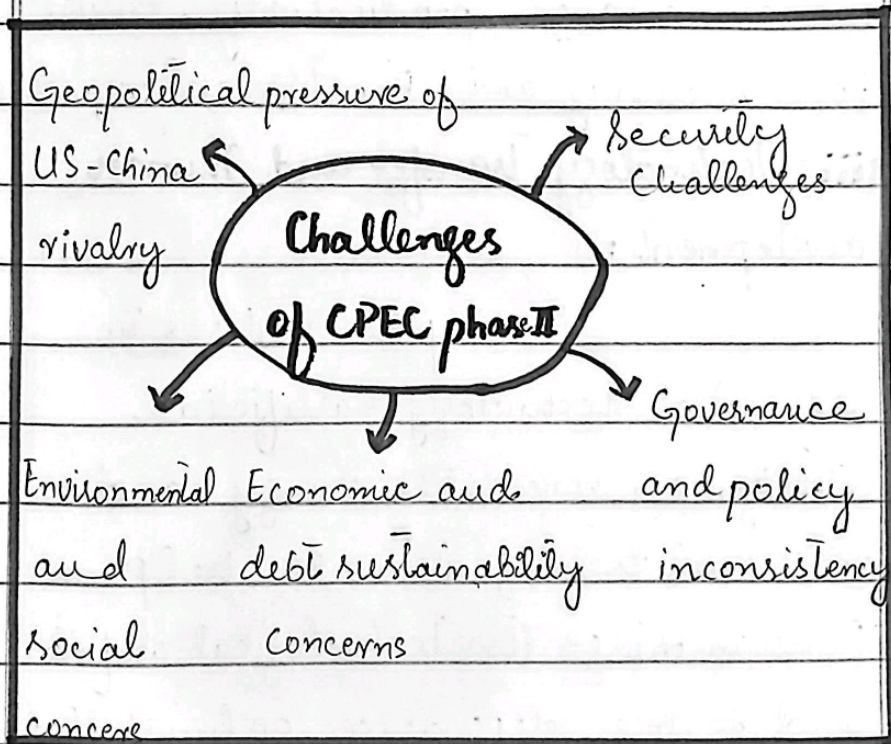
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Pakistan's role as a regional trade hub by connecting China with Arabian Sea and Central Asia with South Asia and the Middle East.

This aligns with Pakistan's shift from geo-politics to geo-economics.

3- Multi dimensional Challenges of CPEC phase II:



(i) Economic and Debt sustainability concerns:

Pakistan's IMF engagement and fiscal stress raise question

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about project viability, debt repayment capacity and slow pace of SEZ investment.

(ii) Governance and Policy inconsistency:

One of the major challenge is weak inter provincial co-ordination, regulatory uncertainty and Bureaucratic inertia that undermine investor confidence.

(iii) Security Challenges:

Phase II implementation have hurdle of security challenges. Terrorist attack on Chinese engineers, Insurgency in Balochistan and hybrid warfare narratives poses serious threats to Phase II implementation.

(iv) Geopolitical pressure of US-China rivalry:

The US perceives CPEC as a "strategic extension of China's influence" and placing Pakistan under diplomatic

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pressure to avoid exclusive alignment especially amid Indo-Pacific dynamics.

4- Policy measures for Pakistan:

(i) In strengthening ties with China through CPEC phase II:

a. Shift from loans to Joint venture:

For strengthening ties with China through CPEC phase II, Pakistan has to encourage equity based investments and to promote public-private partnerships. Pakistan must reduce reliance on sovereign loans. This will address debt sustainability concerns.

b. Shift from infrastructure to Industrial productivity:

Pakistan

should prioritize industrial cooperation over mega infrastructure by fast tracking Special Economic Zones, linking

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SEZ output with global value chains and encouraging export oriented manufacturing. This will correct Pakistan's Structural Trade deficit.

c- Address security through inclusive development:

Security

should be addressed by improved co-ordination between civil and security institutions, economic inclusion of Balochistan and Gwadar. This development led to security ensures and long term stability of CPEC.

d- Ensures local participation and Technology transfer:

For

strengthening ties with China through CPEC phase II, Pakistan should mandatory employment quotas for locals, skill development through technical institutes and technology sharing clauses in agreements.

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(ii) Policy measures To balance relations with the USA:

a- Maintaining Security Autonomy:

Pakistan must

avoid bloc politics, pursue issue-based diplomacy and refrain from becoming a frontline state in US-China rivalry. Strategic neutrality enhances diplomatic US-China rivalry. maneuverability.

b- De-securitize Pakistan-US engagement:

Pakistan should expand cooperation with the US in trade and investment, climate change, renewable energy, IT, education and health sector. This will reduce trust deficit and security centric dependence.

c- Present Pakistan China Economic Corridor as an open

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and commercial initiative:

Pakistan should invite third party investment in SEZs, emphasize economic not military nature of CPEC and align projects with international financial norms. This will counter the debt trap narrative

5- Conclusion:

CPEC phase II represents a strategic opportunity for Pakistan to achieve industrialization, economic resilience and regional integration. However its success depends on governance reforms, security stabilization, economic sustainability and diplomatic prudence. Pakistan can deepen its partnership with China through CPEC while maintaining its relation with USA to safeguarding its national interests in an increasingly polarized global order.

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Question no 3

27th Constitutional

Amendment

1. Introduction:

_____ The 27th constitutional Amendment to the constitution of Pakistan passed in November 2025 represents one of the most contentious adjustments to the country's constitutional architecture in recent years. Unlike earlier amendments aimed at decentralisation or democratic consolidation the 27th Amendment fundamentally restructures the judicial system, alters the balance between state institutions and recalibrates the scope of judicial authority.

2- Features of The 27th Amendment in 1973 constitution:

(i) Creation of federal constitutional court (FCC):

One of the most far reaching

provisions of the amendment is the establishment of a federal constitutional court entrusted with constitutional interpretation and adjudication of dispute that previously fell under the Supreme Court's original jurisdiction.

(ii) Changes in judicial appointment and Transfers:

The amendment expands the role of the executive and legislature within the Judicial Commission of Pakistan thereby diluting primacy in appointment. It also ease the transfer of judges without their consent.

(iii) Restriction of suo moto jurisdiction:

The Supreme Court's suo moto powers are procedurally constrained. Past misuse of these powers but argue that suo moto jurisdiction often served as the last resort of Public interest litigation in a weak accountability environment.

3- Curtailment of Judicial Powers:

The cumulative effect of the 21st amendment is a structural weakening of a judicial

authority rather than mere procedural reforms. Following are the points which show curtailment of Judicial powers:

(i) Dilution of Supreme court's constitutional role:

By transferring constitutional review to the FCC the amendment undermines the Supreme court's role as the ultimate guardian of the constitution. This shift is dethroning the Supreme court warning that fragmenting constitutional jurisdiction may create confusion and politicisation rather than efficiency.

(ii) Threats To judicial Independence:

Expanded executive influence in appointment and transfers raises concerns that judicial career may become contingent on political approval. Judicial independence is not only about tenure security but also about freedom from subtle coercion.

(iii) Weakening of fundamental rights enforcement:

Article 134(3) and 199 enabled supreme courts to protect fundamental rights proactively. Restricting

These avenues may reduce citizen access to justice particularly in cases involving state excesses.

4- Implications for the trichotomy of Powers:

(i) Strengthening of the Executive:

The 27th amendment significantly tilts the balance in favour of the executive by weakening judicial oversight. This is slide towards executive supremacy, inconsistent with constitutional checks and balances.

(ii) Legislative judicial overlap:

By increasing parliamentary influence in judicial appointments, the amendment blurs the separation between the law making and the law interpreting branches.

(iii) Long term impacts on Democratic Governance:

An independent judiciary is essential for public trust in the rule of law. The perceived judicial subservience may erode confidence in courts, weaken democratic norms

The 21st constitutional Amendment represents a turning point in Pakistan's constitutional evolution. While framed as an effort to promote judicial restraint and institutional harmony, it effectively curtails judicial powers, weakens the Supreme Court and disturbs the trichotomy of powers. Any reform that undermines this independence risks transforming constitutional governance into executive rule with long term consequences for democracy and the rule of law in Pakistan.