

Q#2

1 Introduction:-

CPEC was launched in 2015 and now a decade has been passed. The ambitions of CPEC is mainly economic growth, regional connectivity and energy sector development. However, reality is bit mix, partial betterment due to roads and infrastructure development. Bitter, in terms of unfinished projects and increasingly loan pressure. Along with that International condemn and fear of un-due influence of China in Pakistan. Thus, it is imperative for Pakistan to critically evaluate the benefits as well as associated risks to align them to the national interests of country.

2 Ambitions of CPEC:-

i) Pak-China Ties:-

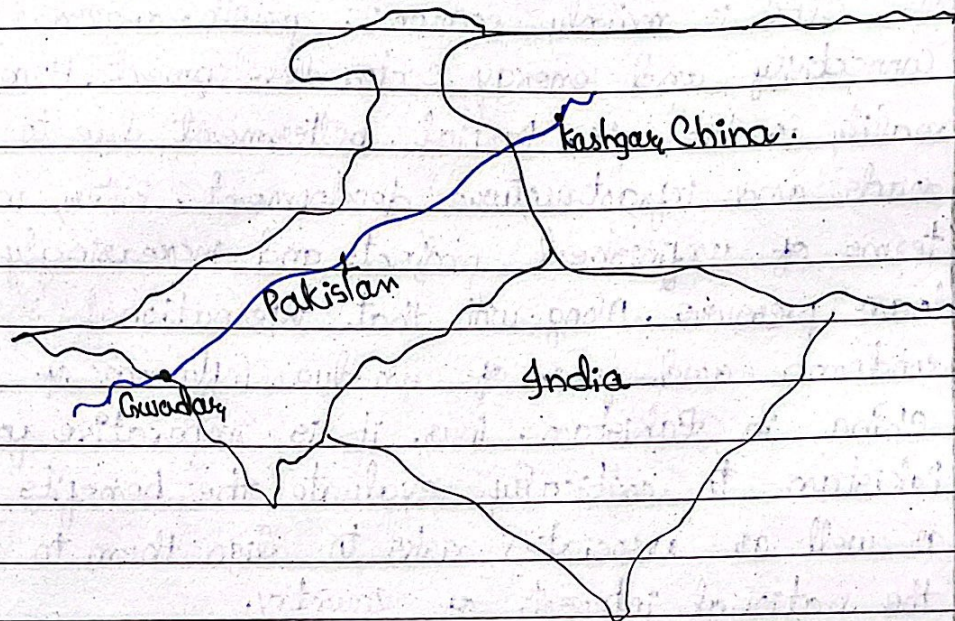
China has always been "all-weather friend" of Pakistan. Thus, CPEC is another positive initiative for both countries to tie their friend into economic bonds to make it more strong.

Chinese president Xi said: (Al-Jazeera)

"CPEC is a flag-ship project of BRI and we have high-hopes with Pakistan."

## ii) Regional Connectivity :-

The major aim of CPEC is to find alternate routes for trade so that regional connectivity can be made more easily and smoothly. i.e. CPEC from China - Kashmir - Pakistan.



## iii) Economic Growth :-

China wants to build 'The New Silk Road' (i.e. 'silk road of trade'). CPEC is its major project. It is economic growth for both China and Pakistan as well as to the adjacent partners.

## iv) Energy Perspectives :-

In CPEC, massive projects are based on energy generation. For example; Sahiwal coal fired plant, Dawood wind farm, Quaid-i-Azam Solar, Port Qasim Power Plant.

and so. All these projects not just help Pakistan in its resolution of energy crisis but also help to develop Chinese un-settled region of western regions.

## v) Industrial Boost :-

Through CPEC, China wants to build economic hub but with low wages and cheap labour. Thus, lots of industrial projects are also aligned in Pakistani soil. 17045 MW of electricity projects, New Optical Fiber connect with China, roads and infrastructure building and even 4 urban mass transit projects in major cities (The Nations).

## 3 Realities of CPEC :-

### a) Positives :-

#### i) Infrastructure and Roads building :-

Due to CPEC, various barren areas of Pakistan like in KPK, Sukkur, Gwadar, motorways and roads are build.

#### ii) Jobs Creations :-

According to 'The Nations' 9/22 energy projects are completed of CPEC. These had labours from Pakistan. The hotels and various other near-by sectors got boost due to these

projects:

### iii) Energy Projects:-

Pakistan is in energy crisis and CPEC has brought projects that have potential to help resolve them. i.e. Gwadar port.

### iv) China strong Ally to Pakistan:-

Since, Chinese are equal stakeholders in CPEC. Therefore, China is trying to help Pakistan economically and politically to keep country in stable condition. i.e. In FATF, China voted against black-listing Pakistan (IMF report).

## b Harsh Realities:-

### i) Security Concerns in Balochistan:-

Rise of TTP in Balochistan region specially against CPEC as it is not helping regional growth, In fact, exploiting the home country.

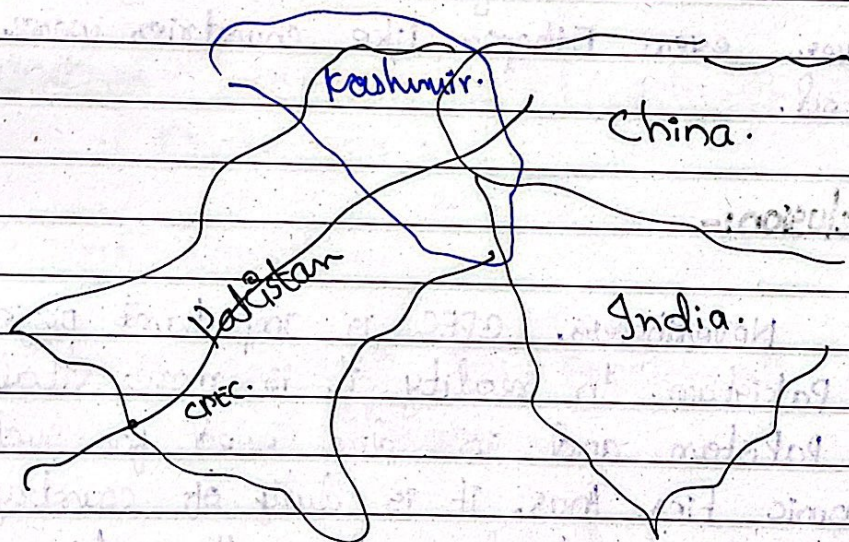
### ii) Debt Sustainability:-

The US called CPEC and BRI both as 'debt trap' (The diplomat). Reality is bit inclining towards this accusation. Since, billions of dollars China has given as loan

to Pakistan but the country is unable to repay them. Although, it is not Chinese fault but situation if goes like that, Pakistan can be 'second-Srilanka'.

### iii) Risen Tensions with India:-

India has concern of route. Since CPEC passes through Kashmir, which is according to India a disputed region. Thus, the already rivalry got another point to fight.



### iv) Mistrust of USA:-

In US-China, US is considering Pakistan as 'proxy-partner of China' against USA. Therefore, USA has sided Pakistan in terms of diplomatic relations. Moreover, Biden has tilted towards 'Indian-friendship' more.

### c) Grey - Zone :-

The Pakistan promised part of CPEC projects are still unfinished. However, china has completed its part. China has also given huge loans but Pakistan has remained political un-well towards their completion. Although china has not opening shown its disappointment but its actions are bit going against the wind. For example in BRICS 2023 meeting, china did not condemn India for not asking Pakistan to join. However, even Ethiopia like countries were invited.

### 4 Conclusion:-

Nevertheless, CPEC is important project for Pakistan. In reality it is more vital for Pakistan and in dire need for such economic ties. Thus, it is duty of country be more practical and enthusiastic for the completion of promised protocols. whereas, the risks are concerned, Pakistan can also ask china for more transparent and show the world <sup>and people too</sup> that it is benefit for both on equal terms.

Q#4

## 1 Introduction :-

Pakistan has been under the political, economical and foreign policy crisis since inception. The parties flow like rivers in the country but with no practical results. Every thing is intertwined and in chaos. So only way-out is rule of law and political sincere will for the development of the country.

## 2 Pakistan Experiencing Tripecta of Challenges :

### a) Political Unrest :-

### 1) Activism against Ex-President Mr. Imran Khan :-

Massive campaign had launched to overtake Mr. Khan in various crimes. People all over country went as mob and situation got worst. Overnight Judiciary made decisions and Mr. Khan was thrown out of his seat. Such actions are not seen for the development policies of Pakistan. Because in Pakistan, the role of opposition is not of 'accountability' but to just find ways to not allow elected governments to complete its 5-year term-rule.

## ii) Never Achieving Democracy:-

Due to this political situation, Pakistan is still unable to achieve democracy. So the rule of law is suffering, minorities are oppressing and socially, economically, and technology no development is been achieved. According to UN, Pakistan is the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst country in the world to live in.

## b) Economic Crisis :-

### i) Skyrocketing Inflation :-

According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) report of 2023, 46.65% population of Pakistan are below the extreme poverty line. People are suiciding due to inflation in country.

### ii) Circular Debt:-

Pakistan has about \$126.3 billion external debt and liabilities. \$18 billion world Bank debt, Asian bank \$15 billion and alone China debt is \$27 billion. And Pakistan has no resources to pay them. On the fire-stone, last year, Pakistan just manage to not declare as default-state. However, conditions are very worse.



### iii) Blooming Trade Deficit:-

Pakistan has only \$4 billion foreign reserves. Wholly depended on imports. Even agricultural sector that was in 1960s surplus is now also not earning well. Mainly due to floods and other natural hazards as well. However, the expenditure and income balance is not good in Pakistan.

### c) Tough Foreign Policy :-

#### i) US - China ~ 'New Cold War'

In US-China cold war like situation, Pakistan do not want to take sides but China - EPEC and US - mistrust is perceiving its own way by itself.

#### ii) US - Russia Vs Ukraine War:-

NATO has landed on Ukraine against Russia. Pakistan has militarily, economically, oil and wheat imports from Russia. US need explicit actions against Russia. However, Pakistan did condemn Russian aggression but do not hold grudges due to its own national interest.

### iii) Growing Indian Hatred:-

Diplomatically, India had not even allowed cricket collaboration between Pakistan and India. Although Pakistan did great move, to not act similar to India. But the concern is Indian has fallen from political to social and even people-to-people barriers against Pakistan.

### iv) Afghanistan and Rise of Terrorism:-

Even in Pakistan TTP has risen. Whole world is concerned about Afghanistan led terrorism. Since Pakistan managed poha and Qatar talks with Taliban, now world has eye on Pakistani move on 'terror' too.

### v) Saudi-Iran Normality and Impacts on Pakistan:-

In the bigger picture, this initiative is positive for Pakistan. However, Pakistan has to keep sure now the promise of Iran-Pakistan Gas-pipeline project completion very keenly.

### 3 Conclusion:-

Pakistan has potential to survive. As it has till 75 years. However, these existential issues needs systemic change. Suggestions are to focus on education more. The educated people are the only key to resolve these situation.

As Thomas Jefferson said,

When the people fears  
the government  
there is tyranny;

But when the  
government  
fears the people  
there is a  
Liberty..

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Q# 5

## 1 Introduction:-

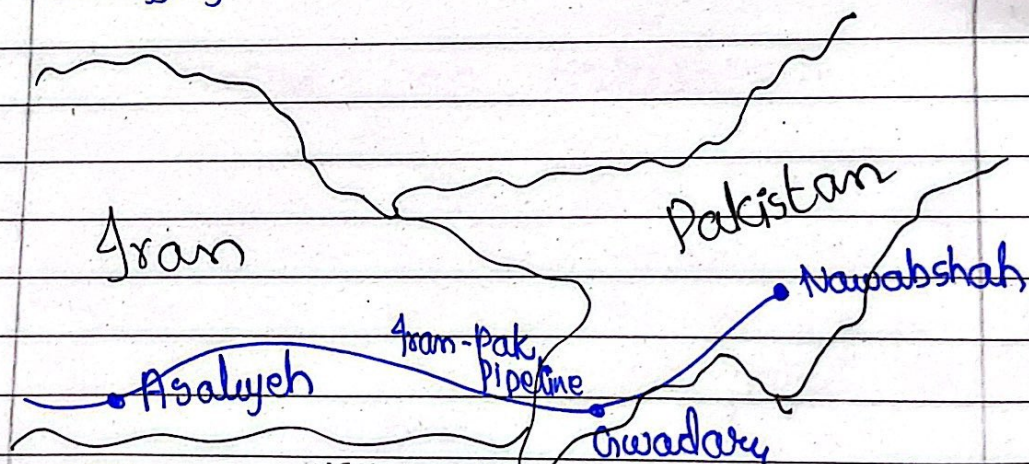
The energy crisis is interlinked to the weak political will and poor governance, because CPEC, Iran, Turkey, Russia all has been working for the energy projects in Pakistan but political will is uncertain. Similarly, internal infrastructure of country is very old, traditional and out-dated. Thus corruption and poor governance is encouraging the energy crisis more.

## 2 Energy Crisis due to Weak Political Will:-

## i) Poor Foreign Policy:-

a. Iran-Pak Gas Pipeline:-

gas Although Pakistan-Iran has signed pipeline project and Iran ~~and~~ has also completed its part, Pakistan is still struggling.



## b. Unfinished CPEC <sup>Energy</sup> projects:-

Despite Chinese huge financial help, Pakistan is been unable to complete the projects in-time.

## ii) Massive Energy Imports:-

According to World Bank report, crude oil from UAE 56%, Saudi Arabia 34% and Kuwait 4%.

Petroleum from UAE 54%, Kuwait 17% and Oman 15%.

## iii) Circular Debt:-

Net alone energy loan from middle eastern countries are around \$20 billion according to World Bank.

## iv) Inconsistency in Policies:-

Pakistan only favouring the political-elites for their vested interests. Subsidies to them and tax evasion for elite classes. Thus energy sector unable to recollect the consumed energy prices and crisis remained high.

## 3) Energy Crisis due to Misgovernance:-

### i) Corruption:-

'Kunda System' fraud loopholes in electricity bills are prevalent in Pakistan and country is been unable to resolve them.

From government side too the high bill amount cases are emerging with no effective measure to tackle too.

### ii) Aging Infrastructure-

The old pipeline system is still in Pakistan that often black-out in floods and monsoon season.

### iii) Low investments in Renewable Energy Resources:-

Government is not encouraging people for solar ways. The hydro plant is not strong enough to generate energy for whole country. Thus,

Country heavily rely on fossil fuels. No subsidies, no initiative has been given to people or industries for such conversion. Thus energy crisis are growing day by day.

#### 4 Conclusion:-

The major role is of government accountability and political sincerity towards crisis of Pakistan. Then only, these existential crisis can be resolved in the country.

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Q# 8

#### 1 Introduction:-

The internal security, economic, social and various cyber issues in Pakistan get politicized due to the presences of India, China, and Afghanistan green-flags in the country. Thus, any insurgency gets world attention and rise in the global forums.

#### 2 Internationalization of Non-Traditional

Threats in Pakistan :-

## i) Terrorism:-

The killing and attacking of Chinese people in Pakistan, some accepted by TTP and some by unknown attackers got world attention due to attack on foreign individuals and thus breach of international Vienna Treaty of foreign national protection rights.

## ii) Cyber Espionage and data Breaches:-

The attack of 'State Bank of Pakistan' is been accused as Indian threat on privacy of Pakistan. Hence, it got international attention as it is against 'Sovereign state rights of non-interference' (UN)

## iii) Climate Change and Environment Challenges:-

The world Bank has highlighted water scarcity crisis as 2025 will be drought to the country.

US has accused China energy consumption shift to Pakistan in COP27 meeting. due to CPEC energy projects-



#### iv) Pandemics and Health Care:-

Malaria, Polio, Breast Cancer, HIV and various health issues are rising in Pakistan due to floods and poor disaster management.

The tourists visits in Pakistan got affected by these crisis and even died on Malaria. Some got stucked due to floods and roads got stucked.

The Murree case of locals looting and over-expensive sales on common life goods and even water got UN-Human rights condemn.

### 3 Role of Regional and Global

Powers:-

#### a) India's Involvement:-

Accusation of India on Pulwama attack, Mumbai attacks. In retaliation drone attacks and espionage.

## b) Afghanistan Refugee Effects:-

Millions of Refugees are settled in Pakistan about \$2.7 billion by UN refugee camp ~~estab~~ estimates.

They are reported involved in informal economy, crimes and various health issues.

## c) China's role:-

Due to untransparency in CPEC, local people have concerns and so not happy and often small revolts and attacks are the consequence.

## d) US involvement:-

"war on terror" impact is still alive of US in Pakistan.

"Do more" by Biden.

"Indian favour"

and Aukus threat by US is

open to Pakistan.

#### 4 Conclusion:-

Thus, small cough in Pakistan get sneezed in whole world due to security dilemma of US-India and China. In the global power dynamics, the Pakistani soil has always been exploited. Thus, Pakistan has to work with diplomacy, Any misunderstanding can be huge setback for the country. In the end, peace should be prioritized not war, conquest or intrusion.