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Shaista
Batch 49.

Current Affairs Day.
Paper.

6.
Q.

China and Pakistan are celebrating the decade of CPEC. Critically evaluate success and failures of the project.

Ans: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) holds a central position within the strategic partnership between the two nations. Since its inception in 2013, through an agreement signed between president of China and Prime Minister of Pakistan, it represents as a testament to the enduring friendship between the two countries. It connects Pakistan's Gwadar port to China's Xinjiang Uyghur and encompasses a diverse range of projects consist of railways, highways and pipelines. CPEC is the flagship project of BRI that provides a shortest route to Arabian Sea avoiding

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a long and narrow Strait of Malacca.

Although CPEC is considered a debt trap and a mere infrastructure project by most of the western countries, specially USA. but, the project is also a platform of improving the trade and creating a strong economic relationship between the two countries.

The Li Deng, Vice Prime Minister's visit:

The recent visit of China's vice prime minister in July, 2023 marked the 10th Anniversary of Pakistan-China

project, CPEC, which is a landmark project that has strengthened the economic ties and cooperation between the two nations.

Over the past ten years CPEC has played a pivotal role in transforming Pakistan's economic landscape. The successful completion of multiple projects under CPEC and the China's investment of nearly \$30 billion stand

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as testament to the effatnes of flaship
project of CPEC. It is obvious from
the words of Xi Jinping, president
of China,

"CPEC is a testament to the
enduring friendship between China
and Pakistan, and it represent a
shining example of regional
cooperation and connectivity"

Success of the Project:

As the project is a mutual benefiting
project for economic growth and
prosperity. CPEC for Pakistan drives
both the phases remained and
is a helpful hand in energy
shortages and economic development

CPEC Phase I

Investment in Energy sectors.

A wide range of investments in
energy sectors that include the
projects of coal, civil nuclear
hydroelectric, wind projects and solar

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Benefits

projects which will help Pakistan in coping with electricity, loadshedding, cheaper electricity generation, Decrease in trade deficit, Along with all it will provide Pakistan with a clean energy production.

Investment in Transport system:

The investment in transport system can be divided into High way, motor ways, railways and gawader seaport. Examples are ① southern alignment from gawader to basima

② Eastern alignment that commences from Burhan - Faisalabad - Multan - Sukkar - Hyderabad and to Karachi

Railways. Includes Maw line its a single free double track system and a project of 3 million dollar.

Gawader Seaport is the largest seaport in Asia Pacific of 120 berths and a structure of 3 kms

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traverse ahead into the sea.

Benefits of Transport sector:

It will transform Pakistan into a transit corridor. It will not only provide trade routes to China and Pakistan but approximately 64 countries would be connected through the transit. These countries include China, the landlocked Central Asian republics, Russia, Afghanistan and Iran. If these projects are fully completed it can drive Pakistan as a economic prosperous country and an extremely important geostrategic position in the world.

Phase II of CPEC project:

Phase II of CPEC is the renewal of LPEC in which most of the projects are completed and put to operation. They are operational now. The phase II is an investment in the Special Zone through the country. Different zones in KPK, Punjab, Balochistan

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like Rashakai zone KP, Allama Iqbal
economic zone Peshawar.

Industrialization Benefits.

As Pakistan's industry is on decline
and more industrial zones means
more production. It will enhance
the industrial productivity by triple.

Concluding the success from above discussion
on energy and industrial projects, CPEC
has made significant progress focusing
on building infrastructure ~~and~~ along
with energy projects. It has helped
Pakistan with ongoing energy shortages.
The power outages from FY 2019
to 2020 was dealt by the CPEC
projects that added 8000 mega
watts to the grid, that substantially
reduced power outages and loadshedding
in 2020 and 2021 to a greater
extent.

The special economic zones of CPEC
is also a doorway to the investment

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for investing in Pakistan, creating new job opportunities and skills development doors.

The CPEC projects have also added to the agriculture projects, ~~introduced~~ introducing new technologies leading to more production in coping the needs of increasing population. CPEC has proven and is been a great project for Pakistan's degrading status. The ~~projects~~ projects are also helping Pakistan deal with poverty, unemployment and inequality. The

Moreover, the infrastructure has also helped Pakistan's healthcare and education, by building school hospitals and training systems.

The roads, highway, and motorways have made it easy for transportation of goods and general public to commute easily.

Failures and challenges

Despite these mega projects and a bright future of CPEC, the potential

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CPEC stands far behind the success stories. Pakistan could multiply the benefits from CPEC as China has offered innovative programs. But Pakistan could not benefit from them fully.

The challenges are:

- ① The institutional framework is complicated. - It makes business unprofitable and discourages investment.
- ② Bureaucracy is another major issue of Pakistan's development.
- ③ The lip-service as one national game. Having all the solutions but no practical work.
- ④ Security - Perhaps the biggest threat and challenge to CPEC.
- ⑤ Political instability is yet another issue in bringing about a clear change in Pakistan's development.

Conclusion: Looking at the success stories and investments of CPEC projects, it is clear that CPEC is holding a bright future for Pakistan, beyond any doubt.

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If the internal matters of the country are solved with diagnostic approach. Moreover, China has consistently supported Pakistan's sovereignty and defended her in the United Nations council whenever needed.

CPEC is a portal of bring people of Pakistan in contact to China, it created job opportunities, Educational opportunities to the corner of Sindh province in there. So it is right to celebrate the 10 years of success of CPEC, and it poses greater opportunities for more success.

Q: The Expansion of BRICS would have far-reaching geo-economics and geo-political implications. Critically -----

Ans The announcement of Expansion on August, 2023 by BRICS has made the paper and raised many complex geopolitical, geo-economic and procedural concerns among the