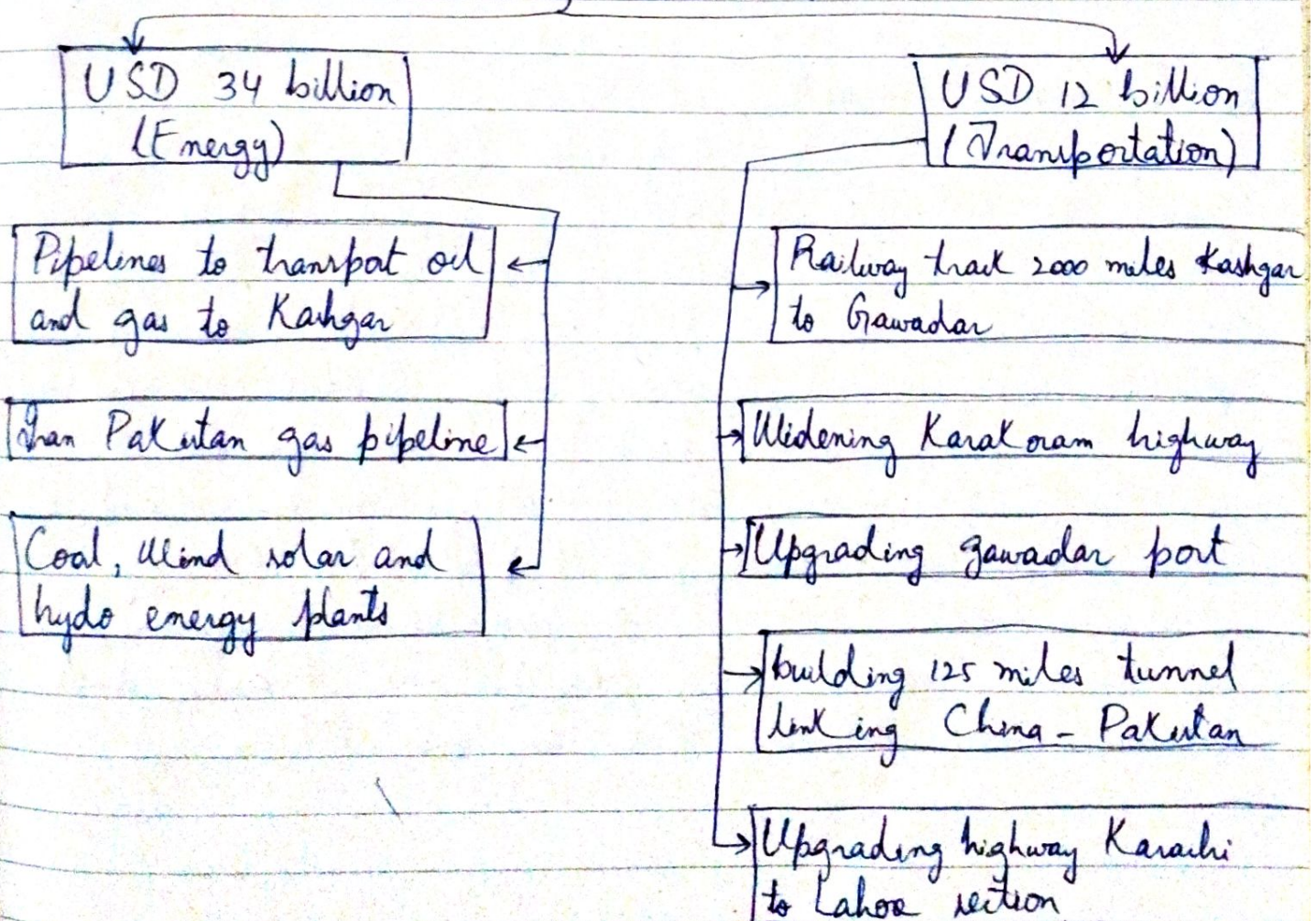


Q# 6

I- Overview of CPEC

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a significant infrastructure project aimed at connecting Gwadar Port in southeastern region, Xinjiang, via a network of highways, railways, pipelines, and other infrastructure projects. The project was expected to bring various economic and strategic benefits to both countries. However, it's essential to note that the success and failures of such projects can evolve over time and may vary depending on perspective.

Initial CPEC budget
USD 46 billion



(Source: International Journal of business and social research, 2017)

II. Successes of CPEC

a. Infrastructure development:

The CPEC encompasses extensive infrastructure development, including the construction and upgrade of roads and highways, the expansion of Gwadar Port, the establishment of energy projects, such as power plants and pipelines, the development of transportation networks, like railways, and the creation of special economic zones and industrial parks. This comprehensive initiative aims to enhance connectivity, address energy shortages, and stimulate economic growth between China and Pakistan.

b. Economic growth:

The CPEC aims to foster economic growth in Pakistan by enhancing infrastructure, industrialization, and trade connectivity. Through the development of transportation network, energy projects, and special economic zones, CPEC seeks to attract investment, create jobs, and promote industrial expansion. This initiative is expected to bolster Pakistan's GDP, alleviate energy shortages, and contribute to long term economic development, while also facilitating trade and economic ties between Pakistan and China.

c- Energy projects,

Under the CPEC, energy projects have been a significant focus, encompassing the construction of power plants, including coal-fired, hydropower, and renewable energy facilities, aimed at addressing Pakistan's chronic energy shortages. These projects seek to increase electricity generation capacity, reduce power outages, and enhance the overall energy infrastructure of Pakistan, contributing to economic growth and development.

d. Strategic ties:

Strategic ties in the CPEC refer to the strengthening of the strategic partnership between China and Pakistan. CPEC not only involves economic and infrastructure development but also deepens the political and military cooperation between the two countries. It is seen as a key element of China's belt and road initiative (BRI) and contributes to Pakistan's strategic significance in the region. These strengthened strategic ties encompass diplomatic relations, defense cooperation, and geopolitical alignment, with both countries viewing CPEC as a means to enhance their regional influence and security.

II Challenges and Criticisms

a. Security Concerns:

Security concerns surrounding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) primarily revolve around terrorist attacks targeting infrastructure, personnel, and projects. Balochistan insurgency, cross border instability near Afghanistan, and geopolitical tensions add complexity to security efforts. Protection of Chinese personnel and extensive infrastructure remains a priority, with ongoing measures to mitigate risks.

b. Geopolitical Tensions:

Geopolitical tensions related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) mainly stem from its alignment with China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India, in particular, has raised concerns, viewing CPEC as infringing on its territorial integrity as a section of the corridor passes through Pakistan-administered Kashmir, an area claimed by India. This dispute has led to strained relations and raised geopolitical tensions in the region. CPEC's strategic significance and its potential impact on the balance of power in South Asia contribute to these ongoing geopolitical challenges.

c. Cross-border concerns:

Cross-border concerns regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) involve the need for stable and secure transit routes, as CPEC aims to connect China to the Arabian Sea via Pakistan and other regional countries. Political and security challenges, particularly along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, raise issues regarding the safe passage of goods and the project's success. Additionally, ensuring cooperation and diplomacy among various countries along the corridor is crucial for achieving the corridor's economic goals and regional connectivity.

d. Terrorist Attacks:

Terrorist attacks targeting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have been a significant security concern. Various extremist groups have launched attacks on CPEC infrastructure, workers, and projects, particularly in Pakistan's Balochistan province. These attacks disrupt the corridor's development, pose risks to personnel, and have led to increased security measures. Safeguarding CPEC from such attacks remains a critical challenge for the project's stability and progress.

IV- Conclusion:

In conclusion, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a complex and ambitious infrastructure development initiative with both opportunities and challenges. It has the potential to stimulate economic growth, enhance regional connectivity, and deepen the strategic partnership between China and Pakistan. However, the project faces various hurdles, including security concerns, debt sustainability issues, geopolitical tensions, and local opposition. The success of CPEC will depend on effective management of these challenges, transparent governance, responsible environmental practices, and equitable distribution of benefits to local communities. As the project evolves, ongoing assessment and adaptation will be essential to ensure its long-term impact aligns with the intended goals of fostering economic development and regional cooperation.

Q#2

I- Introduction:

The statement that the growing strategic partnership between the United States and India is primarily to contain China is a viewpoint held by some analysts. While it is true that the U.S and India have been strengthening their strategic ties, it's important to note that international relations are multifaceted, and partnerships between countries are driven by a combination of factors, including shared interests, security concerns, and economic opportunities. That said, the deepening U.S - India partnership has had implications for Pakistan, and it is essential to critically evaluate these dynamics.

II- Implications for Pakistan

a. Strategic balance:

The deepening U.S India strategic partnership could disrupt the strategic balance in South Asia, affecting Pakistan. As the U.S strengthens its ties with India, Pakistan may perceive a regional power shift and harbor concerns for its security. This perception may drive Pakistan to prioritize military capabilities, diplomacy, and regional alliances to counterbalance the evolving dynamics. It highlights the intricate nature of regional geopolitics, promoting Islamabad to explore strategies to protect its interests and influence in the region.