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Q6) China and Pakistan are celebrating the Decade of CPEC. Critically evaluate success and failure of the project?

Introduction:

The China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC) is a game changer project that is \$63 billion project. It is launched in 2013 with aim of development infrastructure that connecting Gwadar Port in southwestern China's province Xinjiang. The project include construction of roads, railways, airports, power plants and industrial zones.

The CPEC is celebrating 10th anniversary and it moves into their second phase. The Chinese vice Premier of State Council has invited in the Ceremony in Pakistan. The project has many success and failures during this tenure.

10th Anniversary of CPEC:-

The China-Pakistan economic corridor is a milestone occasion that

marks a decade of Cooperation and development between both countries.

On 5 July, 2023, Pakistan and China celebrated the 10th Anniversary of CPBC with a special ceremony in Islamabad. The Ceremony was attended by high-level officials including Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong.

On 1 August, 2023, The Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng visited Pakistan and attended ceremony of CPBC. Both countries signed MoU to establish framework of CPBC.

CPBC Enter in 2nd Phase:-

The CPBC has entered its second Phase with focus on Industrial Cooperation, trade and socio-economic development. The Second phase contain 63 project with worth \$35 billion and completed in 2030.

Pakistan-China Signed MoUs:-

On 31 July, 2023 Pakistan & China signed six agreements and

Molus to promote bilateral cooperation and help to mitigate the second phase.

These are the 6 Points

1) Document on the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on CP/EC:

This document ensure to establishes a new JCC to oversee the implementation of CP/EC in 2nd phase. The JCC will co-chaired by Minister of Planning and development of Pakistan & Vice Chairman of National development & Reform Commission of China

2) MoU on Establishing an Export Exchange Mechanism:-

This MoU establishes a mechanism to promote trade between Pakistan & China. The mechanism provide access to Pakistani exporter to Chinese Markets.

3) Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Export of Dry Chillies:

This protocol establishes the phytosanitary requirements for the export of dry Chillies from Pakistan to China.

4) Document on the Final Report on KKH Phase-II:-

This document presents the findings of a feasibility study on the realignment of Karakoram highway (Phase-1).

5) MoU on Industrial workers:-

This MoU establishes a program to exchange industrial worker between Pakistan and China.

6) Agreement on Second Phase of CPEC:-

The agreement outlines the key project and initiatives that will be implemented in Second Phase of CPEC.

Successes of CPEC

1) Infrastructure Development:-

CPEC has led to the construction and improvement of infrastructure in Pakistan.

Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant

The Sahiwal Coal fired power plant is a 1320 MW project located in Sahiwal and it is most efficient power plant in the world.

In 4 August, 2023 Sahiwal

Coal-Fired power plant awarded by NAPRA. The project worth is \$1.8 billion dollar.

Karakoram Highway:-

Karakoram highway (Phase-II) has completed in July 2020. It is 118 km long highway connect Havelian to Thakot, Gilgit. The total cost of this project is \$1.3 billion.

Peshawar-Karachi Motorway:-

The Peshawar-Karachi motorway (Multan-Sukkur Section) is a 392 km that connect Sukkur to Multan. The total cost of this project is Rs 294.3 billion. It is six lane motorway.

Hakla D.I Motorway:-

It is a 285 km motorway. It is 4 lane motorway with total cost Rs 308.4 billion.

Orange line train:-

The Orange line train is 27 km project with 1.68 billion dollar worth.

2) Energy Projects:-

Port Qasim Coal-Fired Plant:-

The Port Qasim Coal-Fired Plant is the 1320 MW energy generate and it worth 2.085 billion.

China Hub Coal-Fired Plant:-

The China hub Coal-Fired Plant generate 1320 MW and completed in August 17, 2019 with \$1.5 billion cost.

Bengro Than Coal Power Plant:-

The Bengro Than Coal Power Plant was first power plant in Pakistan that use indigenous lignite coal. It was completed in July 2019.

Failures & Challenges:-

1) Debt Burdan:-

The debt burdan under CPBC is serious issue. According International Monetary Fund (IMF), Pakistan's external debt stood at \$126.3 billion as December 2022 and \$23 billion is owned to China. In July, 2023

warned Pakistan CPBE was high risk of debt distress.

According to Diplomat August 12, 2023, Pakistan faces high risk debt through CPBE.

2) Security Concern:-

One of the most significant challenge facing CPBE is security. The region through which corridor passes particularly Balochistan has experienced security threat and insurgency.

According to Global Time, China warns Pakistan to improve CPBE security in September, 2023.

3) Transparency Issue:-

Critics have raised questions about transparency and lack of public consultation in the CPBE Agreement.

Conclusion:-

In conclusion, CPBE has made notable progress in infrastructure development and energy sector. However, it also faces failure such as debt burden, security concern and transparency issues.

Q2

Introduction:

The growing Strategic Partnership between US and India is primarily aimed at containing China. The US-India Partnership has negative impact on Pakistan. Islamabad has many options for dealing with this challenge posed by US-India Strategic Partnership.

~~US-India~~

US-India Strategic Partnership:

The US-India Strategic Partnership is a comprehensive relationship between the United States and India that is based on shared values, common interest and mutual respect. Both countries want to contain China. USA help to India to promote its interest in Indo-Pacific region such as freedom of navigation and countering China's growing influence.

According to Foreign Policy Magazine (in August, 2023) The US-India Partnership: A New Era of Cooperation. The article argues that US-India Partnership

is entering new era.
According to Atlantic Magazine, September, 2023, Both countries promote strategic partnership to counter China.

a) Containment of China:-

The USA and India have indeed strengthened their strategic ties in recent years. The partnership includes defense cooperation, joint military exercise and efforts to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific. While this partnership is not solely aimed to contain China. Both countries signed mutual agreements like LIZMOA and COMCASA.

The US and India are also working together to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region. They are the members of Quadri(lateral Security Dialogue (QUAD).

4) Impact on Pakistan:-

The deepening U-S India relationship can have implications for Pakistan.
Kashmir Issue:-

The Foreign Policy

article "The US-India Strategic Partnership: A New Era of Cooperation" in August, 2023. The US-India strategic partnership has great impact on the Kashmir issue. On one hand, the partnership could lead to increase US pressure on Pakistan to resolve the dispute peacefully. On the other hand, the partnership could also lead to India feeling more confident in its position on Kashmir and less likely to make concessions.

War on terror:-

The US-India strategic partnership have significant impact on war on terror. On one hand, the partnership could lead to increase counter terrorism activities but on the other hand it could lead regional tensions and instability that create a more favorable environment for terrorist groups.

According to Hindustan times, Both countries ~~in~~ warned Pakistan on terrorism.

Ways for Islamabad to navigate this situation

1) Diplomacy:-

Pakistan can engage in diplomatic efforts to build and strengthen its relationship with both US & China. It's important for Pakistan to maintain a balanced and non-confrontational approaches and its relation.

Pak-USA Relation:-

Pakistan wants to improve their relationship with USA to counter US-India strategic partnership impacts in Pakistan.

In 20 September, 2023, US & Pakistan held ~~the~~ first high-level talk in 44 years. As we know Pakistan & USA relation is complex and evolving.

Pak-China Relation:-

Both countries involve in friendly relation. Both countries wants to promote regional stability.

2) Balanced Foreign Policy:-

Pakistan
Should pursue a foreign Policy that is independent and balanced taking into account its national interest and evolving dynamic of US-India Strategic Partnership

3) Regional Cooperation:-

Pakistan
can play a constructive role in regional forums and initiatives such as Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to promote economic development and regional stability. Through regional cooperation Pakistan counter impacts of India-US Strategic Partnership.

Conclusion:-

In Conclusion, while the growing of US-India Strategic Partnership can pose challenges for Pakistan interests. Islamabad has options to navigate this evolving geopolitical landscape.

Q3)

Introduction:-

Problems in the power sector can lead to expansive electricity, which has far reaching negative implications for the economy, social and political stability of Country.

Economic Implication:-

Expansive electricity can significantly increase the operational costs of industries, leading to reduced competitiveness, lower production. High electricity costs can contribute to overall inflation.

In Pakistan, the expansive electricity forces Pakistani businesses to shut down and Pakistan consumers struggle to pay high electricity bills.

Social Implication:-

High electricity costs disproportionately affect low income household pushing more people into poverty. Expansive electricity can lead to power outages or load shedding.

The Pakistan's Consumer conduct protests ~~to~~ on high electricity bills

Political Implication:

Rising electricity prices can lead to public dissatisfaction and protests. Persist energy crisis can contribute to political instability. For example, Pakistan suffer from ~~low~~ high and expansive electricity due to that large based protest conducted in Pakistan.

Recommendations

1) Improve Energy Sources:-

Reducing reliance on a single energy sources such as fossil fuels by diversifying into renewable energy can stabilize energy prices.

2) Invest in Energy Infrastructure:-

Government should invest in upgrading and expanding power generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure to meet growing demand.

3) Tariff Rationalization:

Implement a transparent and fair tariff structure that reflect actual cost of electricity generation and distribution. Subsidies can be targeted income household.

4) Private Sector Participation:

Encourage private sector participation in power generation ~~and~~ and distribution through (PPPs).

Conclusion:

In a conclusion, expansive electricity is a crucial for country's social, economical, and ~~part~~ policy implications. The recommendation help to improve energy affordability, enhance energy security and economic growth.