

ع:ت 1 ن:س

ANSWER # 03

INTRODUCTION:

"CPEC is the game-changer
in the region"

Senator Mushahid Hussain

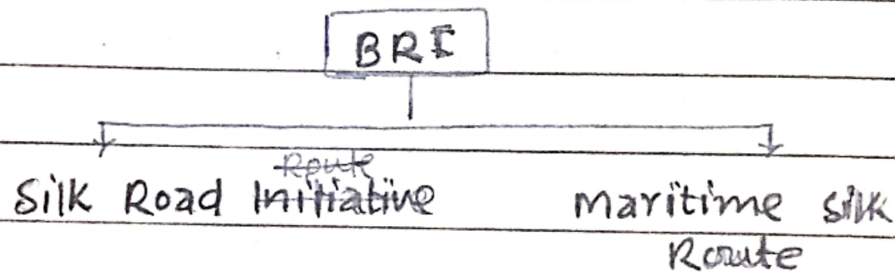
CPEC is a flagship program under the umbrella of Belt and Road initiative (BRI) of China. CPEC consists of numerous infrastructure projects, energy projects, social and education programs and cooperation and development projects. The year 2023 marked as the completion of this program. The project of CPEC has brought some positive changes in Pakistan. However, despite its success, the project could not fulfill the expectations of the people due to myriad of reasons.

BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT:

CHINA ANNOUNCING ITSELF

China made great leaps in the last three decades in every field

particularly in economy. In order to secure safe energy routes and to find out new markets for their products Xi launched the mega-project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with the initial amount of USD 1 billion. This project consists of two main sub-projects:



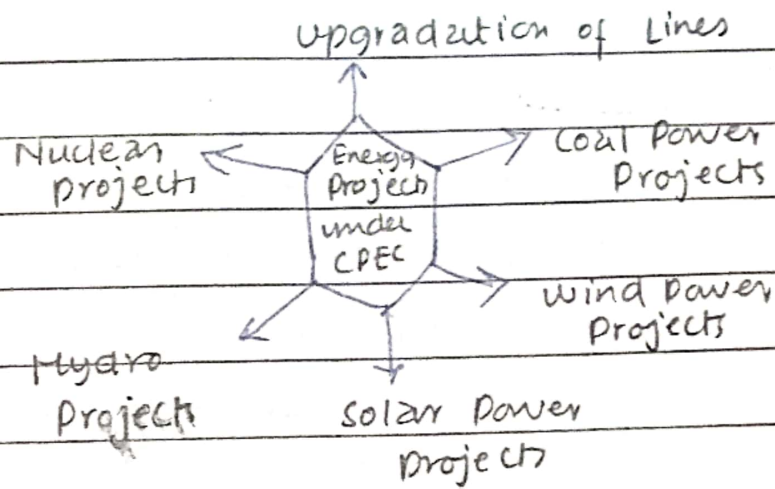
In 2013, Xi during his visit to Pakistan announced the project of CPEC under Silk Road Initiative.

3. MAJOR PROJECTS OF CPEC — PAKISTAN — CHINA RELATIONSHIP AT BEST:

1. Energy Projects under CPEC —
Pulling out Pakistan of Energy
Crisis:

Under the project of CPEC,

China has to invest in energy sector of Pakistan. The major projects include:



II. Infrastructure Projects — a sine quo non for sustainable growth

CPEC aims to build major infrastructure in the country including highways, air ports and railway projects. Some of these projects have already been completed. Gwadar is a project to develop a port of international importance.

III. Social and cultural initiatives under the umbrella of CPEC:

Various education exchange

programs in the realm of education and culture have been undertaken to strengthen people-to-people relations between the two countries.

Reference According to CPEC Authority more than 2800 students are currently studying in china under the social and cultural exchange program of CPEC.

iv. Creation of new opportunities and employment in Pakistan:

Under the initial estimates of CPEC, 750,000 job will be created in Pakistan. This will provide opportunities to the youth entering into the job market.

SUCCESS OF CPEC: An Analysis of the Decade of CPEC

1. CPEC ward off the Energy crises of Pakistan:

In the decade of 2010s, Pakistan

was facing severe energy shortage. Prolong power cuts have subsequently crippled the industries of Pakistan. In 2017, Pakistan demand of energy was 25000 mega watt but it was producing only 17,000 MW. Energy projects under CPEC get Pakistan out of this shortfall.

II. construction of Special Economic Zones :

Under this flagship project nine Special Economic Zones have been successfully completed. These SEZs would transform the production sector of Pakistan.

III. Creating new Opportunities for the unemployed youth:

According to CPEC authority, 500,000 jobs have been directly created by CPEC. CPEC has, thus, brought many opportunities with itself.

IV. CPEC boosting the geo-economic status of Pakistan:

CPEC has boost up the status of Pakistan as a gate way to various regions. It connect central Asia with south Asia and give access to warm waters to the central Asian Republics.

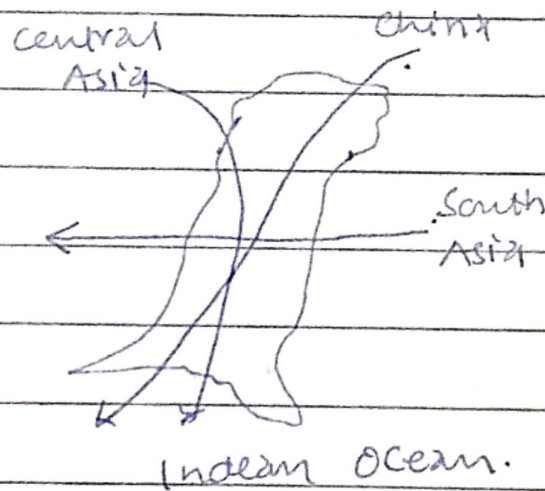


Figure: Pakistan and the role of CPEC

V. Facilitating Pakistan's Transformation towards Green energy

CPEC has laid the foundation for Pakistan's shift toward cleaner and efficient energy. Many winds, solar, geothermal and hydro-projects are the clear manifestations of this fact.

3:05 7 1:05

6. FAILURE OF CPEC — A PROJECT WHICH FALL SHORT OF ITS EXPECTATIONS :

I. The Burden of Heavy Debt on the country:

many experts believe that CPEC has put Pakistan under the morass of debt. The import of heavy machinery, the increased demand of energy particularly of hydrocarbons have put an extra burden on the national exchequer.

II. No Real Human Development manifested in the masses:

CPEC has not brought any manifested changes in the lives of the common people. The country still ranks 161st out of 192 countries in human development index (HDI).

III. Pakistan's Exports sectors is still struggling:

It was thought that improved infrastructure and SEZs will increase Pakistan's export. According to the Minister of Privatization, Fawad Hassan Fawad: "we failed to realise one-fifth of the potential offered by BRI".

IV. Failure to Transform the Energy Sector:

Although, Pakistan produce more power than it needs, yet many areas of the country still face prolong load-sheddings. This is due to the low capacity of the national grid and land-line losses.

Reference According to World Bank the landline losses in Pakistan is the highest in the region which is currently 17 percent of the total electricity available in the national grid.

7. CONCLUSION:

The year 2023 marked the

completion of a decade of CPEC. The project has brought tremendous changes in the infrastructure, energy and social sector of Pakistan. Yet the project is not without its failures as it failed to fulfil people's expectations.

ANSWER # 04

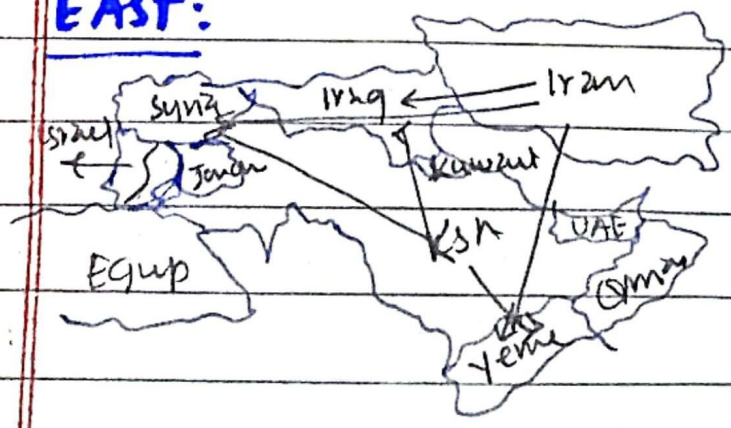
1. INTRODUCTION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Iran relations have seen a new shift recently. Both the countries have revive their diplomatic relations. China remained phenomenal by bringing the two countries to the table-talks. The bitter relations between the two states had far-reaching impacts on the region of Middle-East. The rapprochement between KSA and Iran will not only positively affect Middle East but will also have its profound impacts on Pakistan.

1. BACKGROUND OF IRAN-KSA REAPPROACHMENT

In a major breakthrough on 10th march, 2023 KSA and Iran signed an agreement to restore their diplomatic relationship. Relationships between the two states severed in 2016 after KSA Embassy in Tehran and Mashad were ransomed by protestors demonstrating against the Saudi execution of Shia cleric Nimr Al Nimr. The deal was brokered by China and has a huge significance within the Arab and world as well as outside the region.

3. POSITIVE IMPACTS OF KSA-IRAN REAPPROACHMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:



Regional map of M.E and Iran and KSA Interest

I. Positive Impacts in Yemen Prox war

Both Iran and KSA were indulged in prox war in Yemen. Iran supported the ~~reb~~ Houthi rebels while Saudi supported the government. With the Iran-Saudi rapprochement the tension is likely to reduce in the country.

Reference: The Houthi rebels and government has already agreed on a ceasefire. KSA and Yemen has also exchange prisoners in the aftermath of the deal.

II. Syria and the domino-effect of KSA-Iran Rapprochement:

Positive changes have also been witnessed in Syria. In Syria both the countries supported the opposite camps. Iran supported Assad's government while Saudi supported the rebels. Tension in Syria has also decreased like in the case of Yemen.

Reference: Bashar al Assad was invited

to the Arab League conference after a time period of more than a decade.

III. Impacts on Lebanon and Iraq:

similar impacts have been witnessed in Iraq and Lebanon where previously the proxies of Iran and KSA has lead to a fragile security conditions.

IV. The Palestine cause and the Impacts of Agreement:

⑤ Israel was happy to see KSA against Iran. Israel want to widen the fissures between the two. In the wake of the reapproachment, the cause of Palestine will adopt a new dimension. According to Neftali' Banet:

"A fatal blow to ^{efforts} ~~create~~ to create a regional alliance"

V. The Fading Influence of USA in the Region:

China brokered this deal to

strengthen its relations to get a grand
for exerting influence. This will promote
China trade with these countries on one
hand and China will secure its energy
requirements on the other.

4. IMPACTS OF KSA-IRAN REAPP -ROACHMENT ON PAKISTAN

Few countries are more vulnerable
to KSA-Iran ^{rivalry} relationship than
Pakistan.

Michael Kugelman.

I. Reduction in Foreign Policy confusion

The rivalry between KSA and
Iran has pushed Pakistan towards a
foreign policy compulsion. Pakistan has
20 percent Shia population while it has
a deep religious and economic relationship
with KSA. Iran is the next door border.
Balancing relationship with both the
countries was not an easy task. The
reapproachment will ease foreign policy
complexities for Pakistan.

II. Religious and ethnic tensions

reduction:

Pakistan has a good deal of population supporting the opposite camps. KSA strives to promote its Wahabism brand of Islam while Iran consider itself as the guardian of Shia brand. The reapproachment between the two states will reduce Shia-Sunni conflicts in Pakistan.

III. KSA oil-Refinery and Gawadar:

KSA want for a long time to invest in the energy sector of Pakistan. However, Pakistan close proximity to Iran and the attacks on Saudi's oil refinery deter her. The reapproachment will enhance Saudi investment in the country.

IV. Pakistan - Iran Gas Pipelines and the prospects:

One of the major hindrance in

the incompletion of Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline was the pressure of USA. The reapproachment will provide a chance to Pakistan to fulfil her energy requirement, though, the obstacle of the USA is still in the way.

5. CONCLUSION:

The KSA-saudi reapproachment is the major development in the recent times. The China-brokered deal will have profound impacts not only between the two countries but also in the middle eastern region and beyond. Pakistan will be a major beneficiary of this new development.

ANSWER #06

I. INTRODUCTION:

The land of Afghanistan has been frequently used against Pakistan. TTP and ISKP enjoy free hand

in the government of Taliban. This has led to Islamabad decision to evacuate the unregistered Afghani refugees in the country. The bitter relationship between the two countries will further exacerbate the fragile peace and security in the region.

2. THE RETURN OF TALIBAN AND THE PEACE PROSPECTS IN THE REGION

I. The Land of Afghanistan as a Launching Pad for Terrorist Activities

The Afghan Taliban has failed to prevent various terrorist groups to operate against the neighboring countries. Instead, they enjoy impunity to act according to their convenience. Recently, the surge in terrorist attacks in Pakistan was the direct result of this as all the suicide attackers had their tentacles in Afghanistan.

II. Afghanistan has reluctant to bring TTP to negotiation-table:

The TTP chief has took allegiance at the hands of molvi Mebat Ullah Taliban assured Pakistan that they will facilitate Pakistan-TTP negotiations and will force them not to act against Pakistan. However, instead, Taliban encourage TTP to bring their own brand sharia-based government in Pakistan.

III. Afghan security forces frequent Aggressive behavior on the border

The Taliban border security forces frequently violate Pakistan-Afghan border roles. In certain instances they levelled the fence which Pakistan has erected for security purposes. This often leads to the closure of borders.

IV. Human Rights violation and Refugees

Pressure on Pakistan:

Due to human rights violation by Taliban and the lethal attacks of ISKP, thousands of people particularly the Shia Hazara ethnic group migrated to Pakistan. This was putting an extra pressure on Pakistan and Taliban was not able to prevent the illegal immigrants.

ISLAMABAD'S POLICY OF RETREAT

DECISION TO PULL OUT AFGHAN

REFUGEES:

After frequent Pakistani diplomatic request, Taliban failed to prevent its citizens from terrorist attack in Pakistan. According to the caretaker interior minister, out of 21 last attacks 19 were launched by Afghani citizens. This lead Pakistan to pull out 2 million illegal Afghani refugees in Pakistan.

PROSPECTS OF PAKISTAN-TALIBAN

RELATIONS IN THE WAKE OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

I. Frequent border closures and impacts on bilateral trade:

Pakistan and Afghanistan both could not closed the borders because of the frequent movement of refugees across the borders. However, after evacuation of Afghan refugees, the closures of borders can prolong, which will affect bilateral trade.

II. Taliban's water diversion policy and the fate of Kabul River:

Taliban have recently divert the natural routes of rivers leading to the central Asian countries and Iran. In the tense relation between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Taliban could divert the natural flow of Kabul River. This will further exacerbate water ~~is~~ shortage in Pakistan and the future relation will further deteriorate.

III. The potential carte blanche to TTP:

There are prospects that Talban could give a free hand to TTP to mature its evil designs in Pakistan. The recent attack of TTP in Chitral, Bami and Bajawar shows that they are now more emboldened.

IV. Tense relations likely to create vacuum for other actors:

Bitter relation between the two countries will provide other countries for margin and heinous activities. India for example capitalised this opportunity to ignite regional tension in the region.

5. CONCLUSION: Afghanistan's land has been used against Pakistan in the recent times. Despite Pakistan notices, ISKP and TTP act with impunity. This lead Pakistan to pull out Afghan refugees. However, the recent steps are not steps in right direction which will further deteriorate relations between the two countries.