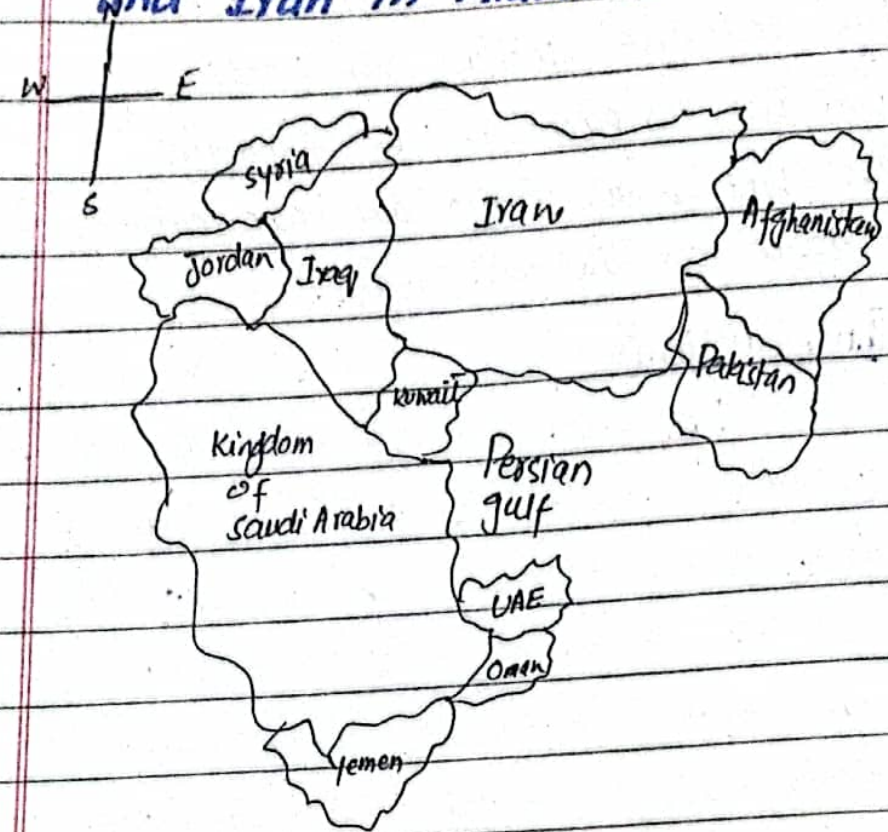


Q.No.4 KSA-Iran rapprochement would have far reaching positive implications on the conflicts in the middle east but would also have far reaching impacts on Pakistan. Discuss.

Introduction:-

KSA and Iran's geopolitical and sectarian rivalry has been in vogue since 1979 but it got more severe at the beginning of 21st century and more importantly from 2010 onwards. This rivalry has massive negative impacts on middle east and Pakistan. To minimize the tension between these two countries, many time efforts were made by Iraq and Pakistan but they cannot resolve the issue of rivalry between Iran and KSA. First serious breakthrough between two countries occurred after the negotiations in Beijing in 2023. If the relations will improve it will have far reaching positive impacts on region & Pakistan.

Geographical position of KSA and Iran in middle East:-



KSA and Iran are linked geographically through Persian gulf and muslim countries Kuwait, Iraq (which shares border with both countries), Syria, Jordan and Yemen in middle east. Additionally, Iran is immediate neighbour of Afghanistan and Pakistan also. Hence, the KSA-Iran relation has far reaching implications on middle east and Pakistan.

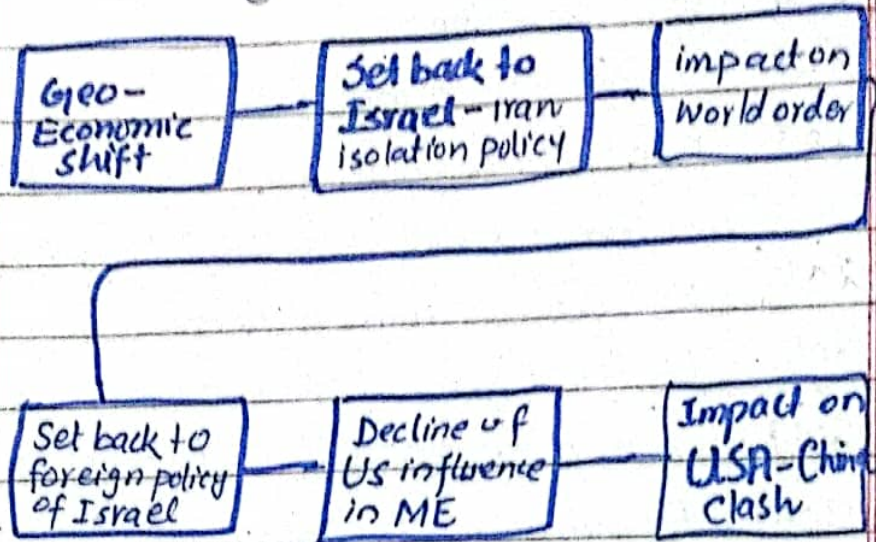
An Overview of KSA-Iran Relations

1976	Iran's Islamic Revolution
1987	Iranian Pilgrims were demonstrators with Saudi
1988	Saudi Arabia ended diplomatic ties with Iran
2004	War in Yemen
2011	Syrian uprising war
2015	Iran nuclear deal, Iran started it nuclear deal which was threat to Saudi.
2016	Execution of Nimr al Nimr
2018	US exit from JCPOA deal
2019	Iran attack on oil factory in KSA
2020	Assassination of Soleimani
2021	Shift to Iran's East Policy started
2022	Negotiation started by Saudi and Iran for dialogue
2023	Restoration of diplomatic relations

The need for restoration of ties:-

The instability in middle east has resulted decline in Foreign investment, low economic growth and disturbance in peace of the region. The rapprochement of Saudi - Iran will overcome

these issue and results into the improvement of foreign policy and shift the global world order towards multipolarity.



1. Saudi Arabia tries to enhance its economic goals :-

KSA want to improve its economic goals. Therefore, KSA need to enhance good relations with neighbouring countries which is only possible to deal with Iran.

2. Iran wanted to break the Israel.

Foreign Policy to make Iran isolated :-

Iran wanted to break the foreign policy of Israel which is about the isolation of Iran. The USA-Iran rapprochement will help Iran in such case.

3. Impact of Saudi-Iran rapprochement on world order

The Iran and KSA are geostrategic rivals in the Persian gulf. Their rapprochement will reduce the civil war in Yemen and so on.

4. Set back to the foreign policy of Israel

KSA-Iran rapprochement is a set back to the foreign policy of Israel especially in case of Palestine war.

5. Decline of US influence in ME:-

KSA-Iran rapprochement will decline the influence of USA in Middle East because Iran and US are already rivals and China-US has also clash so, it will be threat for US.

6. Impact on US-China clash:-

US China are traditional rivals of each other in the war of super power and they have also clash on Taiwan issue. Therefore, Saudi-Iran rapprochement with intervention of China have impact on USA.

Implications of KSA-Iran rapprochement on Pakistan:-

KSA-Iran rapprochement has far reaching implications on Pakistan.



KSA-Iran rapprochement: impact on Pakistan



1. Decline of sectarian Rivalry:-

The population in Pakistan is sharply divided into Sectarian ^{divide} rivalry, of Shia and ^{sunni} Muslims. Sectarian rivalry would decline in Pakistan.

2. Improvement in Foreign Policy of Pak-Iran:-

In Past few years Pakistan has not good foreign policy with Iran, although Iran is an immediate neighbour to Pakistan. So, the foreign policy will improve.

4. Ensuring security dynamics of country:-

Iran is sharing border with Pakistan and India. India is rival of Pakistan. So, improving good relations with Iran will help ensure security of Pakistan.

5. Positive impact on Chabahar Port:-

Chabahar Port which is also called the twin sister of Gwadar port was influenced by Iran, will have positive impact now.

6. Development of Pak-Iran gas pipeline

The good relations with Iran will result into the development of Pak-Iran gas pipeline.

7. Bilateral trade:-

The bilateral trade will improve. For example, oil export of Iran for Pakistan.

Conclusion:-

In a nutshell, ^{reapproached} KSA-Iran has positive impacts on the middle east and Pakistan in terms of economy, religious harmony and peace.

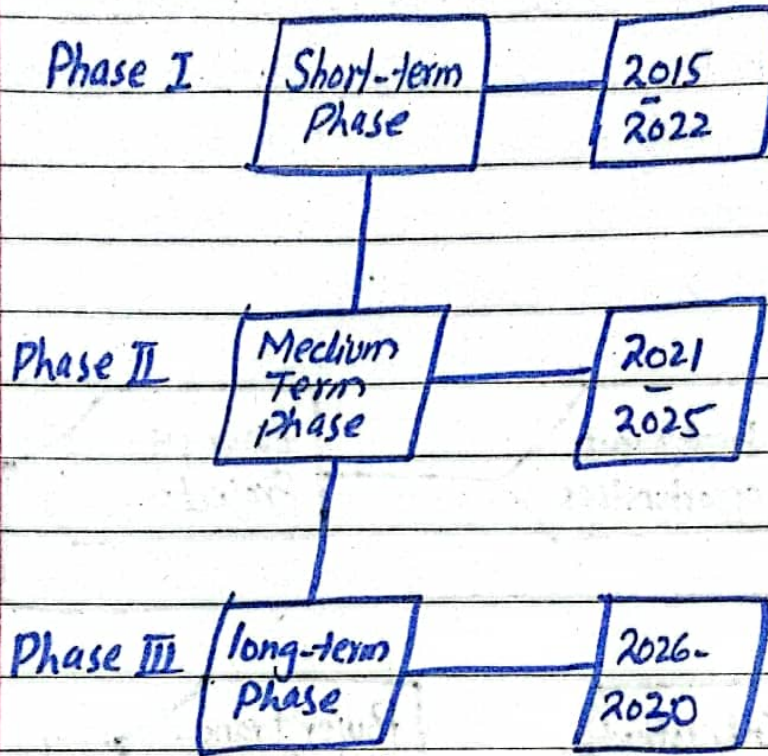
QNo3. China and Pakistan are celebrating the decade of CPEC. Critically evaluate the success and failures of the Project.

Introduction:-

Pakistan is a gateway to the middle east, concerning the goal of regional connectivity, Pakistan's location at the cusp of central, south and west asia makes it ideally suited to become a hub for trade and logistics. The Pakistan China Economic Corridor (CPEC) is trade initiative of china through Pakistan due to Pakistan's geostrategic position. CPEC is labelled as "game change" or "fate changer". Both china and Pakistan call CPEC a win-win initiative, providing much needed infrastructure to Pakistan and shortening trade routes for china with direct access to Indian ocean through Gwadar Port.

CPEC Phases:-

The initiative is divided into three phases.



The first phase of CPEC focused on energy, infrastructure and port development

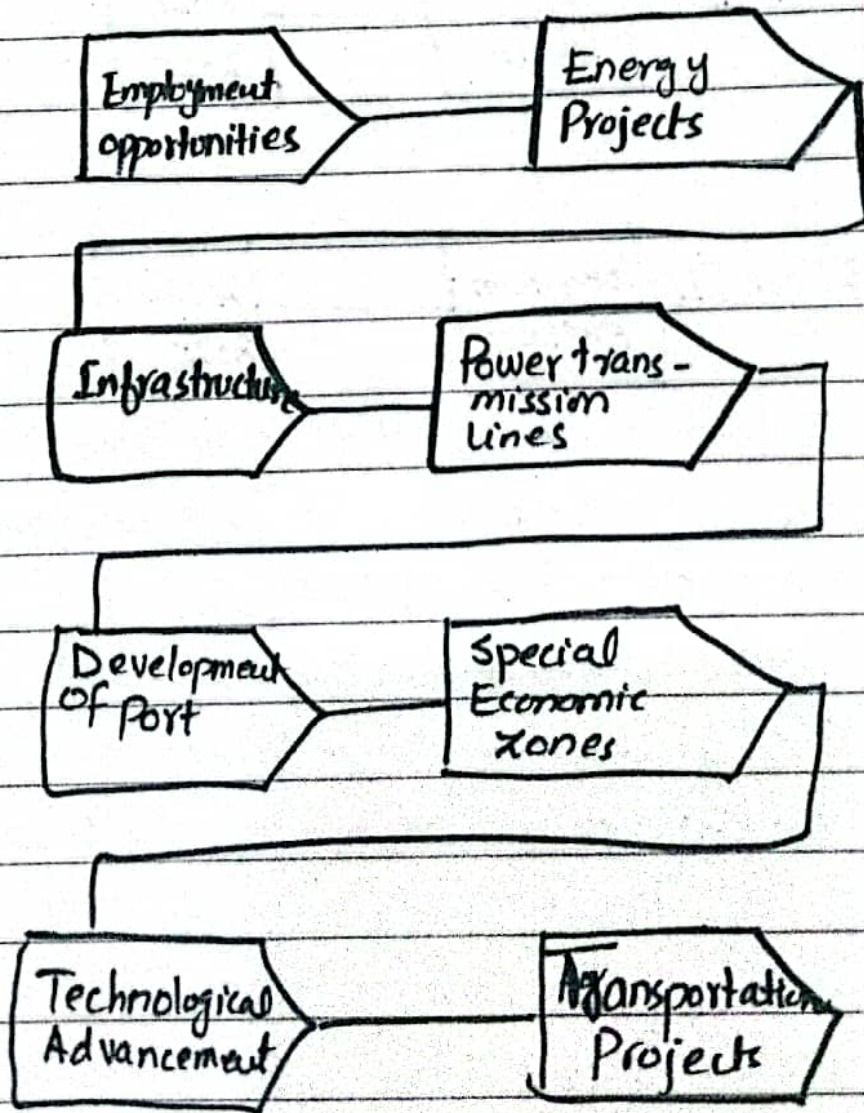
The second phase of CPEC aims to establish 33 Special Economic zones (SEZs) with nine zones to begin with.

The projects in this phase also been to be delayed due to political instability, financial crises in Pakistan. First phases is completed while second and third phase are under process.

Decade of CPEC and achievements:-

The two governments decided to celebrate a decade of CPEC in 2023. Chinese Vice Prime minister He Lifeng visited Pakistan for the commemorative ceremony from July 30 to August 05, 2023.

Following are some achievements of CPEC in last ten years.



1. CPEC Provided employment opportunities:-

CPEC generated 200,000 jobs directly or indirectly for the Pakistani citizens.

2. Renewable energy Projects launched under CPEC:-

CPEC added 6,000 MW of electricity to the national grid stations of Pakistan through various energy projects.

3. Infrastructure improved through CPEC.

Almost 809 km road infrastructure has build under CPEC which is great achievement of CPEC.

4. Development of Gwadar Port

Gwadar port is developed under CPEC which is the gateway for regional connectivity.

5. Special Economic Zones:-

33 Special Economic Zones are developing under CPEC.

6. Transportation Projects:-

Various transportation projects has completed under CPEC which includes the Lahore metro line transport project.

Bilateral Benefit:-

CPEC has bilateral benefits for both Pakistan and China.

(i) Regional connectivity:-

Pakistan has significance in the region due to its geo-strategic position. The CPEC project connects China with middle east through Pakistan.

(ii) Improvement in Foreign Policy:-

The foreign policy has improved with various countries with the positive initiative of CPEC. China maintained good relations with countries.

(iii) Geo-economic shift in Asia and ME:-

Pakistan and China both have geo-economic benefits through CPEC.

What not achieved?

- (ii) Slow development in Special Economic Zone (SEZ):-

The development of Special Economic Zone has remained slow and could not achieved timely.

- (iii) Little Progress in railway Projects:-

Karachi-Peshawar railway line called Main line 1 (ML-1) has not made any headway.

- (iii) Slow Progress of Suki-Kinasi hydro-Power Project:-

Suki Kinasi Hydro-Power project is still not completed which was ~~not~~ to be completed in 2022.

- (iv) Slow Progress on Infrastructure projects:-

The infrastructure projects remained in slow progress. Of the transport projects, six are completed five are under process and five are yet to start.

Implications:-

If successful, the CPEC could provide important benefits to Pakistan economy. Economic growth is vital to political stability and therefore the project should be considered a welcome development and encouraged by the US.

Conclusion:-

The CPEC is intended to promote connectivity across Pakistan with a network of highways, railways, fibre optical cables and pipelines accompanied by energy, industrial and other infrastructure development projects to address critical energy shortages needed to boost Pakistan's economy. Eventually, CPEC will also connect Kashgar to the Gwadar. The odds are stacked against the successful completion of CPEC but challenges can be addressed through reforms.