

Q no 4.

Introduction

KSA-Iran rapprochement is the major event in international politics, occurred in year 2023. This rapprochement is sigh of relief for some but many elements in the global arena are not happy. Unhappy elements were exploiting the situation for their personal gains. Happy are those who were constantly sufferings from this Muslim cold-war. This rapprochement has opened the multiple doors of prosperity and happiness for the whole region and it has brought the paradigm shift in the whole Middle East. Apart from the middle eastern region it can very lucrative for Pakistan and Pakistan can also take the multiple advantages from this. In coming paragraphs lets discuss how this rapprochement holds the utmost importance for the region and for Pakistan.

1 Paradigm Shift in Middle Eastern region.

Middle East will likely see some positive developments after this agreement.

a End of civilian conflicts in Middle East.

Middle East was in hot waters since Arab Springs of 2011. Since 2011 there were civil wars in almost every country of the region. Countries such as Libya, Syria and Iraq have witnessed the worst. Due to these civil-wars, multiple menaces erupted such as high inflation, food shortages, unemployment and worst among all is terrorism. Every actor was busy trying to grab the lion's share from those oil rich countries, nobody was realizing the worst that they were preparing, that came in the shape of ISIS. This reapproachment has ended the civilian conflicts in some areas and others will follow the suit sooner rather than latter.

b One Voice of Muslim Unity.

Due to Iran - KSA conflict whole

3

Muslim world was divided, there was no united Muslim world. Due to these divisions Muslim world, particularly the Middle Eastern region was under the menace of civil-war. After this rapprochement this Middle Eastern region can regain its lost glory and become united. In this regard the recent visit of Syrian president Bashar-w-Asad to Saudi Arabia can be considered as an omen of united Middle East.

C Peace in Yemen, and situation in Red Sea.

With this rapprochement, a long hostility of Houthis and KSA came to an end. Both countries have signed the peace agreement. It is very promising development for Middle Eastern countries and for the peace loving world. However, it has raised the alarm bells for western bloc, particularly for Israel and her allies. Due to this agreement Red Sea has become completely vulnerable and the cargo ships of Israel and her allies at

4

will sail on the Red sea at the mercy of Yemen. Red sea is the most important sea route in the world, it connects Europe with oil rich nations of middle east and if it is not safe, there will be far reaching consequences for the world. If Red sea would be blocked by Yemen, it would bring hyperinflation in the world particularly in Europe because this will create the imbalance between supply and demand.

d Implication on KSA and Iran.

As far as these two countries are concerned, they have gained so much from this rapprochement, thanks to China who made it possible for them.

Saudi Arabia ended this historically and traditional rivalry because under the leadership of Saudia Arabia's de-facto leader prince Muhammad Bin Salman, Saudi Arabia has visualized herself as new Europe. MBS said

"my vision is to make this Middle Eastern region as new Europe till '2030". To materialize this vision

he had to end all conflicts in the region. On the other hand, Iran has been under tight sanctions for multiple decades. Those crippling sanctions have crippled the Iranian economy. Iran does not afford to open multiple fronts particularly in her neighbourhood.

3 KSA-Iran rapprochement, implication on Pakistan.

Situation of Pakistan was like a sandwich between the two giants. Pakistan was not in position to take one any side, Pakistan has multiple strings attached with both Iran and KSA. After this rapprochement, Pakistan has gotten a chance to exploit the situation and get the best out of it. Those implication on Pakistan will be elaborated in following paragraphs.

a Reduction in Sectarian Tensions

Due to KSA-Iran rivalry, Pakistan witnessed sectarian conflicts in the country. Because Saudi Arabia is a Sunni majority country and Iran is

a Shia majority country. Every action and policy taken by Pakistan, in a favour of Iran or KSA could evoke strong sentiments among these sects. For instance, pro-Saudi actions may upset the Shia population or vice-versa. As a result of this rapprochement Pakistan is not under any pressure, Pakistan can frame its foreign policy with complete independence and exploit the best outcomes from this situation.

b Opening Doors of Trade opportunities. Pakistan is an import based economy and Pakistan is facing the economic crisis and balance of payment crisis, only one of the reasons behind those crisis are high import bills. Pakistan has been generating electricity through fossil fuels (gas and oil). As a result Pakistan's entire economy is based on oil and gas. This rapprochement has generated golden opportunity for Pakistan to import oil and gas from Iran in a

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In a cheaper price. Not only fossil fuels Pakistan can open the trade and tourism corridors with Iran. Every year thousands of pilgrims travel to Iran, tourism corridors like Kaspian corridors will bring mutual benefits to both countries. Unfortunately, there is no controlled and properly monitored border control between both countries, this causes smuggling of drugs, illegal weapons and other illegal goods. Pakistan needs to strengthen the border security and open corridors of trade so that smuggling can be controlled, and trade can contribute in Pakistan's and Iran's GDP.

- C. New opportunities for Regional Connectivity.
This rapprochement can open the doors of regional connectivity because China is already willing to expand the horizon of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China is the largest economy of the world and it is in her interest to reach the markets of Europe. Luckily, Iran has land connectivity till Turkey (European country). This regional connectivity will pass through Pakistan. If this happens Pakistan will gain the utmost advantage.

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Conclusion:-

This rapprochement has brought multiple opportunities for every country in the region to enjoy the facilities of peace. Middle Eastern nations should forget their hostilities and rivalry and take a new start. Pakistan should also gain all the advantages from this rapprochement. Middle East is the most important region in the world because if Middle East is in trouble it will have effect all over the world and if Middle East is in peace, every nation in the world bask under the peaceful sun.

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Q no 6

1) Introduction

It is almost 2.5 years since Taliban took over the Kabul. It is unfortunate the Taliban's government has completely failed to exterminate the terrorist elements from their country. Not only that, Afghanistan has not conducted any major operations against those extremist elements. Due to lenient behaviour of Afghanistan Taliban towards terrorist organizations particularly towards Taliban, there is a general perception in the echelons of power that Taliban government is sympathising TIP and TIP considering Afghanistan as its safe haven to conduct operations inside Pakistan. Time will reveal the truth but until the truth prevails, this perception is causing the damage and damage is not repairable if it does not stop timely. In future paragraphs let's analyze the policy options both nations are performing in context of Afghanistan.

Pakistan relations.

2 Future Possibilities from Pakistan's Perspectives.

Pakistan has taken some drastic changes in her foreign policy regarding Afghanistan, expelling Afghani refugees is also conducted in this regard to show seriousness of Pakistan towards the issue of terrorism.

a Afghanistan is no more a strategic leverage for Pakistan.

Pakistan was very happy when Taliban took over the Kabul, Pakistan's happiness can be gauged from the statement given by Pakistani Prime minister at that time Imran Khan that "Afghanistan has broken the shackles of slavery". Pakistan was happy because Ashraf Ghani in collusion with India left no one unburned to sabotage the peace of Pakistan. Islamabad was optimistic that new regime will understand the grievances of Islamabad regard Kabul and will definitely work on it, Pakistan was

the only country, who openly advocated Taliban government, for that matter Pakistan organized two OIC meeting on Afghanistan's agenda. Unfortunately, all dreams of Pakistan shattered one after another when Pakistan witnessed the steep growth of terrorist attacks inside Pakistan territory. Islamabad has provided all relevant proofs to Taliban about TTP's safe haven but received no positive response. Expelling all Afghans from Pakistan is a clear message to Taliban government that Pakistan has lost its patience.

- ii Pakistan losing Patience towards Taliban.
- Pakistan has lost patience because she is the most disappointed country among all countries in the region. Pakistan put too much trust on Taliban government. Islamabad believed that they version of Taliban would give equal citizenship rights to women, they will allow girls to go to school, colleges and universities, allow women to work and most importantly making an inclusive government but as I have mentioned above "all dreams shattered." Most important

4
thing among all was the decades old conflict between the two countries' Afghanistan unrecognising the Durand Line. Pakistan wants this issue to resolved at earliest, Pakistan lost all of her patience when Taliban soldiers vandalised the fencing under construction at Pak-Afghan border. Moreover, Taliban's spokesperson officially said: "there is no need of fencing rather there is no need of Durand line". These actions from Taliban infuriated Pakistani authorities and it was decided to take some action by expelling all Afghans living in Pakistan regardless of any international pressure or citizenship rights enshrined in an international law.

C India: Keeping a vulture's eye on whole developments.

Such policies of Pakistan are not fruitful for Pakistan in long run.

Afghanistan knows Pakistan's weakness. That is why, defence minister of Taliban's government said, quote-unquote:

"Pakistan has multiple enemies in the region, Pakistan should not try to

increase their numbers". In such a scenario only country that will take complete advantage from the situation is India. New Delhi is always keep a vulture's eye on situations going against the Islamabad's interest, so that she can sweep in and further impair the situations for Pakistan.

Until this writing there is no any favourable development between both countries. Let's hope for the better.

3 Future Possibilities from Afghanistan's perspective.

According to Afghanistan's official stance, there are no safe havens of terrorist organization and it is not in Afghanistan's interest to sabotage the peace of another land. Supreme leader of Afghanistan, Mulla Hebatullah Akhundzada has issued an official decree that attacking any neighbouring Muslim country is not a jihad. Basically Afghanistan neither want to spoil relations with Pakistan nor she want to do any damage to TTP. However, at the same time Taliban's

government has started exploring & other options to win the trust of the world, particularly of Muslim countries.

a Making close ties with Iran.

After losing Pakistan a potential ally - Afghanistan has started rapprochement with her neighbour Iran. Iran and Afghanistan were at cross-roads due to sectarianism. Iran is Shia country and Afghanistan a Sunni majority country. There had been contention between both Islamic Republics but sudden rapprochement surprised everyone. As per their new agreements, they have signed where Iran is willing to give shelter to Afghan refugees and Iran has asked Afghan authorities to send all Hazaras communities to Iran and Iran wants to give them citizenship rights. Both have also decided to end long feud on Helmand river. Both countries considering to make a collective defense agreement. From above example it became evident the Afghanistan has transferred

all of her focus from Pakistan to Iran.

2 China-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership

Afghanistan's foreign policy makers have realized the importance of China in the region. For that matter Afghanistan wants to become the strategic ally of China at any cost. China on the other hand is also well aware of Afghanistan's strategic location and desperately wants her in China's Belt and Road initiatives. Besides

China also wants to make sure, Chinese terrorist organization "East Turkistan Movement" must not have any safe havens in Afghanistan because this will be detrimental for China's billion dollar investment in western Chinese province Xinjiang.

As per the international law, opening an embassy, sending an ambassador or making any deal or partnership will be considered as de-facto recognition. China has done all three of them so it would not

be wrong to say that China's government has given de-facto recognition to Taliban's government.

iii

Afghanistan - Pakistan brotherhood is in shambles.

Contemporary relations between the two neighbouring countries are in shambles. Afghanistan has opened other avenues to replace Pakistan completely. It cannot be denied that Afghanistan is a key player in the region and cannot be isolated. By making deals and agreements with neighbouring regions Afghanistan has made this Pakistan's narrative wrong that Afghanistan needs Pakistan more than Pakistan needs Afghanistan.

Conclusion:

It is very unfortunate to see two brotherly Muslim countries are at each other's daggers drawn. Both countries have historical relations and close people to people contacts. Their cold shoulder beh-

adversarial towards each other will not give any fruitful outcome. In this time it is essential that both countries should work out on their problems and try to solve their issues amicably. Both countries can also seek help from their mutual friends and neighbours - Iran and China to bring them closer. Otherwise, the gap that is widening with the passage of time will not be refilled.

Introduction:

Power sector is the backbone of any country's economic powers. Power sector is the fuel that steer the country out of economic downfall. After the industrial revolution countries started to give importance to their power sector to fuel their industries. With the passage of time power sector has evolved, state-of-the-art methods are now available to produce energy. Unfortunately it is not the case in Pakistan. Pakistan is suffering from energy crisis in this technologically advanced era. Due to problems in power sector Pakistan is facing myriad of problems. Lets analyze those problems in detail in coming paragraphs.

1 Power sector crisis and its far reaching consequences for Pakistan.

Energy crisis is just like a domino effect, for the downfall of economic development. It is the basic block that creates a chain reaction and makes all other blocks fall. Possible negative

Outcomes of Pakistan's energy crisis are explained in following paragraphs:

Reduced Industrial Output and Productivity:

Pakistan's energy crisis will reduce the industrial output because industries need power for production and almost all Pakistani industries use no renewable energy sources for production. If there is shortage of power production or if government increases the prices of power, industries will cut short their production growth. This will effect the overall output and productivity of the country's economy.

b Increased Inflation and Poverty:

When industries curtail their productivity this will create a gap in the supply and demand of products. There will be high demand of products and low supply. In such scenario companies increase the prices of their products. One thing led to another and high inflation will take place in the country. Inflation is the root cause of poverty,

15

because inflation also creates a gap between income and expenses. Masses will not afford necessary items of need, this situation may lead to protests and in worst scenario, riots.

C Reduced Trade and Investment:

When industrial output decreases, government also faces the gap of income and expenses. Government has not been able to earn as there is less productivity, due to less industrial output, the country fails to manage its export the items and earn. At the same time country's imports have risen to fulfil the demands of masses. This has increased country's expenses manifold.

2 Workable solutions to end this crisis.

Root cause of expensive electricity is Pakistan's dependence on oil for producing electricity. This has made Pakistan vulnerable of two things fluctuation of oil prices globally and fluctuation of dollar prices in open market. Pakistan imports oil from

Arab countries in dollar (international 16, currency), whenever there is any change in oil or dollar prices it directly affects the energy prices in Pakistan. To avoid such situation once and for all Pakistan must take the following steps.

a Invest in Renewable Energy sources to avoid dependence on fossil fuels.

First and foremost thing is to invest in renewable energy sources such as, installing solar panels and wind turbines. Such investments will reduce the dependence on imported oil and gas, lower the greenhouse gas emissions and will also create job opportunities for local.

b Stopping the electricity theft at all cost.

Electricity theft is the major issue of Pakistan energy crisis. Due to this theft, power sector — fails to recover the actual charges, it increases the cost of electricity for honest consumers who bear the burden of subsidizing the theft. To stop this theft, DISCOs must be empowered with magisterial

charge and imposing of fines and ¹⁷ imprisonment on the culprits must be implemented to overcome the threat.

C Maintenance of Power Stations

Maintenance of power stations is one of the possible solutions of energy crisis. According to World Bank, Pakistan's power sector suffers from high technical and commercial losses, which amount to about 18% of total electricity supplied. These losses are mainly due to poor maintenance of power stations, transmission lines and distribution networks. By improving power stations Pakistan can reduce the losses and increase the availability of electricity to consumers.

d Construction of Dams

Construction of dams have multiple advantages including generating electricity. It is unfortunate that Pakistan has not constructed any dam for 50 years. If dams are build, they can increase the generation of hydro-electric power. Few notable dams such as Bhasha

Dam can generate 4500 MW of electricity¹⁸
Muhmand Dam 800 M.W, Kahola 1,124 MW,
Kasot 720 MW of electricity. Pakistan
must focus on constructing dams to
eradicate power crisis.

Conclusion:

Power crisis of Pakistan is not a new phenomena, it is happening for quite some time. It is unfortunate that no successive governments have managed to control this crisis. If above mentioned steps are taken in honest manner, this crisis can end for good. Lets hope that these crisis end soon because ultimate sufferer is poor person not elites.

Introduction:

CPEC is a connectivity project of two countries, China and Pakistan. This project allows China to use Pakistan's ports as a crucial link to reach markets around the world and avoid the busy Malacca Strait and threatening Indian seas. CPEC started in 2015, when Chinese president Xi-Jingping visited Pakistan. Both countries signed 51 agreements to work on building modern roads, rain roads, fibre optic cables, energy infrastructure, developing Gwadar city, etc. In grand ceremony on 31 July 2023, China - Pakistan celebrated the successful completion of 10 years of CPEC. Chinese vice-premier He Lifeng, representing president Xi-Jingping read out a congratulatory letter from President Xi. For the past 10 years what ~~is~~ mega project has achieved and analyze what are ~~the~~ its failures in coming paragraphs.

I Ten years of CPEC: an overview

CPEC is highest Foreign Direct Investment by any country to Pakistan since its inception. It is the grandiose

project of \$62 billion in which ~~projects~~^{so} like multiple projects are included, lets analyze how such projects have impacted Pakistan.

a Impact on country's economy and power sector

CPEC has helped Pakistan to deal with its energy shortages which have been holding back its economy. The project includes building different types of power plants like coal-fired, hydroelectric, solar-electric and wind turbines which has added a lot of electricity to Pakistan's power grid. The project has helped Pakistan deal with its ongoing energy shortages by adding almost 6000 MW of electricity, this has boosted economic activities in the country. CPEC has helped Pakistan develop its Blue Economy by working on the Gwader port which will be an important trade route to China and other countries.

b Impact on country's social problems.

CPEC has build special economic zones that bring new technology and create jobs. They expect to make more than 2 million jobs by 2030. CPEC has been a great help for Pakistan in dealing with its problems of poverty, unemployment and inequality, so far project has created

100,000 jobs opportunities for young people²¹ and provided training and skills for many workers. It has increased Pakistan's health-care and education systems by building hospitals, schools, vocational training centres. CPEC has addressed Pakistan's environmental challenges like climate change, water scarcity and environmental damages. It introduced renewable energy technologies like wind and solar power. Project has improved Pakistan water management by building dams, reservoirs and irrigation networks. Chinese foundations have established school for girls, 'specially' for daughters of poor fishermen, providing them with quality education. In Thar desert, province Sindh, where women were underprivileged and less educated, CPEC power projects created opportunities for them. Now women can drive dumper trucks and supply meals to companies operating there, empowering them and improving their lives.

C Impact on Pakistan's Agricultural Sector.
CPEC is also focused on developing the agricultural sector. Pakistan can diversify its agricultural export such as products like sesame seeds, rice, etc. Because China has shared advanced

22

agricultural technology with Pakistan, like drip irrigation systems and pest control techniques, which have improved crop yields and reduced water waste, leading to more agricultural production and income. Current phase of CPSC focuses on developing agricultural sector, socio-economic projects and partnerships for research. CPSC can make a big impact on Pakistan's agricultural sector which is significant part of the country's economy and employ large number of people. The project aims to bring modern farming techniques, better water management and higher crop yields for crops like cotton, wheat, rice.

2 Possible failures of the Project.

As far as the benefits this project has provided to the country, this project has drawn some drawbacks and failures too, such as:

a Less Focus towards social development:

Chinese authorities have given very least focus towards the social problems of people living in Pakistan, particularly in Baluchistan. Most of the Baluchis

don't consider this project useful for Balochi people. This is because there is a lack of communication between Pakistani authorities and them. In 2021 thousands of people in Gwadar protested due to the presence of huge Chinese trawlers on beaches. This was directly affecting the lives of local fishermen. For successful development of project strong communication is required and there is need to communicate the positives of this project to local population. Furthermore, school and health facilities should be constructed in backward areas, and special economic zones. Such initiatives will give a boost to local labourers, who cannot afford good health facilities and education to their children.

b Failed to Stop Terrorism: Targeting CPEC.
Since the inception of CPEC, foreign elements have tried everything in their capacity to sabotage this project. Since 2014 multiple attacks have taken place on Chinese workers and projects, still both countries have failed to establish any framework to stop terrorism. In this regard, both countries need to work on

24

joint intelligence sharing and mutual security measures must be taken to stop foreign elements from sabotaging this mega project.

Conclusion

CPEC is proof of life long friendship, an unbreakable bond between two countries. CPEC is the priceless gift given to Pakistan by China. It is the responsibility of Pakistani authorities to do everything to save, preserve and utilize this gift. Pakistan should realise its importance because this is not just about connectivity and infrastructure — rather it is proof of everlasting friendship. As Xi-Jingping has said about CPEC, "It is a testament to the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan and it represents a shining example of regional cooperation and connectivity."