

## Current Affairs NOA - Mock 8.

### Introduction.

CPEC is a life-line project for Pakistan that can change the entire landscape of this country. Initiated in 2013, its progress has given both dividends and losses to Pakistan. Likewise, it has reinvigorated the energy sector, introduced technology to agriculture sector, technological transfer and many others. But, at the same time, this project has not met the demands, needs and aspiration of local population, ineffective and delays in projects, job expectations are not fulfilled and many others. Numerous constraints have resulted this project into doldrums. Factors like terrorism, Indian's malign agenda toward CPEC, political instability by inter-alia have hindered its progress. These must be addressed at priority level.

### 2. Chronological History of CPEC.

2013

Initiated by Chinese President with the collaboration of Pakistan.

2020

Till 2020, first phase is complete

2025

The timeline for second phase is 2025

2030

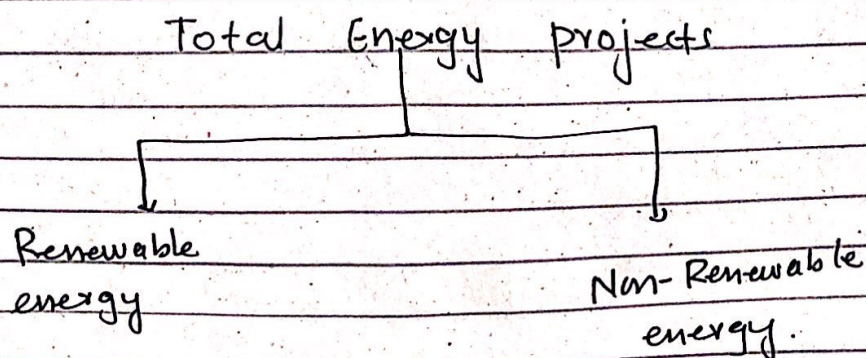
CPEC 3<sup>rd</sup> phase will be finalized

CPEC is ongoing project. It was started by Mr. Xi Jinping with the collaboration of Prime Minister of the time - M. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. It is comprised of three phases and it is also one of the main projects of BRI. For Pakistan, it has brought both roses and thorns so far.

### 3 Success of CPEC IN ITS FIRST DECADES.

#### 3.1 Advancement in the energy sector.

CPEC has not only advanced the fragile Energy Sector of the country but has also diversified it. Through CPEC, China introduced various energy projects.



Reference:

of Energy, According to Ministry there are

total 19 Projects related to energy. 10 have been completed and 9 have been under process.

### 3.2 Introduction of technology to agriculture sector.

CPEC has also reinvigorated the already paralysed and fragiled agriculture sector of the country. Various agreements between two countries have been signed pertaining to transfer of technology to agriculture sector.

For Example:

Advanced tools and equipments related to Irrigation system plus drip and air sprinkled mechanism are to be installed.

### 3.3 Infrastructure and Communication Network under CPEC.

CPEC is also altering the roads and railways system in Pakistan. The building of Highways, motorways, railways, bullet trains will transform the fate of this country.

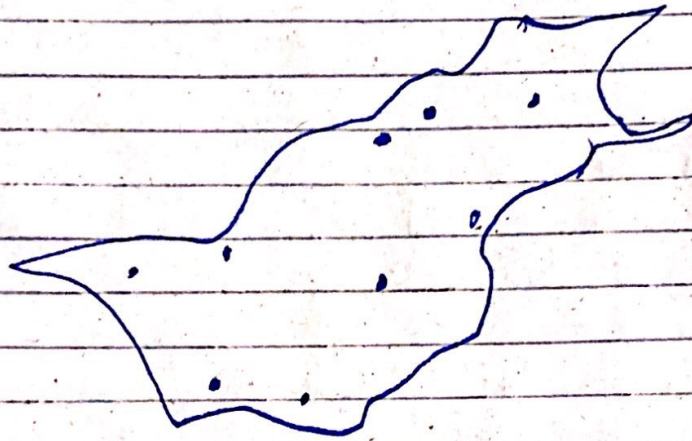
For Example

The completion of almost all motorways, highways.

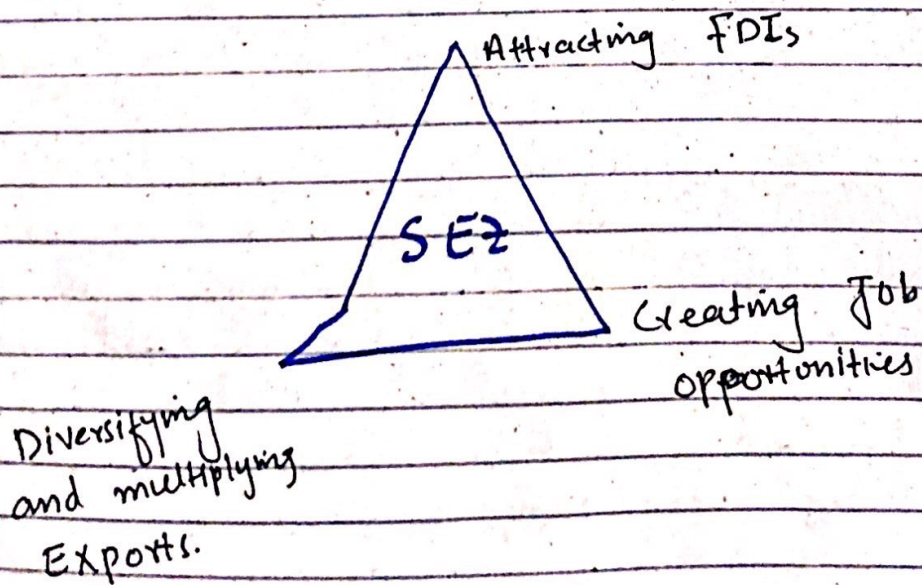
For communication, the optical fibre

network of 834 km long will be established.

3.4 The establishment of SEZ in the country.



There are total 9 Special economic Zones in all provinces of the country. These economic zones gives multiple advantages.



3.5 Culture exchanges, programmes and educational scholarship for Pakistani students

Under CPEC both countries are encouraging people-to-people contact, educational scholarships, exchange of culture programmes and many others.

For Example:

China offers scholarship to Pakistani students in almost every field of education. Plus it strives hard to promote its language in the country by introducing languages programmes in Pakistan.

#### 4. SOME FAILURES OF CPEC IN THE FIRST DECADE.

This project has also resulted in so many failure in its first decade.

4.1. CPEC hasn't addressed some genuine reservations of local population.

CPEC was aimed at alleviating the concerns and major problems of local population, but it has not done so far.

For example: The protest of Gwadar.

for getting their shares in CPEC is a case in point.

5.2 Ineffective and delays in the project added miseries to the woes of the country.

The progress and work on CPEC is slow and it is not been upto the mark due to the presence of so many constraints. This has not only put burdened on the scarce resources of the country but also exploited the people.

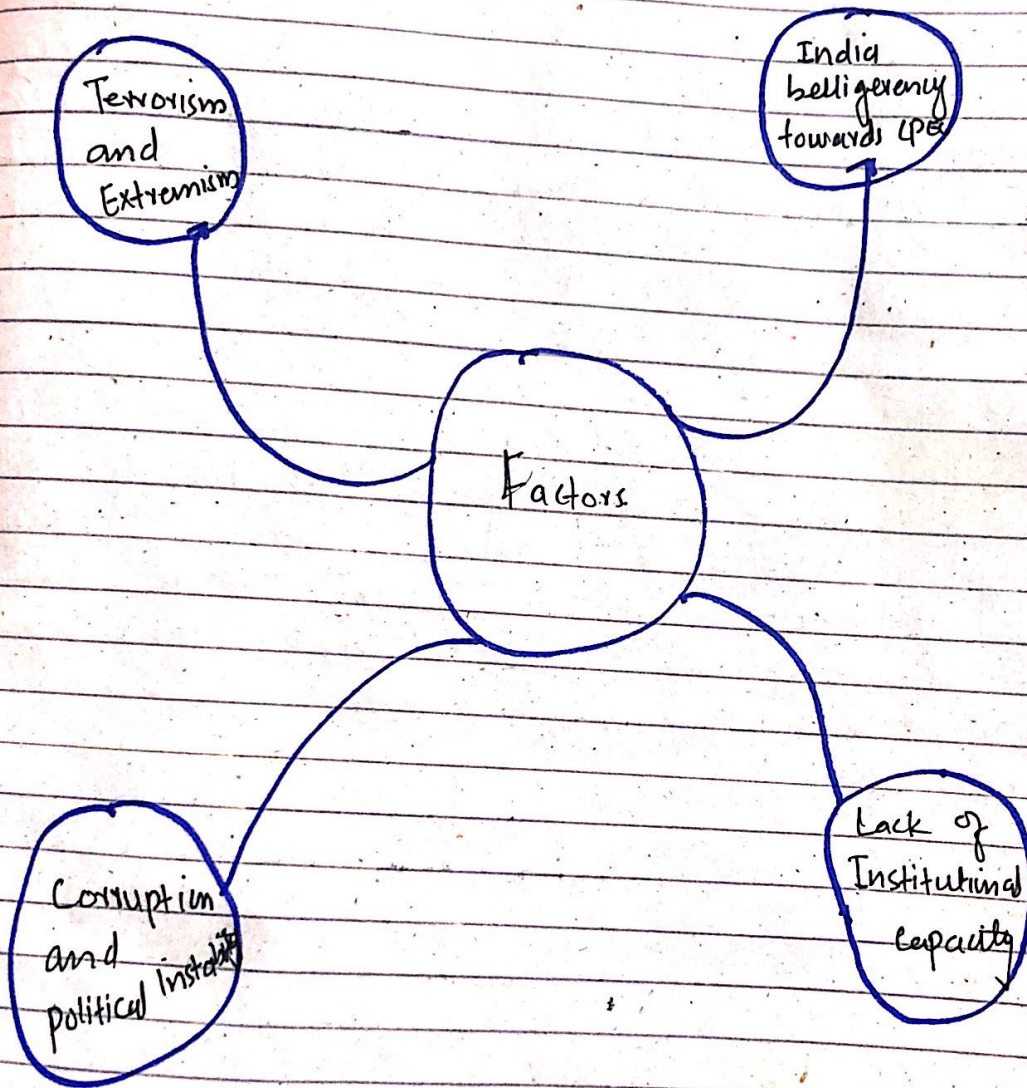
5.3 Unable to meet the job expectations of people.

CPEC has not only provided inadequate job opportunities to the local population but has also resulted in increase in the Chinese labor force in the market. One of the main reservations of local is that the Pakistani market is flooded with Chinese labor.

5.4 Still remains unresponsive to the needs, demands and reservations of the local people.

There are some sort of concerns in the hearts and minds of people that CPEC has not fulfilled what was expected from it.

## 6 Factors Militating against the Progress of CPEC.



## Critical Analysis.

The tree of CPEC embodies both roses and thorns. It is a golden opportunity and a crown jewel project that entails every sector of this

this country. From Energy to agricultural sectors, it aims to transform this country, yet when a critical glance give to its progress in the first decade, it has resulted in so many failures. Factors like corruption, political instability and many other have transformed this whole ~~sector~~<sup>project</sup> into a doldrum.

### Conclusion.

It goes without saying that CPEC is an opportunity for Pakistan to stand itself out of this mess, but in first decades there are numerous factors that have transformed this golden project into a rough diamond.



Q4

### Introduction.

In the shifting sand of Middle East, KSA-Iran rapprochement is a diplomatic earthquake in which China, middle Eastern countries and the entire region are winners and the United States is loser. This rapprochement will not only put an end to proxies, terrorism, but will also create conducive environment for trade and will strengthen the OIC. In case of Pakistan, its Foreign policy puzzles toward Middle east, sectarian outfits, religious animosities and many others will become lesser in the long run.

### 3. China brokered KSA-Iran Deal.

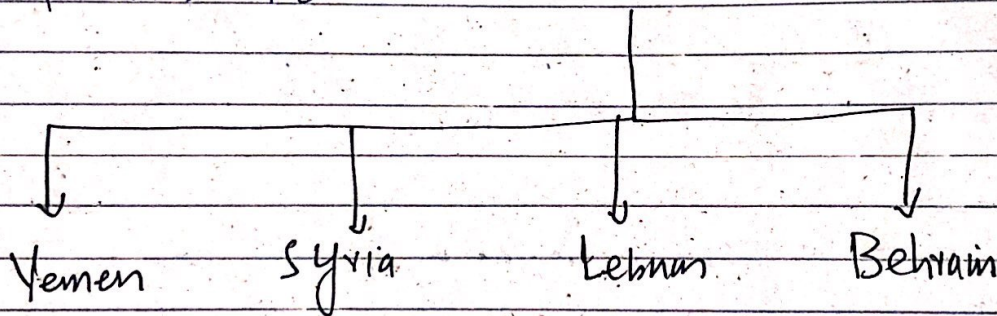
Iran - KSA were strained allies in the Middle East. There was power struggle for the attainment of hegemony of the entire region. For that to materialize, the two countries were involved in proxies, terrorist activities and many others. China came forward, announced the two rivals and brought them to the table. With the help of China these two countries signed a peace deal with each other in the last year.

### 3. Positive Implications For the region.

This deal has far-reaching implications for the MENA region.

#### 3.1 End of proxies in Middle Eastern region.

The entire middle eastern region is engulfed in proxies and civil wars and these proxies are initiated and supported by both KSA - Iran. Proxies in



The all will become at least after this rapprochement.

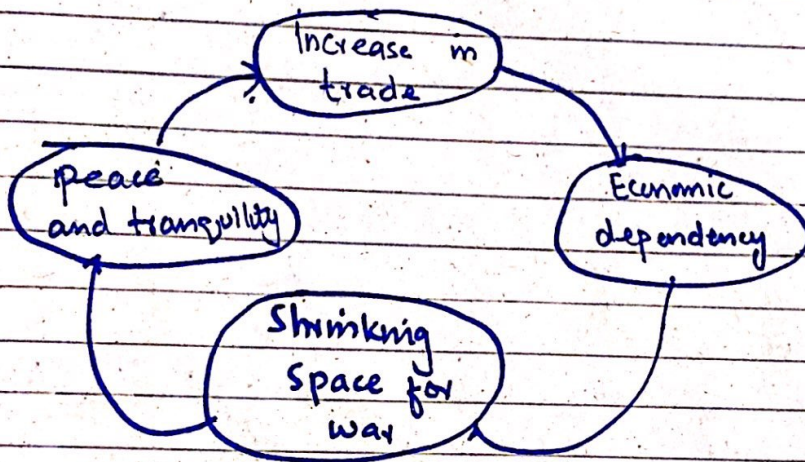
#### 3.2 Prevalence of peace and tranquility will flourish following the deal.

The atmosphere of peace and tranquility will prevail as these two countries won't involve with each other in destabilizing the region and creating chaos and

Anxiety,

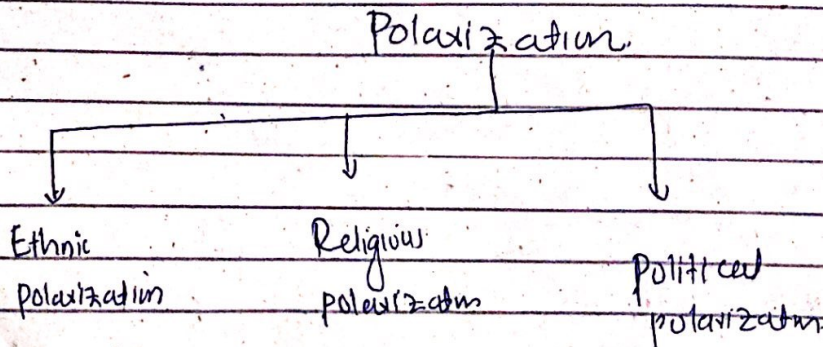
3.3 Conducive environment for trade will flourish.

between the once called The trade arch-rivals will flourish.



This trade practices will also be extended to the neighbours state in the region. Trade will prevail and chances for war will decline.

3.4 Polarization in the region will lessen.



These all become vanish

as the two countries will start diplomatic relationship.

For example:

The rivalry between the two had divided the entire region into various blocks but these blocks will become unite following this deal.

3.5 It paves the way for strengthening OIC.

OIC will become effective and efficient as both Iran and KSA were are the two major powers in the OIC. Their rivalries have rendered the OIC dysfunctional but now following the deal there will be reinvigoration in the nature of OIC.

#### 4. Implications of KSA - Iran deal on Pakistan.

Pakistan is important for both countries and also these two countries carry immense importance for Pakistan.

4.1. Balancing of foreign Policy towards both countries.

In past, there was puzzle in the foreign policy approach of Pakistan towards

these two countries which impacted Pakistan very badly. Now after the re-approachement of these two countries, Pakistan will maintain the needed balance in its foreign policy approach towards these two countries.

4.2 The severity of sectarian outfits will lessen in Pakistan.

Pakistan has been badly affected by sectarian and ethnic violence. The two sects

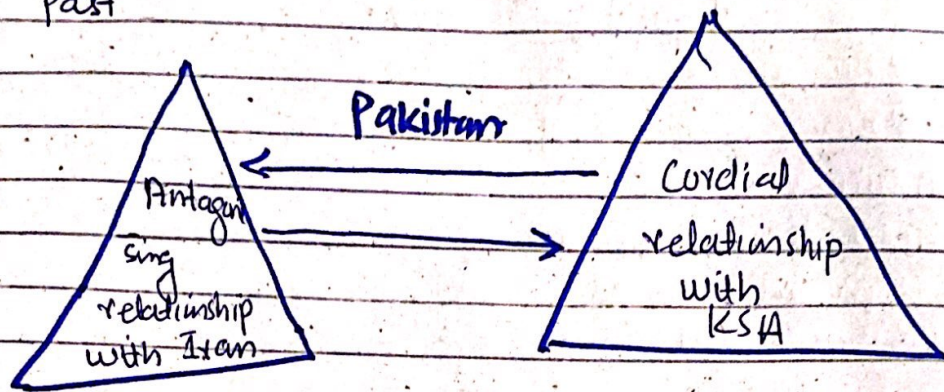
- Shia → Supported by Iran.
- Sunni → Supported by KSA.

These two have divided the entire landscape of this country. After the re-approachement of these two, the gravity of violence will become decline.

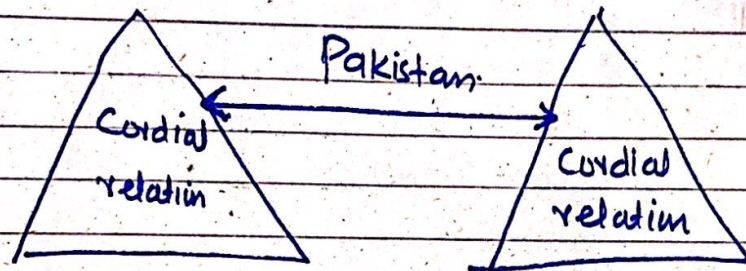
4.3 Opportunity for Pakistan to delve into energy rich middle east.

Pakistan will get access to the energy resources of both countries - In past it was difficult for the country as easing relationship with one came at the cost of antagonising with others.

In Past



Now after the reapproachment between two.



4.4 Improvement in trade and technology transfer with both countries.

Pakistan trade relationship with these two states are at abysmal. The country has not exploited the potential of trade with these two countries. This was mainly due to their rivalries. Now after the deal Pakistan will get an opportunity to improve its trade relationship with these two countries.

#### 4.5 Decline in the terrorist activities in Pakistan.

The terrorist and sectarian outfits that were backed by these two countries in order to promote their malign agendas will become decline.

the

#### 5. Conclusion.

In a nutshell, USA-Iran rapprochement embodies positive ramifications for both ME region and Pakistan. It will alleviate all the concerns of the region and Pakistan pertaining to diplomacy, trade, security and many others.

## Introduction.

Reforms in the power sector are quintessential for lightening up the prospects of socio-economic future of the country. Maleha Lodhi writes in his book "Pakistan beyond the Crisis", "18 hours long power outage and dismantled energy infrastructure have far reaching affects on both states and individual life".

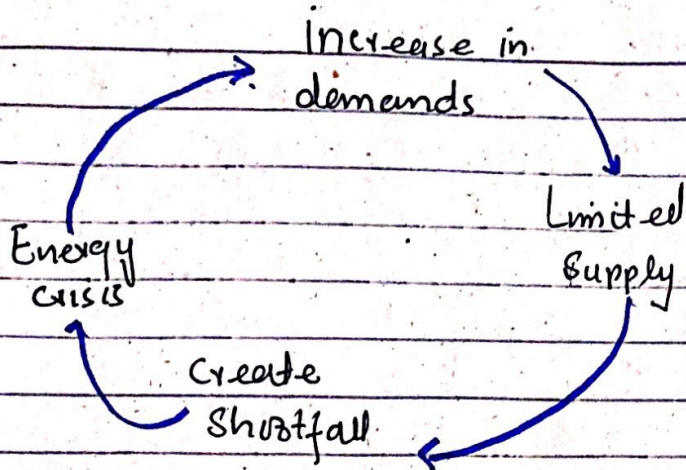
Reforming the power sector will meet the demands of electricity, fuels the industries, bring efficiency in agricultural sectors and many others. Ways for reforms are: Privatization, transition towards renewable energy resource, restructuring of key institutions related to energy and inter alia. Even though hurdles are there but the state must address those hurdles at priority level.

## 2. Importance of Reforms for Socio-economic future of Pakistan.

2.1. Reforming power sector will meet the energy demand of the growing population.

The growing population has resulted in numerous demands pertaining to energy consumption.

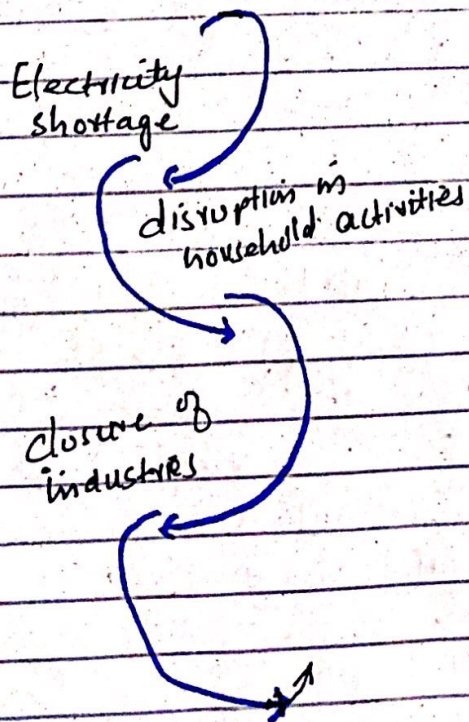




The current supply of energy is limited which eventually has created shortfall in the energy.

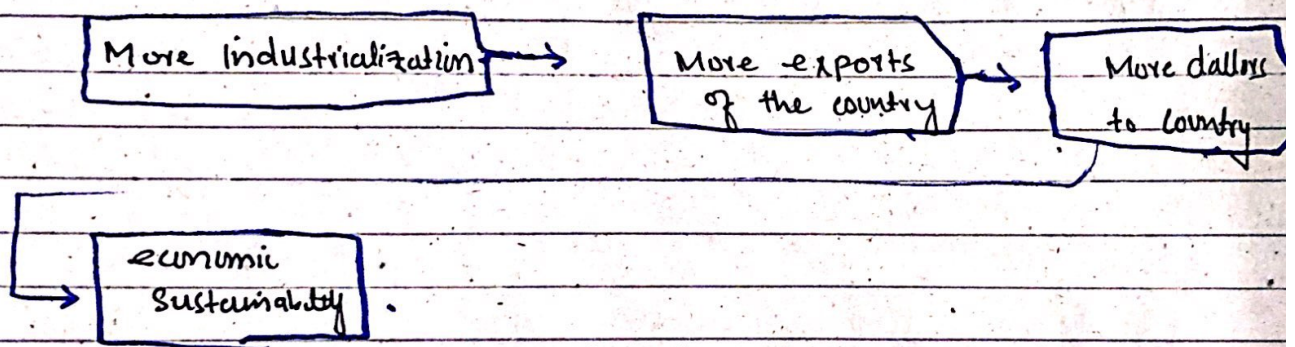
2.2 Reforming power sector will solve all concerns pertaining to electricity.

The main problem that Pakistani face today is the power outage that has disrupted all patterns of state and individuals.



§ This phenomenon is mainly due to the ill-performance of power sector. The reforms in this sector will alleviate the situation.

3.3 Reforming power sector will encourage the culture of industrialization. Industrialization culture can only be promoted through vibrant power sector. This sector, industrialization, will then efficiently contribute to economic sectors of the country.



3.4 Reforming power sector will reinvigorate the agriculture sector of the country.

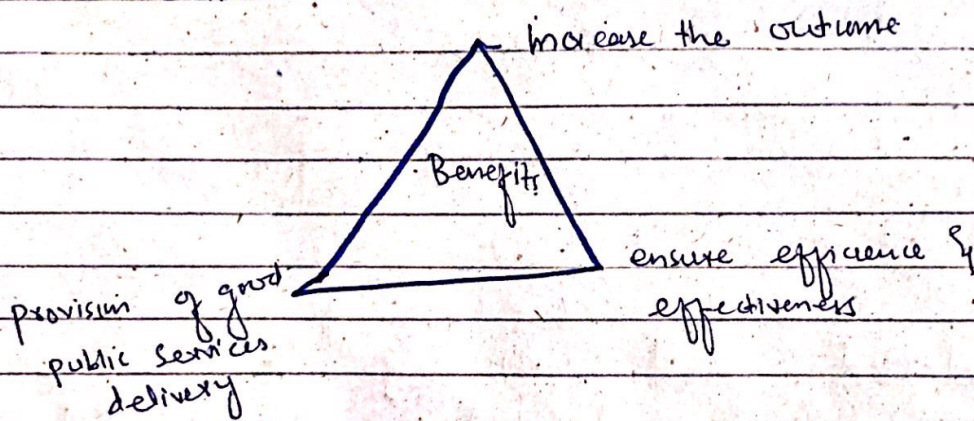
Agriculture sector has become fragile and paralyzed due to many reasons, lack of power supply is no exemption at all. The adequate supply of power to this sector will increase its performance which will ultimately lead to economic sustainability.

**Robust Agriculture sector**  
economic life-line for.

## 4. Opportunities For Reforms in the power Sector.

### 4.1 Privatization of some key institutions related to energy Sector.

Public state enterprises related to energy sector has become dysfunctional due to various reasons. There is need to bring reforms in them mainly through privatization. Privatization will.



### 4.2 Transition toward Renewable energy resources.

Pakistan's ample potential of renewable energy resource provides opportunity for reforms in power sectors. It has untapped potential:

- Solar energy
- Wind energy
- ↳ Geothermal energy
- ↳ Hydroelectric energy
- ↳ Biomass energy.

The need to utilize these potentials and shift from traditional reliance on non-renewable resources.

### 3.3 Human Resources management and development in the energy and power sector.

The need is not only to acquire skills to labour and facilitate them with modern technology but to manage the organization of power sector.

### 3.4 Restructuring of WAPDA.

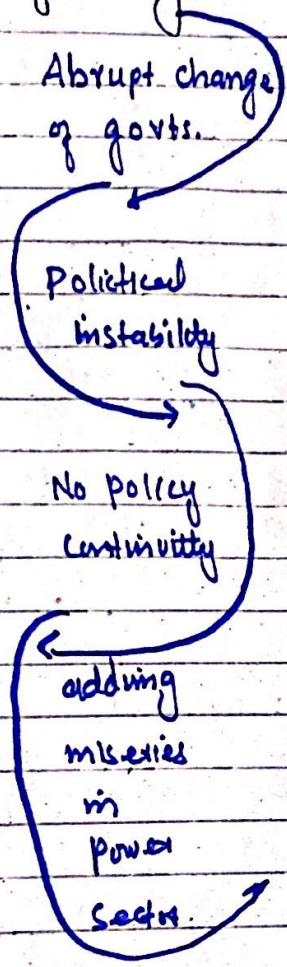
Business re-engineering, regulation and restructuring of the WAPDA and making it sync with the needs and aspiration of population is mandatory.

## 4. Major Hurdles in the way of Reforming the power sector in Pakistan.

4.1. Inconsistency in policies mainly due to chronic political instability.

Pakistan is plagued in continuous cycle of political instability - This leads to lack of

Lack of consistency in policies and change of governments.



4.2 Bureaucratic red tapism and inertia also act as a bulwark against reforms in the power sector.

aggrandized institutional coupled with red tapism and self-inertia also impedes reforms in this sector.

For example.

Dr. Ishrat Jibad Hussain in his book *Governing the Ungovernable* explored the idea that it takes almost a month

to reach a file to the top rank in organizations in Pakistan.

4.3 Corruption and mismanagement of resource in the power sector also hinder the reforms in power sector.

Unfortunately, the power sector is heavily involved in the menace of corruption which does not only leads to exploitation of resources but also results in violation of meritocracy.

### Conclusion.

It goes without saying that vibrant and efficient power sector carries immense importance for the socio-economic future of the country. The need is to reform the power sector in such a way that increase the dividends and decrease the losses.

## Introduction.

The two major events one on the part of Pakistan that is expelling out Afghans from its soil and other on the part of Terrorist groups that use soil of Afghanistan to create chaos in Pakistan. These two developments can strain the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan as this will create trust deficit between the two states and will shrink the space for dialogue. These negative developments have far reaching implications in the form of increasing number of attacks, resurgence of TTP and many others. Both countries must realize the temperature of this situation and ought to take measure to lessen the gravity of the matter.

## 2. Relationship of Pak-Afghan following these development.

The relationship between these two neighbouring countries are becoming increasingly hostile following these development. It is leading to two sort of scenarios.

2.1 These developments increase the trust deficit between the two countries.

TTP have got a peaceful environment under the shades of Taliban. TSKP and

Islamabad was expecting that the arrival of Taliban would suppress these groups and they won't allow them to use Afghan soil for terrorist activities. but unfortunately, Taliban are not playing their due role leading to increase in number of attacks which will definitely make the relations between the two so hostile.

2.2 These developments also shrink space for diplomacy and dialogue between the two countries.

Sending back Afghans to their soil was a response that Pakistan has given in return of increasing number of attacks from the soil of Afghanistan. This will hurt Afghan government. Similarly the increasing attacks on the part of TTP backed by Taliban is hurting Pakistan too. That's why both countries have adopted non-diplomatic means to address the concerns. This will definitely impact the relationship between the two in a bad way.

3. Far- Reaching repercussions for both states.

3.1 Increase in the number of terrorist attacks on the soil of Pakistan.



Hostile relations between the two countries would embolden the non-state actors operating in Afghanistan to increase their malicious attacks on the soil of Pakistan.

Reference: According to the research Strategic and Studies Islamabad Institute following the Taliban's Academy to Kabul, there is an increase of 67% terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

2.2 Hostile relationship will pave the way for resurgence of non-state actors in Pakistan.

Non-states actors particularly TTP, ISKP and actors operating in Balochistan will find an opportunity to epitomize their claims and impose their malicious and nefarious agendas in Pakistan.

Reference: TTP and ISKP will impose the same model of governance system as Taliban have established in Afghanistan.

2.3 Distancing Afghanistan would mean closing it to India. The

rivalry between Afghanistan and Pakistan provides ample opportunities for India to promote anti-Pakistan interest on the soil of Afghanistan.

" Any gain to India, is a loss to Pakistan "

3.4 Unfriendly relationship between the two exacerbate instability in the region.

The whole region will feel the heat of the rivalry between the two states as both are geographically located in such a place that carries immense importance to all regional states.

4. Recommendations for both countries to make cordial relationship with each other.

4.1 Pakistan must convince Taliban to act against non-state actors that are acting against Pakistan.

Diplomatically, Pakistan must pressurize Afghanistan to eliminate the safe havens of non-state actors and should not allow

allow its soul to be used by these actors against Pakistan.

#### 4.2 Economic Engagement with Afghanistan is mandatory.

Pakistan must fortify the ways through which it can engage Afghanistan economically. The revival of border trade agreement in this regard is mandatory.  
For example:

Taliban have announced that they are transforming war zones into economic horizons which provide an opportunity for Pakistan to engage Taliban.

#### 4.3 Fostering cultural linkages with Afghanistan is of utmost importance

Increasing cultural and people to people contact can warm the relationship between the two neighbouring countries. Particularly, in case of KP and Balochistan, same ethnicity are residing across the borders. Allowing and receiving peoples can ensure friendly relationship.

#### 4.4 Communing regional and global power to take interest in Afghanistan

Stability.

Afghanistan stability is important for almost all powers. In this regard, Pakistan must initiate this expedition and convince China, Russia and regional countries to participate in the development of Afghanistan.

"Peace and development in Afghanistan would mean peace and stability in Pakistan".

Conclusion.

In short, it goes without saying that the recent developments in the part of both countries can have potential to make unfriendly and hostile environment for both states, which will have far reaching implications. The need is Pakistan must convince the Taliban to realize the gravity of the matter.