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Day: (Mon) (Tue) (Wed) (Thu) (Fri) (Sat)

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Exam:- Current Affairs

Subjective Part

Question - 03

China and Pakistan ---- failures of the Project.

Answer:

Introduction:-

Historically, China and Pakistan fostered great relations and these were strengthened when China became economically empowered, and it started its flagship project Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of which CPEC is a part of. CPEC which translates to China Pakistan Economic Corridor recently completed its decade since its

start in 2013. The project has seen a number of ups and downs in the wake of global as well as national crisis. Apart from this, it has also enabled Pakistan and China to bag a handsome revenue and harbour good relations. Further analysis about the successes and failure of CPEC are given below.

Successes of CPEC:

CPEC throughout the decade has been able to attain a good deal of success in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Pakistan and to phase out the power sector woes.

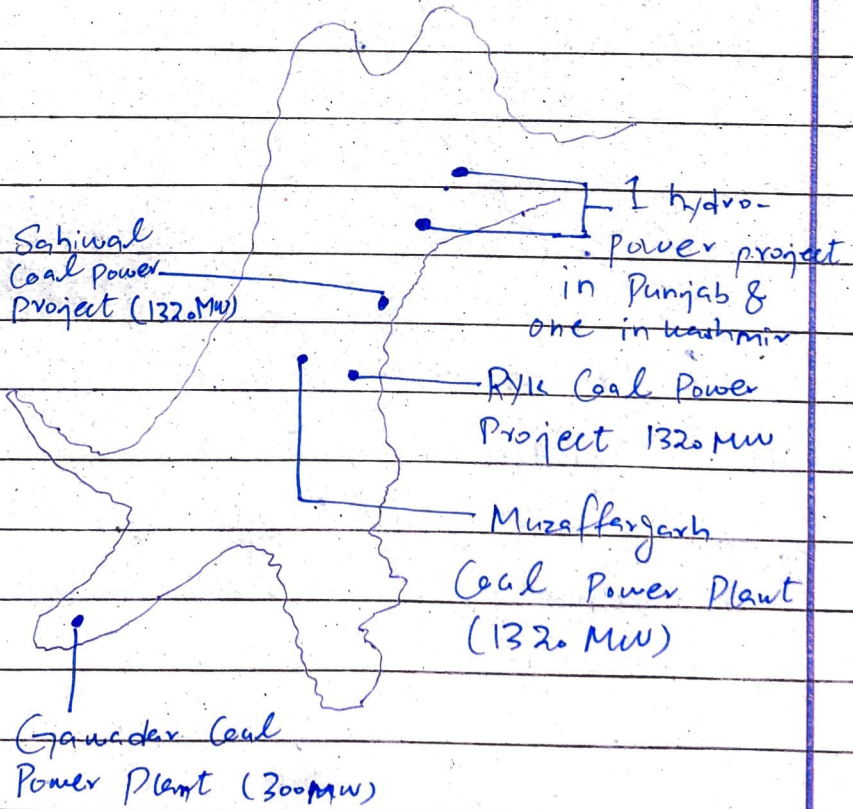
3.1 Economic Success of CPEC

CPEC has given Pakistan a foreign direct investment of \$25 billion. Out of this, \$17 billion has been utilised in revenue

generation

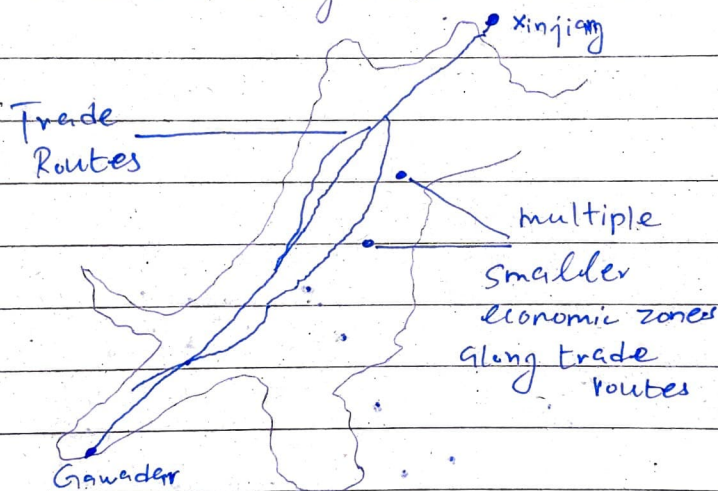
2.2 Projects in Power Sector

CPEC established a number of power sector projects to rule out the country's greatest crisis which is that of power sector



2.3 Northern and Eastern Trade Routes and other Small Projects

Starting from Xinjiang, CPEC has established trade routes on both Northern and Eastern parts of Pakistan leading to Gawadar



In addition to this, following projects of smaller scale have been established.

- ↳ Hospital at Gawadar
- ↳ Distillation plant for clean water
- ↳ Multiple economic zones and markets along the trade routes

3. Failures of CPEC

3.1 Exacerbated Debt Crisis

It is, moreover, that CPEC and Chinese investment in the country is exacerbating the debt crisis. As of December 2023, Pakistan owed around \$25 billion to China and about half \$12 billion to Paris Club.

3.2 Chinese Companies and China's Taskforce

Pakistan has failed to negotiate CPEC on terms suitable to Pakistani companies and workforce. Huge economic and humanitarian potential is being lost because of it.

3.3 Diminished Interest of China

In the recent years, it seems that Chinese interest has been diminished with regard

to CPEC. For instance, in 2023, China gave \$92 billion^{as FDI} to Singapore, a country 42 times smaller than Pakistan population-wise. While Pakistan received only \$2 billion as FDI in this period.

3.4 Wishing away the US

China and CPEC centric policy has wished away the US interest in Pakistan. This could be regarded as a CPEC failure apart from the economic downturns.

4. All is not Lost

Even after all this, it can't be said that all is lost, Pakistan and China have endured critical problems in the past decade, and sustenance of CPEC is still a glimmer of hope in the near future.

4.1 Issues Both China and Pakistan faced but still sustained CPEC

Both countries have faced a number of issues like

China: • Intermittent skirmishes at Ladakh

• Furthering tensions with India

• Tensions in South-China Sea

Pakistan: • Political instability

• Rampant terrorism

• Fiscal deficit

• The India factor

4.2 Unlocking the Full Potential of CPEC

Full potential of CPEC is yet to be explored and strident efforts are required in this regard.

(i) Attracting more FDI

(ii) Inclusion of other provinces

in trade routes and projects
(iii) Inclusion of Afghanistan for
a friendly gesture and revival
of good ties

Conclusion

CPEC holds in itself a strong potential for both countries. Though it has failed to deliver to its fullest in the past decade but its full potential can be unlocked by right and timely policies.

Question - 06

How do you see Pak-Afghan relations in ----- Afghan refugees?

Answer:-

Introduction:

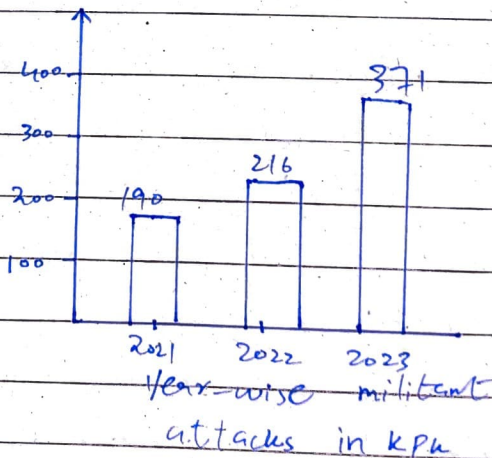
With the abrupt US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan is facing numerous Afghanistan related issues among which the issue of terrorism is ~~the~~ of foremost importance. Post-2021, Pakistan saw a gradual increase in the militant attacks, and in 2022 the militant attacks have exacerbated to the early 2000s levels. Pakistan-Afghanistan relations have further commented on in the wake of recent upsurge in attacks and the resultant refugee crisis.

2. Rise of Bitterness

In the past two years, the bitterness is on the rise between the two countries.

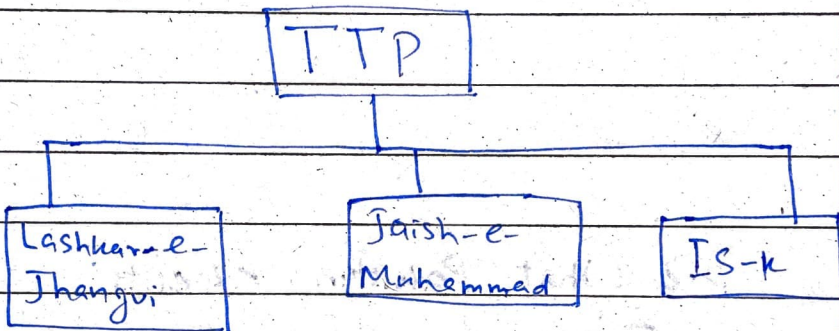
2.1 Rise of militant attacks

Militant ~~attacker~~ attackers are raising their heads, especially in Baluchistan and KPK. The leading group among them is Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). TTP is no longer a ragtag militia but a full-blown insurgency.



2.2 Rise of Splinter Groups

Other splinter groups who possibly have won the support of TTP and Taliban are attacking Baluchistan and KPK.



3. Expectations From Taliban: a Daydream

It was a misconception to expect any thing from Afghanistan. As Pakistan's former ambassador to the U.S. Hussain Haqqani said:-

“Pakistan will get the outcome its pyrrhic victory in Afghanistan will not give the reward.”

3.1 What TTP wants from Pakistan under Taliban's rule

TTP has set its demands

which are obviously an outright blow to the country's integrity.

T.T.P Demands:-

(i) Going back on the decision of including Ex-fata region in KPK

(ii) Imposition of Shariah law in the selected areas of KPK.

3.2 What Pakistan expects from Taliban

Pakistan marred by militant attacks in the last year wants Taliban to curb the growing militancy especially along the border

↳ Curb on militant attacks

↳ Relocation of Afghans living close to border on the Afghanistan side.

↳ Cooperation with respect to peace and security

4. Repatriation of Afghan Refugees

Vexed with the militant attacks and non-cooperation from Afghanistan, Pakistan government decided to send 1.7 million non-registered Afghan refugees.

4.1 No Violation of Law

Pakistan is not a signatory to 1951 convention on refugees but still practices some of its clauses. Repatriation of refugees had become necessary because out of every 24 attacks, 14 were traced to Afghan refugees.

4.2 Legality of Issue

Repatriation of Afghan refugees is absolutely legal as PIDF report said:-

There is no issue of legality in sending refugees back to Afghanistan. Pakistan is only sending those refugees to

who do not have Proof of Registration Cards."

5. The Grim Picture of Pak-Afghan Relations

A seed of enmity has been sown in the heart of both the countries. Both countries are marred by the economic disparities and other social issues.

The relations should be resolved as soon as possible because it may exacerbate the underlying problem. Major concerns that lie at the front of Pak-Afghan relations are:-

- A long porous border
- Rising militancy
- The India Factor
- Refugees and economic crisis

6. Revisiting Pak-Afghan Relations

Pak-Afghan relations must be

revisited and new avenues of friendship and mutual co-existence must be discovered.

6.1 Mutual Co-existence

Efforts must be ensured to co-exist mutually. Age old border issue must be resolved once and for all.

6.2 Economic Cooperation

Afghanistan must be included in the economic stream to have a more inclusive neighbourhood.

- Inclusion of Afghanistan in CPEC.

- Resolving issue of smuggling once and for all.

7. Conclusion

Both Pakistan and Afghanistan have endured a long standing strife between them. The condition after the US withdrawal has

Date: / /

Day: (Mon) (Tue) (Wed) (Thu) (Fri) (Sat)

Exacerbated and repatriation of Afghan refugees have further added insult to injury. However as detailed discussion tells that serious revisiting of mutual relation is required to ensure peace and mutual co-existence.



Question - 08

Critically evaluate the causes of US crisis ---- in the days to come.

Answer:-

Introduction

These recent few years have seen the declining authority of the US. Some of the key causes include the threat of de-dollarisation, decreasing America's hegemony, wars, failure of the US in Afghanistan, and the rise of China. However, evidence-based discussion ahead ensures that the US will keep its seat as the single most powerful country in the world, at least for few decades to come.

2. Causes of the U.S. Crisis

2.1 Receding Hegemony of Dollar

Post-covid era has seen a rise in the concern of dollar as the global currency. Also, power shift and formation of new blocks instilled in the nations that the power will slip away from the hands of America.

- In 2023, Saudi Arabia and China made a deal in their own currencies
- July 2023, India-China trade in Yuan, instead of dollar

2.2 Failure in Afghanistan

America's abrupt withdrawal from Afghanistan is being seen as a failure on the global level. It is believed that America has lost its War on Terror in the

foreign land.

2.3- U.S. no longer able to maintain detente

In December 2021, when Russia threatened to attack Ukraine in case of NATO membership, Biden strictly replied, "There will be consequences." But the US could not do anything to deter Putin.

Moreover, in Armenia-Azerbaijan war, Turkey played a better role than the global powers.

2.4 China as the new hegemon?

Further, the rapidly rising power of China is challenging the U.S. authority in global trades, crime and especially in South-China sea. China's rapid rise is instilling tensions in Washington which is also shifting the global narrative.

2.5 Power struggle in Eurasia

Power is being seen shifted from the west to the East. Eurasian countries are a matter of concern for the US.

China → Economic Might

Russia → Military Prowess



Both only second to America

India → Rising digital technology giant

2.6 Crisis in the Middle East

America has failed to deliver peace in the Middle East. In fact, it has exacerbated the problem.

The US vetoed the cease-fire resolution in the UN twice.

3. Still, the US will keep the helm for a foreseeable future.

3.1 Still the strongest economy of the US

The US still has the strongest economy exceeding \$25 trillion dollars and per capita income of \$75000 per annum. While China still has the economy a quarter less than the US.

And, Russia which is only second to the US in military might has an economy equivalent to that of Italy.

3.2 Dollar reserves still strong

Dollar is still being considered the world's safest and the strongest currency. Around 60% of the world's reserves are still in dollars.

"According to an estimate, it will still take 70 decades to overthrow America's hegemony at the current rate."

↳ The Myth of Multi-polarity
(Foreign Affairs Magazine)

3.3 The US buckling up to curb China

The US is already making moves to curb China from acquiring its position. Efforts are being made by the US to contain China in South-China sea and in trades.

↳ Raising India as a bulwark against China

↳ Curbs on trades especially semi-conductors supply to China

3.4- Who rules the institutions...

The US has significant control over the institutions like IMF,

the World Bank, FATF. It can monopolise them any time it want to get China further in the fetters of international sanctions.

3.5 Might is Right

"Even in this world, no country comes close to the economic and military might of the US."

"No, The world is not Multipolar" — Foreign Policy Essay

Conclusion

The US reputation has been stained massively in the recent years due to already elaborated factors. However, the US still maintains the economic, military and institutional might to avert any blow to its hegemony, for a few decades at least.

← End →