

Q: NO: 3

Its Decade of CPEC's Success and Failures

Introduction:

“ CPEC holds the potential to change ^{only} the landscape of Pakistan, but it would transform the whole region into a land of connectivity and prosperity. ”

(Wang Yi, the foreign
Minister of China)

The truthfulness of the above-stated words can be assessed in the success and failures of CPEC. Where the former outnumbers the latter. CPEC — China Pakistan Economic Corridor that was planned under the Chinese BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) project was started back in 2013. Nowadays, its 2nd phase is under process or one may say almost near to deadline — 2025. The project in its 1st phase has ignited the process

connectivity, 'infrastructural buildings, yet it has posed some challenges which one may call its failures. Like, CPEC has failed to ensure inclusivity and calm local backlash among masses. Apart from that neither it has created its promises timely nor it has generated a lot of jobs as it promised. However, keeping ~~in~~ ongoing tough conditions Pakistan and China celebrated its 1st decade.

A Bird's Eye-View of Celebration:

Recently, the authorities and leaders from both countries gathered to celebrate the 1st decade of CPEC. Authorities acknowledged that no doubt CPEC phase 1 and phase 2 have not delivered the way ~~the~~ we expected yet it is ~~not~~ welcoming to tell that we have achieved a lot. In the speeches, it was reiterated that initial part of everything is the toughest mostly. So is the case with CPEC. Under this silent celebration two other projects were also came to limelight. Islamabad model city was also proposed to initiate leadership highlighted the issues and challenges that faced the 1st and 2nd phases of

CPEC. It was told that there is less ease of doing business; security threats also faded the trust of investors. Political instability of Pakistan was also framed in words along with cherishing celebrations.

Critical Evaluation of Success of the Project:

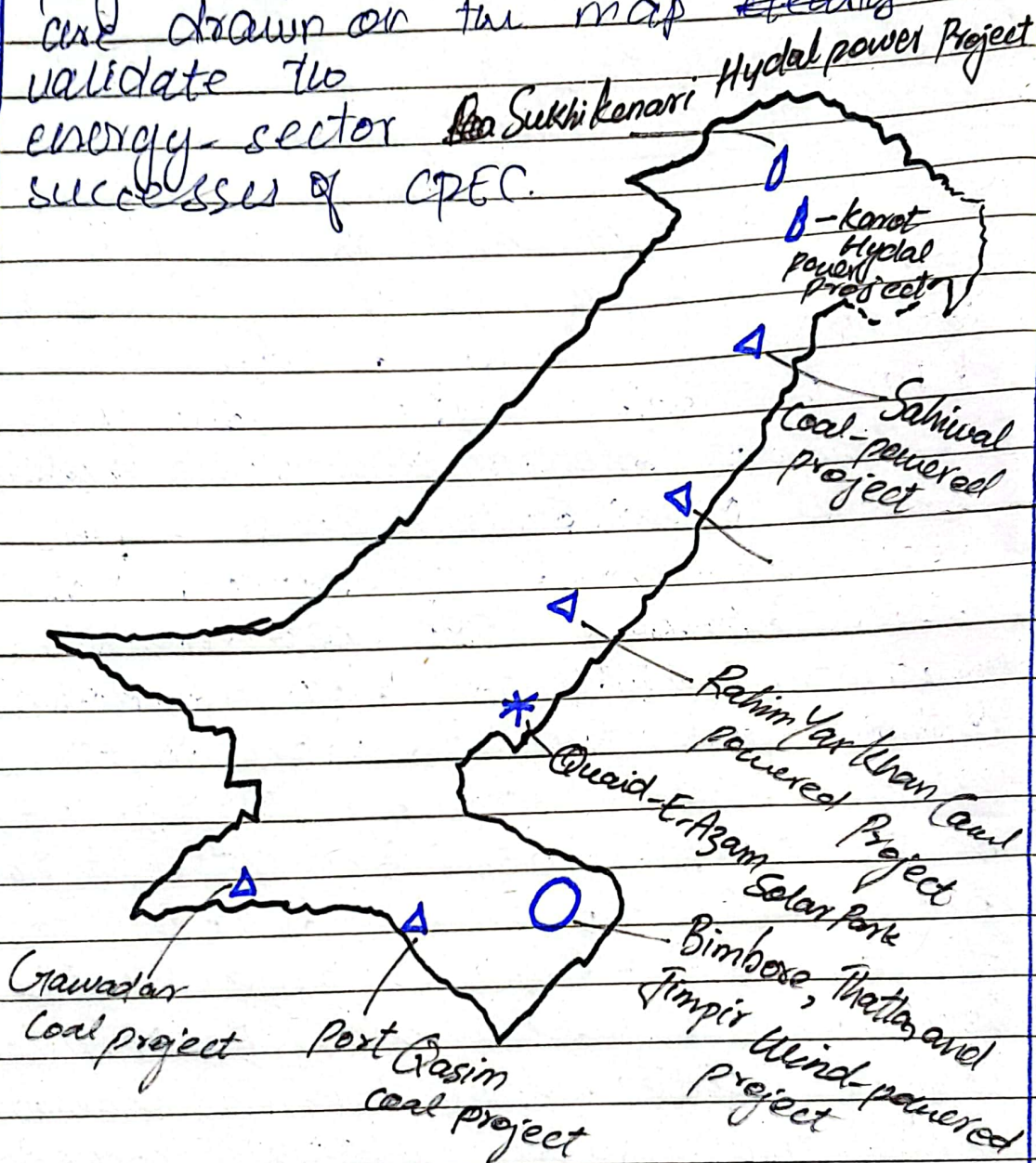
In 1st part of the writing deals with the following success of CPEC.

1. Enhanced interconnectivity via Western, Central and Eastern Route

Certainly CPEC has maximized the interconnectivity not only between China and Pakistan but also within the country. Through infrastructural development, it has provided people chance to travel to farther areas within hours. For example, Balochistan major cities like Basima, Gwadar, Pishin are now closely connected. In short, interconnectivity is a great achievement of CPEC.

2- Uplifted Energy production under various projects

Energy production is another major area where CPEC has excellently performed. The major projects of CPEC related to energy are drawn on the map ~~clearly~~ validate the energy-sector ~~to~~ Sukhikanari ~~Hydal power Project~~ successes of CPEC.



Source: CPEC.gov.pk

3-4 Operational Special Economic Zones

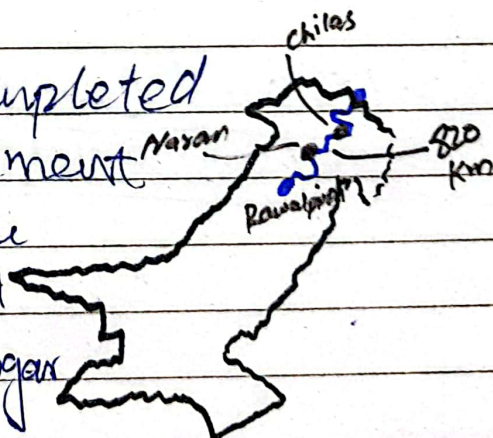
CPEC promised: 9 SEZs. Surprisingly, 4 of them given below are now completely operational.

- 1- Allama Iqbal International Industrial City
- 2- Dhabeji SEZ, Sindh
- 3- Boston SEZ, Balochistan
- 4- Rashakai SEZ, KPK

It is a great success of CPEC these projects are contributing a lot in the economic growth of the country. For example, under AIIC there is a deep focus on agricultural sector, electronic appliances and chemicals. Similarly, food processing under Dhabeji SEZ is also contributing in the country's progress. Hence, this is another success.

5. Fibre Optics Project from Rawalpindi to Kashgar

CPEC has also completed another accomplishment under its belt - the fibre optics project that starts from Kashgar



and ends in Rawalpindi. It is a great achievement of China and Pakistan under CPEC.

Failures of the Project :-

Where CPEC has grasped successes, it has also caused some failures mentioned below.

1- Failed to ensure inclusivity resulting in local backlash — Haq do Tehreek.

CPEC promised inclusivity. Authorities claimed that transparency would be ensured at any cost. Local concerns will be addressed regarding CPEC. However, all unrightful claims seem to be failed. As Haq Do Tehreek — a local movement demanding to rights of people of Yawadar shows that inclusivity is not ensured as it promised.

2- Untimed Completion of Phase 1 and probably of phase-2 as well:

Another failure which

one may observe is that CPEC has failed to complete its projects timely. For example, the phase 1 (2015-2020) projects are still somehow incomplete. While the 2nd one also seems going towards same result. Thus, it is a failure of CPEC.

3- Failure in addressing the anti-CPEC propaganda due to slower growth

CPEC has raised many concerns regarding its transparency and unmeritorious. That is the reason anti-CPEC propaganda has got galvanised as CPEC has not addressed the concerns regarding its transparency. Hence, it can be said that CPEC though has many success, it has also faced the failure.

4- Only a limited number of jobs so far generated.

Under CPEC it was imagined

and perceived that there would be many jobs that would lead to employment in Pakistan but it proved wrong as most of the jobs were taken by Chinese.

Critical Analysis:

Though CPEC has brought about many successes under its belt which is a hope-giving aspect, certain challenges need to be eradicated from its path. For these challenges not only making the project sluggish but also paving the path for other threats that may undermine its sovereignty. For example, China's business community while talking to media told that if Pakistan does not create ease of doing business to investors may turn their heads towards some other sides.

Concluding Remarks:-

There is no doubt that CPEC has caused some failures due to some dreadful challenges, yet it is quite inspiring that CPEC has brought about multiple advantages under its belt. From energy production to infrastructural development, from enhanced interconnectivity to special economic zones igniting the

process of economic growth, each and every success of CPEC ~~undermines~~ outweighs its failures. Thus, China and Pakistan celebrated the decade in splendid manner. To end the debate nothing seems more appealing than the words of Chairman of CPEC authority:

“Despite political instability and economic stagnation in the wake of COVID-19, it is surprising to note that the CPEC has boosted the growth of all sectors in Pakistan, directly or indirectly.”

Q: no: 7

Linkage Between Socio-Economic Future of Pakistan and Reforms in Power Sector :-

Introduction:

Many books and articles have been written to describe the ^{country's} ongoing socio-economic crisis having a linkage with the power sector of Pakistan.

Just to quote, Ishrat Hussain who says in his famous book 'Governing the Unrecoverable':

“Many of the socio-economic dilemmas prevailing in Pakistan are the immediate cause of the inefficient and ineffective power-sector. Thus, it must be reformed timely and adequately.”

There is no doubt that reforms in power sector could bring a great relief to the problems of Pakistan. For example, through privatizing the loss incurring discos (power distribution companies) such as CIEPCO (Gujranwala Electric Power company) and Islamabad Electric, could bring a great change in the circular debt of Pakistan. Similarly, reforms that aim at effective transmission of electricity may reduce the transmission loss. Similarly, structural changes that promote renewable energy resources can also create a positive change for the country in socio-economic domain. Resultantly, the skyrocketing inflation in the value of expensive electricity would decline. People would have cheaper electricity due to PPPs (Public Private Partnerships). In short, socio-economic future of Pakistan is linked with energy-sector reforms.

An Overview of Current Energy sector:

Currently Pakistan's energy sector is facing a lot of criticism. ~~Anti~~ People are suffering a lot not only due to energy shortages and outfalls but also due to expensive electricity resulting in higher bills of electricity. Apart from that circular debt, loss incurring ~~sta~~ discos (distribution companies) and transmission loss are also the part of energy sector. In short contemporary energy sector has become a burden for the socio-economic conditions of Pakistan. Thus, there must be structural changes and reforms in power sector.

Reforms that could bring ease in socio-economic problems of Pakistan

Major reforms required in power sector are discussed below:

1. Reforms aiming at Public Private Partnerships may lower the costs of electricity:

It is evident

that many discos including Genium, walco, Electric and Golanbad Electric are incurring loss. Thus, to make them profitable and curb circular debt, there must be PPPs.

Transmission loss reduction through bringing reforms can be ensured, thereby, maintenance changes of consumers may overcome their financial burden.

Similarly, energy sector perpetually faces the issue of transmission loss, hence there must be reforms to address the issue. This not only adds up with paradox on markets but also increases the circular debt of state. Thus reforms are mandatory to reduce transmission loss. As it would bring a great relief for economic conditions of Pakistan.

Transition towards renewable energy resources would not only end power shortage but also create a healthy environment.

Pakistan has a great

renewable energy resources. Such as water in Punjab, India, winds along with coastal areas and coal in Balochistan. Hence, there must be reforms that aim at introduction of renewable energy resources. As it could bring a great comfort for the society.

'Early Rise, Early Sleep' policy implementation would also help to reduce perpetual power-cuts.

Recently adopted policy by to care-taker government early rise and early sleep in the markets have brought about a great relief for small-economic sector of Pakistan. Thus, such policies must be introduced in power sector for longer run through reforms and structural changes.

Reforms ~~aiming~~ Anti-theft reforms may also lessen socio-economic crises of Pakistan.

Last not the least, it is theft of electricity that poses a serious threat to the socio-economic state of affairs of Pakistan. ~~For~~ ~~the~~ ~~condition~~ ~~policy~~ makers must take notice that anti-theft reforms in power sector would not only bring relief for state economic affairs but also lead to justice with people.

Critical Analysis:-

Certainly, the above-mentioned reforms clearly depict that the socio-economic future of Pakistan is associated with ~~enormous~~ an efficient and effective reforms. Nevertheless, the debate begs the question how it would happen.

The answer is simple and candid: Only through political willingness. For sure, unless the political leadership dedicates itself towards energy sector reform, nothing would happen. They need to collaborate; Only a glove in hands in glove approach can contain the energy crisis ending up with socio-economic crises.

Concluding Remarks:

The debate clearly validates that future of Pakistan's economic sector and societal structures is linked with the power sector reforms. Unless anti-theft reforms and structural changes that address the transmission loss are not carried out, it is the poor who would bear the brunt of socio-economic problems caused by energy crisis. Similarly, masses are confined to pay heavy taxes in the form of maintenance charges until public-private partnerships are not encouraged in energy sector. Thus, to give the finishing touch to the debate, it is pertinent to say that socio-economic future of Pakistan is deeply linked with the reforms in power sector. The words of Maleeha Lodhi, the author of 'A State Beyond Crisis':

66

Structural changes and reforms in energy sector have the potential to reduce socio-political and economic woes of Pakistan. 99

Positive Implications on Conflicts and Far-reaching Impacts on Pakistan of KSA-Iran Rapprochement

Introduction:

Michael Kugleman—a political analyst of the South-Asia and Middle East Region, while referring to recent KSA-Iran rapprochement backed by the economic giant of the region—China—says,

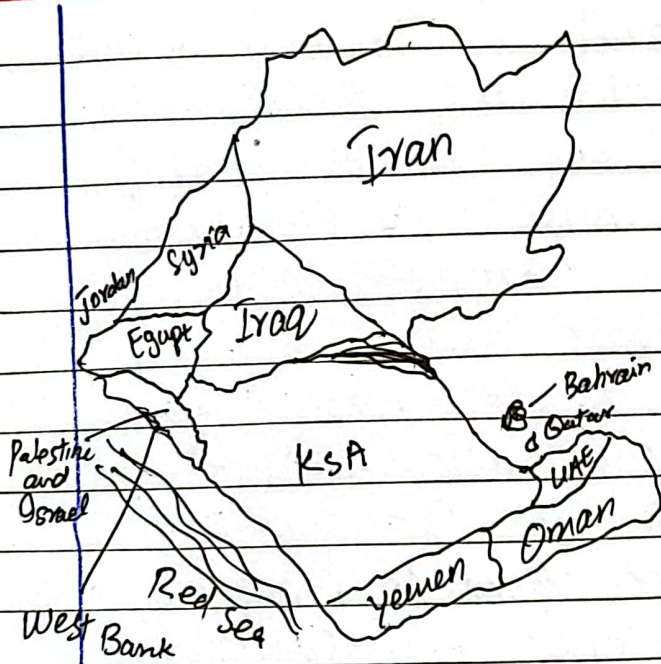
“If China succeeds to establish a friendly ambience between Iran and KSA, it is inevitable that political landscape would also change in the region, and later it may bring about a change in global politics and economics.”

Certainly, Iran and KSA friendly ties would not only bring peace in the region but also it would impact the ongoing conflicts in the region as well. For instance, the relation would deeply impact the Palestine - Israel issue.

As KSA may pacify the Iranian concerns regarding Israeli settlements. Additionally, the friendly ambience would also help to reduce Shia-Sunni conflicts prevailing in the Middle East. For instance, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain and many other countries conflict could pacify. However, the relation would also have far-reaching impacts on Pakistan. For example, KSA tilt towards Iran may create a huge gap for Pakistan. Resultantly, the CPEC potential may undermine. Similarly, both the countries may accept the sovereignty of Israel if they get too linked, which would be a huge dent to the foreign policy of Pakistan.

A Geographical View of the Middle East and Iran.

Before moving ahead and analyzing the impacts of this reconciliation it is pertinent to draw the map of Middle East. As it would bring clarity to mind regarding the probable scenarios.



From this map, now it is easier to draw a thorough analysis of this reapproach ment.

Impacts on Conflicts:

The cordiality between KSA and Iran would impact in this manner.

Direct Impacts on Shia-Sunni conflicts:

First of all, KSA-Iran friendship would reduce the long-standing conflict between Shia and Sunni community. It would make the people of both countries closer. They would get higher chances of connectivity; Inter-faith harmony will end the conflict permanently. Not only Iran's Shiite

and KSA's Suni will come close but also of Yemen, Bahrain and other ME countries.

Israel-Palestine Issue and KSA-Iran Reconciliation:

Another impact of this rapprochement is that it would end-up with Iran and KSA agreement over Israel's sovereignty acceptance. Perhaps both state may agree to accept the state of Israel under certain conditions. As the U.S was already busy to create reconciliation between the Arabs and Israel. So Iran can be the part of this diplomatic attempt.

U.S.A - Iran tussles may mitigate due

to KSA factor:

Similarly, the rapprochement may also lessen the tensions between U.S.A and Iran. They may come closer due to KSA as KSA has close ties with the U.S.A comparatively.

On Pakistan :-

However, the rapprochement would also have far reaching repercussions on Pakistan.

Repercussions on Foreign policy of Pakistan :-

First of all, this rapprochement would have a direct impact on Pakistan's foreign policy. To maintain a balanced foreign policy would be easier for Pakistan in the region.

But at the same time, Iran-RSA friendly relations may pose serious concerns for policy makers in Pakistan.

For example, Israel, if, is accepted by the states, Pakistan be under too much pressure.

Impacts on Economy of Pakistan :-

Pakistan's economy may have a direct influence

of this friendship. It could be bad as well as good. For example, this ties may challenge the CPEC through collaboration under Chabahar project but it may be a boon for Pakistan if both states agree to join CPEC.

India-Iran-KSA nexus probability and security Realm of Pakistan:

The most challenging prospect could be under this friendly ties is that KSA-Iran and India nexus could be strengthened. Thus, India being a conventional enemy of Pakistan may challenge the security of Pakistan.

In other words, this nexus may pose serious traditional security threats to Pakistan which may further deteriorate the socio-economic conditions of Pakistan.

Critical Analysis :-

The debate highlights that there could be a positive ^{or} ~~and~~ a negative scenario. However, the chances of the former are far greater than the latter. As Iran wants stability in the wake of recent recessions and KSA aims at diversification. Hence the rapprochement would ~~have~~ ~~a~~ positive outcome.

Conclusion:

To conclude the debate and give the finishing touch it is accurate to reiterate that the Iran-KSA rapprochement would not only impact the Middle East conflicts such as Shia-Sunni conflict, Israel-Palestine conflict. But also it would leave far reaching repercussions on Pakistan.

Pak-Afghan Relations in the Wake of Terrorism backed by Afghanistan Land and Pakistan's Afghan Refugees Pulling out Policy

Introduction:

“Afghanistan is the heart of Asia. When it disturbs the whole region confronts repercussions.”
(Allama Iqbal)

The wisdom of great thinker Sir Iqbal can be assessed in the wake of terrorism in Afghanistan. There is no denying the fact that no nation in the region feels safe against terrorism after it steps in the land of Afghans. So is the case with Pakistan. However, recent rise of terrorist attacks in Pakistan caused by using the land of Afghanistan have created distressed and anger among policy makers and statesmen. Certainly

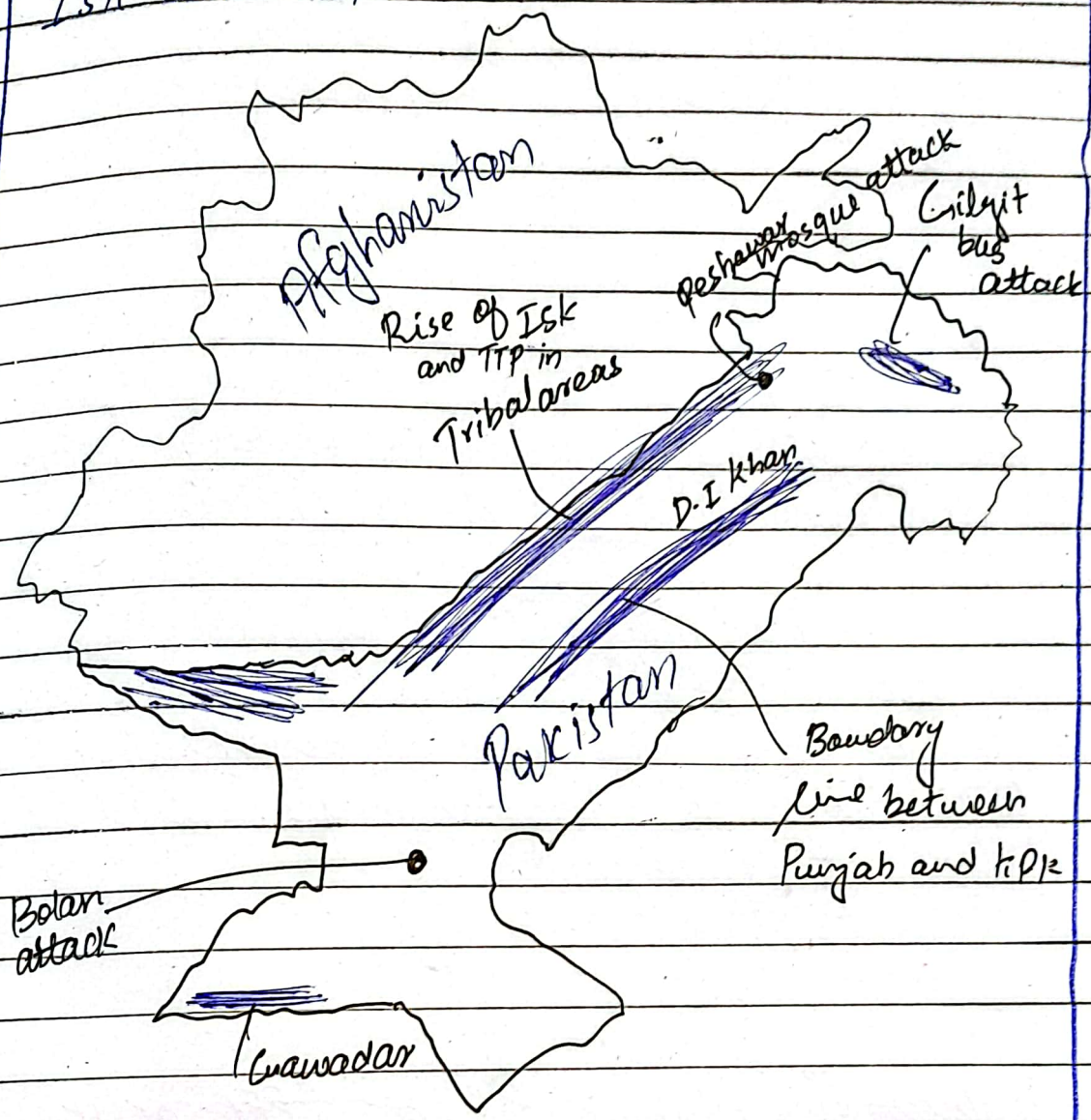
Pakistan was not expecting it able to hang its lending hand towards Afghanistan. However, all perceptions proved wrong when the TTP (Tehrik Taliban Pakistan) and Islamic State - Khorasan (IS-K) claimed the responsibility of terrorist suicide attacks in Pakistan. Amongst these attacks, Baloch attack, Peshawar mosque attack and Gawadar attack are at the top of the list. In response, Pakistan also adopted a bold policy — the policy of pulling out Afghan refugees from the country. Though policy was internationally criticized by human rights advocates and global powers yet Pakistan did not give up. While keeping the given circumstances in check, the relations between two states may adverse. Trust-deficit may increase. The proposals of inclusion of Afghanistan in CPEC may be discarded easily. However, through dialogue all these scenarios can easily be proven wrong and invalid.

Flashbacks of Resurging Terrorism in

Pakistan and Overview of Pakistan's

Policy of Pulling out Afghanistan

Two map shows how since 2022 and 2023, the terrorists activities have risen in Pakistan. The highlighted terrorist attacks are claimed by ISK and TTP.



Pak-Afghan Relations under the Given Conditions

Following the resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan and Pakistan pulling out Afghan refugees it is easy to assert following:

Trust-Deficit Increase:

There is no sleeping the fact that the ongoing phenomena taking place at two-sides would enhance the trade deficit between two states.

Afghanistan's ^{ded court's} recognition at international stage is in doldrums with such activities:

Certainly, if Afghanistan continues to allow to use its land for terrorist attacks in Pakistan, its legitimacy would be at stake.

Inclusion ^{chances} of Afghanistan in CPEC at stake:

Pakistan aims at inclusion of Afghanistan into CPEC but the dream under this terrorist episodes cannot be fulfilled.

Certainly, Pakistan cannot allow one who attacks her to its hand.

Heightened Relations between two states: Great
fish impacts on Region:

largely, the heightened relations in the wake of ongoing tussles, the region will ~~get~~ also ^{become} a hub of proxy

Wars. As every anti-state actor will get a chance to catch fish in troubled waters.

Afghanistan internal security would further
threaten if it continues to its policy.

~~Letting~~ Another impact is that

In this scenario, the relation between two states would create further instability at both sides.

Pakistan's ~~dream of~~ accessibility to CARs (Central Asian Republics) is not possible without friendly ties with Afghanistan.

Lastly, Pakistan's dream of accessible CARs would remain incomplete unless Afghanistan and Pakistan share a friendly ambience.

~~Afghanistan~~

Critical Evaluation:

The above-discussed clearly substantiates that heightened and adverse relations between two states bring no positive outcomes for either of them. Hence, they must follow a policy of collaboration. Certainly, Afghanistan has already suffering an internal security dilemma. Unemployment, poverty, hunger and health issues are already ringing bells. Given that Afghanistan cannot afford such relations with a neighbouring state. Similar, to lesser extent, is the case with Pakistan. It is true that Pakistan cannot have access to CARs without Afghanistan. Thus, both states should take appropriate

Conclusion: measures to ensure peace between.

To conclude it is pertinent to reiterate that under the resurging rise of terrorism in Pakistan by ISK and TTP by using the land of Afghanistan and Pakistan's pulling out Afghan refugees policy, the friendly relations seem a distant dream. However, through dialogue, Pakistan can convince Afghan side why they've adopted this policy. Not sure but to a large extent the political maturity of Afghan leaders would understand

the viewpoint of Pakistan, and hence a positive and friendly ambience can be created between both states.