

Names Faiza Shakeel.
Batch: ISB-OB-52

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - II (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

QUESTION # 038

China & Pakistan are celebrating one decade of CPEC. Critically evaluate success & failure of the project.

Pakistan has its immense importance towards the world due to its geographical position as it has access to warm waters. Similarly it is also important for China too. Pakistan & China has been friends for long time. Pakistan was first to officially recognize China in 1950. They have helped each other in every situation and called themselves all weather friends. China has supported Pak in Kashmir issue & Pakistan has supported China in many situations like one China policy, Taiwan, Tibet etc. They have strong economic, political & military relations. They have working together on economic projects since 1970. For example construction of Karakoram highway during 1970s & 1980s. These economic projects are ~~helping~~ strengthening their friendship. Similarly, Pakistan and China are also working on CPEC called Belt & Road Initiative since long time. The BRI aim is to connect China to

other countries in the world through warm waters. It will allow china to use Pakistan ports to reach to the world market previously they were using Malacca strait which was unsafe for them. It is a long term plan from 2017 to 2030.

"China is a investment to enduring friendship between china & Pakistan, at it represents a shining example of regional cooperation & connectivity"
(Xi Jinping, President of China)

POSITIVE EFFECTS ON PAKISTAN:

1- ~~Economic~~ **Economic Growth** - there will be a increase in economic growth. Increased foreign direct investment (FDI) brings in additional capital that can be used for various purposes such as infrastructure development, business expansion & technology upgrades. CPEC is now in second phase which aims to develop Pakistan in many ways such as improving agriculture, expanding the tourism industry & providing better technical education & health care facilities.

2- **Technology Transfer** - CPEC has the potential to facilitate technological transfer. It often involves joint ventures between Chinese & Pakistani companies. Through collaboration, Pakistani firms can gain access to Chinese technology, expertise & management practices. It can also be helpful in telecommunication and information technology, Renewable energy Technology, Manufacturing & Industrial Technology etc.

3- **Industrial development** - FDI can encourage the development of new industries, reducing the reliance on a specific sector. It can also help and bring balance in economy. It can help revive the construction industry building road, railways and pipelines can also facilitate local workers by providing them jobs.

4- **Infrastructure Project** - Due to this Pakistan would be able to generate power supply of 8000 MW capacity. Also by construction highways & installed transmission lines.

5- **Green Energy** It will help in wind & solar power projects which can generate 300 MW each & also hydro power project which can generate 3.2 billion kWh of clean energy annually & reduce CO₂ emissions by 3.5 million tons

FAILURES OF CPEC

1- **Security concern**- certain regions of Pakistan particularly Balochistan where Gawadar port is located has experienced security challenges. This issue can impact the smooth implementation of CPEC project.

2- **Local opposition**- There have been instances of local communities expressing concerns about the environmental impact of certain projects, issues related to land acquisition & the perceived unequal distribution of benefits.

3- **Transparency issues**- Some stakeholders have expressed concerns about transparency of CPEC project including the terms of agreements, project details and decision making processes. Transparency is crucial for accountability and addressing public concerns.

4- **Political instability** - political changes or instability in either China or Pakistan can impact the continuity and progress of CPEC project. Long term projects like CPEC may be subject to changes in government priorities or policies.

5- **Geopolitical Tension**- Given the strategic nature of CPEC and its connection to China's Belt

and Road initiative, geopolitical tensions or shifts in global dynamics can influence the success of the project. changes in international political landscape may impact the willingness of stakeholders to participate in or support CPEC.

In pursuit of this target we should focus on the socio-economic development projects that have been identified for second phase of project like agriculture, health, education, water supply, poverty reduction and vocational education. It is important to communicate effectively & involve local communities in these projects to ensure their success and address the needs of the people.