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Question 4

Introduction :-

The 2023 KSA-Iran rapprochement was a historic turning point. After the years, both rivalry power reunite under the umbrella of dragon. This rapprochement implications mark significant impacts on Muslim world countries including Pakistan. Pakistan is the one of key mediator that wants rapprochement between both countries.

KSA-Iran Rapprochement:

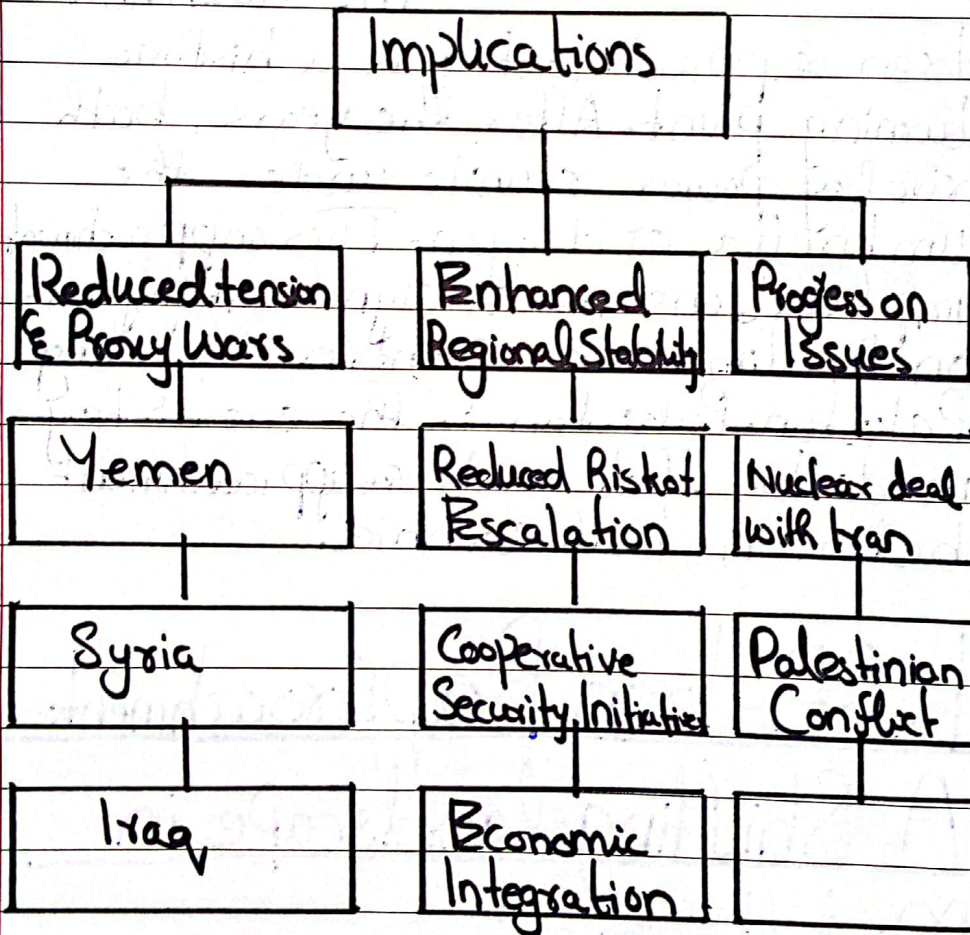
A Shifting landscape in

Middle East :-

The 2023 KSA-Iran Rapprochement played significant role in shifting the landscape of middle east. The rapprochement leads peace and stability and end

proxy wars. This historical rapprochement increases the importance of OIC and other Muslims ~~org~~ organization. The political shift has impacted entire region of Middle east.

Positive Implication on Middle-East Conflicts



1) Reduced tensions and Proxy War:-

a) Yemen Issue after Rapprochement:-

The devastating war of Yemen fueled by Saudi-Iran rivalry has claimed 377,000 lives and displaced millions (OCHA, 2023). The Iranian's supported Houthis against Saudi-Arab. The devastating damage face this war. But after the KSA-Iran rapprochement, Yemen proxy war is ended. In September 2023 Saudi Arabia and the Houthis conducted a prisoner exchange (Al-Jazeera, 2023) involving 200 prisoners from each side. The Houthis decrease their missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia.

b) Syrian Crisis after the Rapprochement

Saudi Arab and Iran both are key player in Syrian civil war. A rapprochement could facilitate diplomatic efforts to political solution for Syria. Syrian civil war a brutal conflict period of 11 years. Over 500,000 lives lost, millions displaced. The Saudi provide financial and military support to Syrian opposition groups fighting against the Assad regime. While Iran supported always to Assad regime. After this rapprochement, Syrian conflict leads toward peace & stability.

c) Tension in Iraq solve after Rapprochement

Iranian influence in Iraq is the source of tension for Saudi Arab.

This Rapprochement could lead increased cooperation in tackling shared challenges such as ISIS.

In April 2023, high level diplomatic talk held in Baghdad for deescalation. (Dawn News)

2) Enhanced Risk of Escalation:

a) Reduced Risk of Escalation between both countries :-

The Saudi-Iran rivalry is the great threats for entire region. A detention between two powers that significantly decrease risk of escalations and creating more stable region. This rapprochement decreases the sectarian tension and proxies issues.

b) Cooperative Security Initiatives

This rapprochement may lead to develop security cooperations and both countries can be shaped major security alliances with other countries.

c) Economic Integration after detention between both countries:-

A peaceful and stable middle east provides many economic opportunities to the world. Middle east is the main trade route for the world. The world bank estimates that Middle East and North Africa region could lose up to \$2 trillion in economic activity due to political instability and conflict.

3) Progress on Political Issues :-

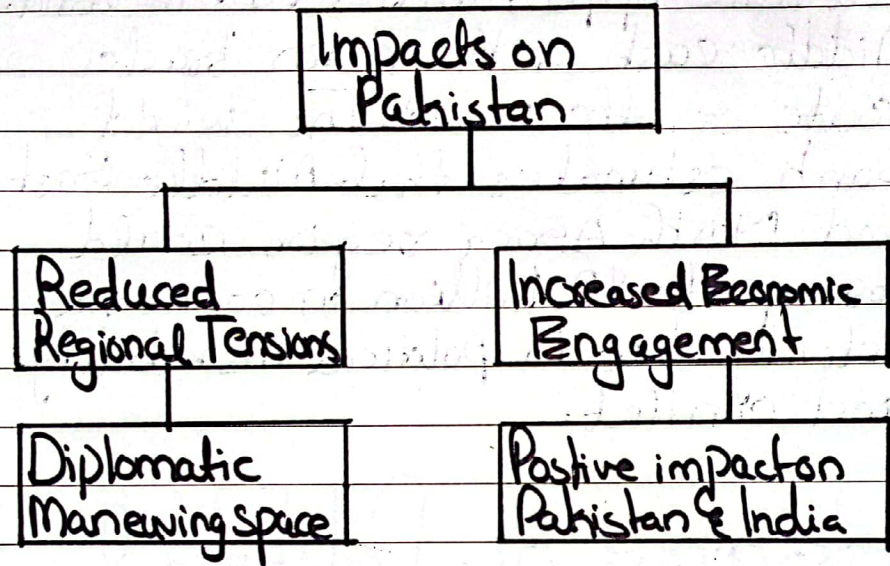
a) Nuclear deal with Iran :-

The stalled negotiation on reviving the Iran nuclear deal could benefit from improved Saudi-Iranian relations. Saudi Arabia's support or at least decreased opposition.

b) Palestinian Conflict in the better way

While not directly linked to the Saudi-Iranian rivalry, but a calmer atmosphere in the region could create a more conducive environment for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

KSA-Iran Rapprochement Impacts on Pakistan



a) Reduces regional tension less on for Pakistan :-

The historic March 2023 agreement to restore diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran offers significant potential for reduced tensions in the Middle East. This could benefit Pakistan by lessening pressure to choose sides in proxy conflict and creating a more conducive environment for trade and investment.

b) Increased Economic Engagement

Improved relations between KSA and Iran could open up new economic opportunities for Pakistan.

Increased regional stability could boost trade particularly through ports like Gwadar and Chabahar which are just 72km apart. Additionally, Saudi investments in Gwadar that promised during the rapprochement could become more likely, further promoting regional connectivity.

c) Diplomatic Maneuvering Space

With the KSA-Iran rivalry diminishing, Pakistan may have greater freedom to pursue its own diplomatic and economic interests in the region. This could involve strengthening ties with both powers, as well as other key players like Qatar, Turkey and Malaysia.

d) Positive Impacts on India-Pakistan Relations :-

Reduced tension between Tehran and Riyadh could indirectly impact India-Pakistan. Both KSA and Iran have played roles in past tension between the South Asian neighbors. Their improved relations could create a more conducive environment for dialogue and potentially lessen their involvement in regional disputes.

Conclusion:

The KSA-Iran rapprochement offers both opportunities and challenges for Pakistan. While the prospect for regional stability and improved economic engagement are promising, navigating the uncertainties surrounding the agreement and balancing relations with different regional powers will require careful diplomatic maneuvering.

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Question 3

Introduction:-

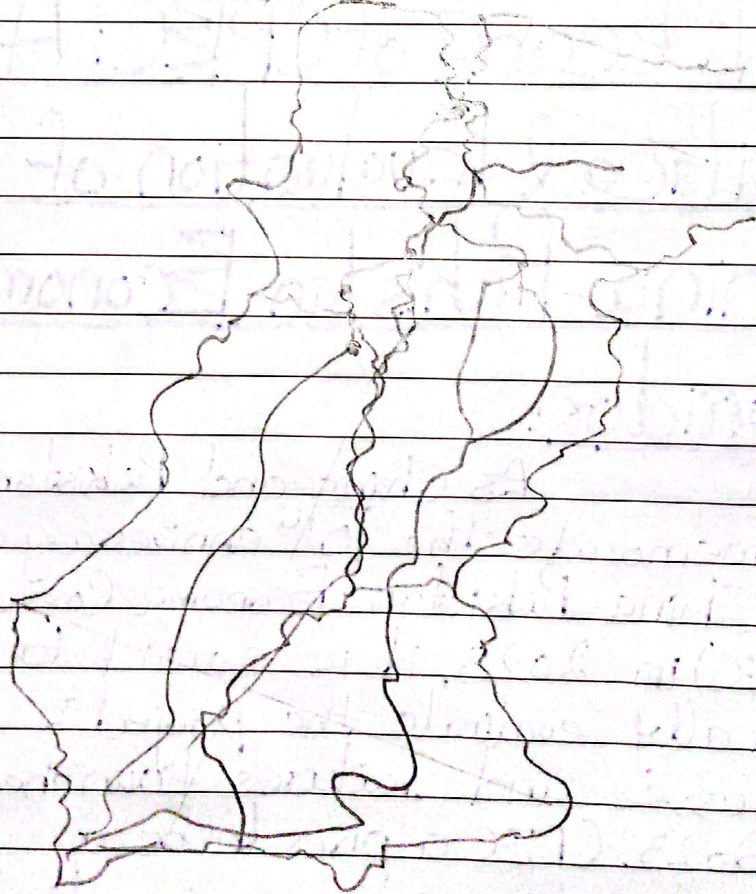
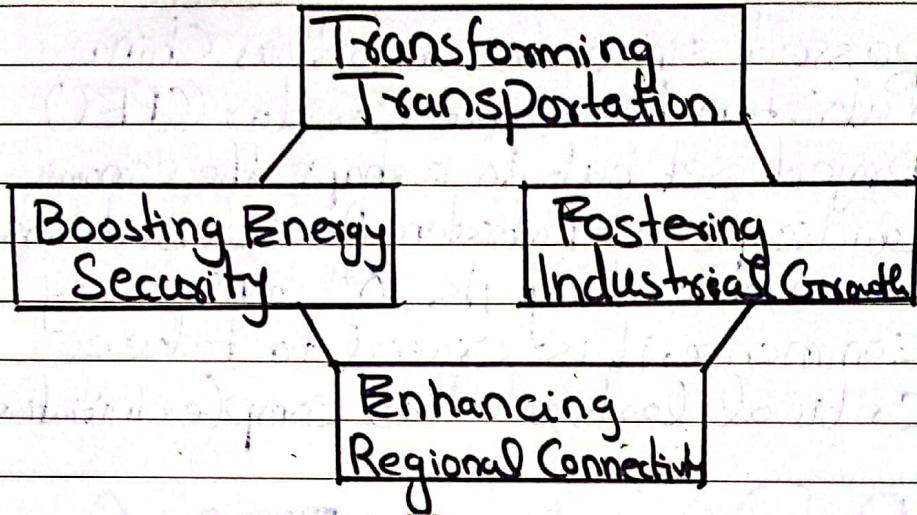
A decade has passed since the ambitious China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project set out to reshape the economic landscape of Pakistan. As celebrations commemorating its 10th anniversary commence, it is crucial to take a critical look of this complex initiative.

A Decade of CPEC: A Critical Evaluation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor:-

As China and Pakistan commemorate the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2023, it is crucial to critically evaluate the project's successes and failures. Launched in 2013, CPEC aspires to be a transformative economic corridor that linking China's western provinces

to a Arabian Sea through a network of infrastructure projects in Pakistan in Pakistan.

Success of the CPEC



Map of CPEC

1) Transforming Transportation

i) Karakoram Highway upgradation under CPBC :-

The iconic Karakoram highway which linking Pakistan and China has undergone a major upgrade, improve security, efficiency and weather resilience.

Karakoram highway Phase (II) completed in July 2023 (Dawn). The total cost of this project is \$1.3 billion. The expansion of tunnels and bridges reduces travel time and foster cross-border trade.

ii) Gwadar Deep-Sea Port success story of CPBC :-

Gwadar port has grown into a strategic hub for regional trade, that attracting investments and serving as a gateway for Central Asia and beyond. The operationalization of container terminals and logistic facilities efficient cargo movement.

iii) Pakistan Railways Modernization under CPBC :-

CPBC investment has revitalized Pakistan Railways

with upgrade to existing lines and construction of new tracks. For example, ML-1 is the key project of railway, which aims to modernize over 1726 km railway line from Karachi to Peshawar (Economic times).

2) Boosting Energy Security

i) CPBC construct Hydropower Dams

CPBC has financed the construction of large hydropower dams like Diamer-Basha Dam and Dasu Hydropower Project to adding thousands of megawatts to the national grid and reducing reliance of imported fuel. For example, Suhi kinarri Hydropower project is an 884 megawatt project located in KPK, while Karot Hydropower Project is a 720 megawatt project located in the Punjab. (Ministry of Planning & Development, Special Initiatives).

ii) CPBC Project Finances Coal Power Plant

Efficient coal-powered plants like Thar coal

Power Plant generate clean energy and alleviating power shortage and supporting industrial development.

Port Qasim fired power plant is the 1320W energy generate and it worth is 2.085\$ billion. As well as, Thar Coal Power Plant was first plant in Pakistan that use indigenous lignite coal. It was completed in July 2019.

iii) Renewable Energy Projects under CPBC

CPBC also promotes renewable energy sources with projects like Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park in Bahawalpur harnessing Pakistan's abundant solar potential.

3) Fostering Industrial Growth

i) Special Economic Zones Due to CPBC

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) like **Rashakai** in KPK offer tax incentives and infrastructure facilities to attract foreign and domestic investors to stimulating industrial activity and creating jobs.

ii) Technology Transfer between both Countries:

CPEC facilitate technology transfer from China to Pakistan to improving industrial processes and enhancing product competitiveness.

iii) Skill development Training under CPEC :-

Training programs funded by CPEC equip Pakistanis with skills relevant to modern industries to contributing to a skilled workforce for future.

4) Enhancing Regional Connectivity:-

i) Trade Corridor under CPEC :-

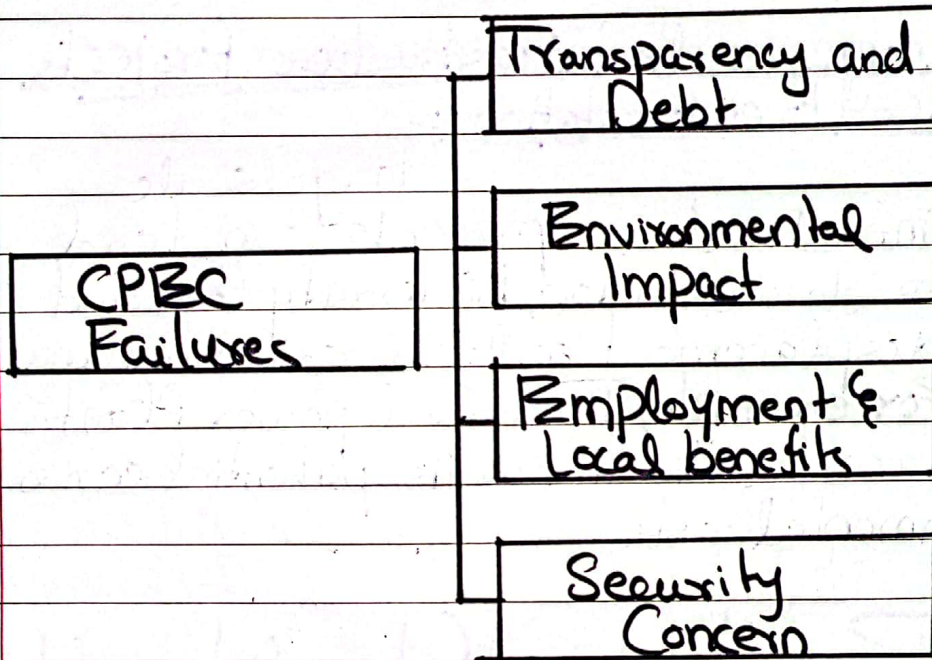
CPEC promotes regional connectivity through improved infrastructure and streamlined customs procedures, facilitating trade between Pakistan and its neighbors countries.

ii) Economic Integration through CPEC

CPEC fosters regional integration and creating a larger market for

businesses.

CPEC Failures



1) Transparency & Debt

a) Lack of Transparency in CPEC Projects

The awarding of contracts and project details often lack of transparency, rising concerns about corruption and unfair procurement practices.

b) Debt Burden due to CPEC Loans

CPEC loans contribute to Pakistan's rising debt that estimated at over 80% of GDP in 2023. Critics worry about repayment capacity.

and potential dependence on China.

2) Environmental Impact

a) Large-scale Infrastructure Projects lead to deforestation :-

Large scale infrastructure projects can lead to deforestation, biodiversity loss and displacement of local communities. For example, Thar Coal power Plant faces criticism for its potential environmental risks.

3) Employment & Local benefits

Critics argue that highly skilled Chinese workers are often employed in CPEC projects which limiting skilled job opportunities for Pakistan.

4) Security Concern

Increased security presence surrounding CPEC projects can create a sense of militarization and restrict local movement.

Conclusion :-

CPEC has Game changer for Pakistan with Success & Future

Question 6

Introduction :-

Tensions are in boiling point between Pakistan and Afghanistan due to resurgence of cross-border terrorism and issue of Afghan Refugees. The recent wave of attacks in Pakistan by Tehreek-e-Faliban Pakistan (TTP) and Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) allegedly originating from Afghan soil that has vast thing in diplomatic ties.

Pak-Afghan Relations: A Tight-rope Walk Amidst TTP, ISKP and Refugees

The recent wave of attacks in Pakistan by TTP and ISKP allegedly using Afghan soil as a base that creates tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The tense situation is further complicated by the Pakistani government's decision

to prioritize the return of Afghan refugees to adding another layer to the diplomatic tightrope walk.

Unraveling the tension Between Pakistan & Afghanistan

Cross-border Terrorism

Historical Baggage

Refugee Dilemma

Geopolitical Influence



1) Cross border Terrorism

The presence of militant groups like Tehreek-i-Taliban (TTP) and Islamic State of Khorsan Province (ISKAP) in Afghanistan have been involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan. The TTP has been responsible for a surge in attacks on security forces with **664 attacks** in the first 4 months of 2023 (**Dawn News**).

The TTP is currently centralizing control over its various factions and reintegrating groups that Maulana Fazlullah which is depriving ISKP of the recruits it need to grow. These are the source of tension between both countries.

2) Historical Baggage Between Both Countries

The historical baggage of between both countries erupted better relations. Afghanistan has never recognized Durand line between both countries which has been source of tension between the two countries from 1947 to 1978.

1 before the start of the decade-long Afghan Conflict. The Taliban and Al Qaeda insurgencies are equally active in both question in past that play significant role to destroy relation.

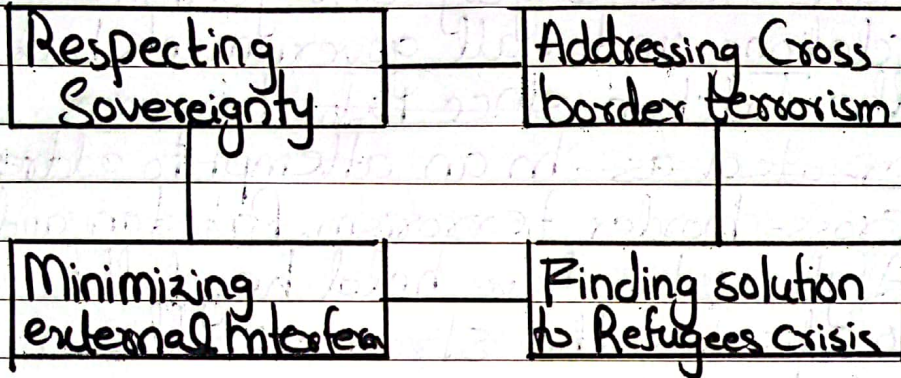
3) Afghan Refugee Dilemma Contribution :-

The return of 3 million Afghan Refugees from Pakistan has been a source of tension between the two countries. Pakistan has been accused of coercing Afghan refugees to return with reports of pressure, restricted access to livelihood, health care and education. The forced expulsion of Afghan refugees from Pakistan has strained relation between two countries.

4) Geopolitical Influence

External factors actors with their own interest in the region can exacerbate tensions between both countries.

Options for Pakistan to Navigate Complexities



1) Respecting Sovereignty to each other

Each nation must respect the other's ~~territory~~ territory integrity and refrain from interfering in internal affairs. This includes avoiding accusation and actively cooperating to address security threats emanating from their respective territories.

2) Addressing Cross-border terrorism :-

Cross-border terrorism has been a significant source of tension between Pakistan

and Afghanistan. The Tehrik-i-Taliban (TTP) has been responsible for a surge in attacks on security forces. Afghanistan and Pakistan have had largely antagonistic relations under all governments but the Taliban since Pakistan was created as. In an attempt to address cross-border terrorism, Pakistan and Afghanistan have held key talks to discuss the strains in their relationship.

3) Finding Solutions to the Refugee Crisis :-

The Afghan Refugee crisis has been a longstanding and complex issue with millions of Afghans seeking refuge in neighboring countries. Working with the international community to facilitate safe and dignified repatriation, while supporting Pakistan in managing the current refugee population.

4) Minimizing External Interference :-

Both countries must ~~exist~~ resist external manipulation and prioritize finding solution direct engagement and regional cooperation. ∪ ∪

Conclusion :-

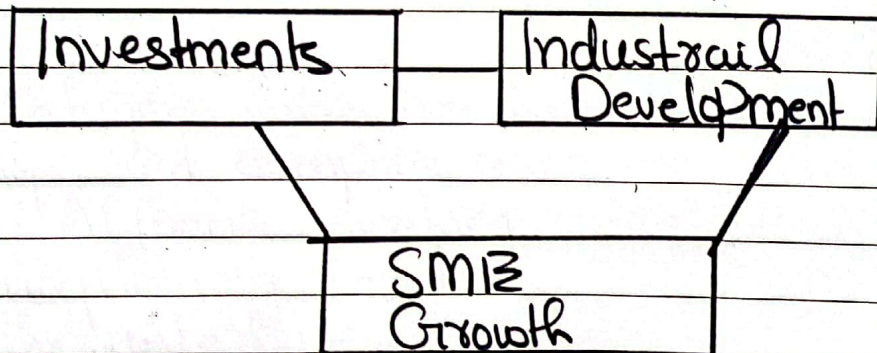
Pakistan and Afghanistan relations are tense nowadays. There are many reasons that cause complexities between both countries.

Question 7

Introduction:

Pakistan's socio-economic journey stands a pivotal crossroads. Its destiny is intricately intertwined with the fate of its power sector a domain plagued by inefficiencies, financial woes and an insatiable energy demand.

Economic Growth



1) Investment in Power Sector :-

A robust power sector attracts foreign direct investment (FDI) and encourages domestic entrepreneurship. Conversely, power

power outages and inefficiencies deter investments that hampering economic growth. For instance, the World Bank estimates that Pakistan loses 2% of its GDP annually to electricity shortage.

2) Industrial Developments Through Power Sector:

Reliable and affordable electricity is essential for industrial activity that generating jobs and boosting exports. Pakistan's industrial sector currently suffer from high electricity costs and frequent blackouts which is hindering its competitiveness and growth potential.

3) SME Growth through Power Sector:

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of many economies including Pakistan's. However, their growth is often stifled by unreliable power supplies that impacting job creation and overall economic dynamic.

Social Development & Human Wellbeing

i) Education and healthcare :-

Adequate electricity ensures better functioning of schools, hospital and other public services, promoting education, health care access.

ii) Poverty Reduction :-

Reliable access to electricity empowers local communities, improving living standards, and facilitate income generation activities to contributing to poverty reduction.

Environmental Sustainability

i) Renewable Energy Integration :-

Shifting towards renewable energy sources like solar, wind and hydro can reduce dependence on fossil fuel.

ii) Improved Energy efficiency :-

Promoting energy-efficient technologies and

practices across sectors can reduce overall energy consumption and contribute to sustainable development.

The Way Forward

Comprehensive reform
Strategy

Diversification of
energy mix

Public-Private
Partnership

Transparency &
accountability

1) Comprehensive Reform Strategy :-

Pakistan needs a multi-pronged reform Strategy addressing policy, regulation, governance, infrastructure and financial sustainability.

2) Diversification of Energy

Shifting towards a renewable energy based generation mix is crucial for long-term sustainability and environmental protection.

3) Private-Public Partnerships

Leveraging private sector expertise and investment can accelerate infrastructure development and improve sector efficiency.

4) Transparency & Accountability

Implementing transparent governance practices and strengthening accountability mechanisms are essential to build trust and attract investment.

Conclusion ::

By successfully reforming its power sector, Pakistan can unlock its economic potential and transition towards a sustainable future.