

Q: NO: 3

## Its Decade of CPEC: Success and Failures

### Introduction:

“CPEC holds the potential to change <sup>only</sup> 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) ~~was~~ <sup>has</sup> the project was started back in 2013. Nowadays, its ~~and~~ <sup>1st</sup> phase is under process or one may say almost near to deadline — 2025. The project in its 1st phase has ignited the process



The introduction is lengthy.

Shorten it a bit

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connectivity, 'infrastructural' buildings, yet it has posed some challenges which one may call its failures. Like, CPEC has failed to ensure ~~inclusivity~~ and ~~collaboration~~ backlink among masses. ~~Part~~ from that neither it has ~~created~~ its promises ~~truly~~ nor it has generated a lot of jobs as it promised. However, keeping ~~into~~ ongoing tough conditions Pakistan and China celebrated its 1<sup>st</sup> decade.

### A Bird's Eye-View of Celebration:

Recently, the authorities and leaders from both countries gathered to celebrate the ~~1<sup>st</sup>~~ 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 the ~~new~~ projects were also came to limelight. Islamabad model city was also ~~proposed~~ to initiate leadership ~~highlighted~~ the issues and challenges that faced the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> phases of



CPEC. It was told that there is less ease of doing business; security threats also ~~fade~~ 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.

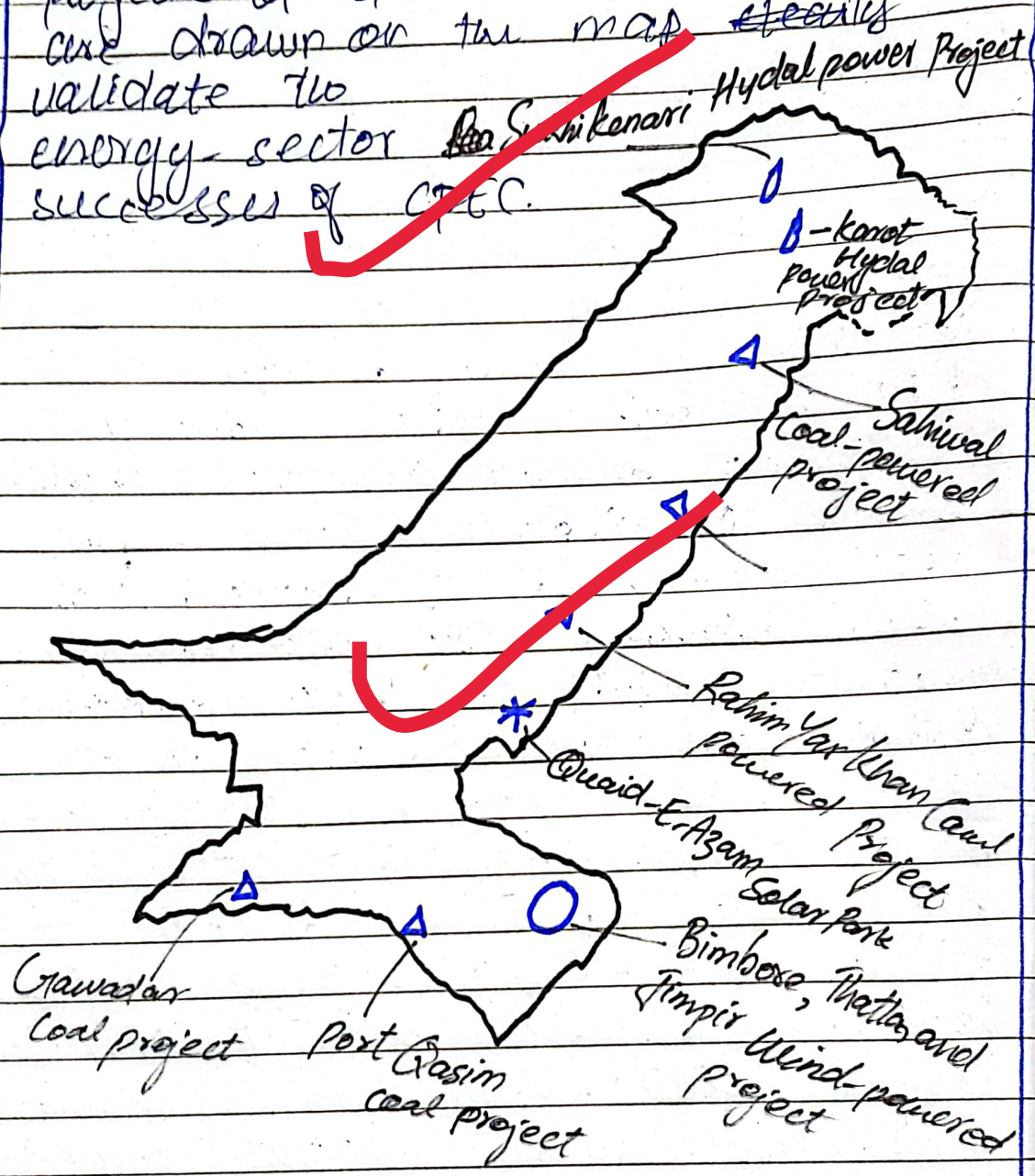
#### 1. Enhanced interconnectivity via Western, Central and Eastern Route

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 ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> successes of CPEC.



Source: CPEC.gov.pk



### 3- 4 Operational Special Economic Zones

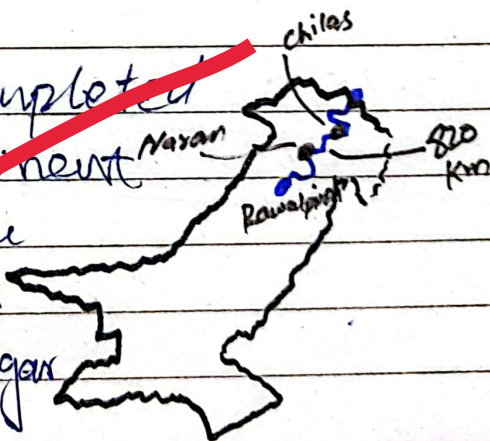
CPEC promised: 9 SEZs. Surprisingly, 4 of them given below are now completely operational.

- 1- Allama Iqbal International Industrial City
- 2- Dhabaji 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 Dhabaji 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.

Add more arguments in this part

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. Locals 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 some how 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 job that would end to unemployment 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 eradicate 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 failure due to some dreadful challenges, yet it is awe 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.”

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

### Introduction:

Many books and articles have been written to describe the <sup>country's</sup> 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 Gulabed 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.

Lengthy intro



## 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 ~~rainfalls~~ 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 in 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 ~~cost~~ of electricity.

It is evident



that many discos including Genjran-  
wala Electric and Golanbad Electric  
are incurring loss. Thus, to make  
them profitable and avert circular  
debt, there must be PPPs.

Transmission loss reduction through bringing reforms  
can be ensured, thereby, maintenance charges  
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 ~~is not any~~ ends  
up with pardon on matters but  
also increases the circular debt  
of state. Thus, reforms are man-  
datory to reduce transmission  
losses. ~~It~~ would bring a  
great relief for economic conditions  
of Pakistan.

Transition towards renewable energy resour-  
ces 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 semi-economic sector of Pakistan. Thus, such policies must be introduced in power sector for lower and structural 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~~ 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.

Short and incomplete answer. A 20 marks answer should have around 15 subheadings

### 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 ~~minimise~~ 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.

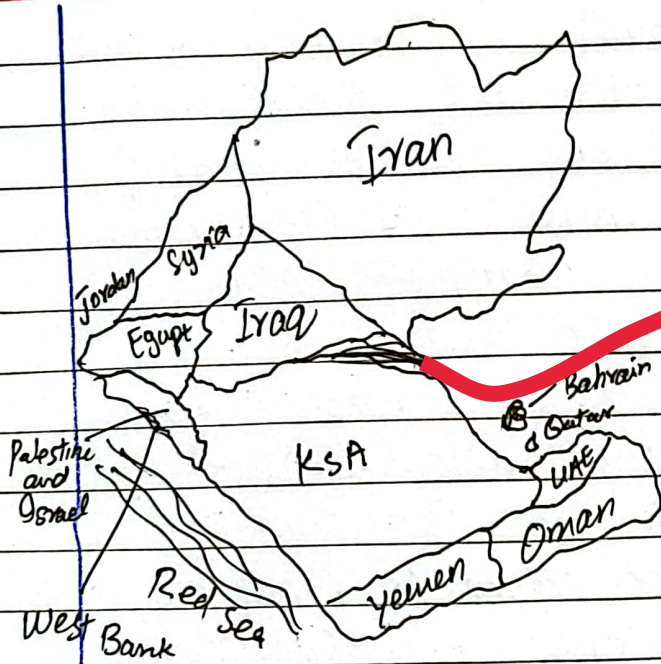
## A Geographical View of the Middle

East and Iran. **statement**

Relate your headings to the qs

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 ~~through analysis~~ of this ~~reappraisal~~ ~~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 ~~connecting~~ inter-faith harmony which 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 ~~could~~ may 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.

add more arguments in this part



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



Add references/examples against your arguments. Also highlight them

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them

## Critical Analysis :-

The debate highlights that there could be a positive or 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 have 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  
 having its lending hand towards Afg-  
 hanistan. However, all perceptions proved  
 wrong when the TTP (Tehrik Taliban Paki-  
 stan) and Islamic State - Khorasan (IS-  
 K) claimed the responsibility of terrorist  
 suicide attacks in Pakistan. Amongst  
 these attacks, Isolan 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 Afghans  
 in CPEC may be discarded  
 easily. However, through dialogue  
 all these scenarios can easily  
 be proved wrong and invalid.

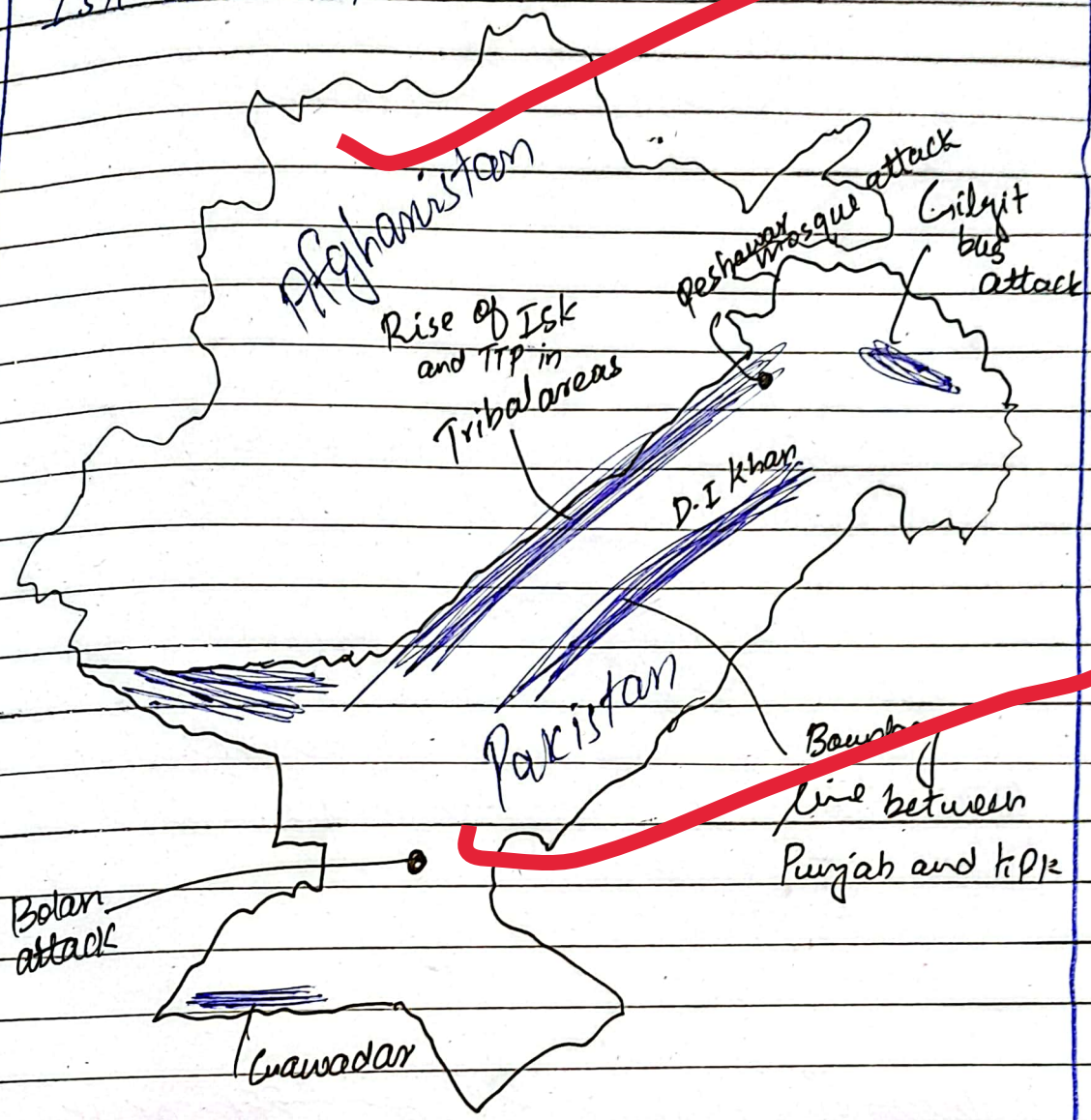
Flashbacks of Resurging Terrorism in

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.



Pac-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 <sup>ded court's</sup> 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 <sup>chances</sup> 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 level.

Heightened Relations between two states: Great  
ful Impacts on Region:

largely, the heightened relations in the wake of ongoing tussles, the region will also ~~get~~ <sup>become</sup> 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.

~~setting~~ Another impact is that



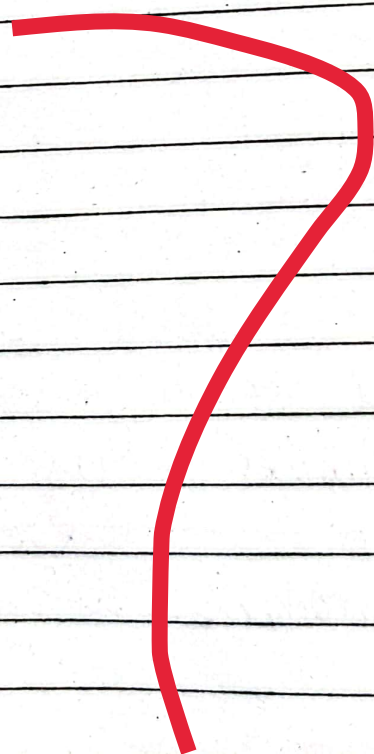
In this scenario, the relation between two states would create further instability at both sides.



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 ~~enjoy~~ 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 resurgence 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



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

