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Current affair
Test # 2

QNo. 4

Multi-dimensional challenges of CPEC-II. Policy measures to strengthen ties with China through CPEC-II while balancing relations with U.S.

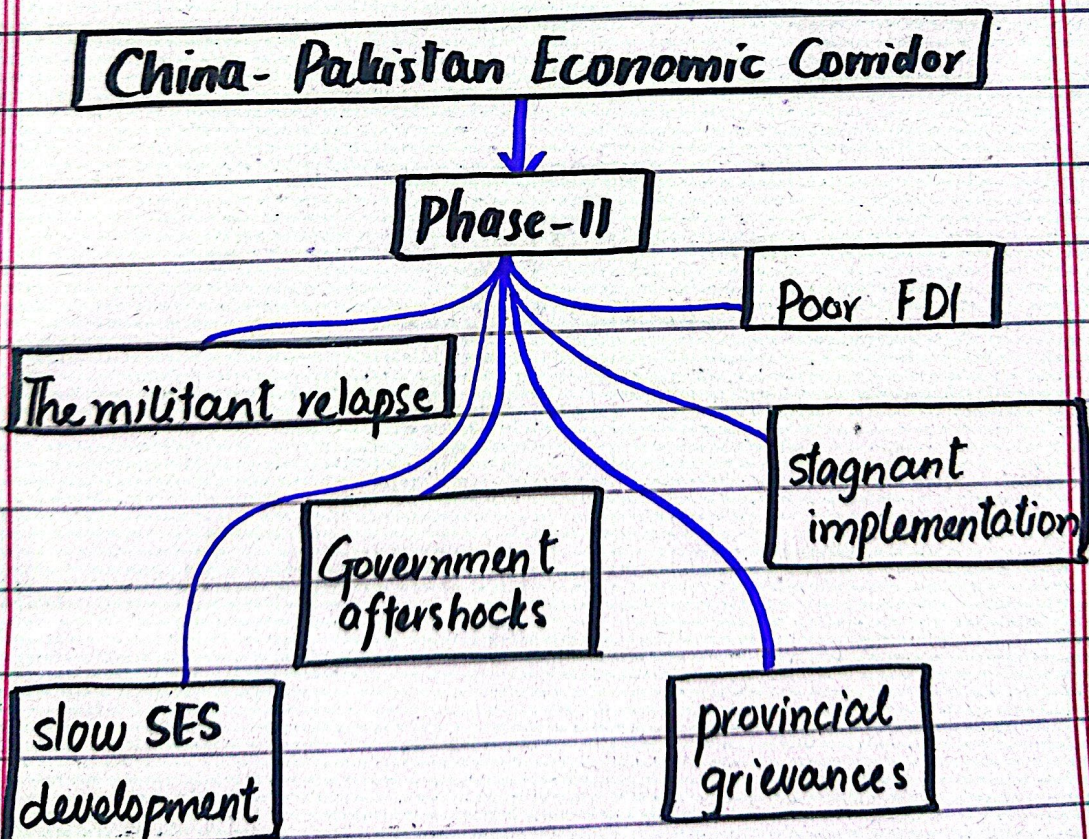
1. Introduction:

"We cannot change
our neighbours but
our enemies"
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee

The CPEC phase-II is at the cross roads of acceleration and stagnant development project. Taking in account the challenges of contemporary era, CPEC phase-II is in the hot waters of proxies and terrorism,

weak implementation, poor FDI, recurrent change of governments in Pakistan and many more. CPEC phase-II in Pakistan is in a dire need of comprehensive roadmap that will revive its stagnant growth. Although the challenge for Pakistan is maintaining a tight rope between Washington and Beijing.

2. Multidimensional challenges and prospects of CPEC phase-II,



a. The militant relapse and venial of proxies;

The re-emergence of militancy and Indian proxies in Pakistan is hindering the development of CPEC phase-II. India opposes the development of Pakistan and CPEC by targeting civilians and Chinese workers through its proxies in Gwadar.

b. Poor FDI and economic stress;

The unstable economy of Pakistan with stagnant GDP of mere 2.56% is the reason of poor foreign direct investment. This factor is largely hitting the development of CPEC phase-II.

(c) Slow development of SEZs;

Due to persisting structural and institutional gaps, the development of special economic zones under CPEC phase-II is subjected to slow growth. This perpetuates inflation, unemployment and social crisis across the state.

d. Provincial grievances of Balochistan;

The CPEC phase-II is hindered by internal factors like provincial grievances of Balochistan. The resentment among the people of Balochistan over the unequal and unjust resource division is creating unrest and instability in the region, thus hindering CPEC phase-II.

e. Regime changes and policy after shocks;

Another critical juncture that is limiting the development of CPEC phase-II is recurrent regime changes in Pakistan and their policy aftershocks. The quite contrasting policies of Khan and Shehbaz has made CPEC a stagnant and slow project.

f. Stagnant and poor implementation;

Government drowning in public debts of rupees 70000 billion is the reason that CPEC projects are failing at implementation. The resource constraints is opposing the excellent potential of CPEC phase-II.

3. Comprehensive roadmap to strengthen ties with China through CPEC phase-II,

Promoting student exchange program



Buried assets (minerals) as strategic drivers



From trade partners to strategic partners.



Technological exchange and AI-reforms in CPEC



Special security forces for Chinese workers

a. Promoting student exchange program;

Pakistan and China should promote student exchange program that will specifically deals with studying

exploring the potential of CPEC and Pak-China friendship.

b. Buried assets as strategic drivers;

Pakistan can use its buried assets of critical minerals like lithium, copper, gold, rare earth minerals to attract foreign direct investment from China that will excel the development of CPEC phase-II.

c. From trade partners to frontline solidarity,

Pak and China can strengthen their bilateral partnership by collectively countering Indian proxies and security threats at Gwadar and CPEC phase-II.

d. Technological exchange and AI reformation in CPEC-II;

As China is operating 5G and 6G intercontinent connections and advance technology. It can exchange this technology with Pakistan to modernize CPEC and introducing automation and AI in CPEC-II.

4. Pakistan : a sandwich between geo-political rivals US and China;

Pakistan's relationships with both geopolitical rivals US and China, tests its diplomatic efforts and art of negotiation. Pakistan share long-term friendship and trade liberalisation with its northern neighbour China. While with US Pakistan share strategic and economic relations. Pakistan can potentially balance its relations with both geopolitical rivals as,

Pak- China	Common grounds	Pak- US
Trade partners	• Counter-terrorism	• strategic
South- south	efforts	partners
alliance	• Attracting foreign	• protection
liberalisation	direct investment	against
CPEC, BRI,	• Mediation in	economic shocks
Kashmir advisory,	Pak- Afghan and	• Institutional
Veto power	Indo- Pak issue.	cooperation.

5. Conclusion;

In contemporary times, CPEC phase-II is a victim of some security issues and stagnant development. But sincerity of both states as a cornerstone of CPEC, Pakistan and China can curb these multidimensional bottlenecks in CPEC-phase. In these moment of deliberation Pakistan can balance its relations with China and US on common grounds of peace keeping in region and combating terrorism.

QNo: 3

Critically analyze 27th amendment. Debate on judicial restraint and activism and implications for trichotomy of power in Pakistan

1. Introduction:

Monarchies are based upon dynastic politics, dictatorships are born out of authoritarianism while democracies are based upon people's consent and state's autonomy. While on ground realities 27th constitutional amendment contradicts the idea of democracy. It concentrates the power in the hands of ruling elites of Pakistan, providing the autonomy against any criminal procedures (article 243). While 27th amendment strictly refrains from judicial activism, sticking to judicial restraint, thus affecting the legitimacy of trichotomy of power in Afghanistan.

2. Critical review of 27th constitutional amendment;

a. Deteriorating the trust fabric between government and public;

As 27th Constitutional amendment marginalize judicial activism, concentrating power in the hands of elite powers and militia, this will deteriorate the trust fabric between public and government, undermining transparency.

b. Suo moto of supreme court in grey waters;

The development of parallel federal constitution court in 27th amendment has pushed the suo moto powers of supreme court in grey waters.

This has rendered the supremacy and legitimacy of supreme court of Pakistan, keeping the development of federal constitutional court questionable.

c. Dichotomy of constitution: lifetime immunity of president while strict accountability of civilians;

The 27th constitutional amendment has portrayed a dichotomic picture of power concentration. While the public deals with strict accountability over traffic rules, the president will be lifetime immune from any criminal procedures.

3. A tussel between judicial restrain and judicial activism in Pakistan:

a. Judicial restrain;

Judicial restrain in judiciary deals with marginalization and limitation of judicial powers.

In judicial restrain, judiciary of any state is prohibited of interference in any public affairs and policy making.

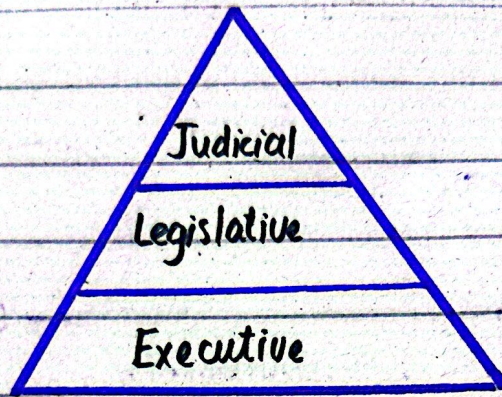
b. Judicial activism;

The term judicial activism empowers judiciary and strengthen its power in public affairs.

c. Emergence of ^{restrain} judicial activism in Pakistan with 27th constitutional amendment;

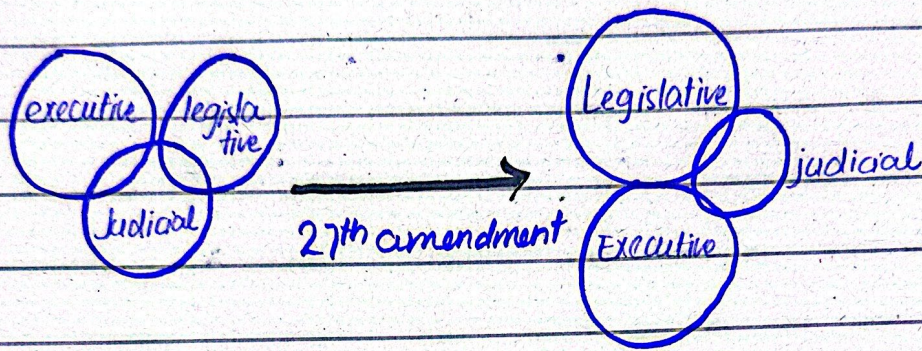
The 27th constitutional amendment highlights the emergence of judicial restrain strictly marginalizing judicial activism in the state. The 27th amendment, limits the powers of judiciary by restraining its interference in public policies and affairs. The 27th amendment has imposed a judicial refrain over the judiciary of Pakistan by limiting the suo moto powers and supremacy of the supreme court of Pakistan. The consent of judiciary is thus marginalized in the state.

4. Trichotomy of power in Pakistan;



The democratic system of Pakistan operates on trichotomy of power among legislative, executive and judicial institutions. These institutes are responsible for the maintenance of rule of law throughout the state. But 27th constitutional amendment has brought serious consequences for balance of power among trichotomic institutes of Pakistan. The 27th amendment has unfortunately disturbed the balance with serious consequences.

5. Disturbed balance of power among trichotomic institutes of Pakistan;



(a) Suppression of judiciary,

The 27th constitutional amendment has disturbed the balance of power among executive, legislative and judicial bodies. It has strengthened the judiciary and legislative and executive bodies, suppressing the judiciary of Pakistan.

(b) Imposing rule by law,

The perfect balance between trichotomic powers maintains rule of law in the state. But the suppression of judiciary and

strengthening of executive and legislative bodies has disturbed the balance of power imposing a rule by law. A controlled and suppressed judiciary portrays rule by law and authoritarianism of elites in the state.

6. Conclusion;

Thus, in a retrospect the 27th constitutional amendment is again another blow to the legitimacy of constitution in Pakistan. On reality grounds, this has imposed judicial restraint over Pakistan, suppressing the suo moto of supreme court and empowering executive and legislature. Thus indeed, it has disturbed the balance of power among trichotomic institutes of power in Pakistan risking the rule of law in state.
