

TOOBA GUL

CURRENT AFFAIRS TEST:2

Q.No. 4

Evaluate the multidimensional challenges and prospects of CPEC Phase-II.

1- INTRODUCTION:

"CPEC is not just a road,
but a process for mutual development"

- Wang Yi

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one of the most significant developments in recent times, not only for Pakistan but also for the region. Launched in 2015, CPEC is a part of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and aims to create a vast network of trade

routes between China and Pakistan. Phase-II of CPEC started with the ambitions of industrialization, trade surplus and FDI, mounting the total value of CPEC to \$65 billion. However, Phase 2 has not been very fast due to some hurdles on the way to its execution. These include security issues, political instability and diplomatic strains. Therefore, Pakistan must strengthen its security to establish consistent policies in order to effectively deal with China and United States of America.

2. CPEC PHASE-II:

After the completion of Phase-I, Phase-II officially started in 2020. Its focus is to boost industrialization, agriculture and socio-economic development. Phase II builds on the groundwork of Phase-I. It accelerates sustainability and

productivity in Pakistan's economic landscape.

FOCUS OF CPEC PHASE-II

Education

Healthcare

Innovation
in
agriculture

Skill
development

3- MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHALLENGES OF CPEC:

Pakistan faces considerable challenges in realizing CPEC's full potential, despite its promises of Phase-II. These include:

a- Rampant Security issues:

Security concerns in regions like **Balochistan** threatens Chinese workers and investment due to militancy. Persistent security concerns not only delays projects but also raise costs owing to the need for enhanced security measures in

this area.

Example: Chinese nationals in Besham, Balochistan and Karachi face these security threats.

b- Political Instability:

Rife political instability creates inconsistent policies in CPEC management and long-term planning. Frequent change of governments lead to delays and re-evaluations of ongoing projects. This affects progress and investors' confidence.

c- Diplomatic Constraints:

While China is Pakistan's ally, growing tensions due to Pakistan's unmet project expectations can strain relations. Moreover, geopolitical pressures from India and ~~the~~ United States further add complexity to the diplomatic landscape of CPEC. **Chinese Foreign Minister**

stated that, "It is unacceptable for us to be attacked twice in only six months."

d- Chinese demands for favorable project conditions:

Chinese demand of stringent repayment terms, can strain Pakistan's fragile economy. The debt is a major challenge. ~~Pakistan~~ Chinese officials have pressured Pakistan to pay **capacity tariffs** at 1.98 billion.

4. PROSPECTS OF CPEC PHASE-II:

CPEC Phase-II is a hope for Pakistan's economic revival. It presents following prospects:

a- Industrial Growth and Development:

Special Economic Zones under CPEC ~~sees~~ would serve as industrial hubs where investors can set up manufacturing facilities. With a focus on export-oriented

industries, Pakistan can benefit from skill development, technology transfer and value addition. There are 9 such SEZs under development across Pakistan. Some of them are:

Allama Iqbal Economic zone	Faisalabad
Rashakai Economic zone	Mardan
Gwadar Economic zone	Balochistan

b. Improvement in Agriculture:

Pakistan's agriculture sector employs nearly **40% of the workforce**. CPEC-II has revolutionized the outdated practices and inefficient sanitation standards. Modern farming techniques and efficient irrigation methods can increase **crop yield**, ensure **food security** and improve **rural livelihood**.

c- Human capital development:

China has also introduced several educational and vocational programs under CPEC. Numerous educational institutes of both countries have signed **Molls** for educational and technical exchange. The largest agriculture universities of Pakistan: **the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad** and **Bailie Vocational College of China** have signed Molls for joined agricultural diploma.

5- **POLICY MEASURES FOR PAKISTAN, STRENGTHENING TIES WITH CHINA AND BALANCING RELATION WITH US:**

To ensure CPEC Phase-2 fulfills its potential for both China and Pakistan, the following measure should be taken.

a- Strengthen security measures:

Pakistan must establish strong security measures to boost Chinese

confidence in intelligence resources and information. Moreover, Pakistan should keep in touch with US blocs so that its relation with US would not get affected.

b- Establish consistent policies:

The government need to establish a stable policy framework to prevent political shifts from disrupting CPEC. long-term policies would enable Pakistan to balance relations with both US and China.

c- Socio-economic uplifts of Balochistan:

Programs should be launched in collaboration with China and US to equip the people of Balochistan with the skills. **SIFC** can incentivise both domestic and international investors.

6- CONCLUSION:

CPEC represents a monumental opportunity for Pakistan to thrive in industry, agriculture and human development. While

the challenges are grave, strong leadership and diplomatic finesse can help Pakistan to navigate these challenges effectively.

Q. No. 3

Critically analyze the 27th Amendment...

1- INTRODUCTION:

“Constitution is not a mere lawyers' document, it is a vehicle of life, and its spirit is always the spirit of the Age.”

— B. R. Ambedkar

The 27th Constitutional Amendment in the constitution of Pakistan aptly showcases the above quotation. Passed in November 2025, 27th Amendment significantly reshapes military and judicial structures. The amendment curtails judicial powers by granting them to legislature and executive. It

authorizes the formation of a Federal Constitutional Court with powers to override the decisions by the Supreme Court. Moreover, it ~~will~~ abolishes the Supreme Court's suo motu powers, limiting its ability to address rights violation. However, it has serious impacts on accountability and checks on executive powers. Besides provincial autonomy and federal-provincial relations would be affected.

2- 27th CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: CURTAILING JUDICIAL POWERS:

On 13th November, Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari approved the country's 27th constitutional amendment. One of the major aspects of this amendment is granting powers to the executive and legislature to control the judiciary. ^{This} Constitutional amendment has following features.

i- Formation of Federal Constitutional Court:

The amendment authorizes the creation of a **Federal Constitutional Court** with the powers to override decisions by the Supreme Court. The composition of the new court is to be determined by the **president** on the advice of **prime minister**. Later, the appointments are left to a judicial commission, where judges will be in a minority and executive and parliament are given a decisive role.

ii- Judicial appointment.

The executive gains more influence in appointing and transferring judges.

iii- Suo Motu Powers of Judiciary.

The Supreme Court's suo motu jurisdiction is abolished, limiting its ability to address urgent rights violations.

3- DEBATE RELATING JUDICIAL RESTRAINT AND ACTIVISM: CRITICAL ANALYSIS,

The debate centers around judicial activism, with some arguing that the amendment restricts the judiciary's ability to check the executive and protect fundamental rights. Other perspective considers it as a necessary step to ensure accountability and efficiency in governance.

Perspectives of stakeholders:

- i- Opposition parties view the amendment as an attack on democracy and judicial activism, aiming to concentrate power in the executive.
- ii- Government argues ~~that~~ the amendment is necessary to modernize governance and strengthen national security.

- iii- International bodies express concerns about the erosion of judicial independence and the rule of law.

4. IMPLICATIONS OF 27th AMENDMENT FOR THE TRICHOTOMY OF POWER IN PAKISTAN:

The 27th Amendment in Pakistan has significant implications for the trichotomy of powers.

i- Concentration of power in Executive:

The amendment grants the executive significant influence over judicial appointments and transfers, potentially compromising the judiciary's autonomy.

ii- Erosion of judicial independence:

The establishment of FCC^{and} changes to judicial appointments undermine the Supreme Court's authority.

iii- Imbalance in power dynamics:

Concentration of power in ^{the} executive

and military could undermine checks and balances

iv - Weakened Accountability:

Reduced judicial oversight may lead to unchecked executive and military actions, leading to no transparency.

5- CONCLUSION:

In summation, the 27th Amendment centralizes power, elevates the military and restructures the judiciary. It sparks significant controversy over democracy, governance and imbalance in the trichotomy of powers in Pakistan.
