

CPEC: CRUCIAL STEP TOWARDS PROSPERITY

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ABSTRACT

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a decisive as well as golden chance towards the prosperity knocking at our doors. The key project in terms of economic and political scenario for the welfare of the people of Pakistan and China.

Surely it can be the game changer in this part of the world, therefore we must stick with our basic plan, and should go all the way, as well as taking all the essential steps for the feasibility of this huge project.

The main purpose and focus of this paper is to highlight the hurdles and serious questions in terms of achieving this ever challenging goal.

INTRODUCTION

With the advent of globalization as well as fast changing scenarios, the countries all around the world adopting new strategies and policies, for the welfare of their people.

The policy makers of both the countries Pakistan and China really deserve huge amount of appreciation for devising a massive economic plan in the shape of CPEC.

Surely it's not going to be easy task to be achieved because CPEC is very vital for both the countries regarding their economies.

It would change the fates of its people as well as bring massive economic benefits in this part of the world.

Pakistan as well as China are recognized having solid political associations, and it's a connection that was associated way back in January 1963, an era that marked the first ever mutual contract between the two countries. Currently, China is measured as the second-largest economy in the world in terms of nominal GDP, and they are still flourishing attaining their packed potential. On the other hand, Pakistan is graded as the 41st largest economy in the world; yet the nation having surely more capable than one might think.

Atlantic Media Company in a statement claimed Pakistan as a fast rising economy, and Morgan Stanley Capital International admired Pakistan being the top '10 record evolving economies in the world'. The newest stride chosen to the search of that capability is China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a plan which would additionally increase the economy of China, plus would bring financial success as well as steadiness in Pakistan too. As soon as the project is achieved, it would function as an access for China toward the Middle East as well as Central Asia, letting them to get business associations in a quicker, easier, as well as an inexpensive means. Yet, Pakistan and China counter countless trials in the application of this plan, however they are surely not the difficulties that cannot be resolved by comprehensive preparation as well as vow.

Perspectives for China

Recognizing why China is enthusiastically financing in our country with huge magnitude obliges us contemplating whatever China would achieve by this task. Both countries having such unprecedented friendly relations regarding all spheres of life. We should consider this huge project as (do or die) situation, rather it should be termed as (now or never) for both the countries, in terms of huge economic as well as strategic interests. Billions of dollars would be granted to us in terms of financial grant, and would be returned with fixed interest rates. First of all it is very vital to recognize the (One Belt), (One Road) plan plus in what way it's related with (CHINA PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR). And for what reason, (Gwadar) has attained huge significance in terms of Chinese interests. Many factors are involved actually, for example the distance problem; and the factor of (Malacca) passage that the Chinese want to utilize it as an alternative as well as protected way; and finally, considering these factors, Chinese want to attain an entrance by sea for its non-coastal region of (Xinjiang). These factors are key for the Chinese interests.

Chinese mission is to get the significant trade ways, as they wish to link their country by (Caspian) area as well as Western countries and plus (South Asian) as well as (Middle Eastern) countries. To get an idea of building three corridors: central, northern and southern which would lead through (Xinjiang), it would link (China) with (Russia) as well as former (Soviet) countries, Europe, and Pakistan. CPEC is a vital as well as certain measure of (China's) One Belt and One Road design. While the Chinese Head of the Government, (Li Keqiang), came to Pakistan in 2013, he introduced the CPEC task. Afterward, while P.M Nawaz Sharif came to power, visited (Beijing) for more discussion about this great venture. Last

year, President (Xi Jinping) traveled Pakistan, as well as stated that Chinese Government would invest (\$46 billion) in Pakistan for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, aiming over the consolidation of the energy sector of Pakistan, also its anticipated that these schemes would be accomplished till 2018-2020. Energy sector isn't the sole importance here, as railway routes would be built, as well as ways that would link Chinese noncoastal areas with the coastline zone of (Gwadar). It's supposed that Gwadar sea-port as well as a passage connection concerning Gwadar as well as Kashgar is 'categorically essential' for CPEC, or else 'not any other commercial plan' could be imaginable.

Gwadar Issue

Gwadar stays the supreme conspicuous part of the enigma, also it's supposed that (CHINA PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR) would surely put (Gwadar) over the milieu of deep geo-strategic contention'. Minus (Gwadar), it's really difficult envisaging Chinese investment in Pakistan over exemplary degree also as a result of it; Chinese energy source would be greatly quicker as it would deliver a squatter way associated towards a (12,900) kilometer course by sea. Entrance towards (Arabian Ocean) with Pakistan wouldn't merely profit just the Chinese, however it would be a way for non-coastal states into (Central Asia) benefitting as of the passage as well. (CHINA PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR) would lift the local association into Pakistan as the course would cross all along country side, that too involves the backward parts of Panjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakthunhawa, Balochistan, as well as (FATA) would take a chance becoming industrialized fast, as well as having crucial part in terms of evolving economy of the state. Yet, the key fact

now stands that (Gwadar) would become the one end of the Passage, as well as would provide Chinese western areas an entry towards the ocean.

The Space Issue

It could be simply recognized that one of the key issues for the Chinese in terms of (CPEC) agreement remains the space cause. While, (CPEC) is measured equally a scheme that would be reciprocally valuable for both countries, in terms of economic as well as politics. Yet, it's supposed that the scheme would be 'additionally valuable for China. Pakistan would be having the part of a 'passage' simply, plus it could be stated that minus (Gwadar), this project has no influence at all.

It could be assumed that by (Central China) toward (Middle East), China could save (7580 miles), plus over Ten thousand miles by (Western China) toward (Middle East). These statistics might appear insignificant over the page, however they remain definitely enormous numbers that could play a gigantic variance into the arena of dealing. As a result, Chinese would aspect an enormous cut in terms of rate also would save lots of petroleum too, nevertheless the chief feature now stays the phase. The phase saving would let Chinese trading doubly, as well as they would get additional capital available for more savings.

The Malacca Problem

China being the world's second leading buyer and trader of petroleum globally, plus over Eighty percent of its petroleum as well as Thirty percent of natural gas imports passes by the Channel of (Malacca). Some explanations existing that why Chinese interested in, in terms of substitute means; it's supposed that number 1 is piracy, then second being the (geo-political) encounter. Passage of (Malacca) is termed the 'world's novel piracy hotspot', plus about one third of sea trade passes by this coarsely eight hundred kilometer constricted path, plus any piece of piracy could

charge the Chinese a giant hole in their bags. One more aspect remains the (geo-political) alarms, as if a national or a non-national player gets authority of the channel, as well as chooses an obstruction regarding the business, that would cost the Chinese immensely with having a giant setback regarding their economy as well as the energy segment. Therefore, by (Gwadar), Chinese would get a squatter as well as harmless entrance towards the (Arabian Ocean), also they would be capable transferring a huge part of their petroleum importation with this course, however finally that certainly hinges over in what manner both countries could control.

Industrialization of Xinjiang

Suppose one evaluates the Chinese map, we could assume that East of China is comparably industrial as well as advanced, the reason is definitely owing to China's share of a coastline by way of Eastern region by that they get entrance toward (Pacific as well as Indian Sea). Historically, the towns that were recognized in terms of economic as well as business centers of the globe i.e. London, Amsterdam, and Istanbul, New York etc.; got an enormous benefit by having their boundaries by open water. Currently for example (Shanghai, Dubai, California, Hong Kong, Singapore), known renowned towns for performing enormous part regarding their county's development. The purpose to reference focusing over other Chinese areas, that known as non industrial as well as urbanized, and the clear purpose of that being, the noncoastal as well as far flung as of the eastern shore. Once we evaluate the map, we could perceive one more scope of (CPEC). The (Xinjiang) area sharing its edge by Pakistan's Northern areas, as well as the way that would pass all the way with (Gwadar) towards (Kashghar). Significant aspect remains that Chinese areas of the west, particularly (Xinjiang), known as "less-

developed zone”, would get an entrance towards the (Arabian Ocean) by (CPEC). Likewise, if the venture accomplished successfully, (Kashghar) would get a swift development.

Another significant aspect that in what manner this project, or (Gwadar), remains very vital for the Chinese, the connection of its less advanced areas of the west to Persian Gulf and elsewhere in terms of business. Therefore, as a result of this huge economic plan, the development as well as economic growth for the Chinese is definitely on the corner. If it would produce like (Shenzhen), the increase in China’s economic growth as well as development could be amazing. It is likely that there are further viewpoints for Chinese unseen in this scheme, however it could be supposed that these three facts are over the peak of the precedence page. We can get the conclusion that it would provide Chinese energy safety, plus would let the economic giant toward more advancement.

Perspectives for Pakistan

The frequently asked query is whether Pakistanis would get enough profit as a result of this giant economic plan? Or Pakistanis are just being utilized by the Chinese for their individual commercial accomplishment? To find the answers of these serious queries, one should analyze the core of this huge economic plan. Though, as assumed earlier, it may be (more valuable for the Beijing), then it doesn’t mean that the Pakistanis would not get enough profit by this huge venture. One who is very much familiar with the past as well as capabilities of the Pakistanis recognizes that what a giant prospect this is for the Pakistanis. Pakistani economic growth and development is mostly relied upon its agrarian segment, and depends over some further aspects. Because of the increase of extremism in Pakistani society, this sat an enormous menace toward the safety of Pakistani

society as well as the state, the deteriorating energy problem of Pakistan that turned out to be a gigantic subject regarding the trade growth of the State. That paved the way toward a reduction in external nonstop business too, however by this huge economic plan, an enormous rise of thirty eight percent was perceived in Net FDI. By Forty six Billion dollars, it's the major FDI ever in our country, plus it has a capability to put our state on the path of prosperity. Greatest ratio of the venture by this economic deal would pass toward the energy segment of the state that would be discoursed in detail below, observing over where the capital would be financed.

Energy the prime Significance

By the whole budget of Forty six billion dollars, thirty five billion dollars would be disbursed over the energy segment of the State, whereas the Eleven billion is kept for the infrastructure. Presently, state facing a huge energy shortage of forty five hundreds Mega Watt (MW). But, it's anticipated that by the backing of plans under the shadow of the project, energy shortage would be controlled as we may be capable to yield 10,400 MW of power till March 2018, and total the CPEC scheme is supposed to yield a whole of 16,400 MW with the period entire ventures are over. Energy segment of State is frequently disapproved then is measured as a reason behind the disaster of manufacturing in State, plus also why other external financiers vacillate to shape or move their business here. Nonetheless all being well, the energy produced by all these schemes would be sufficient to control the shortage, which would let the trades to flourish, plus State would be capable to at ease further external deals.

Our country is facing an enormous energy shortfall, estimating two percent of GDP annually and by State's ever rising population, there is a

critical requirement of such a plan, which could decide the energy disaster as well as offer a livelier future to the young generation of the State. Even before CPEC, Chinese financed Ten Billion dollars in atomic energy, when Prime Minister Nawaz Shareef initiated the production of Kanupp-II and Kanupp-III in August 2015, with its ground breaking being done in 2013.²⁶ both nuclear power plants would enhance a joint energy of 2,200 MW to the energy segment, plus its anticipated to be finished till 2021-2022.²⁷

Progress of Gwadar

It could be assumed that Chinese need a socio-economic progress in Gwadar, as well as the growth of Gwadar would pave the way to solidarity in Baluchistan. The building of a hospital by hundred million dollars doesn't seem like a tale and such infrastructural supplies are very significant for growth of any town. China is too building, accompanied by Oman and Pakistan, the Gwadar International Airport, and it's anticipated that it would be built till the close of 2016. The new airport would function being a center for air-cargo too; likewise it would make it easier for individuals in Pakistan and around the world to travel to Gwadar.

Therefore, improvements in Gwadar would certainly thrive the economic growth and development of the State as work prospects would be formed, transit-fee would be collected, and automobile manufacturing in State would further increase through the state. Pakistan would benefit largely by this mega-project which would pave the way to progress of Baluchistan by Gwadar, an economical connection between all the provinces of Pakistan, resolving the energy disaster, flourishing as an economic passage, and develop a steady economic power in the area.

Hurdles and Ordeals

To comprehend the benefits of the project (CPEC), as well as grasping that in what manner it would be a huge success as well as immensely beneficial for our country. We cannot rule out the definite hurdles which must be encountered regarding this huge project ahead of us certainly being ever challenging task for both the countries. Significant fact is that why we are lagging in terms of economic growth and development comparing with other countries just due to our internal affairs. The major problems like safety, law and order, internal clashes, sectarian violence, religious extremism, mismanagement, and above all corruption. All these major issues must be eradicated as well as a peaceful environment created in order to achieve the success.

Safety

It has been our tragedy that our country has been facing the grave issue of violence since its inception. Following the incident of world trade Centre in U.S.A. Almost four hundred and thirty eight suicide carried out in our country, as a result of that, Six thousand and five hundred people died. These incidents terribly damaged and destabilized our country. Baluchistan possessing a chief part in this huge project because of (Gwadar), on the other hand, a breakaway movement is challenging the integrity of the country. In recent days, the arrest of Indian spy backed by RAW emerged and surely it shows that India is trouble maker in Baluchistan. It is an open fact that the spy arrested (Kul Yadav Bhoshan) revealing that he worked for the RAW and supported Balochi extremist groups to destabilize the country. Current language of P.M. of India clearly showing that India is openly supporting the extremist groups and they are the real trouble makers in this region. India is also deeply

involved in Afghanistan for the creation of terrorist training camps for the clear intention of destabilizing Pakistan. Since inception, India tried its level best to destabilize Pakistan by supporting the groups, but recently they are intensifying their effort by using the Afghanistan soil. In the past, Pakistan presented all the proofs in U.N.O regarding India's intentions but all in vain. Recently, the Quetta incident at hospital killing the cream of the lawyers of Baluchistan is the clear brutality of terrorism in this region. Clearly India is the culprit, by carrying out such attacks to have the plain intentions to disintegrate Baluchistan from Pakistan. But the people of Baluchistan showed their opinion by protesting all over the province against India. Finally it must be stated that this issue is really very serious for Pakistan and it must be dealt seriously. As a result of this mega project, we can bring prosperity and put the province on the path of development. Pakistani Army played its major role in Khyber Pakthunhawa and achieved success against terrorism. The KPK is really on the path of real development as a result of sacrifices given by Pakistani Army. One of the reasons behind it is that KP shares its border with FATA as well as Afghanistan, and terrorists could easily infiltrate into the province and beyond. However, the parts of KP through which the CPEC route will pass is becoming safer from the terrorist attacks, since out of 4,732 attacks in KP, only 52 or 1% of them were in the areas, mostly concentrated in Mansehra Also, Sindh faces security related issues as well, Karachi to be precise. Other parts of Sindh are considered to be more peaceful and having a low level of threat, where as it is pretty high in Karachi. A report says that out of 962, 889 terrorist attacks took place in Karachi, and all these attacks are on the area through which the CPEC and the new Motorway will pass (The CPEC article268, pg. 11). Target killings and sectarian killings are common in Karachi, just recently the renowned

singer Amjad Fareed Sabri was gunned down in broad daylight on a highway, and TTP claimed its responsibility by giving the reason of assassination as ‘blasphemy’.³⁸ These killings may not be directly linked with CPEC, but if the security situation is not strengthened, there is a chance it will spread out. Punjab is comparatively stayed pre-dominantly peaceful but no doubt that it was also a target of terroristic agendas in the past and there is a continued of sectarian violence and the presence of non-state actors which need to be tackled once for all.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CPEC being such a multidimensional, gigantic as well as lifetime treasure trove equally for China and Pakistan. Both states must show their outstanding role making it a triumph era. Considering the study, significant methods are suggested.

1. Gwadar in particular and CPEC in general are inevitable for the geo-economic, geo-energy and geo-strategic interests of both Pakistan as well as China. Its security should be the top priority for the government of Pakistan to operationalize Gwadar and materialize the long standing desire of the country to become a transit corridor. It must not let any stone un-turned to combat and eradicate the separatist and terrorist threat Baluchistan in particular and the country in general. China’s desire to develop Xinjiang and make smooth access to the warm water could be better materialize if Beijing becomes more vocal and active to defy the heinous agenda pursued by Modi’s government.
2. The repeated terrorist attacks on FWO workers in district Gwadar and other part of Baluchistan, the revelations of Kalboshan Yadv, Modi’s indirect acceptance to have a role in Baluchistan’s security

turmoil and now the Quetta suicide attack in August, 2016, suicide attack in Mardan on 2nd September 2016 and the failed attempt in Peshawar on the same day creates a fear that it is not only the general militancy factor, rather a series of strategic attacks made by RAW and its allies to fail CPEC. Both Beijing and Islamabad need to ponder over more security collaboration in order to successfully defy any game that could sabotage this historic game changer.

3. To make it truly and fully secured, the provision of armed security would not be sufficed. There is an urgent need to take the locals of Gwadar and other parts of Baluchistan into confidence and make them own the project. This could only happen if the locals get maximum benefit out this historic initiative. Therefore, maximum possible job opportunities should be provided to the locals. To materialize this there is an urgent need of training the locals and removing linguistic barriers. Once the locals start benefitting by the project they would automatically own it and help it grow it to the full.
4. Even though Pakistan's main purpose in this deal would be to be a transit route, it should focus more on developing its own industry along the route; otherwise the country cannot just survive on collecting toll from the Chinese. It should not forget about its own benefit in the deal, and its own benefit lies in nothing but a better social and economic life of its citizens.
5. The energy projects should finish on the given deadlines. If finished on time, it will give an end to the era of load shedding in Pakistan. It will be a huge economical, emotional, and social boost, giving birth to new job opportunities, which will further lead to a

decrease in unemployment rate, better literacy rate, and many more things.

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