

CPEC - The Way Ahead

What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a thorn in India-Pakistan relations, and needs to be resolved soon.

\n

- Beyond mere symbolic opposition, India needs to evolve a concrete counter narrative to garner the deserved International support for its view.

\n

\n\n

What is the problem with CPEC?

\n\n

\n

- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is China's ambitious project for increasing connectivity and economic cooperation within Eurasia.

\n

- Since its announcement in 2013, the BRI has been positively received by many countries covered within its ambit.

\n

- But India has been averse to the idea on multiple grounds of which, the CPEC (which is within BRI's ambit) is the primary factor.

\n

- Notably, the even recent informal meet between the Indian PM and the Chinese President at Wuhan (China) failed to resolve this issue.

\n

- As "CPEC passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir" (India claims PoK as its own territory), India sees this as an affront on its sovereignty.

\n

\n\n

What are the larger implications?

\n\n

\n

- PoK is an emotional issue for India, and China's push for CPEC is being seen as an act of deliberately disregarding its territorial claims.
\n
- At a broader level, if China invests heavily in the region, it risks becoming another party to the troubling Indo-Pak bilateral dispute.
\n
- Also, if CPEC gets functional, it will establish a fully functional China-Pakistan axis, which would hamper India's larger interests in South Asia.
\n
- Additionally, if CPEC proves to be an economic success, Pakistan's claim over Pok might become more legitimate.
\n

\n\n

What is the way ahead?

\n\n

- There is no clarity on whether India has any road map to take the conversation on PoK forward.
\n
- But no country can afford to not register a protest against a project that is likely to undermine its sovereignty.
\n
- CPEC will indeed remain a stress point not just in the India-Pakistan relationship but also in the India-China relationship.
\n
- At this juncture, it is hence important for India to evolve a comprehensive outlook to confront CPEC.
\n
- If such thinking hasn't caught up, then there is a risk that India's claims might become irrelevant amidst other nations.
\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu

\n\n

\n\n

\n



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering