



CPEC - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

News: *Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, President Xi Jinping agree to upgrade CPEC*

What's in the news?

- Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping in their meeting have affirmed consensus on the upgradation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and advancing high-quality development of the multi-billion dollar project in the second phase.

CPEC:

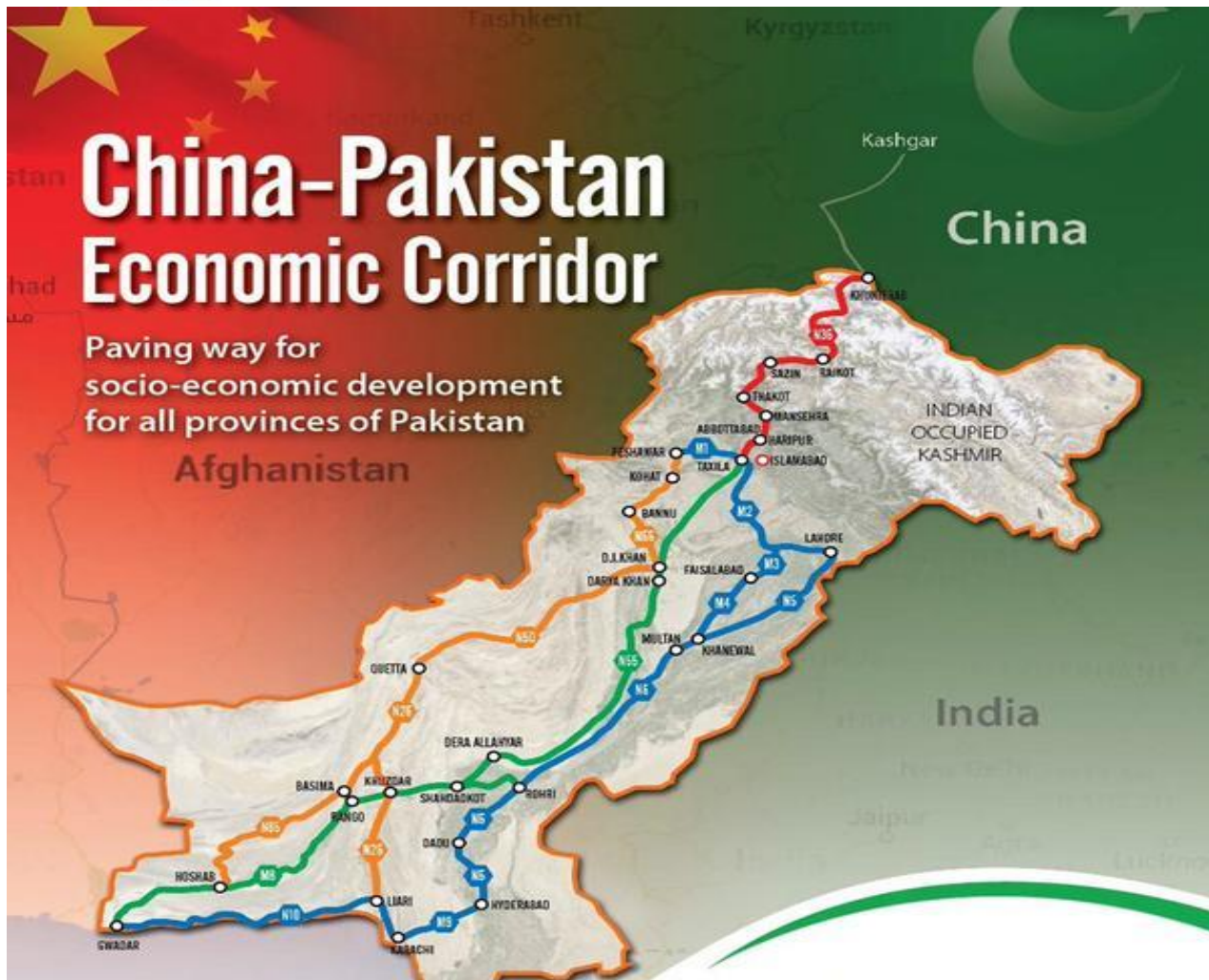
- The CPEC is a bilateral project between **Pakistan and China**.
- It is a **3,000-km long route of infrastructure** projects connecting China's northwest Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Gwadar Port in the western province of Balochistan in Pakistan.
- CPEC is a part of the **Belt and Road Initiative**.

Launched by:

- The **BRI**, launched in **2013**, aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes.

Issues:

- The CPEC Corridor is a **\$60 billion corridor being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) with China's assistance**.
- India is opposed to the CPEC as it passes through the PoK, giving China access to the Arabian Sea through the Gwadar port in Pakistan's Balochistan province.



Go back to basics:

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

- The Belt and Road Initiative, formerly known as **One Belt One Road**, is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013.
- "**Belt**" refers to the overland routes for **road and rail transportation**, called "**the Silk Road Economic Belt**"; whereas "**road**" refers to the sea routes or the **21st Century Maritime Silk Road**.

Countries:

- It will invest in nearly **70 countries** and international organizations.

Infrastructure:

- Infrastructure projects include ports, railways, highways, power stations, aviation and telecommunications.

Completion:

- The project has a target completion date of **2049** which coincides with the 100th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.



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