The State of Jammu and Kashmir, occupying a complex and significant geographical and geo-strategic position, is located in a triangle of nuclear power States. It is considered crippled economically and in terms of its military; being located at the confluence of China, Central Asia and the South Asian gateway. The famous silk route connected with Central Asia makes it significant cross route through the region. Presently, this land is working as a survival zone and should be revived in the near future for Pakistan which not only working as a trade corridor, but it has also the potential of a logistic hub. After the advent of CPEC, it turned into a lucrative junction for China and Central Asian States on one side, but its disputed nature is another prominent aspect which has increased its geo-strategic, geo-politics, and geo-economic vitality. The Czarist Empire persuaded towards warms water access which made it more strategically significant and the Kashmir issue remained a part of “Great Game” between Czarists and British by declaring an area as “Buffer Zone”. Pakistan’s intention towards Kashmir follows its foundational ideology assembled with strategic interests along with geographical and religious contiguities, and strategic alliances of Pakistan and China in connecting Gilgit with China also increasing complexities with India in recent times and Kashmir dispute unwantedly recognized by US. The primary theme of this study is to highlight the significance of Gilgit Baltistan in terms of its geostrategic importance being an influential trade corridor of CPEC, also cutting the edge of ancient trade corridor from Central Asia through Wakhan route which further enhances its geo-militia vitality. This paper is an attempt to dig out the survival tools for Pakistan from a highly predicted area of Gilgit Baltistan which will be the land of revival for Pakistan by conducting a comprehensive study of Geography, Economic Potential and Strategic Position with prospects of CPEC.

Key Words: CPEC, Kashmir, geo-politics, geo-militia, economic potential, international politics
The favorite Sufi of the subcontinent Hazrat Nehmatullah Shah Wali predicted nearly 950 years ago, the survival and revival of Pakistan as the Muslim land very comprehensively in these poetic verses:

بعد ازاں گیرد نصارے ملک ہندویاں تمام
tاصدی حکمش میاں ہندوستاں پیدا شود
دو حصص چوں ہند گردو خون آدم شدرواں
شورش و فتنہ فزون از گما پیدا شود

(Translation). The Nasaara (Christian symbolically reference to British) will rule over Hindustan which remain up to only one hundred years. Then Hindustan will be separated into two parts and that partition will lead to destruction, bloodshed, and disaster.

He further predicted the future of Pakistan which is the primary theme of this study pointing towards a land which is located northwards in Pakistan and its ties with its northern neighbors, in an attractive rhythm and style:

عد از تذلیل شاں از رحمتِ پروردگار
نصرت و امداد از همسائیگاں پیدا شود
آید از شمال بہر عونلشکر منگول
فارس و عثمان ، ہمچارہ گراں پیدا شود

(Translation) Almighty Allah will help and assist them by their neighbors after defeats when Mongols battalions from the northern side will reach for their help. Iranians and Ottomans will be helpful for Pakistan.

The significant portion of these predictions is deeply linked to the north and northern portions of Pakistan. The map presents these areas as the “the State of Jammu & Kashmir” but the northern side could be determined by its name, Gilgit-Baltistan; a most significant strategic area which is a gateway between Central Asia, China and South Asia from ancient times. Gilgit-Baltistan is located in a triangular region enclosed by three nuclear power States from . It is considered for India and Pakistan “significant hub economically as well as for military”. The strategic significance of it is not new as it has a comprehensive history which inclusively comprises more than 220 years. In future this land will contribute much more to these prospects. Apparently, at present this land is working as a survival zone and is a land of revival for Pakistan in present, near and far future because it is not only functions as a trade corridor, but has multidimensional and wide ranging impacts on regional politics and is an everlasting part of the world’s “the Great Game”. Hence, it is very famous in terms of the logistic hub, geo-strategic, geo-politics, geo-economic, as well as a lucrative junction to China and Central Asian States on one side. However, its disputed nature is another prominent feature of this land.

Surrounded by mountains, Gilgit Baltistan is considered the safest area in the region which works as a fort. However, in the past before the 19th century, this farthest hilly side remained out reached, although Karwans and traders from Kashgar and Central Asia (until the Czar) initiated their militantly ideological
invasion across their western and northern adjacent areas. British rulers launched their military intelligence mission from the west and also from the British India to monitor the Czar’s movements and geostrategic position to prevent their intrusion. In the past, this region is working as a fort against external attackers and as a trade corridor from central Asia to South Asia. It has long historical details and some of the most recent and prominent features are described in the following discussion.

Buffer Zone

Buffer Zone is “a neutral zone or area between two potentially hostile nations, designed to prevent any overt acts of aggression or any area serving to mitigate or neutralize potential conflict”.¹ The tale of the Buffer Zone in this region was a pioneer strategic significant move about this land in which adjacent areas of current district Ghizer which were merged into Wakhan, a corridor links Gilgit Baltistan with Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Xinjiang. So, on January 31, 1873 a paper was drafted about by Lord Granville of British and Prince Gortchak off the Russian Ambassador in London, all hiding from Sher Ali. In 1891 when the Czar’s forces were in the adjacent areas of Wahkhan, this portion of these areas were merged into Afghanistan and declared as “Buffer Zone” in 1893 subsequently creating the “Durand Line” now Pak Afghan Border.² This corridor gained its strategic position in 1893 when British and Russian Czars agreed to declare it as a buffer zone, so that both empires don’t share a boundary; and this resulted in a new political creation of the Great Game (GG). Stalin was of the view that Wahkhan along with Pamir is a “Light house for spreading of Communism” in Asia, so, World War-I and World war-II did not minimize its vitality for the whole region.

Gilgit Agency

With the maturity of rivalry between the Russian and British empires, the emergence of new theories as power politics, capitalistic approaches, communistic proposals, socialist theories and dreams of conquering the entire globe, the neighboring areas of Europe and subcontinent focused much on military prospects to make valuable deterrence against each other. Maharaja Gulab Sing and Ranbir Sing were granted oral freedom to extend the northern boundary of the State of Jammu of Kashmir which was against the article 7 of Amritsar Treaty of 1846³ to establish best defense point for monitoring and command against the Russian empire to clampdown just above the Pamir range which will resulted in British India becoming “a safe heavenly land”. In the result of “the great trigonometric survey of Kashmir” and collective recommendations of British spy missions, the British rulers decided to make a buffer zone as well as taking the paramount control over Himalayan and Hindu Kush ranges to establish an agency which would work as command and control panels against the advancement of the Russians. For this purpose, the territories of Gilgit, Astore, and Chilas were
assembled into a new category of “Gilgit Agency” by 1860. Maharaja Ranbir Singh was granted special award by the acceptance of its suzerainty over GigitWazarat, Princely State of Hunza and Nagar towards the northern east side. The Amritsar Treaty could not restrain Ranbir Singh by making some economic nexus and diplomatic ties with Kabul, China, Russian empire and with Turkistan, apparently no clear evidence was in support of this blame, but the British observed these developments with great concern, particularly in the prospect of Czar’s advancement. They announced at last, the Gilgit Agency in 1877 to be under the supervision of a political agent with his seat in Srinagar.

**Gilgit on Lease**

Maharaja Pratap Singh provided opportunities to the British rulers in Kashmir affairs and political agents, reporting from Srinagar whose initial purpose was to focus upon the frontier, Hunza and Nagar as dealing with Russia succeeded in merging Hunza and Nagar by taking over the direct monitoring of Agency while the Dogra forces were brought into the garrison which was replaced in 1913 by British proposed Gilgit Scouts. Soon after, the lower areas of Punial, Yasin, Kuhghizar, and Ishkoman were also merged into this agency, but the areas of Chitral were indulged into the Frontier after the rebellion during 1892. In the first two decades of 20th century British struggling to made a deal with the Maharaja of Lease of Gilgit but a British officer, in 1932, encouraged the Maharaja to hand over some regions of Gilgit to the British which was implemented on March 26, 1935 a lease treaty was signed for the area of 1480 sq. miles between Maharaja and L. E. Lange, a British resident in Kashmir. So, the Gilgit Agency was directly controlled by the British under the supervision of Political Agent who communicated with Peshawar and Delhi, but being the part of Kashmir. In the census of 1941, the total population of Gilgit Agency was 77,000 and the leased areas was 23,000 sq. miles which was administrated by British forces on behalf of His Highness for reasons of security. The agency was bordered by the Chitral State on the west, Wakhan Corridor on North west, Kashmir Province on its south and Ladakh-Baltistan Wazarat on its south east.

**Geo-Militia Significance**

Geo-Militia is very prospect which comprised upon military geography and military politics about any specific region which is used in the war or in the war tactics. So, the land of Gilgit Baltistan is a unique land in the history of wars and battles, having a record that the world highest battlefield located in this region at the location of “Siachen Glacier” at the height of 20000 feet in -60 °C. This region was also involved in all three wars of 1947, 1965 and 1971 respectively including two additional limited wars of Siachen and Kargil respectively between India and Pakistan, that’s proved its importance, which can be further elaborated in detail in post era of Sino-Indowar of 1962.
Wars in Pre-Ceasefire
At the request of local community, tribesmen entered in Muzaffarabad with support of local Muslims, started invasion in the western and some northern sides especially in Poonch region and freed 20% State in couple of days which resulted in establishment of “Revolutionary Govt. of Azad Jammu & Kashmir” on 24th October, 1947. Gilgit Baltistan also participated in the war and acquired freedom later on 1st November 1947. After the establishment of revolutionary govt. in the western part of the State of Jammu & Kashmir, Indian Air Force dropped its paramilitary forces on Srinagar airport and a regular war started with freedom fighters and which were pushed back from Baramulla, Jhanger and Uri sectors but from Gilgit Baltistan side they invaded to the Leh. In this era Indian troops launched a wide range counterattack in the western and northern side of the State in Poonch and Uri sectors while GB scouts took full command on Skardu. In the first three weeks of May 1948, Indian forces on western sides did not acquire any considerable success but in GB Gilgit Scout made an excellent development in Himalayan sector by having noticeable command on Kargil and Leh. In 1948 Indian forces occupied on Gurais, Keran and Tethwal and made a good position to attack on the Skardu range which resulted in pushing Gilgit Scouts (GS) into Ladakh region. In August 1948, GS were also forcing from Kargil and Leh also in operation Duck and Bison. In this whole drama, freedom fighters in assistance with tribe’s men and GS only acquired two-fifth area of the State including over thirteen high peaks of world, but India took over most populous and fertile lands of the region.

War of 1965
In May 1965, Pak forces took control of PT 13620 in this region on the northern side, but some issues and tensions arose on working the boundary along with Kutcha sector as well which resulted in a large scale war between India and Pakistan in September 1965. In this war, India reoccupied PT 13620 with some important positions in Kargil sector along with some other areas from Keran Sector which were snatched by the Indian army and they forced local Kashmiri inhabitants across the LoC in Keran and Authmuqam sectors to migrate. In this war no major advancement on any side can be described. An extension was also made in the war by India by capturing some key positions and strategic areas in Kargil and Gurais sectors which led Indian extension towards Siachen Sector.

Siachen Conflict
“War at the Roof of the world” mentioned in the Time Magazine of July 1989 on the Siachen dispute between India and Pakistan holds the potential of a major war. The main distinction of this region is the home of the world’s highest battlefield which lies at the altitude of 5400m from sea level. The contentious area is about 950 sq. miles. The conflict began in 1984 during the Indian operation “Meghdoot” and took control over un-demarcated area along with its tributary glaciers by holding three main passes of Saltoro Ridge of the northern region. It is
an Indian expansionism in the Himalayan region which is totally in violation of the Karachi Agreement 1949\textsuperscript{11} and Simla Agreement 1972. In the light of UN mediated ceasefire in 1949 between India and Pakistan it was demarcated to NJ9842.\textsuperscript{12}

From this point to Karakoram Pass the wide inaccessible territory was undemarcated.\textsuperscript{13} India, by having a plan to cut the edge of Baltistan, took control of the Silk route and also made a proposal to make more extension to acquire direct access to Central Asia through Wahkhan. Moreover, Trans Karakorum Tract also created many problems for India.\textsuperscript{14} In the decade of 1979 to 1980 multiple expeditions applied in this region were also an open invitation for India to go over the un-demarcated area in Himalayan region.\textsuperscript{15}

In 1977, an Indian army officer, Narendra Kumar, was also organized an international expedition venturing onto the glacier from the Pakistani side which encouraged India army officers to climb up on this range with a 70 member team and returned back in 1981 while a Pakistan troop during patrol found an Indian cigarettes “Gold Flake”.\textsuperscript{16} On April 17, 1984 with the help of the Indian air force, men of Ladakhs scouts of Kumaon Regiment occupied Bilafond La and the Siachen glacier while the first armed clash occurred on this glacier on April 25, 1984 recognized as operation ‘Meghdoot’.\textsuperscript{17} Three years later, the Indian army launched another attack, operation Rajiv to take the control over the “Qaid Post” under the supervision of Brig. Gen. Chandan Nugyal.\textsuperscript{18} In Sep. 1987 Pakistan launched operation Qaidat under the supervision of Brig. Gen. Pervaiz Musharrur to retake Quaid Peak in response India encountered through Vajrashakti operation in Khaplu garrison.\textsuperscript{19} The chain of attack on the roof of the world on one another processed further in 1989, 1992, 1995 and 1999 which made huge loss for Pakistan through depriving an area of 2300 sq. km which claimed by Pakistan still. The Siachen battle was very costly for both Pakistan and India in terms of soldiers killed during war or killed by extreme weather conditions ranking a total over 6000, and much recently 129 soldiers and 11 civilians were killed in Gayari military base of Pakistan.\textsuperscript{20} Also in terms of financial expenditures of India and Pakistan which touches $300 and $200 million respectively per annum.\textsuperscript{21}

Kargil Conflict

The Kargil war is one of the numerous limited wars between India and Pakistan, indeed, it was an extension of the Siachen war because India always keen to seize every opportunity against Pakistan from 1947. Kargil is a Muslim majority town: 205 km away from Srinagar and roughly 175 km away from Skardu located midway between Ladakh and Baltistan, occupying an important position to monitor and control over Zojila pass and ensure easy safe and sound supply to Siachen for India.\textsuperscript{22} Kargil was pre LoC position on the Pakistani side until 1971 when the Indian military captured this strategic position through a surprise attack. This war was fought over a high mountainous snowy region which starts from Dras to
Batalik in an area of 100 km at the altitude of 13000 to 18000 ft in extremely harsh and inhospitable nature of the terrain was forced Indian military to take “calculated risk” as leaving vacant in winter and recapturing in summer. This calculated risk provided an opportunity initially to freedom fighter and latterly to Northern Light Infantry (NLI) to take command over these strategic hills of Kargil region. The main character in this war was that of the Kashmiri Mujahideen, who became aware of Indian tactics on Kargil. This is also a very recent example of high-altitude warfare between two newly nuclear power States which posed new logistic problems. It is also an open message that nuclear weapons holder States fought a conventional war instead of using nukes. An Indian national highway (NH 1D) connecting Srinagar to Leh cutting through Kargil, was targeted partly because the “terrain was conducive to the preemptive seizure of several unoccupied military positions, with tactically vital features and well-prepared defensive posts atop the peaks, a defender on the high ground would enjoy advantages akin to a fortress. Any attack to dislodge a defender from high ground in mountain warfare requires a far higher ratio of attackers to defenders, and the difficulties would be exacerbated by the high altitude and freezing temperatures.”

So, in Feb. 1999 Kashmiri freedom fighters initially took control over some strategic peaks in Kargil region which made assistance to Pakistani military especially NLI and Special Services Group (SSG) to reach on this week in May, 1999 when Indian army was informed through local shepherds about this occupation. Five Indian soldiers were killed who were deputed on patrol by freedom fighters. May 5, opened the door of a new limited war which started on 9th May, 1999 when the Indians started infiltration in Dras, Kaksar and Mushkoh sectors. Responding through “operation Vijay” they made a mobilization of more than 0.2 million troops towards this 100 km region with help of two divisions of paramilitary forces with special assistance of Indian air force which also launched an operation “SafaidSagar” as well. The Indian navy also arrived on the scene when it speeded up patrolling in the Arabian Sea to blockade oil and trade flows on Pakistani Ports and very nearly launched full scale war. In the last week of May 1999 Indian Air Force (IAF) attacked to reoccupy on Kargil and lost three fighters MiG 21, 27 and MI 17 in three-pronged Indian attack. Indian Army released documents recovered from Pakistani soldiers also intersecting conservation between Chief of Army Staff Gen. Pervaiz Musharraf with Gen. Aziz. With the intervention of the American President (US) Bill Clinton, Pakistan had to withdraw its forces in 4-11 July 1999 and India got control over Dras, Batalic Sector, Tololining, Point 5060, 5100, Tiger Hill and Jubar.

Geo-Strategic Significance

Geo-strategy is not a new term but in past it is totally focused upon relationship between war and geographical factors which aims on its composition: geo means Land and strategy mean planning which mainly refers to the tactics and planning pre, in and post war. In current dynamics war on borders spread into the media,
markets also from boundary line to inside every house. It can also be defining as the science of geopolitics that deal with strategy, the combination of regional, world problem and geography along with strategic factors characterizing a particular geographic region. In new era of power gaining, new games and tactics has been launching by a greater number of stack-holders to occupy the top order in region.\(^{32}\)

This term are very significant in now a day when wars are not preferred in discussions but well-oiled greed and interest of United States being a uni-polar status in entire world, capturing economic resources plans and plays tactics while China, a fast emerging nation buttressed economy desire produced a lot of internal and external issue for the nations. These all characters produce political instability and crisis in their neighboring States. In South Asia, such highly influenced factors in shape of various interests have the huge potential to engender the rise of new regionalism. The region of Kashmir is blessed with mighty strategic leverage not only for Pakistani emerging nation and consider as a vale of caged aspirations but also for other two nations which are bred with secular and communist ideologies. In whole region of Kashmir, GB has vital geographic position because in current scenario it has borders with Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, China, and Tajikistan as a very close neighbor by entering in Central Asia. Any political change in its neighborhood directly or indirectly impacts this region.

In current years, after strengthening Pak-Sino relationships in terms of trade this land became prominent in terms of geo-strategy which seems rising the fluidity of South Asian strategic equations which starts after first Pak-Indo war of 1947 which further developed after ceasefire of 1949. Another commendable agreement: Trans Karakorum Tract in which Shaksgam valley ceded to China which was not in control of Pakistan or Kashmir in past also makes a blockade Indian further advancement after Siachen occupation.\(^{33}\) India started its struggle to acquire linkages to Soviet Union via Central Asian State in 1954 when Nehru signifies the vitality of this region but could not compile a comprehensive strategy while Euro-Pak and US-Pak mountainous expeditions in Baltistan forced India to conquer Siachen.

Lhasa-Kashgar which also known as Chinese western highway which connects two Chinese autonomous regions Xinjiang and Tibet links with Khunjrab Pass from Quinaldine which will make Chinese access to the warm waters. In this era on the southern side Gwadar Port will turns into strategic port for Pakistan against Indo-Iranian Chabahar and Bandar Abbas ports while on the northern side Sino-Pak military alliance will marginalize India by limiting its only to its maritime with a partial assistance of Myanmar. By occupying 2/3\(^{rd}\) area of Siachen glacier India enjoys the following advantages:\(^{34}\)

- Nubra Valley which is surrounded by China, India is able to prevent any possible movement from Pakistan and China.
- It is also possible for India to thwart potentially dangerous movement along Karakorum highway which would emanate from Pakistan or China.
Geo-political Significance

It is a genuine science which covers the spheres of geography, political science, and economics in relation to the growth of a State. This region was very vital for the British, so they initially established political agent office for Gilgit affairs. Maharaja Partap Singh suspension was also chain of this game and latterly Gilgit Agency manifests the seriousness about this land. This region determined as a backbone of in the drama of “Great Game” some parts of this were declared buffer Zone along with Afghan Kingdom. During the onset of cold war and establishment of Communist regime in 1949, the American wanted to crush the growing Communists after the fall of Czar Monarchs. Pakistan interests in Kashmir due to geographical, religious contiguities on side and but also deeply Indian concern in the way of deterrence to enhance the capacity in terms of stockpiles of weaponry in cold war which supported Pakistan a bit due to its incline towards Western States and also made difficulties for India. These both rivals fought thrice to annex Kashmir thus there is always threats of nuclear war and due to this region South Asia became nuclear flash point. Pakistan’s strategic alliance on northern side China and on the southern side Gulf States attributed to construct a corridor via Gilgit through Abbottabad which maximizing complexities to India in present will be in future as India did not digest Mc Mohan Line of 1962. Pak China trade activities on one side but a passage to Pakistan from Lhasa to Siachen open new strategic interests for Pakistan, Kashmir and Northern areas are best base under these circumstances which will change whole scenario in the region.

In whole scenario, Russian and Chinese combined economic alliance with Central Asian States and Pakistan will bring Gulf States in circle, latterly, could merge into much stronger trade block against westerns. In this regard, India will must be entering into western block against these alliances which be resulted in “New Strategic Ports” in South and Middle Asian region as Karachi and Gwadar for Pakistan alliance and Indian ports along with Iranian Ports Chahbahar and Bandar Abbas will work for western alliance. Moreover, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and US role in “Iranian Nuclear Settlement” and declaring India as “Responsible Nuclear Nation” will be a plan for future economic tactics against socialist block.

Geo-Economic Significance

Gilgit-Baltistan is a hub of great importance. It is an unusual intersection of Asian massive landmass by working as a bridge or corridor among China, Central Asia, West Asia and especially South Asia for not only militia prospects but economic linkages and benefit establishment are visible landmarks by providing a critical trading passage and routes which stretched to Africa and Gulf as well. This land will work not only as trade corridor, but it also provides penetration to energy-rich Central Asian markets Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, so, this region
blessed as an emerging focal point. This land also contributes economically to Pakistan in multiple ways like water bodies which started from the glaciers and especially the small and big rivers which originate and flow in Gilgit Baltistan nearly 35 in quantity are the main tributaries of Indus River which also digests Jhelum, Chenab are the backbone in the agriculture of Pakistan and recognized as 2nd largest worldwide canal system. This significance was early highlighted by Ayub Khan, but the case was mishandled in the Indus Water Treaty.

Another significance aspect is its location, being a corridor, after the advent of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Due to its linkages with China which is the mouth of CPEC and accession point for the Karakorum Highways following another mighty project of trans Karakorum Railways, it is an easier, safer, shorter and multidimensional link between China and Pakistan.

Beijing and Islamabad signed binary agreement to tackle the energy crisis in Pakistan during 2009 in shape of a mega project on the land of Gilgit Baltistan, a neighboring land of Chinese autonomous territory Xinjiang Province. Now Pakistan can link with other neighboring parts of China like Khotan, Lehasa, Tibet parallel from the Himalayan ridges on the ancient Silk route to Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and towards the east up to the Indonesia and Malaysia by the land routes. Gilgit Baltistan will provide a shorter link to Khotan and Tibet with little effort as China involves in this regard in Ladakh. Furthermore, it can provide a safer link with Azad Jammu & Kashmir through the Shounthar Pass and also with Indian administrated Valley of Kashmir through Burzila Pass. The Pakistan army has a strategic good position in the region which can counter severe threats from India and provide healthy deterrence in the region. In this regard local community uplifting and upgrading their socio-economic status is essential in all conditions and circumstances because poverty leads to rebellions. Gilgit Baltistan, after the advent of CPEC is considered amongst the most sensitive areas of Pakistan. The federal governments from 2009 to present are still busy in developing projects for education, health, agriculture, primary needs like water, sanitation, community centers, especially to promote the tourism in this specific area.³⁹

Comprehending the everlasting significance of Trans Karakorum Highway which is also known as Pak-China Friendship Road or Pak-China Corridor, an agreement was signed in 2006, between Pakistan Highways Administration: National Highways Authority (NHA) and China’s State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) to extend and enhance the transportation on this route by widen from 10 to 30 meters. Beijing and Islamabad also look agree to lay down a Railway Track along Karakorum Highway as Karakorum Rail Corridor which will link Kashgar with Havelian near Rawalpindi. Moreover, this region is also blessed with mimineral and natural resources which are un-neglect able for any State in the current circumstances. The presence of a large number of glaciers in this region possess water bodies, which will not only contribute to hydro power generation but widely fulfill the agriculture and drinkable water necessity in whole country. Many political analysts predict that upcoming wars will be on the water issue because it became a challenge for the entire world. In loss of this region
Pakistan will be deprived from the water channels and water resources of this region also which will make barren its fertile lands and agricultural industry will be rolled back and required drinkable water could not be supplied as required. Mintika and Kilik are historical passes which used as a central point for travelling Kashmir, Taxila, Swat, Peshawar, Chitral, Jalalabad, Tashkurgan, Kashgar, Khutan and Tibet. Mintaka pass mostly used in ancient times until advancing of glaciers in that region which somehow made accession impossible initially while Kilik Pass largely used by the caravans but now a passage used through both these passes as it wider, glacier free and having enough pasture for the animals, which not only make spectacular green view also diet store for the mule train. Furthermore, Pak China Trade Corridor will provide a lot of opportunities for employment in the region for the local and State population which will decrease the poverty and crime in the country and also bring about the increment in the national gross domestic product (GDP) which is now 4.24 is much lesser than in the list of any developing countries. This region can play a vital role in terms of mining, development of tourism, hiking, trekking, and developing the agriculture not only in GB but into the whole country as well.

There was a major breakthrough in the region in 2015, when China launched “Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank” (AIIB) just before ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) which was proposed to launch in last months of 2015 in response to Japan and US monopoly in shape of “Asian Development Bank” (ADB) and western’s as well in form of “World Bank” (WB): that seeks more important, equal and ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) economy balanced development model in Eastern world especially in Asia by holding total capita on $100 billion with 20% paid ratio. China became the second largest economy which considered in “Category-II”. In these circumstances, when AIIB strengthened through twenty member States forced India to be part in this bank at that time when structural modalities have not yet spelled out. It looks like aggressive response to the westerns against their “Europe Bank for Reconstruction and Development” (EBRD) which was established when Soviet Union was dissolved in 1991. It is much considerable approach that present fast, and peacefully economic growth in Asia will acquire half of global GDP by 2030 and next century will be called as “Asian Century”. The proposed project of AIIB is “New Silk Road & the Maritime Silk Road (MSR)” this economy race under the leadership of China not only become first initiative to strengthen economic coordination within Asia but also create new world order. The most active organization Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the fully functional Asian Infrastructural Investment Bank, China Pakistan Economic Corridor and One Belt One Road projects have created Chinese supremacy on the globe which is leading and writing a new era in which China is emerging world’s leading power USA lofting behind, will also establish a “New World Order”.

GILGIT-BALTISTAN: A Land of Survival & Revival for Pakistan
China, Pakistan Economic corridor (CPEC)

It is a traditional link which merges into the ancient “The Silk-Route” and creates opportunities of penetration of Pakistan to Central Asia and China. It is one the highest paved international roads in entire world which links Xinjiang (China) with Pakistan through G. B’s mountainous Karakoram region. KKH enters through Khunjrab Pass from Chinese side and links Pakistan by Babusar Pass. In the hilly region of G.B, this route was constructed in 20 years. It was started in 1959 and completed in 1979 and during its construction 810 Pakistani and 200 Chinese workers lost their lives; (Pakistan Post Office, May 16, 2006) it is referred as the Eighth Wonder of the World. It is informally known as KKH while officially within Pakistan and in China as N-35 and China National Highway 314 (G314). This road is also known as “Friendship Highway” in China was built by Govt. of Pakistan and China, mostly remained under landslides. Chinese workers who died during construction were buried in Chinese Cementray in Gilgit. This highway is approximately 1300 km long from Kashgar to Abbottabad, also will connect to Gwadar Port with reference of MoU which was signed between Sino-Pak transportation base departments National Highways Authority from Pakistan side and State owned Assets Supervision and Administration commission from Chinese side on 30th June, 2006. This new project was contracted out to a Chinese company “China Road & Bridge Corporation” (CRBC).

Logistic Hub

Logistics is an organization which is mainly responsible to procure the requirement of combat forces. Mostly it is used as a military term and considered as military application of the process of “getting the most for your money” and maintaining the highest level of efficiency. Basically, it is a science of planning to carry out the movements and maintenance of forces; moreover, it is the process of starting tactics to achieve the strategy. In common means it is termed as a supply of required goods and commodities to the market, local inhabitant, or combat forces especially during the war or crisis or in peace. Logistic is a bridge between aims and its actual conduct.

On the other hand, logistic hub is a central area of activities dealing with transportation, distribution, organization, transit internal or external, and separation, individual or mutual, coordination on the commercial or defensive basis. This term includes offices, distribution centers, stores; depots, storages etc. established with the aim of public welfare and wide range social and national interest. The access to the markets for the selling and purchasing is another most proper factor in the economic growth; this region also provides its assistance to the northern and western international markets. Pakistan’s requirement can be fulfilled through this region, which is mostly unpopulated and a hilly area. It will work as a fort refuge, providing safety, not only whole nation, but also providing a great
opportunity for the transportation of army in a semi-circle against India. The fruitfulness of this region for Pakistan should be as below:

- Its geographic conditions being mountainous and hilly provide a natural fort, and during the war, the storage will not be disturbed.
- The home of natural resources calls attention towards mining, so, the mines for acquiring natural deposits should work for the underground storage as well.
- It is situated on a most strategic side thus animation, stockpiles, weapons, and other war nukes can be deposited in this area as well.
- In this peculiar terrain of only one and half million populations in some specific areas, it is also an open invitation for warehouses and stocks.
- In the neighbourhood of world’s biggest natural resource deposits and bigger economy State, this area is very suitable to establish a bigger international market.
End Notes and Bibliography

1 https://www.dictionary.com/browse/buffer-zone
3 Amritsar Treaty Article 7: Maharajah Gulab Singh engages never to take to retain in his service any British subject nor the subject of any European or American State without the consent of the British Government.
5 Ibid 11-12 pp.
10 “It is a broader field of study of military geostrategy in any disputed or militarized zone or any region which directly or indirectly involved or potential of involvement or used as deterrence in war or war tactics. It is also helpful to understand militarization influences and its consequences on opposition and alliances through military lens in prospects of survival and deterrence”.
12 From Dalunang eastwards the cease-fire line will follow the general line point 15495, Ishman, Manus, Gangam, Gunderman, Point 13620, Funkar (Point 17628), Marmak, Natsara, Shangruti (Point 1,531), Chorbat La (Point 16700), Chalunka (on the Shyok River), Khor, thence north to the glaciers. This portion of the cease-fire line shall be demarcated in detail on the basis of the factual position as of 27 July 1949, by the local commanders assisted by United Nations military observers.
13 Title of U.N. document number S/1430/Add.2 which illustrates the CFL as per the Karachi Agreement
14 Facts vs bluff on Siachen, Kayani’s suggestion worth pursuing, B.G. Verghese, Saturday, Chandigarh, India. 2012. P. 12


18 Ibid


20 Hakeem, Asad; etal."Demilitarization of the Siachen Conflict Zone". 2007. P. 5

21 "Pakistan declares Siachen avalanche buried dead". BBC.co.uk. 29 May 2012.

22 Kashmir in the Shadow of War by Robert Wirsing Published by M.E. Sharpe, 2003. P. 36


26 Hussain, Javed (21 October 2006). "Kargil: what might have happened". Dawn. Archived from the original on December 2, 2008.


30 "Musharraf claims Kargil was a big success militarily for Pakistan". Greater Kashmir. 1 February 2013.


38 Feng Yujun, “China’s Silk Road visions bring cooperation, not conflict, to region,” The Global Times, February 17, 2014. P. 27


