

Q. Explain the Pak-China Relation.
Also write down the diplomatic, economic, cultural relation. Briefly describe the history of Pak-China relations?

Pakistan - China Relation :

1 Introduction :-

Pak-China friendship is best ever since inception of Pakistan. This friendship is called time-tested and all-weathered. Both countries have strong diplomatic, defense, economic and cultural relationships. Pakistan has always supported China in all issues including right to Taiwan and One-China Policy. Similarly, China has always supported Pakistan in Kashmir issues. China has also provided, the potential. The next superpower and it has a lot of interest in Pakistan to fulfill its political and economic motives. Pakistan has been described by the Pakistan ambassador to China as higher than Himalaya, deeper than the Indian Ocean, stronger than steel, clearer than eyesight, and sweeter than honey.

2. History of Pak-China Relations

Pakistan and China has strong relations ever since inception of Pakistan. In 1950, Pakistan became the first non-Communist country and the 1st Muslim country who recognized People Republic of China (PRC). Diplomatic relations b/w the two countries started in 1951.

In 1963, Pakistan solved border disputes with China by ceding Aksu-Karakoram Tract to China. In 1971, Pakistan played an important role in bringing the US and China close to each other by secretly arranging the US President "Nixon" visit to China.

- In 1978, Pakistan and China were linked by Karakoram Highway.
- In 1986, Pakistan and China reached a comprehensive nuclear cooperation agreement in which China promised to build 4 nuclear reactors in Pakistan by 2011.

In short, Pakistan and China are time-tested friends ever since inception. Relation between Pakistan and China can be discussed as follows:

- I. Diplomatic
- II. Defense
- III. Economic
- IV. Cultural

I. Diplomatic:

- Broadly speaking, three subject matters in Pak enjoy unanimous nationwide support namely, Kashmir, A-bomb and China. China also enjoy 90% favorability rating in Pakistan. PTV daily broadcasts a song about Pak-China friendship.
- Strong diplomatic ties exist because Pakistan considered China all-weathered friend, China transfers technology to Pakistan, Pak-China went to counter US-Indian Interest in the region, and to each launch joint counter terrorism efforts.
- Pakistan recognized PRC in 1950, and diplomatic ties were forged in 1951. In 1963, relationship between Pak and China became strong.

after Sino-India war of 1962 when Pakistan ceded Trans-Karakoram tract to China. Since then both countries have good diplomatic, economic and cultural relations.

- When Pakistan joined SEATO and CENTO, Pak assured China that it was only to protect itself and not to contain China. Pakistan got out of SEATO and CENTO when it joined Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) in 1979 in Havana Summit.

• These are five (5) tenets on which Pak-China diplomatic ties are based.

- Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
- Mutual non-aggression.
- Mutual non-interference/interference in each other's internal affairs.
- Equality and mutual benefit.
- Peaceful co-existence.

• In 1971, Pakistan also played a vital role in ending tensions between US and China by arranging a visit of US president "Nixon" to China.

• Since then, both countries have frequent visits of leaders between both countries. And leaders of one country are warmly welcomed by the other country.

• Pakistan has supported China in all its issues relating to right to Taiwan and One China Country. China also supports Pakistan its all issues like (Kashmir, Mumbai attack, and UBL Abbotabad episode).

• There is a tacit understanding between Pak and China that there are "hidden foreign hands" behind terrorism and instability in Pak and Afghanistan to sabotage the security of the region and derail the Sino-Pak relations.

• 2011 was designated the Year of "China - Pakistan Friendship".

• Thus, Pak - China are "friends in need" and both back and help each other.

II. Defense relations:

Pakistan is our Israel

1. China provides material support to Pakistan's Army, Navy and Air Force. In 2013, Pakistan emerged as the largest recipient of Chinese arm exports. In 2018-2012, 55% of China's arm exports were to Pakistan.

2. Pakistan is also thought to benefit from China's plutonium-based nuclear program. China is believed to facilitate Islamabad's nuclear weapon military.

3. China has built Two Nuclear Power Plants in Pakistan in 1990s and signed a deal to build two more. Pak and China are interested in counterbalancing the nuclear deals between India and US. Karachi and Chasma Nuclear Power Plants and Karachi Coastal Power projects are the major outcomes of this cooperation.

4. Joint Fighter 17 (JF-17) is a low cost, single engine, multirole aircraft developed by Pakistan and China in late 1990s. Both countries have also jointly developed K8 Karakoram advanced training aircraft and AI-khalid tank.
5. In April 2015, China concluded sale of 8 conventional submarines worth 5 billion USD to Pakistan.
6. It is also believed that Chinese military engineers have examined the wreckage of US Stealth helicopter procured by Pakistan intelligence services in Abbottabad incident.
7. China has also helped Pakistan in fighting WOT and has urged US to acknowledge the Pakistan's role in GWOT and avoid excessive criticism.

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III. Economic Relations :- have bilateral economic

1. Pak and China have bilateral economic cooperation in the form of Joint Economic Commission, Economic Cooperation Group, Joint Energy Working Group, and a Joint Investment Company

2. In 2006, Pak and China also signed "Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and 5 Years Development Program on Economic and Trade Cooperation

3. By 2013, China was the 2nd largest trading partner of Pakistan

4. Currently China has undertaken different development projects in Pakistan in the fields of education, health care, energy, water, environment and ICTs.

5. Pakistan is the only country in South Asia with a FTA and currently swap agreement (direct trade without the use of USD as an intermediary trade currency) with China

6. China has helped Pakistan in various projects like;
- Building of Basha and Bunji dams.
 - Karakoram Highway
 - Pakistan aeromedical Complex
 - Gawadar deep sea port
 - Indus highway
 - Scindak Copper and Gold mine project.
 - Duda lead-zinc mine project.
 - Thal Coal mining project.

7. Various Investment of China in Pakistan includes.

- Building of CPEC.
- Investment in heavy industry, infrastructure and energy.
- China Mobile.
- Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

8. China is investing in Gawadar and CPEC. Pakistan will become the hub of trade, transportation and economic corridor because it is situated in the center of China, South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia.

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8. Similarly, Gwadar Port shared border with Iran, lies at the apex of Arabian Peninsula and in close (180 nautical miles) to the Strait of Hormuz. 35% of world's oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz. Pakistan can also provide transit to Afghanistan.

(9) Future cooperation is geared towards space science and technology, maritime security and climate change.

IV. Cultural Relations:

(1) There has cultural relation between Pak and China, currently, people-to-people exchange including (Students, scholars, workers, media) is among the priority list in future Sino-Pak relation.

2. Pakistani students are receiving Chinese

3. Confucius Centre has been established in NUML and Islamic University

4. Exchange in science and technology is being encouraged under Cooperative Educational Program.

5. Pak-China Friendship Centre is also established in Islamabad.

3. How Pakistan Sees China:

- (i) Pakistan sees China as a powerful neighbour and defense and economic partner.
- (ii) China is a powerful ally to have. China holds veto power right in the UN and is a member of NSG - (NSGs).
- (iii) Development of Gwadar port by China will create an opportunity for Pakistan to intensify its commercial relations with the energy-rich CARs.
- (iv) Pakistan also needs China to mitigate Indian influence in the region.
- (v) China also transfers technology to Pakistan to enable it to become self-reliant.
- (vi) Currently, both Pakistan and China have their focus on economy which has strengthened the ties between the two countries.

Pakistan

- 1. How China sees India through Pakistan
- 2. Containment of India is important for China.
- 3. The geopolitics of Pakistan is important to China. China imports 50% oil from "Middle East" and 20% from Africa which passes through the Strait of Malacca where it is facing security concerns because of the presence of India and American military bases. Gwadar offers secure and short ocean routes to sea to the Indian Ocean from Xinjiang.

Xinjiang

- 3. China is also interested in using Gilgobad's good relations with the Muslim countries specifically middle eastern nations.
- 4. Pakistan is also a market for Chinese goods and services.

5. Major Concerns of Pakistan and China:

(a) China continues to advise Pakistan to develop its economy and to foster good relations with the other countries including India. CPEC is a glimpse of this notion.

(b) China is also concerned about the terrorism, extremism, insecurity and instability in Pakistan.

(c) China is also concerned about the link between Al-Qaeda, TTP and ETIM (East Turkestan Islamic Movement). ETIM is a militant group that operates in Chinese province of "Xinjiang".

(d) China is also concerned about the security of Chinese workers in Pakistan.

2) China and Pakistan are concerned about the outside involvement of US and India in activities aimed at sabotaging Pak-China relations.

US and India are trying to hinder the Gwadar Project and the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor).

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- (f) India is also meddling in Balochistan and Karachi which is a source of concern for both Pakistan and China
- (g) Trade imbalance with China is also concern of Islamabad

6. Conclusion

Thus China and Pakistan are all-weather and time-tested friends. Their relations is higher than Himalayas and sweeter than honey. Both enjoy strong diplomatic, defense, economic and cultural ties. Both understand each other and help and support each other. Both work for peace and stability in the region and to curtail the influence of India, US and Russia in the region. They are also working together to overcome the current challenges being faced by the region.

