

{ Current Affairs }

Question # 1

Analyze the strategic and economic potential of Pakistan-Indonesia relations. Discuss the barriers that have historically constrained deeper bilateral cooperation and propose a road map Pakistan should implement to elevate ties with Indonesia into a substantive partnership by 2030. In your road map specify concrete sectors for cooperation, institutional mechanism and potential pitfalls.

Introduction

Pakistan and Indonesia has been allies of each other since independence. Their relation has great capacity for enhancing bilateral ties. Historically there were a few barriers such as Indonesia's incline towards India, unstable political situation of Pakistan, and terrorism. By 2030 both the countries can form a substantive partnership in - agriculture, NIT, Defence, and Industrial sector. However there are

certain pitfalls including changing geopolitical condition and instability in middle east and Asia. These pitfalls can be avoided through proper institutional mechanism.

Strategic and economic potential of Indonesia and Pakistan relation

Indonesia is a Muslim majority country. It consists of 13,000 islands. Its capital is Jakarta. Till 1942 it was a colony of Holland. Afterwards it was occupied by Japan. At the end of World War II, it got independence from Japan under the leadership of Dr Soekarno. Pakistan and Indonesia have been allies since their independence. Both countries have great potential to enhance strategic and potential ties.

a) Strategic potential of Indonesia and Pakistan relation

Both Indonesia and Pakistan can take following measures to enhance their strategic relation.

i) Diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Indonesia

Diplomatic relations established

between Indonesia and Pakistan in 1950. The leaders of both countries met at Afro-Asian meeting. Both countries are also part of OIC and NAM.

In order to further strengthen the ties ministerial meetings and official visits should take place from time to time. Institutional mechanism should be made in order to tap in industrial infrastructure, and IT sectors of both countries

2) Joint military exercises

Both countries should take part in joint military exercises. Defence pacts should be signed. Officer exchange programs should be initiated. Pakistan has a huge military budget and weapon industry. Both countries should invest in joint weapon production. Naval and ariel training ~~can~~ also can also prove beneficial for Indonesia. The meeting between Indonesian defence minister and Field Marshal of Pakistan ^{meeting} is ^{already a positive step towards strategic development}

3) Regional anti-terrorism campaign

After the cold war South East Asia has been engulfed

in terrorism. Pakistan and Afghanistan were most affected due to terrorism. Indonesia and Pakistan has condemned terrorism on many forums including OIC and NAM. Joint anti-terrorism operations, intelligence based operation and information should be shared to promote strategic ties.

4) Strong cultural ties between Indonesia and Pakistan

Both countries have great capacity to promote cultural ties. International sport events should take place between both countries. Joint cultural events should also be conducted. Student exchange programs and scholarship should be increased. As both Indonesia and Pakistan are Muslim majority countries, Ulema exchange should also be initiated in order to strengthen ties on religious grounds.

Economic potential of Indonesia and Pakistan relation

Pakistan and Indonesia relation is booming with economic potential in various sectors which has not been utilized yet or is under utilized. Following measures can

be taken to enhance economic relations between Pakistan and Indonesia.

a) Enhancing trade between both countries

There is a tendency to increase bilateral trade between Indonesia and Pakistan. In 2024 trade between both countries reached 10.3 million USD. In the future, after the completion of CPEC, Pakistan shall become a business hub. It would eventually lead to increase in trade volume with Indonesia. As of now our imports with Indonesia exceeds our exports. Pakistan can also export military equipments to Indonesia.

b) Economic ties can be enhanced by industrialization

The economy of Indonesia is based on agriculture and industry. It is the largest exporter of palm oil and rubber. On the other hand the economy of Pakistan is based on agriculture. Pakistan can sign MOU with Indonesia for industrial development. Pakistan also has a large human capital. It can export and import skilled and unskilled labor to Indonesia.

Agriculture Sector can promote economic ties.

Both Pakistan and Indonesia are agricultural countries. Indonesia exports palm oil to Pakistan. On the other hand, Pakistan exports corn, sugar etc to Indonesia. Economic ties can flourish by exchanging agricultural technology. Expanding Free trade agreement can also deepen economic ties.

Natural resources can also promote investment

Pakistan has large reserves of natural resources in areas like Reko Dik. Large reserves of oil has also been discovered in Pakistan. It can provide a golden opportunity for Indonesia to invest in Pakistan. Countries like USA have already expressed their will to invest in natural resources in Pakistan. Investment in natural resources can also enhance bilateral ties between Indonesia and Pakistan.

Constraints for deeper bilateral ties

Although there is great economic and strategic potential in Indonesia and Pakistan relation, there are certain constraints.

a) Political instability in Pakistan

Deeper bilateral ties between Indonesia and Pakistan is restricted due to political instability in Pakistan. No prime minister of Pakistan has been able to complete his tenure. For strong bilateral ties, internal stability is necessary.

b) Terrorism can cause hinderance in bilateral ties

Terrorism has caused substantial damage to Pakistan. The country has spent most of its budget and military strength in coping with terrorism. For bilateral ties to flourish, Pakistan should achieve peace within its borders.

c) Regional instability has made the environment chaotic

Palestine-Israel war,
Ukraine-Russia war, Israel

Iran war, and Indo-Pak skirmishes has made the regional atmosphere chaotic. Under such a condition deepening bilateral ties have proved to be a challenge.

Indonesia's inclination towards India

Recently it has been observed that Indonesia is more inclined towards India. The president of Indonesia also visited India. He was also expected to visit Pakistan. However, he did not visit Pakistan. Jakarta's rising inclination towards Delhi is a concern for Islamabad as both Pakistan and India are rivals.

Road map to elevate relation between Pakistan and Indonesia

In order to elevate relation with Indonesia cooperation is required in concrete sectors with proper institutional mechanism while avoiding potential pitfalls.

Sectors for cooperation between Pakistan and Indonesia

Following are the sectors

Which can elevate relation between Indonesia and Pakistan

a) Information and technology sector holds untapped potential

Information and technology is an emerging sector. In a digital future cooperation in this sector can elevate relations. Joint committee should be formed for exploring potential benefits of technology in health, education and good governance. Indonesian tech companies should be invited for investment in Pakistan.

b) Cooperation in agricultural sector can enhance bilateral ties.

Pakistan's economy is based on agriculture. Majority of Indonesia's exports are also based on agriculture. Ministerial level meetings should be held to exchange views and latest technique in the field of agriculture. An initiative of joint farmers training program should be taken to train farmers in the use of latest machinery. It can enhance bilateral ties as well as increase agricultural yield.

c) Defence sector is vital for strengthening ties

Pakistan's defence sector is well enhanced ranking its army in the top 20 strongest armies. Pakistan can export weapons to Indonesia. Joint ventures can be initiated between Pakistan and Indonesia for weapon manufacturing. Defence parts and officer exchange program can enhance bilateral ties.

Institutional mechanism for elevation of ties between Pakistan and Indonesia

In order to enhance ties following institutional mechanism should be adopted by Pakistan and Indonesia

a) Annual Summit between ministers and head of state

Annual meetings should be conducted between head of state or at ministerial level.

MOU's on energy, defence, and trade should be signed. New possibilities to enhance bilateral trades should be discussed.

b) Joint economic commissions should be formed

In order to enhance economic cooperation Joint economic commission should be formed. It should give recommendations for enhancing economic ties at the annual summits.

c) Joint working groups for cooperation should be formed

Joint working groups for cooperation in education, agriculture, defence, trade etc. should be formed. These groups should implement workable steps to achieve enhanced cooperation in their respective ~~fields~~.

Potential pitfalls to avoid

Following are the pitfalls which should be avoided in order to elevate bilateral ties.

a) Security delmmas can hinder progress

In order for the relations to elevate, international security threats should be minimized and internal security threats should be eliminated.

b) Regime change should be avoided

Political stability should be achieved and regime change should be minimized for the bilateral ties to flourish. The government of Indonesia under Soekarno supported Pakistan in war against India in 1965. When his regime fell, President Suharto came to power. Indonesia became one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh. It led to a small decline between Indonesia and Pakistan relation. Therefore in order to achieve political ties regime change should be minimized.

Conclusion

Indonesia and Pakistan have good relation with each other since their independence. Indonesia considers Pakistan as a brotherly muslim country and an important ally. Indonesia stood by Pakistan in every hour of need. In the words of Dr Soekarno "Your dire need is our dire need". Both country hold great potential for future economic and strategic ties.

Question # 2

"Pakistan and Turkey describe their relationship as a model of brotherly strategic partnership but cooperation has limitations". Critically assess this claim

Introduction

Pakistan and Turkey have strong bilateral ties. Both countries have supported each other in the hour of need. Their relationship is of brotherly nature. Military cooperation, diplomatic and regional cooperation, and cultural ties are the trademark of their relation.

However there are certain limitations due to their regional alliances, economic and security issues, and the ever-changing global politics.

a) Strategic relation between Pakistan and Turkey

The strategic relation between Pakistan and Turkey have evolved over the period of time. Each passing decade has strengthen

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Strategic ties between the two countries

a) Military cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey

Pakistan and Turkey have strong military ties. Both countries have conducted a number of joint military exercises including Amal naval exercise. Turkish army is the role model of Pakistan army. Both countries have also witness military dictatorship

b) Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Turkey are exemplary

Pakistan and Turkey have strong diplomatic ties. Turkey supported Pakistan's admission in UN in 1948. It also supports Pakistan's stance on Kashmir. Similarly Pakistan also supported Turkey in UN on cypruss issue. Turkey was also among the first countries to recognize Pakistan. The prime minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan also Turkey to strengthen diplomatic relations.

c) Pakistan and Turkey have strong cultural ties

Pakistan and Turkey both are Islamic countries. Although the constitution of Turkey states that it is a secular state, majority of Turkish population is muslim. The people of Pakistan respects Turkey because it was Khalifah until world war II. The people of Turkey also respect Pakistan because it got freedom on the basis of religion. Both countries also share strong cultural ties. Both countries are currently celebrating 78 years of friendship.

d) Strong regional cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey

Pakistan and Turkey both have strong regional ties. Both countries were members of SEATO and CENTO. In the cold war era both countries allied with US. Pakistan and Turkey both were founding members of RCD which later transformed

into ECO. Turkey supported Pakistan during 1956 and 1971 war against India. Pakistan also supports Turkey's stance of cyprus issue. When the whole world was criticizing Pakistan due to its nuclear blasts, Turkey supported Pakistan. Turkey also supported Pakistan during Indo-Pak Conflict 2025

Both countries helped each other during humanitarian crises

Pakistan and Turkey stood by each other during the period of crisis. Turkey provided support to Pakistan during 2005 earthquake. In 2010 floods, Turkey also aided Pakistan. The people of Turkey also show affection to Pakistan during the time of crisis. Pakistan also aided Turkey during its earthquake & recovery.

Restraints on Cooperation

Although Pakistan and Turkey have strong ties, there

are certain constraints which cause hindrance in deeper cooperation.

a) Both countries have opposite alliances

Till after war on terror both Pakistan and Turkey allied themselves with US. However due to their personal interests, Pakistan is now allied with China. Turkey on the other hand is allied with US. China and US are rivals of each other. As a result Pak-Turk cooperation is hindered due to their personal alliances.

b) Regional issues restrain deeper cooperation.

Both countries have to face a number of regional issues including Pak-India Kashmir issue, Turkey-cyprus issue, Ukraine-Russia war, Israel-Palestine war, Iran-Israel war etc. As a result cooperation between Turkey and Pakistan cannot flourish due to such chaotic regional atmosphere.

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c) Limited Cooperation due to terrorism

Terrorism has imposed a serious threat to internal stability of Pakistan. The country has spent countless rupees and man-power in order to curb terrorism. In order to enhance cooperation with Turkey, internal stability is of vital essence.

Conclusion

The relationship between Pakistan and Turkey is a model of brotherly strategic ties. Both countries have supported each other to the best of their abilities. However, their cooperation is limited due to regional alliances, global politics, and internal stability of both countries. Both countries are trying their utmost to enhance their cooperation. The prime minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif also visited Turkey in 2025 to deepen bilateral ties between the two countries.