

Qno:5 Pak-China friendship is based on reciprocal developments. Analyze.

ANSWER

① INTRODUCTION

Pakistan and China have been ironclad brothers and fair-weather friends since 1960; Their strategic allyship and bilateral ties have always advanced reciprocal developments in both countries, without transactional-based approaches. Since there are no permanent allies or enemies, but national interests, their relationship has defied Lord Palmerston's dictum. "Deeper than oceans" and "stronger than steel" and "higher than mountains"; their allyship has been institutionalized in their national ethos, respectively. Their bilateral ties have stood the test of time.

② Reciprocal Developments in Pak-China Ties

(i) Reciprocal Political Alignments

In political issues of international and national significance, both the countries have mutually supported each other's stances. For instance, China opposes India on Kashmir issues and endorses Pakistan's stance on international forums. Whereas, ~~Kashmir~~ Pakistan supports China's One-China policy and silences criticisms against China's treatment of Uigher Muslims in Xinjiang and Tibet.

"Pak-China relationship has defied

the 'rise-and-fall' model of

international relations" — Pakistan's Foreign Policy ^{(Abdullah} ~~Salat~~

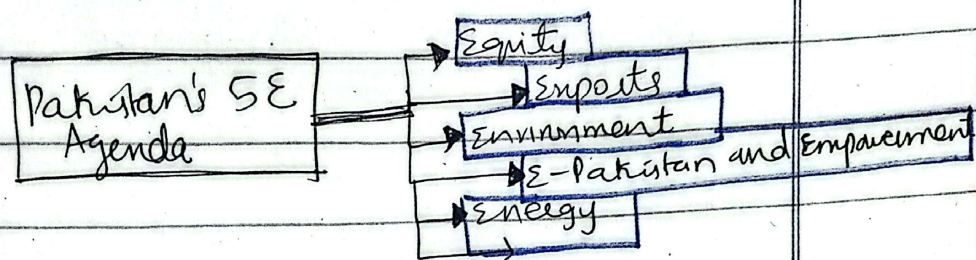
(ii) Shared Trade Investments

CPEC, with a \$62bn investment

by China in Pakistan, is a flagship

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project of BRI. The initial phase of CPEC was heavily focused on infrastructure. Now, the CPEC 2.0 has stepped up digital, agricultural and industrial investments for modernization. This would train and provide jobs to Pakistani youth, while China would get a shorter trade corridor from Xinjiang to Arabian sea.



(iii) Shared Military and Technological Exchanges

Pakistan imports high-tech arms, jets (JF-17 Thunder), and naval vessels from China. In 2024, they had joint military exercises 'Sea Guardians 2025' in the Arabian sea. In ~~post-~~ Phalagam attack on Pakistan by India, China supplied PL-15 air-to-air missiles, along with

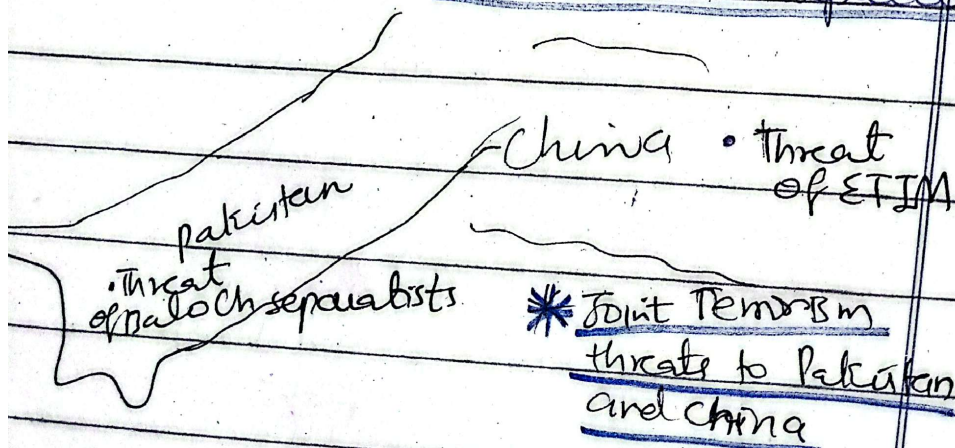
J-10 fighter jets and HQ-9 air defense systems

(iv) Joint Anti-Terrorism Drives

Both China and Pakistan have adopted a joint zero tolerance approach to terrorism. Under Chinese endorsement,

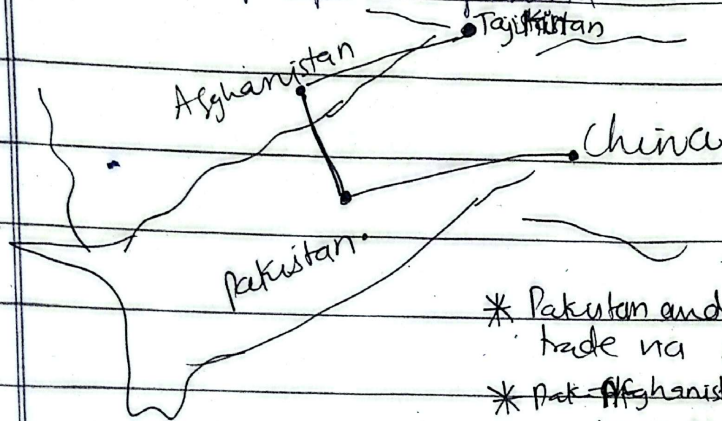
Pakistan operated Azm-e-Istehkam ^{in June 2024} to revive NAP and protect key CPSC sites.

The March 26 suicide bombing on 5 Chinese engineers on Dasu Dam has prompted both to counter terrorism through intelligence-sharing to hunt down threats to their mutual coexistence (ETIM and Baloch separatists).



(V) Multilateral Enhanced Economic Ties

China brokered a deal inviting Afghanistan into CPSC and this improve border security for Pakistan too. This bilateral arrangement could lead to enhanced economic engagements in a multilateral framework. This would enhance the economic clout of Pakistan, and also enhance the diplomatic footprints of China.



- Multi-lateral trade agreements under bilateral cooperation of Pakistan & China.

- * Pakistan and Afghanistan trade via APTTC.

- * Pak-Afghanistan-Tajikistan under North-south corridor.

- * China's extension of CPSC into Afghanistan.

(VI) Collaborated social safety Nets

China has lifted millions of its people out of poverty. Pakistan is

trying to emulate the same pro-poor policies to reduce poverty in its region. In 2021, China shared its Di Bao model with Pakistan's BISP. Moreover, China-led ADB helped Pakistan expand Ehsaas programme under covid-related 'BRAEE'. Chinese Minister offered support to Pakistan's Baitul Mal (PBM). China, too, this way increases its soft power around the world.

'Pakistan aims to learn from Chinese wisdom to uplift its own society'. — Dr. Samia Nishtar (BISP)

(VI) Mutual Technological Transfers and Knowledge Corridor

Since 2023, Pakistan and Beijing have fused STI (Science, Technology Innovation) into their CPEC projects. HEC is also advancing a

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Knowledge and Research corridor
within CPEC Phase II. This building of
intellectual infrastructure would help
both countries share knowledge and
learn from each other. China this
way enhances its soft diplomatic
footprints.

"CPEC 2.0 could help Pakistan
transform into a knowledge-based
economy." — Ambassador Jahur Saleem (President
IRS)

③ Conclusion

Thus, it could be concluded in the
end that Pak-China relationship
has been an exception in the
realist geopolitical landscape.
Both countries have supported
each other, regardless of the
ups and downs in the international
world. Thus, their strategic

ties, economic integration, and shared political interests have stood the test of time. Therefore, they have stood for each other throughout 70+ years.