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Q. Examine the achievements and challenges in EU-Pakistan relations from the perspective of international political economy.

1. Introduction:

The relationship between the European Union and Pakistan is shaped by both achievements and challenges, especially from the perspective of international political economy. It considers the interplay of politics and economics in global relations, emphasizing trade, development cooperation, and economic policies. The EU is one of the Pakistan's largest trading partners and a significant provider of development assistance. However, their relationship is also marked by different challenges such as governance, human rights and regional stability.

2. Achievements in EU-Pakistan Relations

1) Trade and Economic Cooperation

The EU is a major market for Pakistani exports, particularly textiles, which benefit from the generalized scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) program. This preferential trade agreement has boosted Pakistan's exports and strengthened its economy by encouraging compliance with international labor, environmental, and governance.

2) Development Assistance:

The EU has been a key development partner for Pak, providing financial aid for education, healthcare, and rural development. Such support has contributed to poverty reduction and capacity building.

3) Political Dialogue:

Regular dialogues on security, climate change, and governance has fostered mutual understanding and cooperation.

The EU's support for democracy in Pakistan is another positive aspect to their relationship.

4. Counterterrorism Efforts:

The collaboration on counterterrorism and border security Pakistan's ability to combat extremism, benefitting both the region and the international community.

3. Challenges in EU-Pakistan Relations

1) Governance and Human Rights Concerns

The EU often raised concerns over human rights violations, press freedom, and governance issues in Pakistan. Non-compliance with international standards risks jeopardizing Pakistan's access to GSP+ benefits.

2) Economic Instability in Pakistan:

Pakistan's recurring economic crises, high inflation, and weak fiscal policies pose challenges to sustainable economic cooperation. These issues also hinder the effective ties with EU.

3) Geopolitical Tensions:

Regional instability, especially Pakistan's complex relations with its neighbours, affects its ability to focus on fostering strong ties with EU.

4) Migration and Security Issues:

Irrregular migration from Pakistan to EU countries has strained their relations. Security concerns, including the risk of terrorism, remain a sensitive issue in bilateral ties.

4. Theoretical Perspective on EU-Pakistan Relations

Among the different theories of international political economy, the dependency theory tends to explain the EU-Pakistan relations.

Dependency Theory

Dependency Theory explains EU-

Pakistan relations by showing how Pakistan relies on the EU for trade, aid and developmental support. Pakistan and EU are dependent on each other for through imports and exports, and with regard to other matters such as human rights.

5- Conclusion:

The relationship between the EU and Pakistan highlights both cooperation and challenges. With trade and development assistance are notable achievements, challenges like governance issues, economic & instability and regional tensions remain significant.