

Diplomacy: The way forward in China-Pakistan ties

"Diplomacy is the art of restraining power, of managing international relations through negotiation rather than war." (Henry Kissinger)

This year China and Pakistan are celebrating 74th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. The first diplomatic contact was happened on May 21, 1951. China and Pakistan friendship has evolved on the bases of mutual trust, strategic interests and supporting each other at regional and global level. For instance, in the 1965 Indo-Pak war, China supported Pakistan. Similarly, China supported Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Now, their relations expanded to economic, defence and cultural engagement.

After the Pahalgam attack, war-like situation erupted between Pakistan and India. It was the Chinese-made J-10C that destroyed Indian jets. The defeat of Indian fighter jets has drawn international attention regarding Chinese effective weaponry. According to Bloomberg report, Chengdu Aircraft Corporation's market value rose by more than 55 billion yuan, showing investor confidence in the jets battlefield effectiveness. At this stage, both nations felt confidence in protecting sovereignty, territorial integrity and strategic interest. However, Pakistan confronts internal security issues.

The rise of insurgent groups in Balochistan hampers success of CPEC projects. China should provide advance technology and security equipment in order to prevent terrorism in Pakistan.

Post ceasefire: Pakistan strategic direction

A ceasefire backed by the Trump administration, is now established, and closed the door for hostile situation between India and Pakistan. As a result, certain issues came into the international spotlight: Such as the Kashmir issue and suspension of the Indus water treaty. Pakistan is deeply concerned regarding the discontinuation of water flow from India. Therefore, it will threaten water security and regional stability. In the war-like situation, Pakistan showed commendable defence against India despite far-reaching flaws in comparison with the rival. Pakistan defence spending is one-eighth of India, economy is one-tenth and its foreign exchange reserves are mere ~~one~~ rounding error. Moreover, the unwavering support of China in latest weaponry and technology to Pakistan paved the way for victory in the conflict. On the other hand, US backing India with economic and strategic partnership. The enemy of my enemy is my friend. At India, the common adversary. It is the point, where both ~~India~~ ^{China} and Pakistan could grow mutually, and defeat India.

Realignment is essential. ~~once-china~~. From the historical perspective, China was blamed for power sector debt in Pakistan, is now seems a viable strategic option.

It is the time for Pakistan to prioritize national cohesion, eradicate internal conflicts and establish economic reforms.