**Pakistan’s Relations with Neighbouring Countries**

**Pak-China relations**

1. People’s Republic of China is a great neighbour of Pakistan, whose borders touch the northern regions of Pakistan. When it was declared a republic in 1949, Pakistan immediately recognized it. The Pak-China friendly relations started and since 1954-55, both the countries have been close friends with each other. Their friendship is based on the sincere emotions of the people. A sincere harmony developed between the two nations. China has always proved itself to be a dependable friend in war and peace.
2. Pakistan extended full support to China for making it a permanent member of the Security Council.
3. Pakistan provided every possible political, diplomatic and moral support to China during its war with India at NEFA (North-East Frontier Agency) and Ladakh in 1962.
4. China morally, politically, strategically and financially supported Pakistan in its war against India in 1965 and 1971.
5. After the atomic blast by India in 1974, China and Pakistan adopted a similar nuclear policy. Both emphasized that the Indian Ocean should be declared a nuclear-free zone. Both countries signed the nuclear pact in 1986 and China extended financial and technical cooperation.
6. The 900 km long Silk Route (Karakoram Highway) was constructed with the help of China which became a symbol and glowing example of Pak-China friendship.
7. Many defence agreements were signed between China and Pakistan according to which China helped Pakistan in the construction of Kamra Complex and Pakistan Wah Ordnance Factory. It gave Rs. 273 million for the construction of the Heavy Industry Electrical Complex in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In 2013, the Prime Minister of Pakistan visited China. During this tour, different agreements in many departments between both countries were signed including the power sector.

**Pak-India relations**

1. The main dispute between Pakistan and India is the Kashmir issue, and without its solution the relations cannot be improved. Better ties can be established between both countries in all the fields if it is resolved. Pakistan has always showed a positive attitude but India is not serious about resolving this issue.
2. For resolving the water issue, the Indus Water Treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960. India is still violating this treaty. The ‘Simla Pact’ was signed by both the leaders after the war of 1971 whereby they agreed that their differences would be resolved through discussions.
3. Both countries made efforts to increase cooperation through South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) since 1985 but that produced no satisfactory result. The Prime Ministers of Pakistan and India got a chance to meet at the SAARC conference in 1988 and a pact was signed to restrict each other from attacking their nuclear sites.
4. Some betterment of relationship appeared in Pakistan and India In 1990. Mutual trade and travelling facilities were increased. No effort can be fruitful without the solution of Kashmir issue amicably. Pakistan is firm in its stand that the Kashmir issue should be settled according to the resolutions of the United Nations and the wishes of the helpless Kashmiris.
5. Agra Conference was held between the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India from the 14th to 17th July 2001. The three days dialogues in this conference proved unsuccessful.
6. In SAARC conference organized in January 2004 in Islamabad, the talks were held between the President of Pakistan and Indian Prime Minister, and many agreements were settled. In 2013, during the General Assembly’s session of United Nations, a meeting was also held between both the Prime Ministers and vowed to continue bilateral dialogues.

**Pak-Iran relations**

1. Iran was the first country to recognize Pakistan in 1947. Iran and Pakistan are Islamic, Asian and neighbouring countries. Both countries are closely linked with historical, religious and cultural relations.
2. The prime minister of Pakistan visited Iran in 1949. Shah of Iran also made a visit in return to Pakistan in 1950 and trading contacts were established. With the trade and cultural agreements, Iran and Pakistan felt it necessary to cooperate in the field of defence. Both the countries developed very good relations with America and considered Russian Federation a great threat. Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Iraq and Britain signed a defence treaty called Baghdad Pact. America was supporting this pact. After Revolution in 1958, Iraq withdrew and it was named as CENTO. This defence treaty brought Pakistan and Iran very close to each other.
3. Iran always gave full support to Pakistan on Kashmir issue and praised its stance. It has always supported the right of self determination of the people of Kashmir. It has always openly opposed the atrocities of Indian Army against Kashmiri freedom fighters.
4. Iran stood with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971 wars. Its political, moral, economic and military aid was very encouraging for Pakistan. Iran did not recognize Bangladesh until Pakistan recognized it.
5. Shah of Iran, Turkish President and President of Pakistan met in 1964 and Istanbul Treaty was signed. This treaty brought these Islamic countries very close together. The treaty helped the formation of RCD (Regional Cooperation Development). The RCD countries decided to complete many joint ventures. The organisation now has been converted into Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) with ten members.
6. After the Islamic revolution in 1979, Pakistan had recognised the new government in Iran and extended cooperation in every field.
7. The President of Pakistan visited Iran in 2000. It was decided to enhance cooperation in different fields. In 2013, the President of Pakistan visited Iran again. Pak-Iran gas pipeline project was reviewed during this tour. By its completion, Pakistan’s energy crisis can be solved adequately.

**Pak-Afghan relations**

1. Afghanistan is our neighbouring Islamic country. Both have old religious, historical, cultural, racial and geographical relations.
2. Pakistan had no pleasant relations with Afghanistan in the very beginning. Afghanistan recognized Pakistan very late and diplomatic relations were developed in February 1948.
3. Foreign Secretary Government of India, Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, and Afghan King, Ameer Abdul Rahman, singed an agreement for the permanent solution of the border issue in 1893. It finalized the border lines. Afghanistan accepted the Durand Line as its international border, but later on disputed the treaty.
4. Afghanistan is a land-locked country. It does not have access to the sea. Afghanistan was facing difficulty in establishing trade relations with other countries. Keeping this situation in view, Pakistan provided transit facilities to Afghanistan. Permission was accorded to transport goods from and to the seaport of Karachi.
5. Relations were strained again after an army revolution in Afghanistan in April 1978 and the Dec. 1979 Russian invasion. Afghan government used the Russian army to crush the opposition. Thirty lakh Afghans left their country and sought refuge in Pakistan. Pakistan gave them refuge for humanity and Islamic spirit.
6. The tragedy of the World Trade Center on 11th Sept. 2001, provided America an excuse for attacking Afghanistan. The Taliban government was removed and a new government was appointed. Pakistan extended cooperation to the new government and gave financial aid for the reconstruction of Afghanistan with a promise to keep up this support. After the departure of foreign armed troops from Afghanistan, it is expected good relations between the two countries.

**Genesis and Development of Kashmir Issue**

Kashmir has been a contentious issue between Pakistan and India. When Pakistan come to existence, 80% of the population of Kashmir were Muslims .They desired to annex Kashmir with Pakistan but the Dogra Rajah, Hari Singh, was against Pakistan and Muslims. He made coalition with India cunningly and permitted Indian forces to enter into Kashmir. He provided an opportunity to India to take control. The Kashmiri Muslims started jihad and got 1/3 areas of the valley freed from the Indian forces.

**The Kashmir issue in the Security Council**

When the Indian forces failed to take back the areas occupied by the Kashmiri freedom fighters, India took this issue to the Security Council and adopted this stand that Kashmir had already been integrated with India. It further blamed that Pakistan had attacked Kashmir, which meant Pakistan had attacked India.

Pakistan challenged the accession of Kashmir to India, and apprised the Security Council about the actual position. It stressed that the Hindu Raja did not have the right to decide the future of Kashmir, rather Kashmiris should have this right. The Security Council directed for a ceasefire in Kashmir through a resolution. The ceasefire came into effect on 1st January 1949.

**Decision on Kashmir’s future**

The Security Council accepted Pakistan’s stand and decided that Kashmir’s future would be according to the will of the people of the state. A plebiscite would be carried out under the supervision of the United Nations. This resolution of the Security Council was accepted by both Pakistan and India. The war ended. For stopping the violations of ceasefire, United Nations appointed its representative to monitor the ceasefire line.

**India’s delaying tactics**

When these initial problems were settled, it was expected that the United Nations would make arrangements for a plebiscite under its supervision in Kashmir. The United Nations made some efforts for this settlement but India was not sincere from the beginning. It created hindrances for a free plebiscite in Kashmir. India expected that the Kashmiri people would surely vote in favour of Pakistan. It adopted different delaying tactics and deployed a large number of forces there. While declaring Kashmir as an integral part of India, it flatly refused to have a plebiscite. The Kashmir issue is still unresolved.

**Pakistan’s Relations with O.I.C. Countries**

Pakistan is always willing for the unity of Islamic world and it has played an important role for creating harmony and cooperation among them. It has supported the movements started for the cause of Muslims and has openly favoured its stand to United Nations.

The tragedy of Aqsa Mosque fire in 1969 gathered representatives of all the Muslim countries of the world in Rabat, a city in Morocco. Pakistan suggested the formation of a permanent organisation to be named Islamic Conference, which was supported by all the Muslim countries and the Organisation of Islamic Conference was established. Its head office is in Jeddah. Pakistan played an important role in drafting the manifesto of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

The following is a brief description of Pakistan’s relations with Islamic countries:

**Pakistan and Saudi Arabia**

1. The mutual relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are based on the solid basis of brotherhood because the holy places of the Muslims are located in Saudi Arabia where thousands of Pakistanis visit to perform Haj. The foreign policies of both countries emphasize about the unity of the Muslim world. Before the birth of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia supported the Pakistan Movement and recognized it immediately.
2. Pakistan extended technical cooperation to Saudi Arabia and provided the valuable services to it for defence and modernization of its army. Shah Faisal constructed Faisal Mosque and International Islamic University in Islamabad with huge money.
3. Saudi Arabia helped Pakistan in Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971, financially, and supported its stance.
4. Saudi Arabia stood with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Shah Faisal fully cooperated with Pakistan for holding the Second Islamic Conference in 1974.
5. Saudi Arabia supported Pakistan’s stand on the Afghanistan issue. Pakistan not only supported Saudi Arabia’s stand but also helped it in 1991 in the Middle East crisis. For the protection of holy places, Pakistan sent its troops to Saudi Arabia.
6. A Pak-Saudi Economic Commission was set up in 1998 in Riyadh, which executed work in 155 fields in Pakistan and provided financial aid for their completion. Saudi Arabia is very close to Pakistan nowadays and their friendship is deepening day by day.

**Pakistan and Turkey**

1. Turkey recognized Pakistan immediately after its birth and extended complete support to it on its stand on Kashmir issue.
2. Turkey supplied Pakistan with arms and ammunition in 1965 Indo-Pak war. When Turkish President visited Pakistan in 1966, Pakistan thanked him for their help in the war.
3. Pakistan and Turkey organized Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) in July 1964 with mutual understanding. This organization was reactivated in 1985 and now is called Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) with ten members. Financial cooperation is going on between Pakistan and Turkey. The construction companies of both the countries have been starting joint programmes of development. The military relations are strong. The leaders are exchanging visits.
4. Due to the dialogues between Ministerial Commissions of Pakistan and Turkey, different agreements were signed in 2002 in Islamabad. In the earthquake of 2005 which affected the large areas of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, Turkey aided Pakistan open-heartedly. In 2013, Turkey cooperated to inaugurate Lahore Metro Bus Service in Lahore. Also in 2013, the Prime Minister of Pakistan visited Turkey and the both countries stressed to further increase in bilateral relations. In the present time, both countries are cooperating in different sectors including agriculture, transport, automobiles, communication and construction.