

What is the difference between defense diplomacy of India and China?

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Have you ever wondered how America and Russia emerged as superpowers. Have you ever wondered why the superpowers that were together in the Second World War separated and traveled the long path of the Cold War. Have you ever thought that in the present times, America fails everywhere and runs away leaving missions incomplete and China is working as per its strategy to cover its place. Have you ever wondered what is the *difference between the defense diplomacy of India and China?*

Today there are many questions but our main question is to know the difference between defense diplomacy of India and China. Just two days ago I had written an article on Indian Defense Diplomacy. Let me just write here that India's pace is a bit slow but it is quite effective because there is neither anything free in our diplomacy nor is everyone allowed to buy all types of our weapons. The Indian government also has some moral parameters of its own that our weapons cannot reach any terrorist organization whereas everyone knows where Made in America weapons are found. This is about India, let us now talk about China defense diplomacy.

These days, China is donating weapons and military equipment to some African countries. Yes, you read it right, he is donating for free. Now you can easily understand that what will happen to those poor countries due to huge loans, loans and free weapons, this is in the future, but China has recently given military equipment to Benin, a small country in Africa. Have been given, which is being discussed a lot. Some experts say that China has donated weapons to about 47 African countries. The main reason for this is that China wants to open its military base there in Africa.

China has donated many military equipment including arms and ammunition to the army of the African country Benin. While on one hand China claims that these weapons have been given specifically for the war against terrorism, on the other hand defense experts have a different opinion. They believe that these days *China is increasing military cooperation with poor African countries*, the main goal of which is to establish military bases in these countries. According to the report, most of the equipment that China has given to Benin is howitzer cannon and its accessories. The equipment was officially handed over by China's Ambassador to Benin, Peng Jingtao, last week.

While receiving this Chinese equipment, the Chief of Army Staff of Benin, Brigadier General Fructueux Gbaguidi, said that this donation will strengthen our army. He also described it as a strong symbol of the friendship connecting the Chinese and Benin people. Here let us tell you that the army of Benin is fighting jihadists in the north of the country near the border of Burkina Faso and Niger. The Army has said in a

statement that this equipment will enable its soldiers to better respond to ground challenges in the fight against terrorist threats.

Dr Ilaria Carozza, a senior researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo, said China is using military donations primarily to exert influence in Africa. China knows that the real power in these countries is in the hands of the army. Many African countries have recently experienced coups or are ruled by military junta. In such a situation, China is increasing its influence in these poor countries by providing weapons in the name of fight against terrorism. China recently donated vehicles and engineering equipment to Kenya, while Zimbabwe received equipment worth US\$28 million last year.

According to a 2022 study by the Peace Research Institute Oslo itself, China has provided millions of dollars of security assistance to almost all African countries. Its main objective is to strengthen its relations with African countries and protect their economic interests. The report said China has provided military aid to 47 African countries over the past two decades, with Zimbabwe and Angola topping the list in arms and training. According to data from Boston University's Global Development Policy Center, from 2000 to 2022, China is expected to provide military equipment to eight African countries – Zambia, Ghana, Cameroon, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Angola and Namibia – and provide military equipment for their armies. A US\$3 billion loan was provided to improve infrastructure.

Now you must have easily understood where China is increasing its dominance. While on one hand America has control over the Middle East and NATO group, on the other hand *China and Russia have control over South Africa, but here China is ahead of Russia.*

Now we should also take a look at where India is here. Just as almost all countries are increasing their focus on defense diplomacy, India too is expanding its defense diplomacy. African countries are also included in these. This includes Poland as well as Algeria, Djibouti, Ivory Coast, Spain, Armenia, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Tanzania. Army officers have been sent to four out of 10 places, Navy officers to three places and Air Force officers to three places. According to sources, defense wings have been opened at almost all these places or the process of opening them has been completed.

Through defense diplomacy, India focuses on programs like joint exercises, training exchanges with other countries and through this we also get experts from those places. If ever there is a need to perform any operation there in future, we will also have area experts there. Besides, the military industry everywhere is also growing. It is also important to learn new techniques and new tactics from each other. India is also trying to export indigenous Tejas fighter, rocket launcher system, BrahMos missile, air defense missile system to African countries.

Indian public sector companies operate in more than 30 countries around the world such as Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Germany, Belgium, Turkey, Egypt, Oman, Israel, Kenya, Nigeria, Botswana, Chile, Suriname and the United States. The exports include arms and ammunition, weapon parts, chemicals and explosives, parachutes, leather and clothing items.

However, India's defense exports have seen a huge increase since 2014 due to the opening up of the defense sector by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. According to the latest official data tabled in the Rajya Sabha – the upper house of the Indian Parliament, India's defense exports have increased by 700% in just two years. Export authorizations increased from \$213 million in FY 2016-17 to \$1.5 billion in FY 2018-19 (April to March period). Stockholm International Peace Research Institute notes that there are three Indian companies among the top-100 defense companies, namely Hindustan Aeronautics Limited,

Avani and Bharat Electronics Limited, which together account for 1.2% of the top-100's total defense exports.

In March 2011 New Delhi agreed to sell its first indigenously designed and built multi-role offshore patrol vessel (OPV), Barracuda, to Mauritius. In March 2017, India finalized a US\$37.9 million deal with Myanmar for the sale of indigenously developed lightweight torpedoes. Similar naval platforms were also sold to Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Thailand has also purchased more than 600 military trucks from India. Recently Armenia has also emerged as a strategic partner for India. In 2022, when India has signed a deal to supply Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers (MBRLs), anti-tank munitions and ammunition worth US\$250 million to Armenia.

While in September 2017, AWE won its largest export order from the UAE for the supply of 40,000 nos of 155 mm artillery shells for 3.22 billion (US\$39 million), in August 2019, AWE won the supply of 50,000 nos of artillery shells from the UAE. Got second order for.

The Defense Ministry's Year-End Review 2023 said total exports for fiscal year 2022-2023 stood at Rs 16,000 crore. It involved 85 countries and marked a tenfold increase from fiscal year 2016–17. Major platforms exported include Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers, radars, simulators, mine protected vehicles, armored vehicles, line replaceable units and parts, thermal imagers, body armor, ammunition, small arms and avionics components. Other platforms include the Dornier-228, 155 mm/52 caliber DRDO Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System, BrahMos cruise missile and Akash SAM.

Defense exports totaled Rs 21,083 crore (about \$2.63 billion) in FY 2023-2024, an increase of 32.5 percent from the previous fiscal year. That is, now you must have understood that there is no free-free system here because we do not want to occupy other countries like China or America, rather we are playing an important role in empowering them by cooperating with them and this is what India is doing have an identity.