

Pakistan Affair (Organization)

Question #01

Explore Significance of Shanghai cooperation organization (SCO) for Pakistan.

Answer:

Pakistan became a permanent member of Shanghai cooperation organization (SCO) on 9th June 2017 that opened an opportunity for her to reap maximum benefits by engaging in Partnership with its members like Central Asian Republics (CARs), Russia, China and India. Pakistan is an ideally positioned country on the globe being at the crossroad of central Asia, South west Asia and South Asia. Pakistan's credentials are quite bright on account of geo-political, geo-strategic and geo-economic aspect. Pakistan is a natural link between SCO countries, especially land locked CARs, Afghanistan, China toward South i.e. Arabian sea and Middle east. By ~~Joining~~ Joining SCO, Pakistan intends to meet her energy deficit that is why supporting "Energy club" of SCO. Pakistan play a meaningful role toward peace, stability, security and rehabilitation under the platform of SCO. Pakistan unique geography offers mutual benefit trade and commerce activity. Lets explore the significance of Shanghai cooperation organization (SCO) for Pakistan its benefits and challenges to Pakistan.

Significance of Shanghai cooperation organization (SCO) for Pakistan:

Security benefits for Pakistan:

The member of SCO have established Regional Anti-terrorist structure (RATS) with head quarter in Tashkent. The RATS involve the sharing of intelligence information by the member countries to defeat extremism, Seperatism and terrorism from the region. It also gathers information regarding different terrorist groups operating in the neighborhood. In order to defeat terrorism and Seperatism from a particular region, it is imperative for the countries to cooperate in sharing intelligence. The

• Counter terrorism:

Pakistan is facing issue of terrorism, terrorist attack from inside and outside nexus of internation organization giving funds and made these attack like Hp. A terrorist group is not only comprised of native recruit, but also from all over world like Al-Qaeda. These organization made deadly attack everywhere in Pakistan. With the help CTDA and RATS high technology, Pakistan will be able to eradicate

evil crime like terrorism

• Terrorist attack on cross border:

Pakistan is facing issues of cross border terrorist attacks while Pakistan northwest border connect to Afghanistan while west to Iran. Terrorists enter from these borders in Pakistan and even these attack on camps of Pakistan army, these normally come from Afghanistan and CARs (Central Asian republics). Therefore, sharing intelligence under RATS will help Islamabad to eliminate terrorism completely from its land.

• Joint military exercises:

SCO countries are known for conducting military exercises in the world, this wide defense cooperation. For this reason it is also called NATO of the East. The membership, therefore, will ensure the participation in these joint exercises. Pakistan will also get a chance to strengthen its military and modernize its military equipment using these drift.

Energy benefits for Pakistan:

Pakistan has been energy shortage since 2007 and its estimated requirement of power in 2030 will be 50,000 MW. SCO member has formed "Energy club" as a platform to make energy deals with the member countries in a transparent and effective way.

- Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas Project: TAPI is gas pipeline project as CAAs are rich in energy resources, this pipeline is originally TAP as Pakistan is energy deficit country which needs energy not only for domestic but also commercial purpose like industries work on gas, to generate electricity our power generating unit work on oil & gas, Pakistan meet his energy demand through TAP but also transmission fee by proving path to India to meet his energy demand and TAPI and Casa-1000 helpful is energy needs. The materialisation of these power and gas project will help ease Pakistan's energy problem significantly.

Economic development of Pakistan:

The blessed geo-strategic location of Pakistan will help it to gain maximum economic benefits from the membership

of SCO. Pakistan provide the shortest transit route to CAHs, China and Russia to reach Arabian sea (Warm water).

- Geo-Strategic benefit:

Geo strategic location of Pakistan gains trade activity inside and outside of country. CAHs will move their energy resources to sea by exploiting Pakistan's territory. Consequently Islamabad will gain million of dollar as transit fee. Same as China, world largest exporter around \$4 Trillion. China 80% trade from south China that is not only time consuming but also risky as surrounded by American allies. Pakistan provide shortest transit route to Arabian sea which result in economy benefits. The diversion of this huge trade will take the economic position of Pakistan to a certain new height of glory.

- New destination for Pakistan trade:

With cooperation to SCO members, Pakistan market will explore new destination or trade route for its products. Pakistani export market expand its territory by exporting product to new region like China, Russia, India and CAHs area. It is not only increase

our economy but also increase our product demand and size increase result economy size increase. Our industry grow with increase demand of our products in neighborhood.

Platform to solve pak-India issues:

India and Pakistan are facing numerous daunting challenges including Kashmir. All the bilateral attempts to solve their crisis have hit to the brick wall. Without the mediation of some great powers, the issues between two countries, could not be addressed. The US has not shown any interest to mediate in India and Pakistan to turn them from foe to friends. Since, India is also member of SCO, the organization will act as a platform to solve the differences of the two countries with the mediation of China and Russia. China want peace in the region and economic cooperation among the regional countries. It will surely, in future, mediate and engage them in trade activity. It is also in best interest of Beijing, so SCO platform help to solve problem before it turn into a wider conflagration.

Image building for Pakistan:

The member of SCO will act as an image builder for Pakistan. In international relations, being a part of the largest and important organization is considered as a source of prestige for the countries. The SCO was formed in 2001, but Pakistan gained membership in 2017. It means the old member thought Pakistan as a responsible country to be included as member. It is, in short, a license of responsibility for any country to become a part of prestigious organization.

End diplomatic isolation of Pakistan:

From the start of 21st century, 9/11 attack of terrorist gave image of Asia as terrorist facilitator, American war of terror gave image of Pakistan as terrorism state gave Pakistan an image of bad boy. Pakistan from past 20 century, also badly damaged from these groups. But country like India through fake website and news rumours that Pakistan is fugitive of terrorist groups, with the cooperation and part of SCO,

Pakistan end its diplomatic isolation in the region through trade cooperation, geo-strategic location link south asia to middle east. Pakistan is very important for regional peace like Afghanistan brought peace with the help of Pakistan.

Controlling drug trafficking:

The issue of drug trafficking was serious among the founding members of the SCO. However, by acting collectively, they framed policies and eradicated the evils of drugs from their territory. Pakistan has been facing the same issue of drugs that are entering from Afghanistan. By exploiting the experience of SCO, Pakistan can also eliminate the evils of drugs from its pure land that comes from Iran and Afghanistan in Pakistan through border. With collective policies and exercise Pakistan is able to be free from drugs.

Regional Peace:

The member of SCO, particularly China and Russia are interested in bringing regional peace. Pakistan has been facing the cross border terrorist

attacks from Afghanistan. By acting together, SCO has potential to solve regional issues like Afghanistan and bring overall stability.

• Role of Pakistan:

Peace in Afghanistan is not possible without the support of regional countries like Pakistan, Iran, China and Russia after withdrawal of US Army. Pakistan will force Taliban to agree on the political solution with other regional groups with the help of China. As far as Iran concerned, China has already improved its economic ties with Tehran by announcing the investment of around 400 B\$ in its oil and transport sector for 25 years, thus, help Iran to recover from US sanctions. Thus, the membership of Pakistan will create an opportunity for the regional countries to work together to achieve peace in neighborhood.

Conclusion:

The membership of SCO will provide Pakistan security and economic benefits. Besides, it will create an effective platform

for Islamabad to solve its differences with India. Moreover, it will improve Pakistan's image in the globe, helps it address drug trafficking and bring regional peace. Since the membership is very beneficial, Islamabad should take expeditious measure to gain advantages without wasting time.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization is doubtlessly a thing of future for Pakistan, it provides better choices in friends, strategic leverage and diplomatic incursion. It can further ensure help for Pakistan in countering the year's long threat of terrorism along with providing mechanism to cope the non-traditional challenges.