

China, Pakistan - Russia cooperation will find suitable support mechanism in Shanghai Cooperation (SCO)?

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is poised to serve as an effective platform for facilitating and enhancing cooperation between China, Pakistan, and Russia, offering a conducive environment for their collaborative endeavors in various fields.

The **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** is a permanent intergovernmental organization started as Shanghai-5 Mechanism in [1996]. It was formed in [15 June 2001] in Shanghai, China. Initially comprised of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, it expanded to include India and Pakistan later on.

→ Pakistan joined the SCO as full members in [2017].

It also have four observer states.

Member States	Observer States	Dialogue Partners
China		Azerbaijan
India	Afghanistan	Armenia
Pakistan	Belarus	Nepal
Kazakhstan	Mongolia	Turkey and Sri Lanka
Kyrgyzstan		
Russia		
Tajikistan		
Iran		

The importance of cooperation among China, Pakistan, and Russia within SCO :-

Cooperation among China, Pakistan, Russia within the SCO hold immense significance for several reasons

(1) Geopolitical Influence :- These three countries are major players in Eurasian Region, and their cooperation can shape regional geopolitics.

(2) Security and Counterterrorism :-

(3) Economic Connectivity :-

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) allings along with SCO's goals and cooperation among these nations can boost economic connectivity with the region.

(4) Regional Stability

Cooperation among these influential SCO members can contribute to stability of Central Asia and South Asia, addressing common security concerns.

(5) Diplomatic and Multilateral Engagement

→ Provide opportunities to engage diplomatically and strengthen their positions.

Historical Relations among China, Pakistan, and Russia

Historically, China and Russia had complex relations including territorial disputes. However, in recent decades, they have developed closer ties, both politically and economically, forming a strategic partnership.

China and Pakistan have maintained a strong enduring friendship since 1950s. Since ongoing project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) being emblematic of their partnership. Pakistan and Russia had cold war-era tensions, but these have thawed in recent years. Increased trade and cooperation on various fronts, including counterterrorism.

Current events to Current state

Cooperation :-

June 1996, Shanghai five is formed.

April 1997, The Shanghai five signs the Treaty on Reduction of Military Forces in Border Regions.

June 2001, The Shanghai five is transformed into Shanghai Cooperation Organization. This mandate is for a wider range of areas, including trade, economics, culture and education.

2004-2005, The SCO admits Mongolia, Pakistan, India, and Iran as observer states.

2015 :- The SCO leaders agree to grant full membership to India and Pakistan.

2017 :- India and Pakistan join SCO as full members.

e.g. in 2019, China, Pakistan, and Russia signed a bilateral agreement to develop China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). CPEC is a \$62 billion infrastructure project that will connect China's western Xinjiang province to Pakistan's Gwadar port on the Arabian sea.

China and Russia signed a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Coordination** in 2009, and have seen deepened their cooperation in wide range of areas including security and trade.

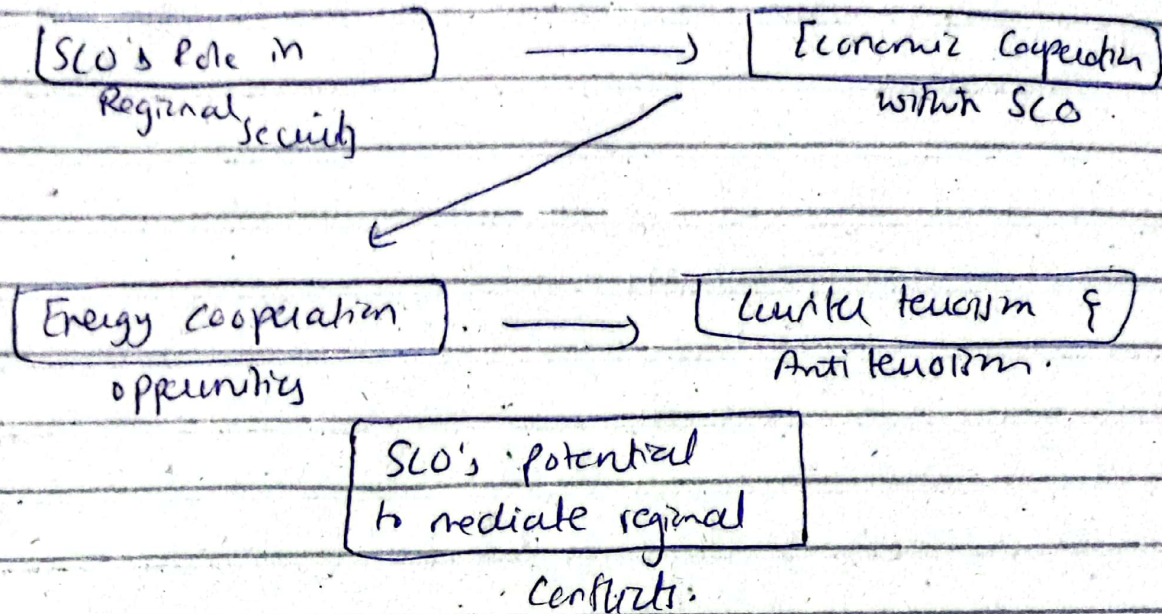
The bilateral anti-terrorism exercise in 2018, where China, Pakistan, and Russia had their first joint anti-terrorism exercise. This exercise was designed to improve the three countries ability to cooperate on counter-terrorism operations.

SCO As a Support Mechanism

The SCO plays an important role in promoting regional security and stability in Eurasia. It's the world largest regional organization, covering over **60% of Eurasian** landmass and containing over **40% of world's population**.

(i) The SCO has a number of mechanisms in place for combating terrorism, extremism, and separatism, including **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)** and

and SCO Counter Terrorism Centre (STC). The SCO also conducts regular joint military exercises to improve its ability to respond to terrorist threats.



In 2016, the SCO member states signed a trade agreement that eliminates tariffs on over 90% of goods traded with SCO. As counterterrorism and anti-terrorism are top priorities of SCO where (RATS) and SCO (STC) also conducts regular joint military exercises to improve ability. In 2022, the SCO member states conducted a joint military exercise in Tajikistan that focused on counter-terrorism operations.

SCO has played a role in mediating the conflict in Afghanistan, which hosted a number of meetings between the Afghan government and Taliban. Hosted a number of meetings between Syrian government and the opposition.

Unique features of SCO Mechanism

It possesses several unique features that make it a support mechanism for China, Pakistan - Russia cooperation.

- > Multilateral Regional Approach.
- > Shared security concerns.
- > Economic Cooperation.
- > Dialogue and Consultation.
- > Cultural and Economic Change.
- > Observer and Dialogue Partner States.
- > Non-Alignment Principle.
- > Inclusive Approach.
- > Regular Summits and Mechanisms.

Challenges And Future Prospects

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization faces several challenges and obstacles, including divergent member priorities, regional conflicts, external pressure, and the role of non-member countries. Historical conflicts, and tensions among member states, such as border disputes, can impede cooperation and trust-building efforts. Geopolitical rivalries, such as competition between United States and China, can impact the dynamics within the organization. Overcoming these challenges requires effective diplomacy, conflict resolution efforts, and

Commitment to cooperative decision-making.

The future's prospect can be addressed by:-

(1) Expanding Membership
and Partnership



(2) Role of China's Belt
and Road Initiative
(BRI)



(3) Importance of Diplomatic
Dialogue → Trust
Building.

Conclusion :-

The cooperation among China, Pakistan, and Russia within the Shanghai Cooperation holds immense significance due to strategic positions and influence of nations. Projects like (CPEC) and (BRI) can serve as catalyst for prosperity and connectivity, benefiting not only non-member states also broader Eurasian region.