

Pakistan successfully conducted SCO conference in Islamabad. Critically evaluate the major takeaways for Pakistan. What measures would you recommend Islamabad to follow.

INTRODUCTION

The SCO, a Eurasian political, economic, and security organization, has grown into a powerful block that addresses regional issues, including counterterrorism, economic integration, and cultural collaboration. Hosting the SCO conference reflects Pakistan's active engagement in regional multilateral diplomacy. Amidst domestic challenges and a dynamic geopolitical environment, this event underscores Pakistan's intent to project itself as a responsible regional player.

2. Major Takeaways For Pakistan

- = Strengthening Regional Connectivity
- = Enhancing Diplomatic Relations
- = Economic Opportunities
- = Counterterrorism Collaboration
- = Promoting Cultural Diplomacy

2-1

Strengthening Regional Connectivity

2-3

Pakistan highlighted its geo-strategic significance as a bridge between Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. The conference reaffirmed its importance in regional connectivity projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and initiative linking Central Asia to warm waters.

2-4

1-2 Enhancing Diplomatic Relations

The event allowed Pakistan to reinforce ties with SCO member states, including China, Russia, and Central Asian nations. This engagement is crucial given Pakistan's strained relations with certain Western powers and its desire to diversify diplomatic partnerships.

Add and highlight references against these arguments

2-3 Economic Opportunities

The SCO promotes trade and economic integration among its members. Pakistan emphasized trade routes, energy cooperation, and investment opportunities. Hosting the conference provided a platform to attract foreign investments in sectors like energy, infrastructure, and IT.

2-4 Counterterrorism Collaboration

With terrorism a key agenda

items in SCO, Pakistan reiterated its commitment to combating extremism. The conference allowed Islamabad to counter narratives about its alleged leniency toward militant groups and project its role as a stabilizing force in the region.

2.5 Promoting Cultural Diplomacy

Pakistan used the conference to showcase its rich cultural heritage and soft power, fostering people-to-people ties within the SCO framework. This is vital in building goodwill and addressing misperceptions about Pakistan internationally.

Add more arguments in this part

3. Recommendations For Islamabad

Strengthening regional connectivity initiatives

Explaining Trade Relations

Institutionalizing counterterrorism cooperation

Enhancing Cultural Diplomacy

3-2 Strengthening Regional Connectivity Initiatives

Pakistan should accelerate infrastructure development under CPEC and other connectivity projects. It must also actively participate in the Trans-Afghan railway and promote energy projects like CASA-1000.

3-2

Expanding Trade Relations

Islamabad should diversify trade with Central Asia and other SCO members by reducing trade barriers and fostering private sector collaborations. Special economic zones (SEZs) under CPEC should be made more attractive for foreign investors.

3-3

Institutionalizing Counterterrorism Cooperation

Pakistan must bolster joint counterterrorism exercises and intelligence

References/examples??

Sharing frameworks within SCO to reinforce its commitment to regional security.

2.4

Enhancing Cultural Diplomacy

Islamabad should sustain cultural and academic exchanges with SCO member states. Promoting tourism, arts, and education will strengthen soft power ties and diversify its diplomatic toolkit.

2.5

Building Consensus within SCO

Pakistan should play an active role in mediating tensions among key SCO members. A balanced approach between China, Russia, and India can enhance Pakistan's influence as a neutral player.

2.6

Domestic Reforms

Political stability, economic reforms, and improving governance are

critical for Pakistan to credibly project itself as a reliable partner in the SCO beyond.

A 20 marks answer should have around 15 subheadings

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CONCLUSION

Hosting the SCO conference was a diplomatic success for Pakistan, reinforcing its regional significance and opening new avenues for collaboration. However, to fully capitalize on the opportunities, Islamabad must address internal challenges and adopt a proactive strategy in engaging with SCO members. By aligning its domestic and foreign policies with SCO's objectives, Pakistan can enhance its role as a key player in regional development and security.

Improve the references and the paper presentation part