

China Pakistan-Russia cooperation will find suitable support mechanism in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Elaborate.

1. Introduction:

The trilateral cooperation between China, Pakistan, and Russia represents a dynamic alignment of interests that promises to reshape regional geopolitics and foster strategic partnerships. At the heart of this collaboration lies the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a multilateral forum dedicated to promoting security, economic cooperation, and cultural exchange among its member states. This partnership not only underscores the growing interconnectivity between Asia's major powers but also heralds a new era of collaboration aimed at addressing shared challenges and advancing mutual interests.

2. A Brief History of SCO:

The SCO is the successor to the Shanghai Five, a mutual security agreement

formed on 26 April 1996 between China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan. On 2001, the leaders of these nations with an addition of Uzbekistan met in Shanghai to announce a new organisation with deeper political and economic cooperation. Its membership has since expanded to nine states, with India and Pakistan joined on 2017 and Iran on 2023. The main objectives of SCO are to provide regional security, economic cooperation and cultural cooperation. The structure of SCO consists of Heads of State Council (HSC), Heads of Governments Council, Foreign Ministers Council, SCO Secretariat and Regional Antiterrorist Structure (RATS).

3. China Pakistan - Russia find Suitable ^{Support} Mechanism in SCO:-

i) Political Stability:-

Trilateral cooperation within the SCO can bolster political stability in the region by fostering dialogue and understanding among member states. For instance, joint efforts in

counter-terrorism and counter-extremism initiatives can help to mitigate security threats and promote peace. For example: "the Peace Mission 2018" exercise held in Russia focused on counterterrorism operations, demonstrating the commitment of SCO members to addressing security threats collectively, according to TASS, "Russia, China, Others Launch 'Peace Mission 2018' Drills".

ii) Economic Integration:-

Enhanced economic cooperation between China, Pakistan and Russia under the SCO framework can unlock significant trade and investment opportunities. For example, initiatives such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Russia's interest in connecting with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) can stimulate economic growth and infrastructure development across the region.

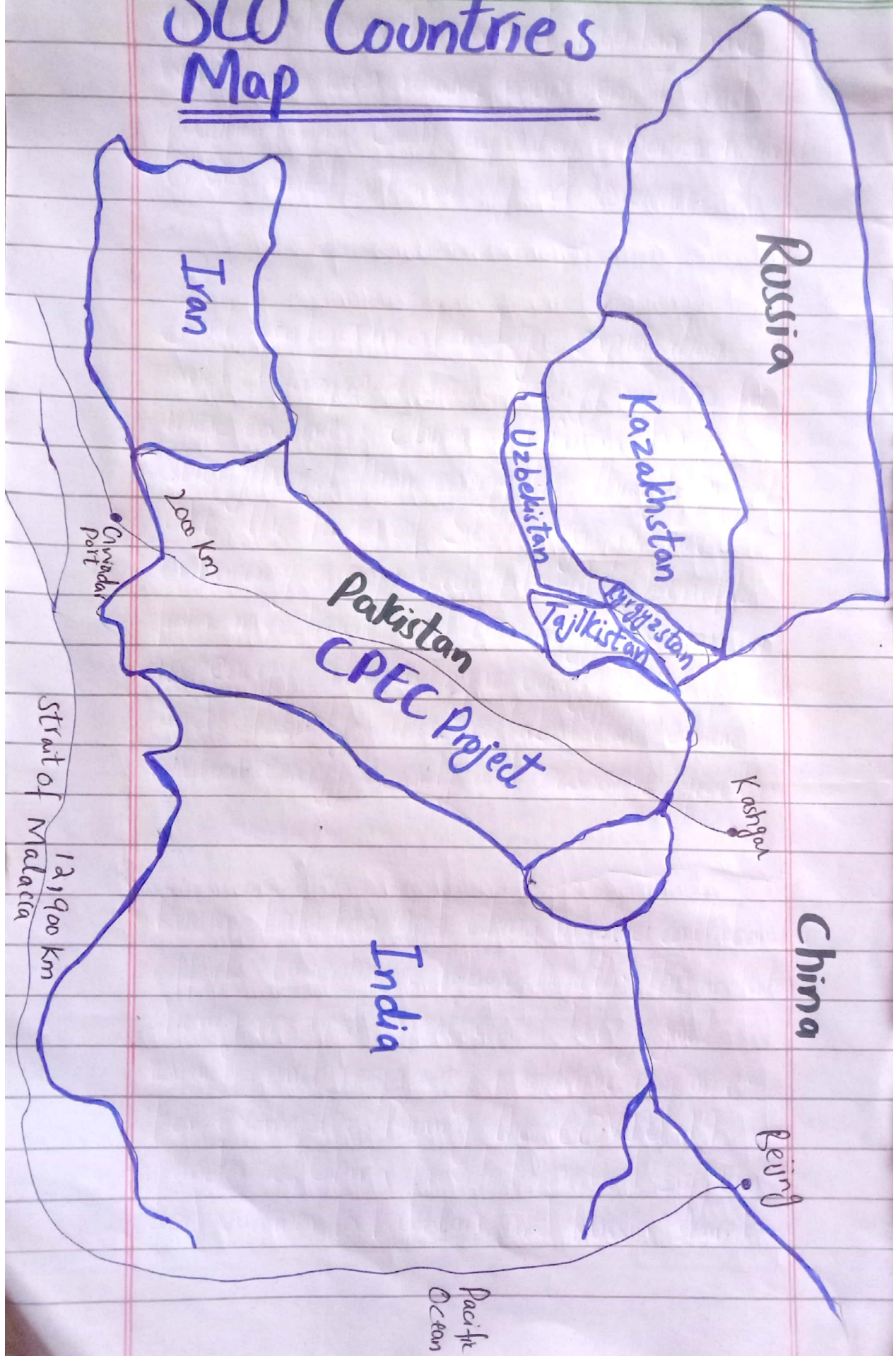
iii) CPEC Act as a Transit Corridor:-

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) serves as a vital transit corridor, linking China's western regions to Pakistan's Gwadar Port and beyond, offering access to the Arabian Sea. According to Economic Times, this ambitious infrastructure project facilitates not only bilateral trade between China and Pakistan but also opens up opportunities for regional connectivity and economic integration.

iv) **Cultural Exchange:-**

Trilateral cooperation can promote cultural exchange and people-to-people ties, fostering greater understanding and mutual respect among the diverse populations of China, Pakistan and Russia. This can strengthen social cohesion and contribute to long-term stability in the region. According to The Express Tribune, China offers 20,000 scholarships to Pakistani students. Moreover, Russian Scholarships for Pakistani Students, according to the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Pakistan.

SCO Countries Map



v) Counter-Terrorism Cooperation:-

Counter-terrorism cooperation within the SCO is significantly bolstered by the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS). RATS coordinates anti-terrorism measures, facilitates intelligence sharing, and organizes joint exercises among member states. According to SCO Joint Anti-Terror Drills, China, Russia, and Pakistan have participated in joint RATS exercises, such as the 2021 drills in Tajikistan, which focused on countering simulated terrorist threats. This collaboration enhances operational readiness and strengthens collective security efforts among SCO members, effectively addressing regional terrorism challenges.

vi) Environmental Protection:-

Collaborative efforts address regional environmental challenges and promote sustainability. China, Pakistan and Russia participate in initiatives like the SCO's "Green Belt" program, which focuses on afforestation and combating desertification. According to the China's Role in SCO Environmental Protection, China has led projects on sustainable development and clean

energy. Moreover, Russia and Pakistan have worked on water resource management and pollution control. Such cooperation enhances regional environmental sustainability and resilience.

vii) **Energy Cooperations:-**

Joint ventures in oil and gas exploration and development secure energy supplies for these countries. China and Russia have strengthened their energy ties through projects like the Power of Siberia gas pipeline, enhancing energy security. Pakistan benefits from investments and technology transfers in its energy sector, aiding in energy diversification and stability. These collaborations ensure mutual energy security and economic growth.

viii) **Health Cooperation:-**

Russia, Pakistan and China involve collaborative efforts to enhance public health. This includes sharing medical expertise, conducting joint research, and improving pandemic response. For example: During the COVID-19 pandemic, China provided medical supplies and vaccines to Pakistan, and Russia shared

its Sputnik V vaccine with SCO countries. Such initiatives improve healthcare systems, bolster pandemic preparedness, and foster a united front against health crisis.

4. Conclusion:-

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) provides a robust framework for collaboration among China, Pakistan, and Russia across various sectors. Through mechanisms like RATS for counter-terrorism, economic cooperation via BRI (CPEC), cultural exchanges, environmental protection and so on. The SCO's multifaceted approach fosters strong alliances and collective resilience, demonstrating the organization's pivotal role in regional stability and cooperation.