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

### 1. Introduction:

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a multinational organization formed with the purpose of mutual security and cooperation in multiple domains by its member nations. With Russia and China as its founding members, it provides immense benefits in terms of mutual support and economic cooperation to all countries in general, and Pakistan in particular. The ~~Sum~~ 2024 Summit provides opportunities along with some measures to enhance cooperation in different fields.

### 2. The Objectives of SCO and Role

of Member Nations :

SCO was formed with a perspective of collaboration in terms of strategic security purpose against the 3 major evils: separatism, extremism and terrorism. Moreover, economic cooperation, cultural exchanges, energy cooperation and fighting the climate change are also among its prime motives. The member nations especially Russia and China want perpetual coordination <sup>with</sup> the Central Asia nations due to their resources enrichment<sup>ed</sup>, lands. Pakistan and India also hold ~~the same~~ significance in this regard. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is ~~at~~ operating in multiple states, including CPEC in Pakistan, which it also wants to spread towards the Central Asia Republics.

3. Key Takeaways from SCO Summit for Pakistan held in Islamabad:

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On ~~the~~ <sup>15-16</sup> October 15-16, 2024, Pakistan's <sup>federal</sup> capital Islamabad got the opportunity to conduct 23<sup>rd</sup> SCO Summit for the first time. Both the Summit and the organization hold significant potential to transform Pakistan's current state, as highlighted in it.

#### • Improvement in Pak-Russia Relations:

It serves as a key factor in the improvement of Pak-Russia relations which deteriorated after cold war when Pakistan became a part of bloc-politics; more specifically Western bloc. It tends to improve economic, security and trade ties ~~with~~ among both nations.

#### • Fulfillment of <sup>E</sup> Energy requirement of Pakistan:

SCO serves as a great opportunity to ~~to~~ ~~fulf~~ for Pakistan to fulfill its energy demands and overcome energy crisis.

As Central Asia nations hold huge reserves of natural gas and oil, they

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can be helpful for <sup>overcoming</sup> Pakistan's energy crisis as well.

### • Strengthening of Bilateral Relations:

As the bilateral ties <sup>among</sup> between the SCO nations <sup>remain</sup> ~~are~~ troublesome, SCO provides room for strengthening its ties with its <sup>Pakistan</sup> neighbours such as India, Iran, China, As the theme of 2024 Summit was:

"One Earth, One Family, One Future"

### • Economic Cooperation and Global Trade:

Pakistan may enhance its cooperation as the Summit focused on protectionist measures on global trade and multilateral trade systems. Moreover, economic cooperation <sup>opposing</sup> and Western sanctions was also the top priority of the Summit.

### • Tackling Afghanistan and 3 major evils:

SCO provides a chance to Pakistan

to tackle Afghanistan issue, which according to the state; is damaging the peace in the region. Moreover, it serves as an opportunity to eradicate the 3 major evils: terrorism, separatism, and extremism, by enhancing cooperative efforts and measures in the region.

#### 4. Measures for Islamabad deduced from SCO:

Islamabad needs to focus on few things in order to achieve the targets and the goals of SCO. For this, some measures include:

##### 1. Utilizing RATS as a counter-terrorism strategy:

SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist structure (RATS) is a blessing in disguise for Pakistan in order to eradicate evils like terrorism, extremism ~~and~~ which hinder national integrity and security.

##### 2. Measures for CPEC mobilization:

Pakistan can adopt measures to mobilize CPEC ~~in order to~~ for its economic growth. It should provide suitable and protected environment to Chinese workers for successful execution of the project.

### 3. Making Efforts for Regional Trade in local Currencies:

As Russia strongly holds the stance of carrying Regional Trade in local currencies, Pakistan should advocate its stance. It would prove beneficial for lowering energy crisis and booming economy.

### 4. Diplomatic Reconciliation with India:

As SCO's member, India also made its representation in the Summit, Pak should make considerable efforts towards diplomatic reconciliation with India for security situation and also the other social factors such as water management system etc.

### 5. Conclusion:

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SCO provides a platform to enhance cooperation and diplomatic relations with member nations. Pakistan can take huge advantage from this multinational organisation through collaboration in terms of trade, security and economic junctures. However it needs to adopt certain measures for sustainable progress.

