

Dated: 2/11/2024

1)
Current Affairs

Short Note (10 Marks)

Q. Write down short note on the following:

SCO Summit 2024:

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2024, held on 16, October in Islamabad, Pakistan.

They brought together leaders from member countries to discuss security, economic cooperation and regional stability. Hosted by Pakistan's Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif, the summit explored the role of the SCO in promoting Eurasian Cooperation on security issues such as terrorism and separatism.

Delegates included representatives from major member states like India, China and Russia with Indian

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attending despite ongoing tensions with Pakistan.

"An organization, the SCO brings together nations with vast resources and potential. Together,

we can create a framework that supports mutual growth and prosperity across

our region"

(Pm of Pakistan
Shehbaz Sharif)

Dated:

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I. Key Attendees and Delegations:

The Summit saw participation from high-ranking officials, including Pakistan's PM Shehbaz Sharif, Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Russian PM Mikhail Mishustin, and representatives from Iran, Belarus and other member states. Notably, Jaishankar's visit marked the first official trip by an Indian foreign minister to Pakistan in 9 years.

II. Several Key Objectives of SCO

Summit 2024:

The 2024 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit focused on several key objectives to advance regional stability, economic growth, and security across Eurasia. Some of the primary goals are as follows:

1. Enhancing Regional Economic Cooperation:

The Summit emphasized strengthening trade and economic partnerships among member states with a particular focus on sustainable development and infrastructure projects. The SCO aims to promote economic integration across Eurasia, promoting trade routes like the Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI).

"For the SCO to become a pillar of regional stability, we must deepen economic integration, that enhance our collective strength"
(Zhang Ming)

Dated:

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2. Addressing Security Threat:

Counterterrorism, extremism and separatism were top priorities. SCO leaders discussed cooperative strategies to tackle security challenges, particularly in light of threats from terrorism and regional insurgencies. The **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)** continues to play a significant role in intelligence-sharing and coordinated security efforts among member states.

3. Promoting Multilateralism:

SCO members advocated for an inclusive and multipolar global order, urging cooperation and reform in international institutions to better represent developing countries. India's External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** stated that the need for "reformed multilateralism", aligning with the SCO's emphasis on strengthening global governance that respects sovereignty and non-interference.

"We must confront the triple threats of terrorism, separatism and extremism" without stable and cooperative regional relations, we cannot achieve meaningful economic progress"
(S. Jaishankar)

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4. Strengthening Regional Connectivity:

Another major goal was enhancing connectivity infrastructure, such as roads, railways and digital networks to support efficient trade across member states. This objective aligns with China's BRI and other regional initiatives to streamline economic activities.

5. Expanding SCO Membership:

The summit formalized Belarus's membership, reflecting the organization's aim to include more Eurasian countries for broader cooperation and influence. Expanding the SCO is expected to amplify its role as a significant transregional organization.

"Joining the SCO is an important step for Belarus. It allows us to work for regional peace and gain economic benefits from being part of the organization."

Belarusian PM
(Roman Golovchenko)

6. Promoting Cultural and People-to-People Exchange:

Recognizing the importance of cultural ties, the summit encouraged initiatives that foster people-to-people connections, academic exchange and tourism. This objective aims to strengthen mutual understanding and cultural solidarity among member states.

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Conclusion :

The 2024 Summit of the SCO's increasing role in promoting regional stability and economic cooperation during complex geopolitical dynamics. With its focus on multilateralism and security, the organization remains a crucial forum for addressing both economic opportunities and security threats in Eurasia.

