

Q Discuss the importance of the SCO meet that is going to be held in Islamabad on October 15, 2024.

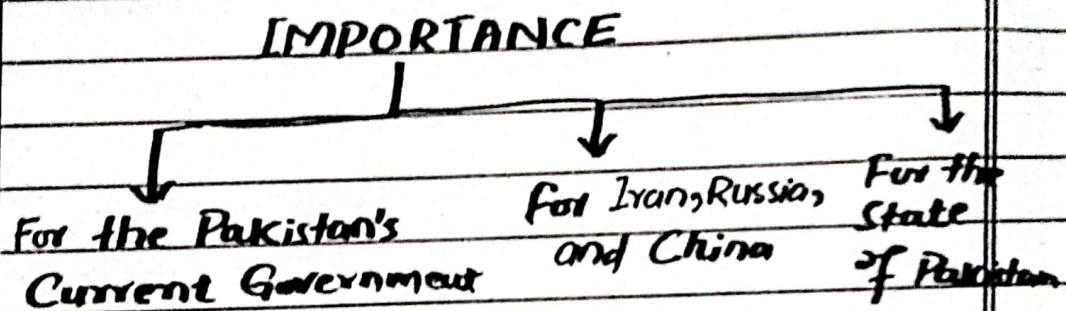
### (i) Introduction:

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is an intergovernmental organisation that is comprised of almost 40% of the world's population. Being a representative of such a great number of people, its meetings are always important for the people that are living in the member states of the SCO. However, this time, due to the <sup>ongoing</sup> conflicts, wars, and political tensions, SCO meeting on 15 of October in Islamabad is considered very crucial. All the member countries will try to gain maximum from the meet and pursue their national interests. Iran will try to contain Israel's escalation while Russia's focus would be to present its version of war in Ukraine; China will look into it in the economic mirror whereas Pakistan will be trying to extract maximum

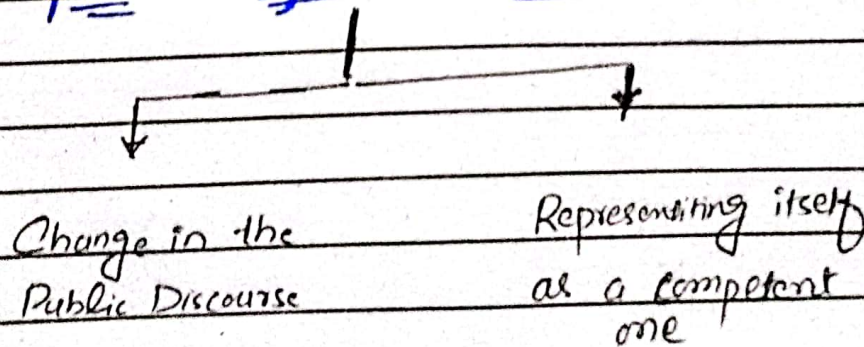
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of its interests from the meeting of the Heads of the <sup>Government</sup> State Council (HSC).

## (II) Importance of the meeting:



## (A) Importance for the Current Government



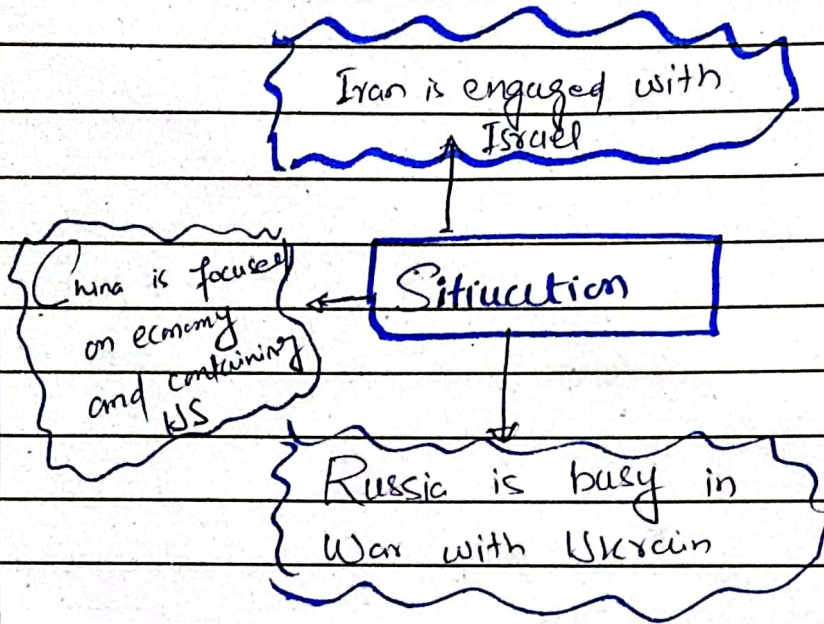
The meeting of the SCO in Islamabad will help the government by changing the public discourse about the government. The govt

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current crises that has emerged due to the 'power show' of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the opposition on constitutional reform package has given a tough time to the government. According to some scholars, though government is performing better than the expectations, as inflation is reduced to 6pc from 29pc, it still does not enjoy the public support. Holding such a high-profile meet will help changing the public opinion of about the government.

Moreover, another benefit which the government would like to cash from the meeting is representing itself as a competent government. ~~There~~ Questions has been raising over the legitimacy of the government based on its making allegedly through Form-47. ~~This~~ Hosting this meeting will definitely play a role in portraying a better image of the current coalition government.

B)



### Importance for Iran:

After the October 7, 2023 incident, Iran and Israel are on the verge of a full-pledge war. The recent Iranian direct attack on Israel with drones and missiles has increased the probability of an escalation from the Israel. Israel is expected to attack today, tomorrow or any other day. If Israel attacks during the SCO meet on Iran, this will definitely overshadow the meet. This would be a great opportunity for Iran to create a diplomatic push against the West, particularly the US, for backing Israel.

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### Importance for Russia:

Similarly, Russia is engaged in war with Ukraine. Currently, Ukraine is using F-16 jets against Russia which have been given by the US. In response, Russia is threatening the west by that it would use nuclear weapons if the arms and jets of a nuclear states are used against Russia. In this meeting of the SCO, Russia will try to highlight 'its version' of war with Ukraine.

### Importance for China:

Most probably, China will use this meeting to increase its economic influence in the South Asian Region. This is an opportunity to ally the SCO member states to the famous Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China. Moreover, contain US influence in the region would also be the focus of the Chinese Prime Minister in Pakistan.

## c) Importance for Pakistan

Pressurizing Afghanistan  
to act against  
the terrorist  
groups

+

Representing itself as a  
victim of the terrorism  
to counter Indian  
Propaganda

+

Chances for starting  
peace talks with  
India

+

Economic Development  
Chances

+

Highlighting  
the Kashmir issue  
again

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### To Pressurize Afghanistan

This meeting is an opportunity to pressurize Afghanistan to take actions against the militant groups active against Pakistan, China, and Iran. Recent United Nations report reveal that Afghan Taliban (Afghan Government) has close ties with the terrorist groups like TTP and IS-K. These terrorist organisations are involved in the attacks on the Chinese engineers in Pakistan. China will be convinced by the Pakistani officials to pressurize Afghanistan to take actions against the terrorist groups involved in the attacks on Pakistan.

### Pakistan is a Victim of Terrorism:

The recent attack on Chinese engineers in Karachi would be highlighted to condemn the terrorism in Pakistan. It would provide a ground to act against the separatist groups in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Pakistan would represent itself as a victim of terrorism countering the Indian propagandas that Pakistan is 'perpetrator'.

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of the terrorism.

### **Economic Opportunities:**

Similarly, negotiations on CPEC and trade with the Central Asian ~~Agreement~~ Republics Countries (CARs) would also be on the priority list of the Pakistan CPEC, being the game changer, is expected to be widened after the SCO meeting in official meetings.

### **Chances of Engagement with India?**

During elections, both the countries' political parties could not afford the discussion of peace-talks with each other. However, now, elections are over and there is a chance of at least 'engagement' between the two countries, if not peace-talks.

### **Highlighting the Kashmir Issue:**

It should be noted that etc. in the recent elections in Jammu and Kashmir (IOK), the National Conference of Omar Abdullah has managed to form the government. Interestingly,

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election manifesto of the NC was the restriction of the Article-370. It became clear that people of Jammu and Kashmir has announced its decision that they want restriction of the Article-370 abolished by the BJP government of India. Pakistan, using this logic, has the opportunity to convey its message to the world or convince the SCO members that restriction of the Article-370 is demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the territory should be given its previous status.

### III. Conclusion:

In a nutshell, it can be seen that the upcoming SCO meeting is very crucial in the given situation. This will definitely influence the current situation in the world. Let's hope that this meet will bring peace and security for the member states; and Pakistan will extract maximum out of it pursuing its national interests.

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