

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS

(Q5)

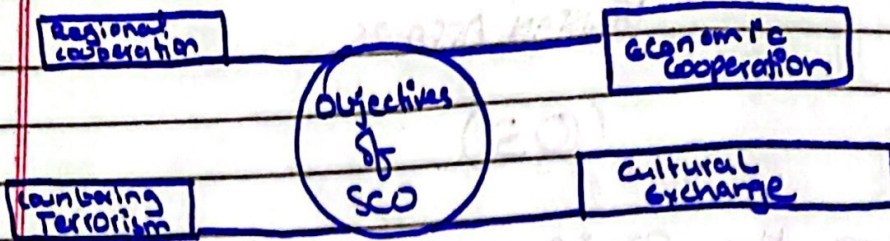
Explore the significance of Shanghai Cooperation (SCO) for Pakistan.

OUTLINE:

- 1) Introduction.
- 2) Exploring the significance of Shanghai Cooperation
- 3) Conclusion.

INTRODUCTION:

Shanghai Cooperation saw its birth in 1990s after the disintegration of USSR. It was initially known as "Shanghai Five" and after Uzbekistan became its member, its name has been changed. Furthermore, Pakistan has been become its best member and it can try to achieve its national interests through this organization due to the presence of Russia and China. Moreover, the group organization has very strong objectives to maintain regional cooperation.



EXPLORING SIGNIFICANCE OF SCO

FOR PAKISTAN:

Through the organization, Pakistan can take maximum advantage, as the organization has comparatively lesser clashes as compared to a defunct organization like SAARC.

Pakistan-Russia Cooperation through SCO:

Through SCO, Pakistan can further seek its national interest by cooperating with Russia. According to different scholars, Pakistan has an agreement of Gas Stream Pipeline project with Russia. Furthermore, Pakistan can also use this forum to buy oil from Russia within its purchasing power.

Pakistan-Central Asia Cooperation: Prospects for Pakistan's Economy:

Central Asia is a resource-rich region. It has the capability to

meet Pakistan's energy needs. Furthermore, countries like Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan are rich in coal, gas and uranium. The Central Asian states are ~~land~~ landlocked and they also look forward to Pakistan for using its geostrategic location for trade purpose. Thus, through SCO, Pakistan can seek support from Central Asian states.

Pakistan can take benefits from SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS):

RATS is the most significant part of SCO. In this structure, Pakistan can share its success stories with the member states about its own counterterrorism techniques which it has followed. Moreover, Pakistan has also participated in SCO's Counter-terrorism military exercise in 2021. Moreover, Pakistan's land seems to have been proliferated by insurgent groups and militant groups, it can further hone its skills in counter terrorism exercises.

Failure to resolve Indo-Pak rivalry can be addressed at SCO:

There are 10 members of SCO, out of which India is one of them:

Members of SCO

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan

• Tajikistan • Belarus

South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has failed to achieve any of its goal. It has failed to address the Indo-Pak rivalry. Both the countries, while putting aside all their differences should go for cooperation in the economic realm through this organization.

Pakistan - China Cooperation shall boost with SCO.

Pakistan and China have enjoyed cordial relations since 1950s. Through SCO, Pakistan can make progress over CPEC, as it has slowed down comparatively in the previous years. In addition, Pakistan can also use the platform to strengthen cooperation with China in other domains.

Conclusion:

Thus, Shanghai Cooperation holds great significance for Pakistan as it will promote cooperation with member states. Pakistan would get a chance to bring investors into the country and it will help to fulfil its energy needs in exchange for its geostrategic location. Moreover, Pakistan would be able to participate in counter terrorism activities to strengthen its home-grown techniques to counter terrorists.
