

Q1. Discuss SCO, how does Pak contribute to it, & what are the key outcomes of its recent summits?

SCO

1: Introduction

The Shanghai Cooperation organization is an intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June ~~2001~~ 2001, by six countries,

China

Russia

Kazakhstan

Kyrgyzstan

Tajikistan

Uzbekistan

Later Pak ~~join~~ & India joined in SCO in 2017 and it became a 8 member country organization.

Iran joined the group in 2023 & Belarus in July 2024.

Besides these member countries

there are several countries are engaged as observer or dialogue partner.

give the main heading first and relate your headings to the qs statement.

~~1.1 → observer countries~~

There are 2 main observer states of Sco

Afghanistan

Mongolia.

These are ^{non member} countries, that is granted the privilege to participate in the organization's activities & meetings without having full membership rights such as voting or proposing resolution.

Same goes to Afghanistan & Mongolia, they are non permanent members of Sco.

~~1.2 → Dialogue Partners~~

There are the countries that has a consultative relationship with the main organization or body, sharing common interests & goals but not holding full membership status.

In SCO there are 14 dialogue partners, among these some are:

Turkey

Azerbaijan

Egypt

Saudi Arabia

Srilanka

Armenia

Bahrain

Cambodia

Kuwait

Maldives

Myanmar

Nepal

Qatar

UAE

These countries are dialogue partners of SCO & engage in cooperation with SCO in various areas, but they don't have full membership.

2 Objectives of SCO

The main objectives of in SCO are:

2.1) Strengthen Mutual trust & Good Neighbourliness:

Aims to promote friendship & mutual understanding among its members.

Avoid suspicion & conflict.

Stress on Sovereign equality means no member is allowed to dominate others.

2.2 Ensure regional peace, Security & Stability:

in SCO founded party to counter security threats in central asia after the Soviet breakup.

So, the main focus is on combating in 3 evils:

Three Evils

→ Terrorism → organized acts of violence for political aim.

→ Separation → Movement seeking to breakaway from a state.

→ Extremism → Radical ideologies promoting violence.

2.3 Promote Political & Diplomatic Cooperation:

The SCO encourages peaceful resolution of disputes & promotes

a multipolar world. It stands against unilateral military inventions.

Also promote their effective cooperation in trade, Politics, research, in economy, technology & culture.

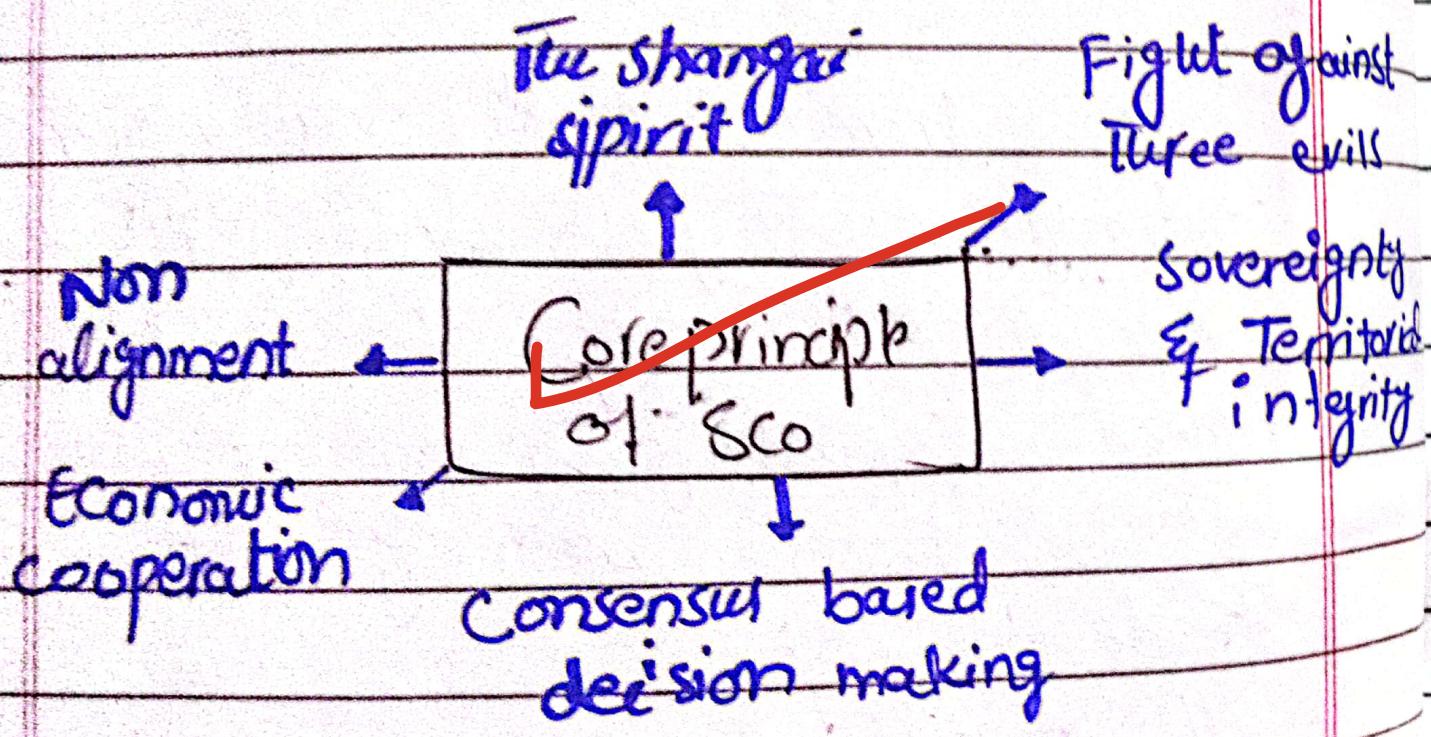
2.4.3 Promote Economic Cooperation:

SCO promote trade, investment & infrastructure projects like Belt & road initiative as it aims to reduce dependency on western economies by boosting intra-SCO trade.

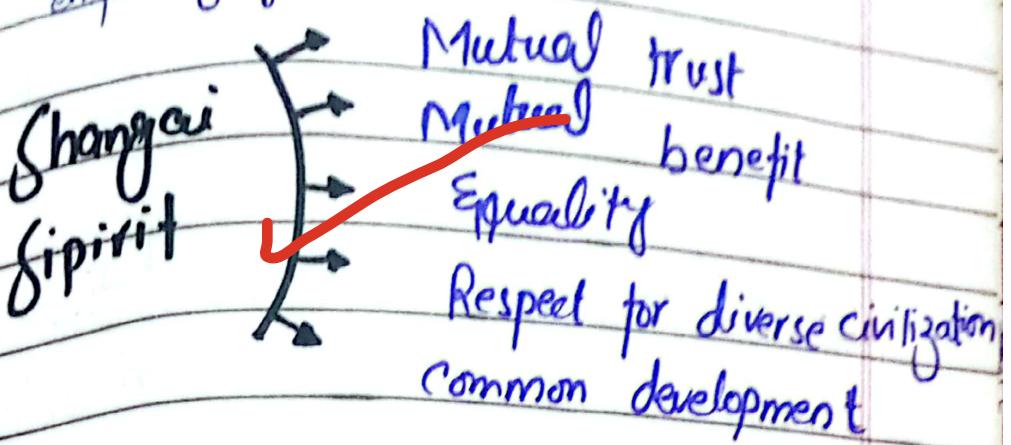
Its main focus on energy cooperation like Russia & China gas pipelines, a

3 Principles of SCO:

The SCO operates based on a set of fundamental principles outlined in its founding documents. These principles guide the organization's policies, decision-making, and interaction among member states.



3.1 → the Shanghai Spirit:
in guiding principles of SCO,
emphasizing



3.2 → Non alignment & Non targeting Third parties

in SCO is ^{not} a military alliance unlike
NATO, So it does not oppose any
specific country but focuses on
internal cooperation & internal stability.
it open to partnerships like UN
ASEAN without hostility toward other
blocks.

3.3 → Sovereignty & Non interference

SCO core principle is to respect
for territorial integrity

for example:

Supports China's stance on Taiwan

Xinjiang.

It resists external interference
in domestic affairs.

3.4 → Consensus Based decision making

All major decisions require unanimous agreement

for example: Each member has veto power

means all countries agree on one decision

Also it ensures no domination by big powers like China, Russia cannot override smaller states.

Example of Consensus based decision is UNIS.

India & Pakistan's entry in (2017) required approval from all founding members.

3.5 → **Fight against "Three Evils"**
in SCO's key security focus.

Three Evils ↗
Terrorism
Separatism
Extremism

In order to fight with these three evils SCO has a special department called RATS (Regional anti-terrorist structure) which fight against these evils.

3.6 → **Economic Cooperation without political conditions**

in SCO focused on trade, energy & infrastructure.

For example → **Belt & Road project**.
So main focus is to help them economically to complete their projects without political conditions.

4 → SCO & Pakistan

Pakistan joined SCO as a full member in 2017, marking a significant shift in its foreign policy towards greater engagement with Eurasian powers like China & Russia.

4.1 → Strategic Significance to join SCO



Security interests: Combating Terrorism & Extremism:

Pakistan faces threats from terrorist groups like TTP, BIA etc. So, in order to overcome from this Pak joined SCO, because its

RATs helps in Intelligence-sharing
g counter terrorism cooperation.
Also Pakistan's participation in SCO
peace mission military drills improves
interoperability with China & Russia.

Economic benefits, CPEC & Regional connectivity: → offer Pak access to energy resources
of trade route.

Pakistan faces Chronic Power Shortages,
So SCO membership facilitates
oil/gas imports from Russia & Central
Asia. Also, it supports projects like
Tapi pipeline.

CPEC becomes a part of a larger
SCO connectivity network as its,
a potential for rail/road links
to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan & beyond.

Overall, joining SCO Pakistan becomes
a trade hub b/w South Asia, Central
Asia & the middle east

Diplomatic & Strategic Balancing

Diplomatically, in SCO allows Pakistan
to counterbalance India's growing
influence, in the region.

Since, India also joined in SCO in 2017, Pakistan uses this forum to present its stance on disputes like Kashmir & prevent diplomatic isolation. Additionally, SCO reduces Pak's reliance on the US, which they increasingly aligned with India.

By deepening engagement with the SCO, Pak positions itself within a China-Russia led Eurasian bloc, providing an alternative to western dominated alliance.

5 Recent Summits of SCO

5.1 Defense Ministers meeting:

SCO recent summit held in 25-26 June 2025, ^{in Qingdao} hosted by China which brought together defense ministers from the SCO's 10 member states.

Main Points of the SCO defense minister's meeting:

Following are the main points that are discussed in this meeting.

Focus on Regional Security & Fighting terrorism:

The key focus of this meeting was all about strengthening security in the region & tackling terrorism.

The 10 members of SCO came together to discuss how to keep their

region safe from the threats like terrorist attacks, cyberattacks & conflicts fueled by outside forces.

They agreed to work more closely through the SCO's RATIS, which

has already stopped over 600

potential attacks & helped to

arrest 800 terrorists in recent years.

Strengthening Military Cooperation:

The meeting focused on ways to boost military cooperation among SCO

countries. This included planning joint military exercises, sharing intelligence, and working together. ~~Joint~~ on things like military medical support. ~~Sec~~, Secretary General Nurlan Yermekbayev stressed the need for stronger defense ties to handle new security challenges, like cyber attacks & proxy wars. For instance, recent cyber attacks on critical infrastructure in Kazakhstan & Uzbekistan in early 2025 were cited as reason to improve cyber defense ~~in~~ collaboration. The ministers also reviewed past SCO exercises, like in peace mission 2021, a joint drill involving ~~China~~, Russia & Central Asian states, which helped to build trust & coordination. These efforts aim to make the SCO's militaries better prepared to respond to threats together.

Challenges & Internal Tensions

While, the SCO aims for unity, the meeting exposed some cracks, especially between India & Pakistan. India refused to sign the joint declaration because it did not mention the Pahlgam attack, which India ~~seems~~ sees as an example of cross border terrorism supported by Pakistan. India's defense minister Rajnath Singh took a firm stand against terrorism saying that "Peace & prosperity can't exist, if terrorism continues."

He stressed that "Countries sponsoring terrorism must be held accountable". Indirectly he was pointing at Pakistan.

This was a bold move as it's rare for an SCO member to reject a joint statement.

keep the description of a single argument a bit brief.

China's push for a unity & a multipolar world:

China as ^{the} host & Chair for 2015, used the meeting to promote unity among members & position the SCO as a counterweight to western alliances like NATO. Chinese defense minister criticized "unilateralism & hegemony" that USA always use task terms to create global instability. He called in SCO an "anchor of stability", & emphasized an "Shanghai spirit". which is about mutual trust & respect for different cultures.

India-Russia Defense system discussion:

In the meeting, India & Russia held a bilateral talks on defense system, focusing on

expediting supplies & upgrades to strengthen India's military capabilities amid regional threats. India's defense minister met Russian minister on sidelines to discuss the expediting S-400 air defense system deliveries & upgrading Su-30 MKI jets with advanced AL-41 engines & 78% of indigenous components like L15AM AESA Radar.

India is strengthening their defense capabilities through Russian supplies & joint production.

Maritime Security Cooperation in the Indian Ocean & the South China Sea:

It was a secondary focus of ministers in meeting to secure the Indian Ocean & South China Sea, in order to ensure safe trade routes & counter threats like piracy & territorial disputes, & illegal fishing.

CBMs: Confidence Building Measures & for military de-escalation

In the meeting, they discussed to reduce the tension among member states. Indian defense minister pushed for a stronger CBMs like border patrols & regular communication, to prevent conflicts along the India-China border, referencing the 2020 Galwan Clash. The SCO discussed joint exercises & military medical cooperation to build trust, citing recent cyberattacks in Kazakhstan as a shared concern.

India's Soft Power Diplomacy

India used soft power diplomacy by giving a "Macbethani" picture to Chinese counterpart, Admiral Dong Jun. This gesture is aimed to foster goodwill & peace.

Similarly, Singh presented an idol of 'Lord Alataraj' to Russian defense minister, in order to strengthen the bond of India & Russia.



2nd ~~Summit~~ S.2 Foreign Ministers meeting of Sco.

Sco Summit of foreign ministers took place on 15 July 2015 in Tianjin China. The meeting was officially chaired by Chinese Foreign minister Wang Yi. It was a preparatory step for the Sco Summit held from August 31 to September 1, 2015 also in Tianjin.

Main points of Sco Foreign ministers meetings

Following are the main points that discuss in the meeting.

President Xi Jinping's Speech to Sco leaders:

President Xi Jinping met Sco foreign ministers in Beijing on July 15, 2015, and talked about the

Scō's growth over 24 years. He addressed Shanghai spirit by saying "we Scō promotes trust & teamwork, making it a role model for fair international relations. Xi wants China to help in Scō ensure safety, boost cooperation in trade & culture, & stand against unfair global conflict. He's excited for the Tianjin summit to plan in Scō's future.

Wang Yi (foreign minister)
of China five
Simple ideas for Scō:

In 7th Summit foreign minister of China Wang Yi discusses 5 points to make in Scō stronger.

First, Stick to the Shanghai spirit for trust & respect

Secondly, fight terrorism & cyber threats together.

Third, grow economies with trade, green energy & a new Scō bank

Fourth, build friendship through cultural

exchanges
Fifth, Support fairness, peace in
middle east & a stable
afghanistan.

Getting ready for Tu Tianjin SCO summit:

In Tu meeting all foreign ministers
of SCO discuss about Tu Tianjin
summit which is going to be held
in 31 august. They agreed on
key plans like Tu Tianjin declaration
to guide in SCO for the next
10 years. Leaders for many
countries will attend to strengthen
in SCO.

Encouraging people & cultural Connections:

Tu meeting focused on bringing
people closer through cultural
events & travel.

~~Xi jinping said ui helps create peace & prosperity. Wang Yi suggested that using platform & community events to build strong friendship across generations.~~

this is a very lengthy answer and will badly affect your time management. so shorten it a bit.

work on the structure of the answer and the relevance of arguments.

end the answer with conclusion.