

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 ~~8~~ 6 countries,

China

Russia

Kazakhstan

Kyrgyzstan

Tajikistan

Uzbekistan

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

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

Beside these member countries there are several countries are engaged as Observer or dialogue partner.



## 1.1 → observer countries

There are 2 main observer states of SCO

Afghanistan

Mongolia

These are <sup>non member</sup> 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

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



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

Turkey	Armenia	Myanmar
Azerbaijan	Bahrain	Nepal
Egypt	Cambodia	Qatar
Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	UAE
Sri Lanka	Maldives	

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 the SCO are:

**2.1** Strengthen Mutual trust & Good Neighbourliness:

aims to promote friendship & Mutual understanding among its members.

Avoid suspicion & conflict.



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

2.2 → Ensure regional peace, Security & Stability:

in SCO founded partly to counter in Security Threats in Central Asia after in Soviet breakup.

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

Three  
Evils

→ Terrorism → organized acts of violence for political aims.

→ Separatism → 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 interventions.

Also promote ~~their~~ effective cooperation in trade, politics research, the economy, technology & culture.

## 24→ Promote Economic Cooperation:

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

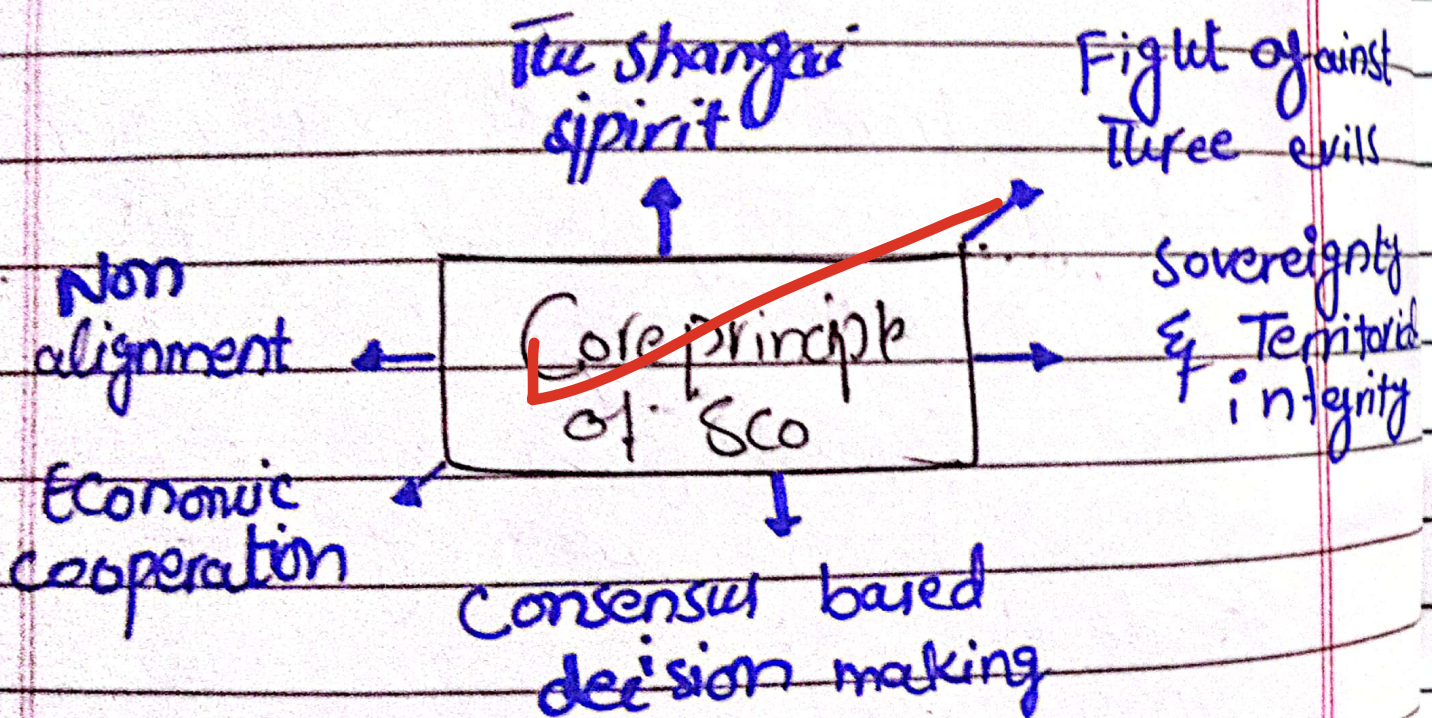
Its main focus on energy cooperation like Russia China gas pipelines, &



# 3 principle 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 & interaction among member states.





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

Shanghai  
Spirit



Mutual trust  
Mutual benefit  
Equality

Respect for diverse civilization  
Common development

3.2 → Non alignment & Non  
targeting Third parties

in SCO is <sup>not</sup> a military alliance unlike  
NATO. So it does not oppose any  
specific country but focuses on  
internal cooperation & internal stability.  
it opens ~~to~~ partnerships like UN  
ASEAN without hostility toward other  
blocs.

3.3 → Sovereignty & Non interference

SCO core principle is to respect  
for territorial integrity



for example:

Supports China's stance on Taiwan  
Xinjiang.

It rejects ~~the~~ external interference  
in domestic affairs.

### 3.4 → Consensus Based decision

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.

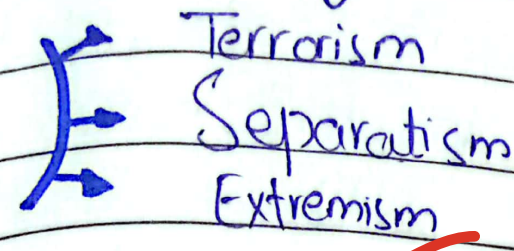
Example of consensus based decision  
is ~~Treaties~~

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



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

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 focuses on trade, energy & infrastructure.

For example → Belt & Road project.

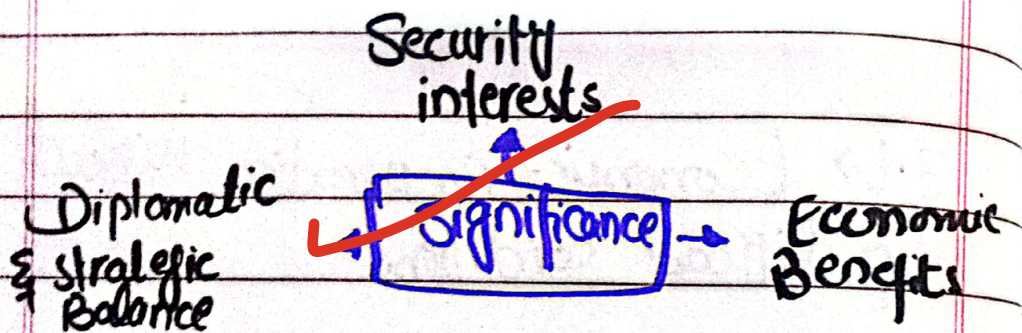
SCO main focus is to help them economically to complete their projects without political conditions.



## 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 group like TTP, BLA etc. So, in order to overcome from this Pak joined SCO, because its



RATS helps in Intelligence-sharing & 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 & 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 it is, 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, the 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 has 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 on 25-26 June 2025 <sup>in Qingdao</sup>, hosted by China which brought together defense ministers from the Sco's 10 member states.

### Main Points of the Sco defense ministers 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 DATS, which

has already stopped over 600  
potential attacks & helped to

arrest 500 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 ~~on~~ on things like ~~joint~~ military medical support. ~~Sec. Secretary - General~~ Nurlan Yermekbayev stressed the need for stronger defense ties to handle new security challenges, like cyberattacks & proxy wars. For instance, recent cyberattacks on critical infrastructure in Kazakhstan & Uzbekistan in early 2015 were cited as reason to improve cyber defense ~~and~~ collaboration. The ministers also reviewed past SCO exercises, like the peace mission 2014, a joint drill involving ~~China~~ 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 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.



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## 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 these terms to create global instability. He called the 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 systems focusing on



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

India ~~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.



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## CBM's : Confidence Building Measures & for military de-escalation.

In the meeting, they discussed to reduce the tensions among member states. Indian defence 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 "Maalhubani" picture to Chinese counterpart, Admiral Dong Juan. This gesture aimed to foster goodwill & peace.



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Similarly, Singh presented an idol of "Lord ~~Nataraj~~" 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 2005 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 4, 2005 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 two



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

### Wang Yi (foreign minister of China) five simple ideas for Sco:

In this Summit foreign minister of China Wang Yi discussed 5 points to make the Sco 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 Sco bank.

Fourth, build friendship through cultural



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

## Getting ready for the Tianjin SCO Summit:

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

## Encouraging people & cultural connections:

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



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Xi Jinping said 'w' 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.