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(Q No: 01)

R.No - 390A

: Define the mutual areas of cooperation b/w Pakistan, China, and Russia through the platform of SCO.

### Introduction:

The Shanghai 5 renamed by Shanghai Cooperation Organization SCO in 2001, emerged as a pivotal Eurasian political, Economic and Security alliance. The accession of Pakistan (2017) and Russia-China's long-standing collaboration with in the SCO has enhanced the opportunities for multi-dimensional cooperation. SCO provides China, Russia and Pakistan with a platform to address the regional challenges, enhance economic integration, and promote security collaborations amidst global shifts.

"SCO has transformed from a security club into a key player in shaping Eurasia's economic and political architecture"

(Andrew Small, Analyst of China-Eurasia affairs)

"Pakistan's role in SCO complements its Strategic Geography and enhances its regional influence."

(Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad ISSI 2023 Report)

### Mutual Cooperation Areas:

Security and Strategic  
Cooperation

Economic, Energy  
& Connectivity cooperations

Cultural, Soft-  
Power, environmental  
Diplomacy



## MUTUAL COOPERATION AREAS.

- 1: Regional Security and Counter-terrorism Cooperation.  
Pakistan, China and Russia prioritize security cooperation through the SCO to counter terrorism, extremism and Separatism. (China's <sup>Xinjiang</sup> ~~Uyghuristan~~, Pak West border) termed as the "Three Evils" in the SCO 2001 Charter. This partnership addresses common threats from Afghanistan, cross border militancy and extremism in region. Under the "Regional-Anti terrorist structure" (RATS) in Tashkent these countries share ~~intelligence~~ <sup>information</sup> and conduct joint operations against terrorist groups. Like FAK (formerly TIP), ETIM and ISIS-K. This cooperation has foiled numerous terror plots. (RATS 2021).

"Pakistan has already taken several measures to effectively leverage the RATS framework by investing in capacity building and implementing mechanisms to enhance its counterterrorism efforts"  
(RATS 2021)

A practical example is that Pakistan's participation in "SCO Peace Mission Exercises (2018, 2021) with China and Russia, focusing on joint terror drills and urban warfare preparedness. These exercises have strengthened military cooperation and trust:

"SCO has matured from a symbolic bloc to a functional security framework shaping Eurasia."  
(Andrew Small : Carnegie)



Moreover, cooperation extended to border security and anti narcotics efforts to block drug networks that fund terrorism in line with UNODC (2021, 2025)

Significance:

These efforts enhance regional stability and institutionalize counter-terrorism cooperation, marking a shift towards the Eurasian-led security solutions.

"Reaffirmation of commitment to a secure and terrorism free Eurasia" (Samarkand Declaration 2022)

"Regional Security requires regional solutions, and SCO Provides precisely that" (Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad ISSI23)

## Regional Security and Counter Terrorism.

RATS

Russia-led exercises  
Peace mission

Border Security.

Joint information sharing

## 2: Economic and Trade

Pakistan, China and Russia utilize the SCO framework to enhance regional economic integration by aligning major initiatives like China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Russia's Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). These frameworks aim to improve intra-regional trade (Cent-Asia, ME) (Free trade trade), infrastructure development, and energy connectivity across Eurasia. SCO Mechanisms further promote local currencies trade and financial cooperation, reducing reliance on western financial system.



45: C  
A key example is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship BRI project that aligns the SCO's connectivity mission. While primarily bilateral, CPEC provides access to China and open ways for Russia to connect via Pakistan. Russia has expressed interest in utilizing Gwadar and Pakistan road network for trade to access warm water ports.

"CPEC offers Eurasia a new trade geography beyond Western-controlled maritime choke points" (ISSI 2023)

(maps provided applied) This integration diversifies trade routes; strengthens energy and goods corridors, and complements SCO's broader objectives of enhancing regional economic resilience.

Significance:

Through SCO, Pakistan contributes to a shared Eurasian economic vision that enhances connectivity, reduces vulnerabilities to external pressures, and promotes multipolar trade framework.

3: Energy Cooperation:

Pakistan, China, Russia promote energy cooperation under the SCO framework through joint projects in oil, gas, pipelines and renewable energy. These initiatives aim to strengthen regional energy.

(Initiatives) energy security, diversify supply chains and developed frameworks for sustainable energy collaboration.



Pakistan Collaboration with Russia and China on energy security frameworks, including ~~the~~ hydro-power, and renewables. Such cooperations aligns with SCO's vision to ensure stable, affordable, and diversified energy supplies for member states.

"Energy infrastructure through SCO enhances regional security, economic stability, geopolitical resilience beyond western influence"  
(ISSI 2023)

The Pakistan Stream Gas pipeline (2021), a 1400 km project from Karachi to Lahore with Russian technical and financial assistance. (China's hydropower projects).

"Project like Pakistan Stream Strengthen Eurasia's Strategic energy independence"  
(PIDE)

Significance:

Energy cooperation through SCO supports regional integration, energy resilience, and strategic autonomy for Pakistan, China, Russia.

#### 4: Climate Change and Environmental Cooperation.

Pakistan, China, Russia engage through SCO to advance environmental cooperation, focusing on climate resilience, disaster management, water resources sustainability and renewable energy transitions.

These efforts align with the ~~the~~ SCO's agenda of promoting regional sustainability and environmental security amid growing climate related risks.

Although no major bilateral project has materialized yet, Pakistan actively participates in SCO discussion



on environmental protection, contributing to dialogues on climate resilience strategies, sustainable water management, and green energy technologies. These initiatives lay the ground work for future regional environmental cooperation under SCO's evolving environmental framework.

- “Environmental diplomacy under SCO strengthens regional resilience against climate threats and promotes sustainable development across Eurasia” (ISSI)

### Significance:

Such cooperation provides a platform for knowledge sharing, joint research, and green energy collaboration, aligning Pakistan, China and Russia's interests towards long-term environmental security.

- “Environmental collaboration under SCO builds trust and addresses non traditional security threats.” (PIDE).



45: Cultural, Educational, and People-to-People Exchange.  
Pak, China and Russia Promote Soft Power  
diplomacy through SCO by enhancing cooperation  
in culture, education, and People-People exchanges.  
SCO forum serve as Platforms for youth conferences  
Cultural exhibition, Sports activities and academic  
Partnerships, fostering regional harmony and mutual  
understanding.

Pak actively participates in SCO Youth (Summit)  
forums, cultural festivals, and educational exchanges  
which strengthen diplomatic goodwills and improve  
Cultural ties with Russia and China. These initiatives  
Contribute to building trust beyond political and  
economic cooperation, aligning with SCO's emphasis  
on fostering regional peace through cultural engagement.  
Tourism Promotion with in SCO states further supports  
economic integration and cultural diplomacy. encouraging  
intra cultural awareness.

"People-people engagement under SCO enhances  
mutual trust and builds a resilient Eurasian  
identity beyond Strategic alliance"  
(ISSI)

Significance:-

Such exchanges deepen diplomatic relations, cultural  
understanding, and educational cooperation, contributing  
to regional stability and Soft Power diplomacy  
under SCO.



## b. Diplomatic Engagement and Conflict Resolution through SCO Platforms.

(a) The SCO serves as a platform where Russia and China play informal roles in mediating tensions b/w Pak and India. While SCO does not have a formal dispute resolution mechanism, both powers emphasize regional stability, dialogue, and de-escalation through backchannel diplomacy and sideline meetings. Russia and China consistently encourage restraint b/w Pak and India, particularly after incidents like the Pulwama-Balakot Crisis (2019) and recent Operation Sindoor (2025). Both have stressed avoiding escalation.

- SCO's diplomatic environment reduces the risk of South Asian tensions spilling into wider regional instability" (Andrew Small : Carnegie, 2022).

## (b) Trilateral Consultations on Afghanistan.

Pak, China, Russia hold trilateral consultations on Afghanistan outside formal SCO frameworks but aligned with its objectives. These dialogues focus on counter terrorism, border security, humanitarian aid, and Taliban engagement after US withdrawal in 2021.

These consultations strengthen regional coordination aligning interests on combating ISIS-K, drug trafficking, and preventing Afghan instability from impacting Central and South Asia, as noted in the SCO Samarkand Declaration (2022).



"A Peaceful, Stable, and terrorism free Afghanistan"

### Significance:

Through SCO's diplomatic architecture, Pak, China, Russia contribute to conflict de-escalation, crisis management, and regional stability, both bilaterally and through bilateral forums like the Afghanistan dialogue.

"SCO Provides diplomatic breathing space for South Asia's rivals and encourages conflict avoidance"

(Andrew Small)

"Regional Stability in Afghanistan is now a bilateral responsibility shared by Pakistan, Russia, and China"

(ISSI)

add a few more arguments in this part.

### Conclusion:

Through the SCO, Pakistan, China and Russia Strengthen Cooperation in security, trade, energy, and diplomacy. Their collaboration Promotes regional stability, multipolarity, and shared development - positioning SCO as a vital platform for Eurasian integration.

good structure and arguments.



Q (QNO: 02)

attempt and upload a single qs for evaluation at a time.

How Do you see the SCO in terms of ~~the~~ anti-western block in Asia.

(Answer)

## Introduction:

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) established in 2001, originally focused on Regional Security and counter-terrorism in Central Asia. However, as global power dynamics <sup>are</sup> shifting from Unipolarity to multipolarity, the SCO is increasingly seen as a counterweight to western dominance, particularly that of the US and its allies. Led by China and Russia, the SCO promotes non interference, regionalism, and State Sovereignty directly contrasting with the west's promotion of liberal democracy, interventionist policies, and Sanctions-based diplomacy.

"The SCO represents a multipolar alternative to the US-led global order"

~ Alexander Lukin, Russian political Analyst.

"we are not forming a bloc against anyone, but we are shaping a new world order"

~ Xi Jinping, 2022.

## Outline:

- 1: Strategic Alliance of Russia China
- 2: Security cooperation beyond NATO model.
- 3: Ideological Rejection of W-liberalism
- 4: Economic cooperation & de-dollarization
- 5: Alignment with anti-western states
- 6: Advocacy for multipolarity
- 7: Cyber Sovereignty
- 8: Afghanistan and the narrative failure of west.



# SCO VS WESTERN BLOC

| Aspects                         | Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)                                         | Western bloc<br>(NATO, G7, EU)                                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Foundational Philosophy         | Emphasize Sovereignty, non-interference, Multipolarity.                         | Liberal democratic values, Human rights, Rule based order.                     |
| Security Focus                  | Internal threats: Terrorism, Separatism, Extremism (Three evils).               | External threats: collective defense, military alliances, peace keeping.       |
| Military Approach               | Joint military drills (peace-mission).                                          | Global operations (e.g. Iraq, Afg). NATO, Intervention based strategy.         |
| Membership nature               | Includes diverse regimes: Authoritarian, Semi-Authoritarian, developing states. | Comprises mostly developed democracies and allies.                             |
| Approach to Global institutions | Calls for reform of IMF, UNCTAD, and World Bank to reflect multipolarity.       | Leads and upholds existing global institutions & financial system.             |
| Governance Structure            | Operates on consensus, limited binding authority.                               | Formal institutions with enforceable agreements & integrated policies.         |
| Human Rights & democracy        | Prioritize non-interference, avoid human rights conditionality.                 | ↑ democracy, civil liberties, universal norms.                                 |
| Economic Model                  | Focus on regional trade, local-currencies, and infrastructure (BRI).            | Support global free markets, dollar based finance, trade liberalization (WTO). |
| Cyber and information control   | Promote cyber sovereignty and regulation of digital space.                      | Defends open internet and freedom of expression online.                        |
| Geopolitical vision             | Multipolar world, regional autonomy, ↓ US dominance.                            | Liberal international <sup>order</sup> led by US, EU leader.                   |
| Criticism Faced                 | Authoritarianism, reluctant to human rights.                                    | Double standards, military overreach, politicizing democracy.                  |



## 1: Strategic Alliance Of Revisionist Powers: China and Russia.

At the heart of the SCO lies a strong Strategic Partnership between China and Russia, both of which challenge the existing Western-led global order.

- China seeks to counter US influence in the Indo Pacific and uses platforms like the SCO and BRI to expand its regional dominance.

- Russia, especially after the 2014 Crimea crisis, faced sanctions and diplomatic isolation from the west. It responded by pivoting eastwards, deepening ties with China and engaging SCO states to bypass western pressure. Russia increased military drills, trade in national currencies, and energy cooperation with China under the SCO framework.

"Western Sanctions made Russia look east, and the SCO was the natural partner."

(Fyodor

This shared opposition to Western expansionism has made the SCO a key vehicle for promoting a multipolar world, centered on regional autonomy and non-western cooperation.

## 2: Security Cooperation Beyond NATO's

The SCO offers a non-western security framework focused on regional stability rather than military alliance or external interventions.

- Its core security agenda revolves around combating the "Three Evils", Terrorism, Separatism, Extremism.

- SCO members emphasize state sovereignty, rejecting foreign interventions, regime change operations and western-backed "color revolutions".



The annual peace mission exercises involve joint military drills aimed at counter-terrorism but also prepare for internal unrest and foreign-sponsored destabilization.

"Color revolutions are a serious threat to stability in our region"

~ Xi Jinping : (2022 SCO Summit) .

"The SCO is becoming the Eastern NATO in soft form"

(Artyom Lukin, Russian Analyst)

By prioritizing internal security over external projection, the SCO builds a regional security model distinct from NATO's interventionist approach.

### 3: Ideological Rejection of Western Liberalism.

The SCO promotes a sovereignty first approach that contrasts sharply with the Western liberal model of democracy promotion, human rights advocacy, and media freedom.

- Member states emphasize non-interference and reject the imposition of Western political values.

- This appeals especially to authoritarian or semi-authoritarian regimes, who view Western pressure as a threat to domestic stability.

The SCO has never condemned China's Xinjiang policy or Iran's crackdown on protests, reflecting its stance against external criticism of internal affairs.

- "We respect each country's development path. The West cannot impose its values on us"

(SCO Secretariat).



By prioritizing national models over universal norms, the SCO serves as a safe diplomatic space for states facing western scrutiny.

#### 4: Economic Cooperation and de dollarization.

The SCO fosters regional economic integration that seeks to reduce dependence on western financial systems like the US dollar, SWIFT, IMF and World Bank.

- It encourages trade in local currencies, regional banking mechanisms, and large scale connectivity through China's Belt and Road Initiative. BRI.

- These efforts reflect a broader goal of economic sovereignty and resilience against western sanctions or financial pressure.

China and Russia now conduct much of their trade (bilateral) in "Yuan and Ruble" while Iran has proposed creating a "SCO Development Bank" to rival western institutions.

"We must build an (SCO Bank) SCO economic space free from financial blackmail"

(Ebrahim Raisi, Former Iran president)

Through this model the SCO promotes an alternative economic order grounded in multipolar finance and regional interdependence.



## 5: Expansion and Alignment with Anti-Western States.

The SCO is ~~the~~ increasingly welcoming states marginalized or sanctioned by the west, which strengthens its identity as a bloc opposed to Western dominance.

- Iran, under heavy US sanctions, became a full member in 2023.
- Belarus, facing EU pressure, became a full member in 2024.
- Afghanistan, though unrecognized by most of the west under Taliban rule, is engaged by SCO members for regional stability.

Iran called the SCO a "natural counter balance to NATO" after joining, signaling its alignment with the bloc's anti-western posture.

"SCO gives a diplomatic umbrella to Pariah States"

(Dr. Shireen Hunter, Georgetown uni).

This expansion not only boosts the SCO's regional reach but also deepens its image as a platform for states seeking strategic alternatives to the west.

## 6: Advocacy for Multipolarity and Global Institutional Reforms.

The SCO consistently promotes a multipolar world order, rejecting US hegemony and the dominance of western-led institutions like the UN Security Council, IMF, and World Bank.

- Member states demand greater representation for Asia, Africa and the Global South in global governance
- The bloc frames itself as a voice for a fairer



international system, where no single power dictates global affairs.

SCO summit declarations regularly call for reforms in global institutions to reflect "new geopolitical realities" and ensure equity in decision-making.

"The ~~uni~~ unipolar world is obsolete."

(Vladimir Putin)

"SCO is a political shield against Western pressure"

— Sergey Lavrov, Russian FM)

This push for reforms reinforces the SCO's role as a balancer to Western political and institutional influence.

## 7: Cyber Sovereignty and Control of the Digital Space

The SCO promotes the principle of cyber sovereignty, the right of each state to control its own internet infrastructure, content, and information flow, opposing the Western model of open and borderless internet.

• SCO members argue that unrestricted digital freedom is often exploited for foreign interference, propaganda, destabilization.

They support regional cooperation in cyber security, data regulation, and countering "ideological infiltration".

"The internet should not be used to spread Western ideological dominance"

(SCO Communiqué)

This vision of the internet reflects the SCO's broader philosophy of state-centered governance, rejecting



the liberal digital norms promoted by the west.

### 8: Afghanistan and the Narrative of Western Failure.

The SCO has used the US withdrawal from Afghanistan as a case study in the failure of western interventionism while promoting regional solutions led by neighbouring states.

- SCO leaders emphasize the need for non-interference, reconstruction, and engagement with the Taliban for regional security.
- unlike the west, which largely cut ties post-2021, SCO ~~member~~ countries, especially China, Russia, and Iran have maintained dialogues and humanitarian coordination.

At the 2021 Dushanbe Summit, SCO members criticized the U.S exit strategy and agreed to coordinate on Afghanistan without involving NATO.

"The west left Afghanistan in ruins. Now SCO must ensure stability"

Vladimir Putin.

Afghanistan serves as a symbol of western decline and positions the SCO as a more credible actor in regional conflict resolution.

### Conclusion:

~~While~~ while not formally anti-western, the SCO, led by Russia and China act as a strategic counterbalance by rejecting western interventionism, promoting sovereignty over liberal norms, and creating parallel economic



and security structures. Its support for a cyber sovereignty, inclusion of sanctioned states, and criticism of western failure underscore its role as an emerging alternatives to western-led institutions. reflecting the shift towards a multipolar world order.

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