

(15)

Q- Pakistan Successfully conducted SCO conference in Islamabad. Critically evaluate the major takeaways for Pakistan. What measures would you recommend Islamabad to follow

Introduction

Hosting the SCO Summit in Islamabad reinforced Pakistan's strategic relevance in Eurasia. By chairing the conference, Islamabad projected administrative competence and diplomatic influence.

Huma Bqai
in Pakistan & SCO (2021)

emphasizes that hosting high profile multilateral forums transforms Pakistan into a regional connector rather than a peripheral actor.

The summit showcased Pakistan as a hub linking Central Asia, South Asia, and the Arabian Sea.

give the main heading first.....

Enhanced GeoEconomic Visibility

The conference highlighted Pakistan's role as a connectivity and trade corridor through CPEC and Gwadar Port. SCO members acknowledged Pakistan's strategic ~~position~~ for Eurasian commerce. S. Akbar Zaidi in

New Geopolitics of Pakistan (2020) notes that "Geography becomes leverage when paired with infrastructure and diplomacy." Islamabad successfully projected its economic corridors as instruments of regional integration.

Strengthened Security Cooperation

Pakistan leveraged the summit to deepen counterterrorism collaboration via

RATS. Joint Initiatives on intelligence sharing and military containment were enclosed,

aligning with Pakistan's internal security objectives. Rifaat Hussain in Security Dynamics of South Asia (2019) observes

that regional security gains are magnified when Pakistan actively coordinates operations with neighbouring states, validating Islamabad's operational significance.

Diplomatic Image and Global Perception

Successfully hosting the Summit elevated Pakistan's international image, showcasing organizational and logistical capability. Delegates praised Islamabad's efficiency, reinforcing perceptions of reliability. Maleeha Lodhi in Pakistan in a

Changing World (2023) notes that effective multilateral hosting "transforms reputational capital into diplomatic credibility". The summit enhanced Pakistan's stature in Eurasian and global forums.

2. Economic and Financial Leverage

Pakistan promoted initiatives such as local currency trade and regional value chains to reduce dependence on external financial systems- SCO endorsement provides Islamabad with institutional support to pursue economic autonomy. Shahid Javed Burqi

in Rethinking Pakistan (2018) highlights that such regional economic arrangements strengthen mid-sized economies' resilience, directly benefiting Pakistan's development objectives.

SCO Summit
Heads of State
meet
Set Security
Agenda

BRATS Deliberations
Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure
Operational Planning

Intelligence and Counter-
Terrorism Joint operations
Information Sharing.

Regional
Stability
Reduced terror
threat
Secure borders.

Q=

Challenges Highlighted

Hosting exposed vulnerabilities, including security risks and logistics pressures for high-profile delegations. Ayesha Siddiqua in State of Security (2017) argues that internal ~~security~~ security gaps can reduce long term credibility despite hosting success. Infrastructural and operational capacity must be strengthened to convert Summit achievements into sustainable influence.

add more arguments in this part.....

Q Recommended Measures :

Implementation and Institutionalization

Pakistan should establish an SCO Implementation Unit to monitor follow-ups and coordinate

inter ministerial actions: Integrating SCO
agendas on energy, security, and
trade into national policy will
ensure tangible outcomes. Diversifying
SCO partnerships beyond China
enhances bargaining power and
reduces dependency, ensuring balanced
engagement.

Economic and Connectivity Initiatives

Pakistan should advocate for a
regional SCO investment fund for
infrastructure and climate projects,
reducing reliance on bilateral
financing. Promoting connectivity, trade
facilitation, and green initiatives
will strengthen Pakistan's corridor
role. Embedding these projects
into broader Eurasian networks
secures long term strategic
relevance.

SCO Economic Forum

Platform for trade
and investment
and dialogue

Local-currency trade

& Value chains

Reduced US Dependency

Regional Supply
chains



Financial Autonomy
less vulnerable to
external sanctions
and pressure

Economic Resilience

Stable growth
despite
global economic
shocks

Conclusion

The SCO Summit in Islamabad yielded strategic dividends: enhanced connectivity, security cooperation, financial autonomy, and global recognition. However, lasting gains require implementation, institutional reinforcement, and careful risk management.

As Zaidi notes, "geoeconomics rewards states that deliver, not merely hosts."

Through disciplined follow-up and proactive engagement, Pakistan can transform summit success into enduring regional influence.