

Q No. 3

Compare and Contrast the achievements and failures of SAARC and SCO in promoting regional cooperation. What lessons can Pakistan draw from SCO's relative success?

Q No. 5

OIC has often been labelled as a dormant organization. Critically examine this statement in light of the challenges facing the Muslims world today, and propose how Pakistan can initiate reforms to make OIC more effective.

Q no-6:

The 18th Constitutional Amendment has been called both a milestone in Pakistan's federalism and a source of new governance challenges.

Q No. 3

a) The Achievements and Failures of SAARC and SCO in Promoting Regional Cooperation

Introduction:

The introduction and establishment of regional alliances has led to the promotion of regional cooperation in socio-economic and political sphere. However, few organizations despite being rich in cultural and people-to-people relations could not able to reap its true regional development potential, the example of (SAARC), South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation is showing the case study. On the other hand, Shanghai

Cooperation organization's success in achieving regional stability and democratic representation of every nation has expanded its members since its inception. Hence, regional cooperations can be labelled as failed or successful based on its potential of promoting regional cooperation.

II. Overview of Organizations: Regional Alliances

i) SAARC : SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COOPERATION

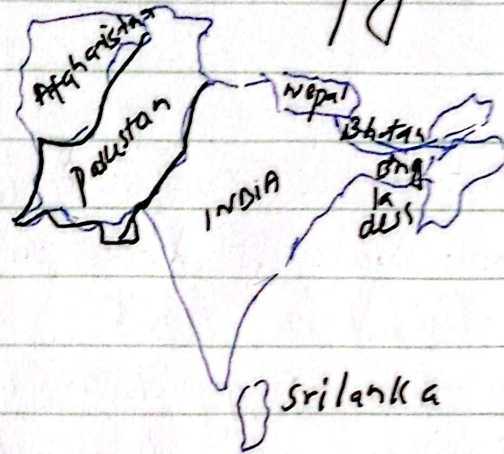
- ① Established in 1985
- ① On the suggestion of Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Zia-Ur-Rehman
- ① Headquartered in Dhaka.
- ① Includes eight members
- ① Afghanistan joined as a last member of the alliance
- ① It has its departmental institutions in each South Asian member states, e.g.,
 - ① SAARC University in India.
 - ① Research and Development centre in Bangladesh

① SAARC's Current status:

post-pulwama attack, the organization has ceased its functional status and now it is considered as a dead organization

SAARC's Members:

Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Afghanistan



ii) SCO - Shanghai Cooperation Organization

① Established in 1996, 24th April as Shanghai-five

① In 2001-2, with the joining of Uzbekistan, the Shanghai-five was converted into Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

① Iran has joined SCO in

2023, while Belarus has joined as its newest member in 2024.

⑥ Pakistan and India have joined SCO in June, 2017.

⑦ SCO now has two observer states as well.

⑧ Expanding nature of SCO shows its success in gaining regional trust.

III. Comparing and Contrasting the Achievements of SAARC and SCO:

① SAARC - the only South Asian nations regional bloc: Shared Culture

The shared culture of people of South Asian states makes it more appreciable and understanding platform for regional cooperations.

"These member-states understand each-other Culture"

② Cultural-exchange programs were glorified when SAARC was functional.

For example,

SAARC University in India had offered degrees for SAARC member states.

However, Shanghai Cooperation organization does not hold such cultural symmetry.

ii) Shared- issues and shared common solutions:

SAARC:

SAARC having shared common issues has developed strategic solutions for resolving them; like, poverty alleviation program, Disaster Management and Healthcare promotion.

SCO: On the other hand, China SCO does not provide such common - shared solution, as they do not share such social problems with its member states.

iii) SCO - Countering Terrorism:

Shanghai Cooperation Organization has developed strong Anti-terrorism mechanism in the form of RATS - Regional Anti-Terrorism Force, which is operating in strategizing plans to counter-extremism and separatism in the regional members.

SAARC: On the other hand, SAARC

does not function against
countering terrorism and
separatist movements.

iv) Non-hegemonic power structure
does not promote halt in
SCO:

Fair and democratic represent-
ation of all member states has
led SCO function smoothly.

SAARC: Indian hegemony over
its other members give India
as a regional dictator power in
the SAARC platform.

v) Multi-lateralism - Working
principle of SCO:

SCO works on the principle of
multi lateralism, therefore each
member gain platform to
raise its concerns.

SAARC: Single-national interests
of one nation exclude other
nations' interests and bloc
exists in a single organization

For example:

India has established institutes
BIMSTEC which includes Pakistan.

vii) SCO - Raising voices for World issues while SAARC never did:

SCO's recent summit highlights how SCO has provided platform to its member states to raise their voices,

For example:

Russian president Vladimir Putin has highlighted the cause behind Russia-Ukraine war.

SAARC:

SAARC has never allowed its members to raise its concerns, as it was forbidden to discuss any bilateral issue on SAARC platform.

vii) Mutual Consensus on the SCO-Agreement while SAARC never allowed such Consensus:

SCO has provided opportunity to its members to agree unanimously irrespective of their socio-economic and geo-political standing. After every summit, SCO release its document holding joint agreement

of all of its members:
SAARC.

SAARC only discusses those issues which does not violate other member's state interests. Therefore, all bilateral issues which are related to India were never discussed.

For example

- ① Border issues of India with Pakistan - Kashmir
- ① Pak India with Nepal.
- ① India with Bhutan
- ① India with Bangladesh

VIII) Climate justice - the voice of SCO: Global Governance
SCO highlights the climate change of public and raise every issues to gain attention and ultimately ask world to unite and devise strategy to formulate a solution.

IV: Failure of SAARC and SCO:
Comparing and Contrasting:

1) Hegemony in SAARC:

SAARC is an Indian hegemonic

organization, while SCO is democratic organization.

ii) Non-resolution of ^{bilateral} issues in SAARC:

Non-resolution of bilateral issues in SAARC

E.g., (i) India boundary issues with all of its member states, SCO:

on the other hand, SCO provide a platform to discuss bilateral meeting to discuss ^{their} issues.

Pakistan and Russia meeting is recent, SCO summit in China.

iii) Non-symmetrical alliance in SAARC:

Huge Economic standing of India project it as a leader in SAARC, hence, undermining democratic alliance from its core.

iv) Afghanistan and Indo-Pak relations are de-stabilizing factor: SAARC has stopped working

because of Indo-Pakistan rivalry and instability in Afghanistan. Therefore it has failed in its delivery of its objectives.

v) Legally-binding in SCO:

SCO must work to enforce its agreement through making its objectives as legally enforceable.

vi) SCO - ^{non}-providing platform for regional issues:

SCO has its limitation in non-provision of platform that provides bilateral issues to be raised in the summit.

For example:

Indus-Water Treaty issue could have been raised if SCO has any assembly to discuss bilateral issues of its member states.

v) Lesson Pakistan draw from SCO's relative success:

1) Democratic Alliance give voice to all of its

member states

- 2) Non-hegemony of a single state in SCO
- 3) Equal representation of all its members
- 4) Regional economic and political development
- 5) Strategic meetings and RATS military exercises

vi) Conclusion:

Hence, SCO has successful gain over SAARC in its objective deliverance as it functions democratically and ensures fair representation of each member states.

Qna.5: OIC As a Dormant Organization

I. Introduction:

Organization of Islamic

Organization Cooperation despite being a single alliance that is formed on the basis of religion has failed to meet its objectives. The 57 members of OIC are still looking towards OIC in resolving any of their issues.

II. OIC failing to Resolve Muslim World's Issues: Highlighting OIC As a Dormant ~~Org~~ Organization:

The following challenges of the muslim world which are still left unresolved highlight that OIC has failed to meet the very cause for which it was made back in 1969.

i) Palestine Issue: Genocide in Gaza and Dead OIC Action:

The stone of OIC was laid to resolve the very cause of Palestine issue, however, despite

passing of 60 years, the Palestine is still paying barbaric genocidal actions of Israel and OIC has not yet delivered any relief.

ii) Lebanon vs. Israel
= Hizbollah Clashes:

Israel has attacked Southern Lebanon and none of the muslim countries highlighte and raised voice for non-escalation of Israel war in Lebanon under the umbrella of OIC.

iii) Yemen Crisis and the Silence of OIC:

The death of hundreds of thousands of children in Yemen does not ring alarm in the ears of OIC as it has not met any viable solution for this issue.

iv) Sudan Civil War and OIC response:

Sudan is paying brutal

civil war, however, OIC has not met even a single session to stop it and devise a solution to resolve it, hence highlighting that OIC has become a dormant organization.

v) Syria Crisis - Bashar-ul-Asad Regime: Proxy war and OIC:

Syria become a victim of sectarian proxy war being played by Saudi Arabia and Iran. OIC as hegemony of Saudi Arabia could not let the resolution of the issue.

① Post Bashar-ul-Asad Regime change, Syria is now moving towards stability, but OIC has no role in its resolution of crisis.

vi) Kashmir - the still unheard voices and the deaf OIC:

Kashmir issue has entered in the 79th year, yet its voices are still yet to be heard, only

supporting rhetoric are given to make public good, nothing actionable is done yet.

Even Modi was given award by UAE King, despite Modi's 2019 Attempt of Revoking Kashmir's Special Status.

vii) Iraq 2003. Attack by US:

OIC has never yet able to do anything substantial to mention in resolving issues of the Muslim world. Iraq is yet another story of being a victim of world power, and dead nature of OIC.

viii) Myanmar Crisis:

In Myanmar, Muslim population was exterminated brutally, yet nothing was done by OIC other than issuing unanimous condemnation of the issue.

ix) Uighur Muslims in China:

Muslim brutality murdering in China has not been even

condemned by the OIC member states. Their jailing, forceful conversion of religion and forced labor exploitation have not alarmed any OIC session to take any substantial action.

X) Iran-Israel War:

The latest Iran-Israel war is another case study that highlights that OIC is a dormant organization.

III. Pakistan, Initiating Reforms to make OIC Effective:

i) Judicial Court making enforceability of OIC recommendation:

Pakistan can raise the voice of making OIC as an legally enforceable institute like United Nations.

ii) Establishing Legislation in OIC:

Legislative structure like UNGA can make all the issues of the Muslim world even heard

and devising solution for it.

iii) Prioritization of Muslim's Ummah's interest over National Interests:

Pakistan can initiate a measure for calling the muslim world to prioritize muslim Ummah's interest over national interests.

iv) Democratization of OIC: power-play of economic giants in the OIC must be curtailed, all muslim members must be given equal representation.

v) Leaderless - NO-leader making Tussle:

Pakistan needs to advance engagement with OIC members to unite them to understand that race of becoming muslim world's Leader should be end.

For example:

In SCO, Russia and china do not fight for leadership, they equally co-exist and prosper together.

IV)

Conclusion:

Hence, OIC needs to be reformed by democratising the OIC, bringing unanimous agreement of having leaderships and mutual co-existent approach and judicially making OIC decision enforceable on all of its members to follow.

Qno. 6

I. Introduction:

The 18th Constitutional Amendment's passage in the assembly has been both called as a milestone and a source of new governance challenges. It is milestone in the sense that it has laid ground foundation for true federalism in Pakistan, giving provincial autonomy, fiscal power to provinces and it has also laid measures for independence of judiciary. However

It has ^{laid} challenges too, for example, incapacity of provinces to deliver effectively has impede governance in Pakistan. In conclusion, it has laid a milestone as its achievement overshine its challenges.

II. Milestone in Pakistan's Federalism:

i) Provincial Autonomy:

a) Abrogation of Concurrent list Article 142 and Devolution of 19 subjects to provinces:

Example: Education, Healthcare, Marriage, Civil laws etc.

b) Formulation of council of common interest:

① To ease provinces-province tensions and Federal-provinces issues.

"Council of common interest has to meet within 90 days"

Article 154

6) Ensuring Federal structure

1) Dissolution of power of president to dissolve the national assembly under article 158(2B)

2) Similarly for the power of Governor to dissolve provincial assembly was taken away (112)

3) Devolution of power from provincial to local government and fair & timely conduct of local government election. (Article 140A)

c) Financial / Fiscal Autonomy:

1) Article 160 guarantees 7th National Finance Commission Award, giving 57.5% share of the federal pool to the provinces, 42.5% to the federal government

2) No provincial share less than 57.5% should be

in the next NFC Award.
(Article 161)

3) Federal government need to take permission from provincial government in building hydroelectric station in the province
(Article 162)

4) Division of resources among between province and the federal in 50:50.

d) Judicial Independence:

1) Devising layout for selecting judges for supreme court and high court.

Establishing Judicial Commission and parliamentary Committee.

III. Governance challenges:

① Incapacity of provinces to deliver:

NBMA has taken back disaster management the subject which was devolved to the provinces in the 18th amendment due to the incapacity of provinces to manage

2) IMF condition and Debt Servicing

Federal face difficulty due to low budget allocation in NFC award.

iv) Redefining centre-province Relations:

① Resource distribution structure was given under 7th NFC and article 160

② More autonomy was given to provinces by devolving 26-subjects.

③ Sales taxes of services was given to provinces to collect.

④ No-emergency would be imposed.

V) Conclusion:

Hence, 18th amendment marks both a milestone and has some governance challenges too, however, its challenges are less therefore it is still a great achievement in the history of Pakistan's Constitution.