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## Part-II

Q.5

### Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a regional organization of nine member states namely Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, India, Iran, and Tajikistan. It was formed in 2001, previously it was called as the 'Shanghai Five'.

Pakistan recently hosted the 23rd meeting of Council of Heads of Government summit in Islamabad.

~~or~~

### The Major Takeaways for Pakistan:

1) Enhanced Perception of Pakistan:

Hosting the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) Council of

Heads of Government meeting provided Pakistan with an opportunity to show the world that the crises it had faced over the past few years had been contained.

Though Pakistan has had faced multiple challenges, including political instability, economic difficulties, and security concerns, the world leaders left with the sense that, despite its challenges, Pakistan remains functional, resilient and open for business with the world.

2) SCO underscored Pakistan's regional significance:

Pakistan's presidency of the SCO Council of Heads of Government highlighted its role as an active player in regional geopolitics. The presence of eight prime ministers from member countries underscored Pakistan's growing importance within the organization and the region.

3) Pakistan as a reliable partner for SCO members:

The successful organization of the SCO conference showcased the country as a reliable partner for foreign investors especially the SCO member countries.

4) SCO summit served as a platform to revitalize Pakistan's bilateral relations:

Chinese Premier Li Qiang's visit to Pakistan marked the first visit by a Chinese prime minister in 11 years. Besides this, the Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's visit was the first by a Russian prime minister since 2007.

5) SCO served as a ice breaker between Pakistan and India:

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's participation, standing in for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was also notable as he was the most senior Indian official to visit Pakistan since 2016.

6) The Afghan problem remain unresolved:

In his address, ~~the~~ Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif called on the member states to pressure the Taliban administration to prevent Afghan territories from being used by groups involved in cross-border terrorism. However, no comments were given by member states' representatives over the Afghan issue.

Though Pakistan has had major positive takeaways, from the recent SCO summit, there

were some drawbacks such as ~~the~~ the visit by Indian External Affairs Minister instead of the Indian Prime Minister, and the persistent Indian hegemonic attitude in the region. Furthermore, China and India are both vying over the region for power. In a nutshell, if the rivalries are not solved through dialogue, then the SCO will become like that of UNASUR, where Brazil and Argentina have made the <sup>South</sup> ~~Latin~~ American organization ineffective due to their rivalries.

### Measures recommended for Islamabad to follow:

1) Pakistan should use SCO as an alternative to Saarc:

Pakistan must use diplomatic channels for political and economic reconciliation with India, given the bilateral lockdown in Saarc. ~~It~~ has been reaffirmed by the participants' joint communique, "commitment to the peaceful settlement of differences... through dialogue". Dialogue is the key to peace in the subcontinent.

2) The SCO platform must be used by Islamabad to solve security issues.

Former Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Asif Durrani, says that Afghanistan's immediate neighbours and Russia are key players in counterterrorism efforts. It implies that, India due to its alleged support for the TTP and BLA, should also be engaged in discussions to solve security concerns.

3) Effective utilization of the RATS:

Pakistan must effectively use the Regional Anti-Terrorist structure (RATS) to solve extremism, separatism and terrorism. ✎

Pakistan must push for joint military exercises and intelligence sharing between the member nations

4) Islamabad should utilize its geographic location:

As the Central Asian countries are landlocked, Pakistan can give them access to the Middle East. Moreover, Pakistan must establish energy corridors with Central Asian countries to benefit from energy trade.

Q.3

## The unconditioned support of U.S for Israel

~~There are three key factors that serve as a basis for the United States unconditioned support for Israel.~~ ~~And,~~ According to the U.S Agency for International Development, the annual U.S aid to Israel is \$3.8 billion and since WWII the U.S has provided more foreign aid to Israel than any other country.

And, even Senator Bernie Sanders was quoted as saying, "what is going on right now in Gaza is being done significantly with U.S aid". Furthermore, according to reports published by the U.S Congressional Research Service, annual foreign military financing grants from the U.S. make up about 16 percent of the Israeli military budget.

There are ~~three~~ <sup>two</sup> key factors that explain the U.S support for Israel.

### 1) Cultural Factors:

Christian Zionism is a very powerful force which goes back long before Jewish Zionism. In the U.S, Woodrow Wilson was a

devout Christian who read the Bible every day, so did Harry Truman. In the Roosevelt's administration one of the leading officials, Harold Ickes once described the return of the Jews to Palestine as the greatest event in history. They take the Biblical Commands quite literally.

## 2) Geostrategic Factors:

The current relations with Israel were pretty much established in 1967. Israel performed a major service to the United States by destroying secular Arab Nationalism, a major enemy of the U.S., and supporting the radical Islam which the U.S. supported.

## Effects of U.S support for Israel:

### 1) Effects on the relations with Iran:

The U.S. unconditioned support for Israel has deteriorated ~~the~~ its grip on the power corridors in the Middle East. Iran has appeared as a strong and viable force in the region through extensively supporting its proxies in the region. The <sup>majority of</sup> public in the Arab world support the stance of Iran, which

is a blow to the U.S. interests in the region. And, as a result, Iran is normalising relations with the Arab world.

## 2) Denial of U.S. supremacy by Arab leaders:

The unprecedented tilt of the U.S. towards Israel has antagonized leaders in the Middle East, for instance, Egyptian President Fatah el Sisi refused to meet with President Biden in 2024. The Jordanian King, another close ally of U.S., also refused to meet with President Biden.

The crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Muhamad Bin Salman, kept the U.S. Secretary of State waiting for two hours. It implies that the more the war is prolonged, there will be more pressure on the Arab leaders to distance themselves from the U.S. and Israel.

## Space for Russia and China to penetrate into the Middle East:

1) Soft image of China and Russia in Muslim worlds  
The U.S. in particular and the West in



general, who called themselves the so-called champions of fundamental rights, and have always been condemning China, Russia, Afghanistan etc., for human rights violations, have been criminally silent on the war crimes carried out by Israel in Gaza. While, China and Russia have raised voices against the brutalities of Israel in Gaza.

## 2) The U.S support for Israel benefits China:

The war has benefited China in numerous ways. Firstly, ~~by~~ it has helped in making its image suffer in the Muslim world. Secondly, the U.S is already draining its military and financial resources in two fronts - Ukraine and Israel - which has made it easier for China to advance olive branch to the Middle Eastern nations.