

Question # 1

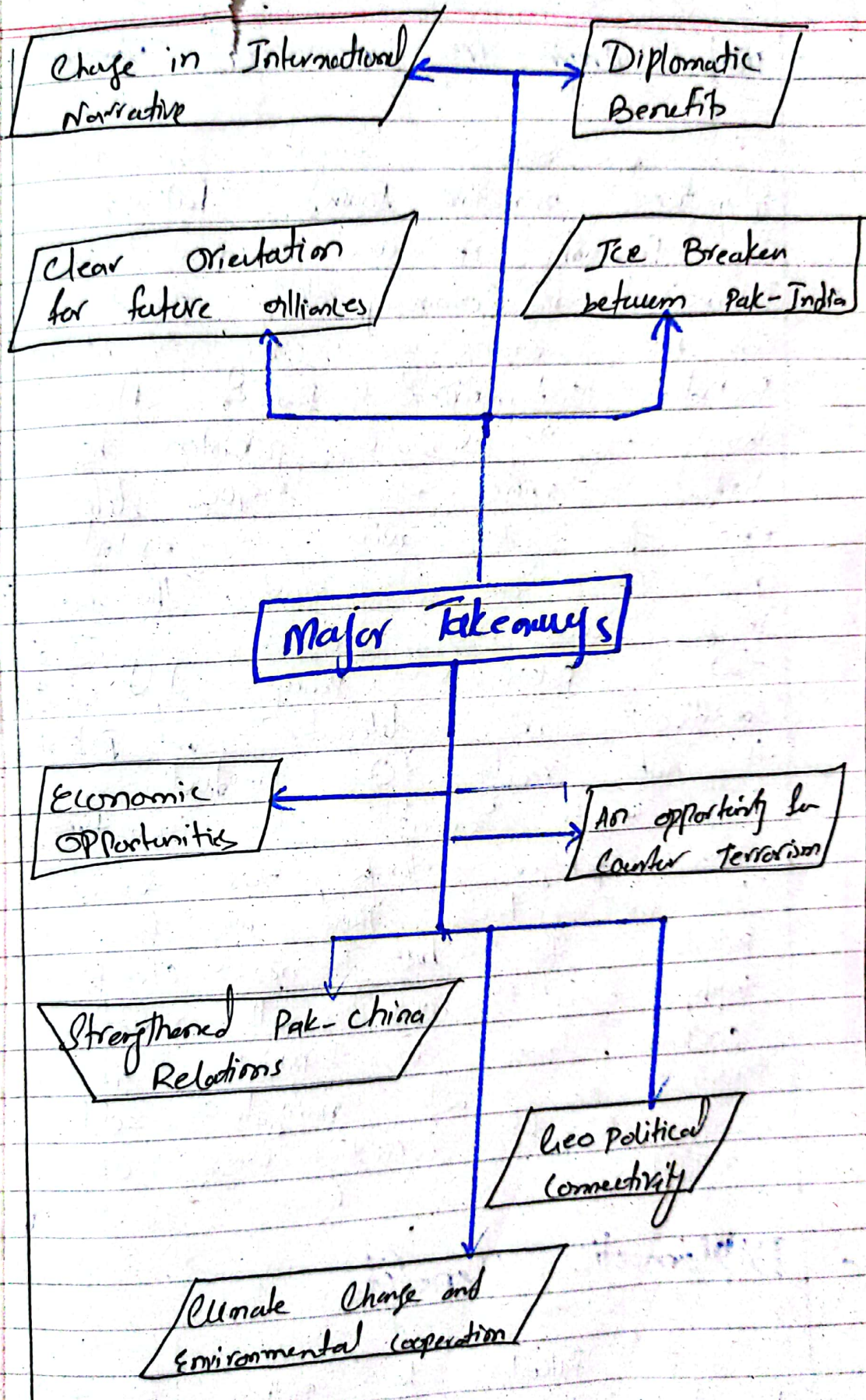
SCO Conference in Pakistan:

Pakistan has successfully conducted SCO's conference of heads of state in Islamabad on 15-16 October 2024. In which multiple heads of the states as well as delegations has participated. This summit has given Pakistan a new diplomatic edge amidst international image crisis situations of Pakistan. Pakistan has ~~also~~ gotten a few opportunities for its future prosperity as well as a road map for Islamabad to follow to maximise this opportunity.

Major Takeaways for Pakistan:

The following are the main and major takeaways for Pakistan from SCO conference conducted at Pakistan:

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- Major change in International Narratives:

international SCO's Summit has changed narrative towards Pakistan. Previously it was assumed in International Community that Pakistan can not arrange any big event which includes international parties. However, through this Summit Pakistan has hosted more than 900 delegations event that too with successful conference international standards. The international image which was created by India that Pakistan's peace and security conditions are deteriorated and Pakistan is not ready to conduct any big image event this narrative has changed through this summit. This event has paved way for Pakistan to host next Champions trophy event which will revitalize cricket and in Pakistan as well as will navigate soft and peaceful country image of Pakistan.

- Diplomatic Benefits

Pakistan has gotten diplomatic benefits by hosting SCO Summit

In Pakistan, as India has tried its best to isolate Pakistan diplomatically on international level. but to some extent has not been successful as the summit has given Pakistan to mend its diplomatic ties in the region as well as on international level by showing soft image.

Clear future orientation.

Pakistan since its inception has been a part of western alliances and pursued for the same. Although, western world has huge economic, social, political opportunities for Pakistan but this overdependence of Pakistan on west leads to many set backs to it as well. This summit has provided regional alliance orientation for Pakistan. Though with Pakistan can balance its dependence on west as well. As SCO countries have its own significance in all domains.

Ice Breaker Between Pak-India.

SCO summit has proven to be an ice breaker between India and Pakistan. The diplomatic tie,

and relationships were under crisis in these two historically hostile countries. This summit is an only one in which both countries have participation. as other platforms like UN - is very busy platform due to ongoing world happenings; SAARC - after 2014 no summit has been arranged till today. OIC - India is not a participant. Therefore, this SCO summit is an only one which has broken ice between these two nations as Indian ~~at~~ foreign minister attended this summit along side its delegation.

Economic opportunities:

SCO has opened an new economic opportunities for Pakistan to avail and explore which it could not properly in past. As SCO holds 42% of world population and 23-25% of global GDP, this block holds two permanent members of UNSC as well as 4 nuclear power states. an energy hub as well. Pakistan through SCO can explore this region to get economic benefits and stabilize its economy.

- An opportunity for Counter Terrorism

A major takeaway with Pakistan get from SCO is counting terrorism. SCO has its own institute named as RATS to counter terrorism. Pakistan has after Taliban's Government in Afghanistan has faced increased incidents of insurgencies, and TTP attacks, though RATS Pakistan can get international support to counter this threat.

- Strengthened Pak-China Relations.

China is a key ally of Pakistan. As Pakistan relies on China for economic, defence, and for other domains. Moreover, Pakistan's CPEC Project is also funded by China. This summit has strengthened Pak-China relations furthermore, which can be witnessed through participation of China in the summit, the same has given opportunity to Pakistan to mention its issue with China.

- Geopolitical Connectivity:

Central Asian Republic states are landlocked as well as have trade and energy corridors. The same can

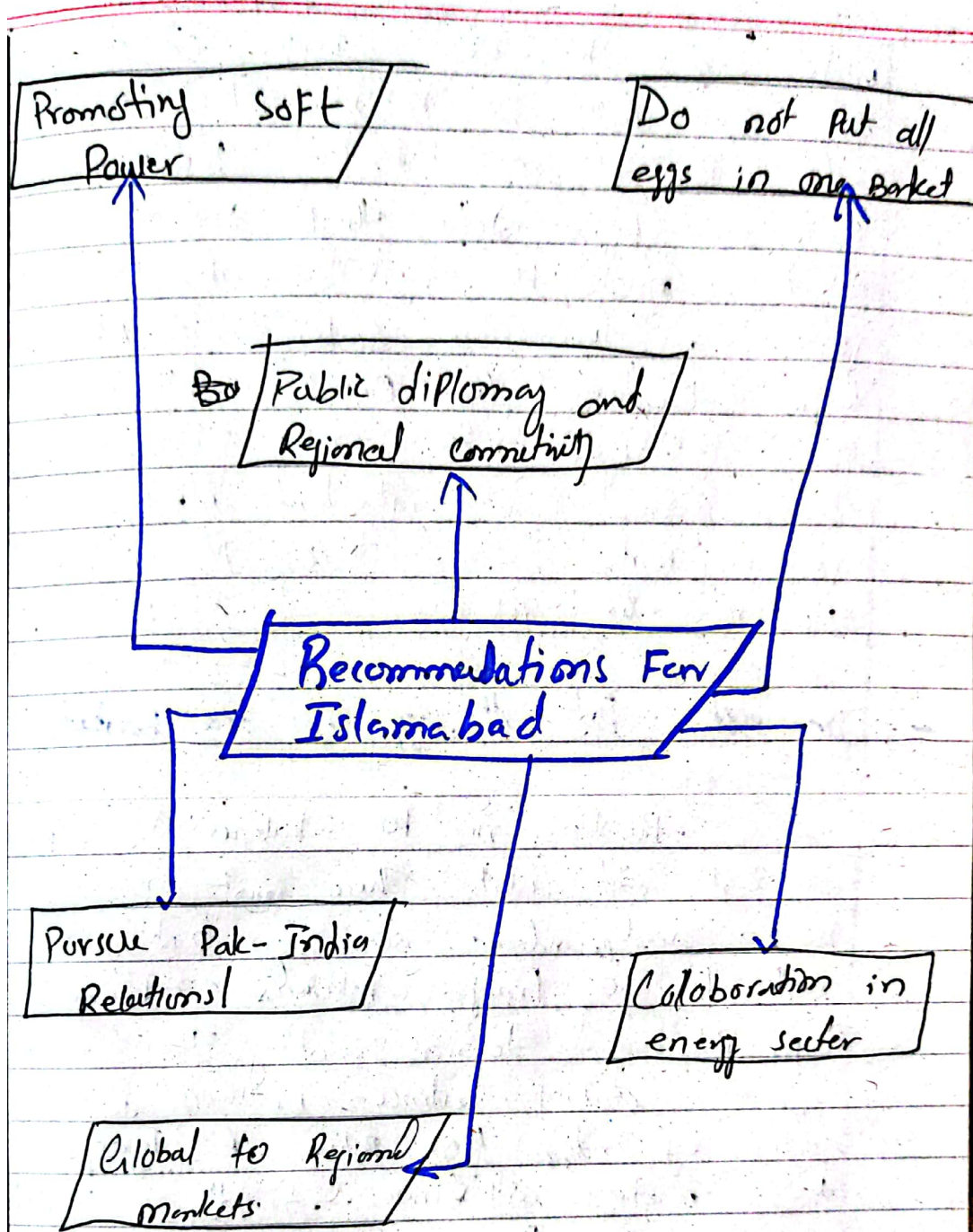
be connected through CPEC which will connect Pakistan with CARs and open new opportunities for Pakistan. This summit major takeaways include participation of CARs to the only opening new realms of Pakistan to become a geopolitical connector through CPEC.

Climate Change and Environmental Cooperation

In SCO summit, the participants have discussed climate related issues. As this region has been experiencing impacts of climate change such as droughts in China, Flood 2022 in Pakistan, droughts in Afghanistan, etc. This summit has provided Pakistan with opportunity to work on its climate vulnerabilities.

The above are major takeaways of SCO summit conducted by Pakistan in Islamabad.

Recommended Measures for Islamabad To Follow



Promotion of Soft Powers.

The SCO summit has provided Pakistan with an opportunity to counter Indian propaganda of isolating Pakistan on international level. Now the international narrative towards Pakistan has changed a bit.

which needs to be changed completely that can only be possible through strengthening soft power on international levels. The same can be done through diplomacy. Pakistan needs to work on its foreign policy and train its ambassadors to foreign countries to promote soft image of Pakistan so that Pakistan can be saved from international isolation. Moreover, political leaders can play a vital role in this regard.

- Do not put all eggs in one basket:

Pakistan needs to balance its dependence on east and west. There must be not be overdependence on any part which will lead to hamper Pakistan's independent foreign policy and decision making. There must be a striking balance between the two sides of Indian foreign policy. It keeps trade relations with China, friendly and trade relations with Russia as well as working on many pacts with US. Same can be taken as approach of Pakistan.

- Public Diplomacy and Regional Connectivity

Islamabad needs to develop and promote public to public communication

in the region and enhance regional connectivity for instance through easy visa access, cultural exchange programs, building connecting points, etc. So the tourism sector of Pakistan can be enhanced which has a huge potential but is underdeveloped. Islamabad needs to focus on it.

- Pursue Pak-India Relations:

Islamabad needs to work on India-Pak relations, in which SCO summit has worked as an ice breaker. The further work is left to Islamabad to work for normalization of terms between two states, as both are neighboring countries if the relations get normalized it will benefit to both.

- Collaboration In Energy Sector:

Pakistan is an energy importer state. The major portion of Pakistan's import is energy products. On the other side CARs are energy consumer states. This summit has given Pakistan an opportunity to work on this region. Now Islamabad needs to collaborate with CARs states on those projects which were not done in part due to Afghanistan factor. But now is a time to get benefit from it.

Global to Regional Markets:

The major portion of Global markets is occupied by India, where Pakistan is left with little space as India has a competitive edge over Pakistan. However, CARs states are not direct market of India, and are ~~near~~ closer to Pakistan. Moreover, CARs are landlocked states, Pakistan can explore this market. Islamabad needs to work on establishing a catalogue of value added ~~food~~ products for instance agriculture products which are demand of CARs.

Conclusion

SCO's Summit in Pakistan has given Pakistan with many major takeaways, which can provide Pakistan with regional and international opportunities if Islamabad utilized it consciously. So that Pakistan can prosper and enjoy its financial long term benefits.

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Question # 3

COP- Conference of Parties - 29

Summit

COP - conference of Parties - 29 summit was held in Baku. Many countries participated in it. This summit was related to climate change and its effects. This platform was designed to fight back climate change which is not a phenomenon anymore as the same is happening all around the world. For instance, Flood - 2022 in Pakistan. This summit ended with some more commitments and had a few failures as well.

Commitments of COP-29

There were many commitments of COP-29 which are discussed as below.

↳ Mobilization of Climate Finance

↳ (a) Enhanced Funding goal.
Under mobilization of climate finance developed nations which are major responsible of this climate change as they are major emitter of green house gases had pledged to enhance funding

Goal. For instance: The target has set on \$300 billion annually by 2030. Moreover, an innovation linked mechanism has been introduced which will offer climate-linked bonds and debt-for-nature-swaps. These will help those countries which are climate hit.

b - Loss and Damage Fund:

Another commitment of this Cop-29 was of Loss and Damage fund mechanism. The same has been operationalised with \$20 billion of pledges from developed world with a governance mechanism of allocating equally to climate vulnerable countries.

- Renewable Energy Commitments:

Another commitment of Cop-29 was of moving towards renewable energy resources so that dependence and usage of fossil fuels in energy production which leads to emissions of greenhouse gases which harm the environment and makes developing countries more vulnerable to climate impacts.

- Transfer of Green Tech to Developing Nations:

In Cop-29, the developed countries

has committed to share green technology to developing nations specially those which are climate hit on subsidized rates so that affordability and accessibility can be ensured in the process of countering climate threats.

Ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions

Many countries at the platform of COP-29 have committed and announced NDC targets for 2035.

UK - reducing GHG emissions by 81% by 2035 compared to 1990 level.

NDC Targets
Commitment

Canada, ~~USA~~, EU, Mexico
Switzerland - Plan to align their NDCs with IPCC emissions trajectories.

Brazil: Target committed to 59-67% reduction from 2005 levels by 2035.

The above are the commitments made by developed nations to control, reduce their emissions under COP-29.

- Methane Reduction Pledge

In Cop-29, over 30 countries have pledged to reduce methane emissions by utilizing organic waste instead of methane substances.

- Enhanced Transparency Mechanism

Previously, COPs commitments were not fulfilled as there were no mechanism for transparency and accountability. However, this time under Cop-29 the parties have committed a mechanism to ensure transparency which there would be a compulsory reporting on countries to ensure their work and performance towards committed target and objectives. But whether under Paris or not. Moreover, introduction of finance tracking has also been introduced here, so that financial contributions and avoid mismanagement in it.

The above are the major commitments which were made under Cop-29. There were many failures of Cop-29.

Failures of Cop-29

Insufficient climate funding for climate

hit nations

One of the biggest failure of Cop-29 is insufficient climate funding for climate hit nations. As Conference of Parties has continuously failed to collect enough funds secondly allocation of these funds to climate hit countries has always been insufficient to the damages. moreover, allocation is mismanaged. For Instance: There are 2 shortfalls

The Pledged 300 billion annually by 2030, falls significantly by \$1.4 trillion.

moreover, funding for mitigation and adaptation particularly remain insufficient especially for climate hit regions e.g. Pakistan, ~~and~~ Africa, etc.

Loss and Damage Fund: Undefined Operational Mechanism

The Conference of Parties has developed a loss and damage fund for climate

hit countries to facilitate them at the time of emergencies but the mechanism of allocating these funds and how those climate vulnerable countries would access these funds still remain unclear, which can be a major set back for those countries which are under emerging urgent need of the same. As there is still no guidelines for a clear and operational mechanism of this fund.

- Slow Process of Emission Reductions.

Many countries pledge for emission reduction in Gop summits but the same can not be obtained. Major example of this could be China which previously pledge to reduce its emissions but later changed its stance over the same. The claim that developed world has already emitted and get benefits of it in industrial revolution now the major burden of emission reduction should be on developed world as China considers itself as developing country. Moreover, developed economies also resist this process.

- Resistance from Major Emitters:

The major parties/members of

Conference of Parties Platform are those which have major emissions, for instance: China, US, UK, etc. These states resist emission process as their economic depends on use of fossil fuels, ~~with~~ ~~the~~ connection of globalised world is due to use of energy which further ~~can~~ contribute to green gas houses. This is a failure to COP-29 that it is unable to influence major emitters to reduce their emissions level. For instance, current (NDCs) Nationally Determined Contributions - still put the world on track for 3°C temperature rise as resistance from major emitters bars from setting it to 1.5°C target.

- Weak Accountability Mechanism:

Although the COP-29 has taken measure and committed to ensure ~~an~~ transparency ~~an~~ though compulsory reporting mechanism. But the same does not make countries accountable to perform or fulfil their commitments. This mechanism will only check performance but there is no binding element ~~on~~ in COP-29 ~~or~~ which will make countries accountable and bound them to their commitments. ~~of making~~ and any consequences over non-fulfilment of commitments. This non-binding element of COP undermines the effectiveness of global climate commitments.

Conclusion

Cop - Conference of Parties - 29. has many commitments which are made by member countries on the platform of Cop-29. Such as mobilization of climate funds, moving towards renewable energy research, transferring green tech to developing countries, committing target over emission reduction levels and enhanced transparency level. However, there are many failures of Cop-29, for instance, insufficient climate funds, an unimproved distribution of funds to climate hit countries, undefined mechanism of loss and damaged funds, slow progress of carbon emission reduction, despite of setting targets which are mainly resisted by major emitter, and a weak accountability mechanism in the form of being non-binding platform on countries towards target achievement. Hence, although there are many commitments which are made under Cop-29 but there are many shortcomings of it too which are needed to be resolved to get the true benefits of this platform.

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