

NAME: Muhammad Ramzan  
Test: Current Affairs

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Question # 1 (SCO)

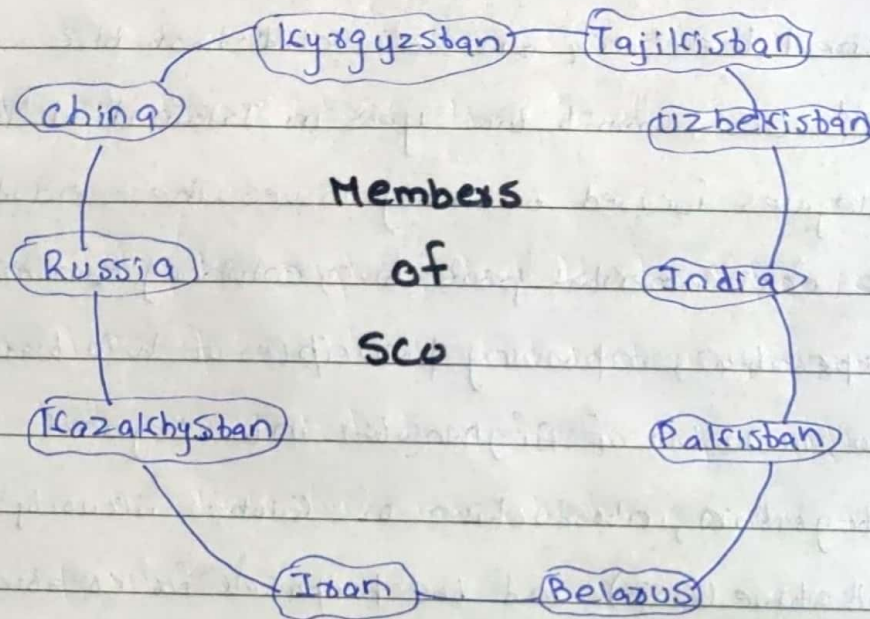
### Introduction:

A Eurasian, political, economic organization formed in 2001 by six countries. Pakistan joined the SCO in 2017 and host the 23<sup>rd</sup> SCO Summit this year in Islamabad. The delegates focused on many issues. These include the environmental protection, enhancing economic cooperation, improving principles of WTO trade. Also, inclusion of Afghanistan into regional integration, introduction of Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the proposal for creating the separate currency. The leaders also put emphasis on improving the United Nations principles. But how long these principles work. Islamabad should maintain cohesion among member states, establish free trade agreements, resolving the image problem and strengthening the institutional mechanisms of SCO. In this way, Islamabad increase the chances of regional integration.

### History of SCO and its Members:

First a Shanghai Five organization was formed in 1995 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. In 2001, Uzbekistan announced the new organization called the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Till date, it has total 10 members. These are



### **Major Takeaways of 23<sup>rd</sup> SCO Summit:**

The delegates talk on many issues which are following.

#### **• Environmental Protection Initiative:**

The delegates encouraged the measures against environmental protection. The main initiative is the 'effective waste management' which includes the waste dumping and effective management.

#### **• Enhancing Economic Cooperation:**

In the meeting, it was shown that there is a change in the economic technique



plates. The power is shifting from Global North to Global South. So the SCO members should work according to these changes.

### • Improving Principles of WTO:

The member state put emphasis on improving the principles of WTO regarding the non-discriminatory nature to boost the trade and to end the disparity between the nations.

### • Inclusion of Afghanistan into Regional Integration:

A stable Afghanistan is the need of time. Without this there is no peace in the region. China should include the Afghanistan into the Belt and Road initiative to boost the development.

### • Introduction of Global Security Initiative: (GSI)

China introduce the Global Security Initiative (GSI) in which he send their troops to central Asian states to limit the influence of western bloc in this region.

### • Proposal for Creating Separate Currency:

Russia proposed a plan in which he highlights the establishment of a separate currency to end the dependency of US dollar. So, ~~we~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~end~~ the biased nature of US to control the trade.

### • Improving the United Nation Principles:

The delegates highlighted ~~to~~ to improve the principles of United Nations. Because United Nation fail to solve many conflicts like the Palestine issue, Kashmir issue and many more.

### Recommendations for Islamabad:

To make the SCO more effective, following recommendations are below.

### • Maintaining Cohesion among Member States:

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are not good with the policies of Uzbekistan regarding the energy projects. Also, there is a conflict between Russia and China in building the corridor which link the Europe to Asia. So, maintain the cohesion among member states is very crucial for



• ~~Est~~ the uplifting of SCO.

### • Establishing Free Trade Agreements:

Pakistan is facing the acute economic crisis. There is a balance of payment crisis and many more other problems. By promoting free Trade Agreement, Pakistan economic problems would solved.

### • Resolving the Image Problem:

Some scholars say that SCO is an Anti-NATO Alliance. Pakistan using diplomatic relations with USA could solve this problem and both Europe and Asia could work together.

### • Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms:

There is no permanent body to solve the dispute between two member states. So a permanent body must be build to solve the future problems.

### • Adapting Environmental Policies:

Central Asian States are very vulnerable to water scarcity. Due to this 15000 sq km of Kazakh cotton could be not implemented. Also the rice productivity reduced by 40%. So adapting the policies against environment could lead to a better future.

## Critical Analysis:

Sea Sco has emerged to strengthen the regional ties and for the uplifting of region. The CPEC and BRI plays a crucial role but there are some reservations of countries like India which thought that this BRI benefited only China. Hence, this issue is the main issue and the tensions between member states also a threat to stability.

## Conclusion:

In past, the Global North enjoys maximum power in terms of economy. Now, it is converting to global south as China becomes a stronger player. But in this haste, many countries are facing issues due to cold wars between these countries. This can be solved by cooperation between West and South east.

As Xi Jin Ping said

"We need to follow the Journey of upholding equity and Justice. Power may win for the time being but Justice will prevail for long run"

(Xi Jin Ping)





## Question #3 (CPO)

### Introduction:

"In Solidarity for a Green World"

### (COP 29 Theme)

Conference of all parties (COP) held every two years to suggest and implement the policies regarding the environment protection. Global warming which is the gradual increase in the average temperature of earth-presents a ~~significant~~ threat to the ~~country~~<sup>world</sup>. So, to save the world against the global warming. The COP 29 took major steps which include National Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), finalising principles for carbon foot prints, and establishment of ~~dam~~<sup>Loss</sup> and damage fund. Also, it includes to increase the storage of energy, initiatives for farmers and extending the Lima Programme for Gender to include Gender equality in Climate Action. But the Saudi Arabia refused at COP 29 to form transitioning away from fossil fuels which shows the seriousness of countries in climate action.

### History of COP:

Till date, 29 COP took place out of which COP 3 is important as Kyoto protocol is signed on this COP to limit the ozone depletion. Also COP 21 is important because the Paris Agreement is signed on this COP which advises countries to take



Steps to limit the temperature of earth by  $2^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

### Controversial Host of COP 29:

Azerbaijan is a major oil and gas producer which increases the green house gases in atmosphere that results in global warming. Also, it is an authoritarian state with excessive corruption. Its number on Corruption Perception Index is 154 out of 180, which shows how much corruption in the country is.

### Commitments of COP 29:

COP 29 has achieved many achievements. This includes.

#### • National Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG):

This COP is referred to as "Finance COP" because the countries agree to receive the amount of developing countries to mitigate the effects of climate change. National Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) text states that developed countries give 300 billion \$ annually to developing countries to fight the climate change. Also, countries ~~efforts~~ put efforts to increase this finance from 300 billion \$ to 1.3 billion \$.

#### • Finalising Principles for Carbon Foot Prints:

COP 29 has achieved a major landmark regarding the carbon foot prints principles. Two principles are finalised in this COP 29. These are



- Country to Country trade carbon foot prints (Article 6.2 of Paris Agreement)

- Establishing Centralized Carbon Market Under United Nation (Article 6.4 of Paris Agreement)

- **Establishment of Loss and Damage Fund:**

The loss and damage fund proposal was given at COP 27 held at Egypt. This fund helps the countries to fight the climate related issues, and give fund to countries who are most vulnerable to climate action. Till date 730 million \$ accumulated in the fund and the fund started working from 2025.

- **Increasing Energy Storage:**

The larger energy market like United States, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and UAE agreed to increase the energy storage to sixfold till 2030.

- **Promoting Green Energy:**

The countries also agreed to increase the use of hydrogen fuel; which limits the green house gases, promoting green energy.

- **Ending the Unabated Coal Power Plants:**

25 countries and many countries of EU proposed that they would end the unabated coal power plants. These plants emit the majorly green house gases.



### • Baku Harmony Climate Initiative for farmers:

It is a platform where services, policies and funding given to farmers whose agriculture productivity will be less.

### • Extending Lima Program for Gender:

The Lima Program for Gender is a program to integrate the gender in climate action. COP 29 extended the program for 10 years. Also, COP highlight for the new climate gender action plan for next COP which held in Brazil.

### Failures of COP 29:

COP 29 also has failures which are following-

#### • Not Implementing the "Transition Away Fossil Fuel" Policy:

Saudi Arabia last year signed the agreement to transition away fossil fuels from their industries. But this year, they refused to do so. This is a major failure of COP 29.

#### • Inadequate Financial Support to developing Countries:

According to study, the developing countries need 2.3 to 2.4 billion \$ annually to combat climate change. But the COP only given 300 billion \$ which highlights that COP 29 is a failure.



### • Non-Ratification of Agreement by USA:

The USA did not ratify many agreements of the COP out of which Montreal Protocol agreement was major agreement. This agreement limits the developed countries to emit ~~less~~ calculated carbon in the atmosphere.

### • Temperature Continuously Increasing:

The temperature of the earth is continuously increasing that policies made by COP are not so efficient. Pakistan is a Prime example where the annual temperature of last century increases by  $0.57^{\circ}\text{C}$  as compared to  $0.75^{\circ}\text{C}$  of south Asia.

### Critical Analysis:

Conference of All parties (COP) started to fight against the climate change collectively. The major achievements of COP are Montreal Protocol which puts limits on industrialized countries or developed countries but allow developing countries to emit the green house gas these countries also become developed. Also, Kyoto protocol which was signed to protect the ozone layer showed good results. The ozone layer depletion could be restored by 1960. But despite these achievements, the temperature of globe still increasing, and non-ratification of agreements by USA. These are the failures of COP.

## Conclusion:

Each year the COP holds to make the policies and to check the result of previous policies. Hence by implementing the policies effectively the globe can fight against the climate change. Poor countries are most vulnerable to climate change because they have less technical, financial capacity so COP should integrate poverty into their policies. Otherwise, the social inequalities will increase.

