

QUESTION NO: 01

SCO Conference: 11/20 Major take-away for Pakistan and Measures recommended to Islamabad

The latest SCO conference held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 14 to 16 Oct, 2024. It is the first ever leader level meeting hosted by Pakistan. It was a critical diplomatic event for Pakistan, showcasing its role in regional co-operation. The theme of SCO was One earth, One family, One future. There are major takeaways for Pakistan, those includes enhanced diplomatic standing, strengthened Sino-Pak relations, a platform for regional security dialogues, and a platform to maintain better relations with India, as it is the need of time. The suggested measures are, Pakistan should get leverage economic initiatives, strengthen regional security co-operation, promote

diplomatic engagement and address
internal security challenges.

Successful Conduction of SCO Conference :

Pakistan had successfully conducted 23rd SCO Council of head of Government in Islamabad. It marked a significant diplomat milestone for Pakistan. Hosting this major multilateral event showcased Pakistan's organizational capabilities and its commitment to foster regional co-operation. Despite threats of terrorism, the conduction of SCO summit peacefully is undoubtedly a big achievement for Pakistan.

Heading the SCO summit reflects Pakistan's unwavering commitment to regional connectivity, peace and economic integration.

~ Shahbaz Sharif
(Prime Minister of Pakistan)

Major takeaways for
Pakistan from SCO's
Successful Conduction

Enhanced diplomatic
standing in region

Strengthened Sino-Pak
relations

Platform for regional
security dialogue

Engagement with india

Enhanced Diplomatic Standing of Pakistan:

The successful organization of summit amid internal security challenges and political unrest demonstrated Pakistan commitment to regional co-operation and its capability to manage ~~self~~ significant international events, quoted by US institute of peace.

Strengthened Sino-Pak Relations:

The summit underscored Pakistan's alignment with China's Strategic initiatives particularly Belt and Road initiatives and China - Pakistan economic Corridor. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif advocated for expansion of BRI emphasizing development of regional infrastructure to enhance integration and co-operation.

Platform For Regional Security dialogues:

The Summit provided an opportunity for Pakistan to engage discussions on regional security, counter terrorism, and economic co-operation, aligning with its interests in promoting stability in the region. (ISSI) Islamabad's Institute of Strategic Studies claimed this.

Engagement with India:

While india participated, its engagement remained cautious. But still it can serve as a platform to rebuild better relations with india in order to achieve strategic interests.

Measures Suggested for Pakistan:

Leverage economic initiatives

Strengthen Regional Security co-operation

Promote diplomatic engagement

Address internal Security challenges.

Leverage Economic Initiatives

Pakistan should capitalize on the momentum from the summit to attract investment and enhance trade by promoting CPEC and other infrastructure projects as avenues for promoting economic integration.

Strengthen Regional Security Co-operation:

Build on discussions from summit to foster collaborative efforts in counter terrorism and security addressing mutual concerns to enhanced regional stability.

Promotion of Diplomatic Engagements:

Pakistan should utilize platforms like SCO to continue constructive dialogues with neighboring countries including India, to address bilateral issues and promote peace.

Address Internal Security Challenges:

Pakistan should implement robust measures to mitigate internal security threats, ensuring a stable environment conducive to hosting international events and fostering investor confidence.

Conclusion:

The successful conclusion of SCO 23rd Summit prove to be a better opportunity for Pakistan. As it gives major take aways like enhanced diplomatic standing, strengthened Sino-Pak relations, security dialogue and engagement platform for regional with India. However there are some measures to be adopted by Islamabad in order to get a neutral and clear image globally.

Question : 03

COP-29: Failure and Commitments:

Cop 29 held on 11 and 12 November, 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. This United Nations Climate Change Conference concluded with both positive and negative outcomes. The Commitment made in the meeting are setting of goal that is 1.3 \$ in climate finance, break through in climate finance architecture by amending article 6 of Paris agreement, Green digital action declaration, water to climate Action Declaration and indigenous local community engagement. However many critics views as inadequate in addressing the escalating climate crisis

Key Commitments of COP-29

Climate finance
of about
1.3 trillion
Per year.

Break through
in climate finance
architecture

Green Digital
action declaration

Water to climate
Declaration

Climate financing Goal:

The major commitment done in COP-29 includes target for climate finance of \$1.3 trillion annually for developing nation till 2035 to tackle climate issues. Developed countries will contribute \$300 billion till 2035 to ensure accessibility and transparency in least developing countries.

Breakthrough in Climate Finance Architecture:

10/20

High integrity carbon markets are introduced. And amendment in article 6.4 has done for trusted and transparent carbon markets. More over financial flows projected to reach \$1 trillion.

GREEN DIGITAL ACTION DECLARATION:

It is Backed by 75 government and 400 members of technological community. it aims to leverage AI, digital tools and data analytics for emission reduction and climate resilience. GDAD is a crucial step towards better technology usage for climate protection. This encompasses developed countries as they are the major producers of carbon emissions.

Water to Climate Action Declaration :

It Advocates for integrated approach to water management in climate policies emphasizing Basin level strategies (BLS) to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts of hazardous nature.

Key Short-comings Of COP-29

Insufficient Climate Finance Commitment

Lack of Concrete fossil fuel phase out plans

Reversed influence of fossil fuel interest

Absence of high level political engagement.

Insufficient Climate Financing Commitments:

Developed nations pledged to provide 300 billion dollars annually by 2035 to assist developing countries in combating climate change.

This figure falls significantly short of \$1.3 trillion target initially sought, raising concerns about adequacy of support for vulnerable nations.

Lack of Concrete fossil fuel phase out plan:

The conference did not produce a definitive agreement on phasing out fossil fuel, a critical step towards mitigating global warming. This omission has been a focal point of criticism for environmental groups & other climate vulnerable nations.

Absence of high level Political Engagement:

The notable absence of leaders from major economies and with drawal of certain delegations during the talks have been interpreted as a lack of commitment to urgent climate action.

Conclusion:

Although COP-29 pledges are attractive, its target, goal setting, amendment in article 6 are marvellous. But there are certain factors that contributed to its failure and it did not achieved the necessary progress to effectively address the pressing challenges of climate change.