

ARFA TARIQ

16/40

CURRENT AFFAIR

TEST-2

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Q3

Ans.

We are the 1st generation to
feel the effect of climate change
and

the last generation who can do
something about it.

(Barack Obama)

Introduction

8/20

→ Climate change is one of the biggest problem of the world is facing today. Rising temperature, floods, droughts and melting of glaciers show that how urgent it is to take action. These situation threatening lives and ecosystems across the globe. Scientist warn that if we don't take action, these problems will get worse.

The Conference of Parties (COP) is a yearly global meeting where the countries discuss and plan how to tackle climate change. It is organized by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that brings together world leaders, scientists and activists to find out the solutions. The COP 29 session of this conference, is expected to play a crucial role in addressing the climate crises.

This conference will focus on reducing

the Greenhouse gases emission, providing financial support to poorer countries and finding sustainable solution for safer future.

Background. Origin of COP :-

→ The Conference of Parties (COP) is the supreme decision making body of UNFCCC. All the states that present in the convention are represented as the COP at which they review the implementation of conventions and take new decision

1st COP

The 1st COP meeting was held in Berlin Germany in March 1995.

COP membership

The COP includes 197 countries and the European Union, making it nearly universal in the membership.

Presidency of COP

→ The presidency of Conference of Parties (COP) rotates among the 5 ~~Count~~ UN regional groups including ~~Africa~~, Asia, Latin America, Caribbean, Eastern & Western Europe.

→ Each presidency lasts for the duration of ~~one~~ COP Session (1 year) but ~~often~~ includes preparatory meetings before the conference & follow-ups afterward.

COP-29

→ COP meets every year. This Year 2024, the 29th meeting of COP was held in Baku, Azerbaijan from Nov 11 to 22 Nov 2024.

→ This COP-29 ~~meeting~~ was held under the ~~presidency~~ of Mukhtar Babayev while Samir Nuriyev headed the organising committee.

Commitments at COP-29

• Climate Finance Agreement

- A notable outcome of COP-29 was the agreement to mobilize \$300 billion annually by 2035 to help developing countries in addressing climate change impacts.
- This figure represents an increase from previous \$100 billion target.

• Carbon Credit Mechanism

- The Summit achieved a breakthrough in allowing countries to establish and trade Carbon Credits, aiming to encourage emission reduction.
- This mechanism is designed to regulate and facilitate the trading of Carbon Credits & providing financial incentives

for emission reductions particularly in developing countries.

• Hydrogen Pledge

- The United States among other nations, approved the COP-29 Hydrogen Pledge
- Signatories aims to scale up clean hydrogen production, put efforts for near-zero greenhouse gas emission.

• Enhance action in Tourism.

- The COP-29 declaration on Enhanced action in tourism, collected the endorsement from over 60 governments that committing to promote sustainable tourism practices.
- This together efforts will reduce emission and enhance resilience within tourism sector

Failures

→ Insufficient Climate Finance Commitments

→ The amount of \$300 billion annually mobilization however is regarded as insufficient.

→ The international energy agency estimates that a true energy transition requires approximately \$4.5 trillion annually which highlight a significant short fall that could not effective climate action.

→ Lack of Consensus on fossil Fuel phase-out

→ Cop 29 failed to reach an agreement on phasing out fossil fuels, a critical component in mitigating climate change.

→ This negotiation reflects the influence of fossil fuel interests and represents a missed opportunity to set clear, actionable targets for transitioning to renewable energy sources.

Procedural controversies & Governance Issues.

→ The conference was imperfect by procedural challenges, including extended negotiations and disputes over funding commitments.

→ Critics argue ~~that~~ that the lack of enforceable mechanism allows countries to make commitment without accountability, undermining the effectiveness of International climate agreements.

Limited Progress on Loss and damage Fund

- While there was some discussion on establishment of a loss and damage fund to compensate vulnerable countries for climate induced losses, concrete commitments and operational details remained unclear.
- This lack of clarity delays the provision of much-needed support to those most affected by climate change.

Conclusion

- COP-29 underscore the persistent challenges in achieving cohesive and effective global climate action. The insufficient funding commitment, failure to address fossil fuel consumption, procedural controversies etc matters highlight the need for more ambitious, enforceable commitments and transparent governance in future climate discussion.

Q1

Ans.:

SCOIntroduction

→ Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an intergovernmental organization established in 2001. It represents a diverse region encompassing vast of ~~S~~ Central Asia, East Asia and Europe.

→ It was laid down from 1996 at this time its name was Shanghai Five 1996.

→ In 2001, After its birth there were 2 developments occurs in SCO

- The membership of SCO increased
- Also the objectives of SCO increased.

→ There are so many objectives of SCO including security, peace, economic cooperation, cultural exchange, environmental protections etc

Historical Origin

① Shanghai Five 1996

- The SCO's roots laid down in the "Shanghai Five", a confidence building group formed in 1996 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.
- Their initial aim was to address border security and promote regional stability after the end of cold war.

② Expansion and Transformation (2001)

- In 2001, Uzbekistan joined the Shanghai Five and it transformed into the SCO.
- This expansion signified a broader vision of fostering cooperation beyond security, including political, economic and cultural globe.

New Membership

- In 2017 Pakistan & India became of full members of SCO, and become 7th and 8th members.
- In Sep 2023, Iran became the member of SCO, and became the 9th member of SCO.
- In July 2024, Belarus became the 10th members of SCO.

Recent meeting of SCO.

→ On 15-16 Oct 2024, 23rd meeting of Council of heads of govt (Prime ministers) of the SCO was held in Islamabad.

→ It was attended by PM of Belarus, FM of India, PM of Kazakhstan, Chairmain of govt of Russia, PM of Tajikistan & Uzbekistan, Chinese minister and PM of Pakistan etc.

→ The meeting was chaired by PM of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif.

Major Takeaways for Pakistan:

→ Enhanced Diplomatic Standing:

- Hosting of successful conference of SCO, demonstrated Pakistan's ability to organize large international events and actively participated in regional cooperation.
- This boosted Pakistan's global reputation and highlighted its commitment to fostering peace & development in the region.

→ Economic Opportunities

- This conference provided Pakistan a platform to promote trade, infrastructure development and investment opportunities.
- By emphasizing CPEC, Pakistan reinforced its position as a key player in regional economic integration.

and connectivity, attracting interest from other SCO members.

Focus on Security

- Discussions during the conference focused on the importance of maintaining Peace and Stability, particularly in Afghanistan.
- Pakistan positioned itself as a responsible state committed to combating terrorism, ensuring regional stability and supporting peaceful transitions in neighbouring countries.

Better relations with Neighbours.

- The participation of India's Foreign Minister, despite the lack of formal talks, marked a positive step towards re-engagement b/w the 2 countries.
- It opened the door for potential

~~door~~ for discussions in the future, which could ease tension and improve regional cooperation.

2) Recommend measures for Islamabad to follow.

- To Boost economy
Use the conference to attract Foreign investment in energy, trade and technology.
- Improve Connectivity
Focus on building roads, railways and transport links to connect better with other SCO countries.
- Ensure security
Increased safety measures to protect Foreign investments especially Chinese projects to gain their trust.
- Talk with neighbours
Continue peaceful discussions with countries like India to solve issues and

improve relations.

- cultural exchange

Promote Student programs, tourism and cultural events to build stronger relationship with SCO countries.

Conclusion

→ As Pakistan's successful hosted this Summit marked a significant diplomatic achievement.

→ But by adopting above strategies Pakistan can maximize the benefits of the SCO conference, improve its economic prospects and play a leading role in regional development and peace building.