

23/40

Question 3

12/20

Introduction:-

Climate change is not merely a subjective topic of environmental sciences anymore. It is an all encompassing multifaceted threat now. The temperature of the earth is continuously rising after the industrial revolution. The ~~re~~ main driver of this rise is are primarily human activities. Therefore the man himself is struggling to lower down the temperature through different measures. The climate summit 2024 is one of such measures which ~~was~~ held in Baku. ~~The COP29~~ various commitments were made in COP-29 including the finance deal, carbon trading and pledge for methane reduction among others. However, the failures of COP29 are prominent because of its controversial location and short fall in finance. Moreover, absence of key leaders

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and frustration of climate vulnerable nations and many other shortcomings made it a missed opportunity to tackle the effects of climate change

COP-29 Summit:-

The conference of parties meeting is one of the most important initiatives to deal with climate issues.

It held every year where leaders of nearly all the nation states discuss the global issues related to climate change. The COP-29 was held in Baku, Azerbaijan. From 11th November to 22 November. It was presided by the minister of ecology & natural resources of Azerbaijan Republic. The main focus areas of the COP-29 were:

- Operationalization of loss & damage fund
- Enhancement of NDCs in line with 1.5°C target.
- Emphasis on submission of NDCs by 2025
- Increase in climate finance
- Investment in green innovation

The finance COP:-

The COP-29 is called the finance COP because the starting point of this summit was the climate finance. The climate finance is the most critical element of all the environmental efforts. In COP-27, the loss and damage fund was established which was materialised much after its deadline. Moreover in COP-29 a climate finance deal is committed to help the developing nations to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Commitments

made in COP-29:

Various commitments were made in the COP-29 to manage the growing menace of climate change.

i- The Climate Finance deal:

In COP-29, the developed nations pledged to spend 300 billion dollars to developing nations. This amount would be given in the form of grant rather than loan so that in order to relieve the pressure of debt crisis from developing countries. However, the climate experts suggested an amount of 1.3 trillion dollars for developing world to manage the problems of global warming.

ii- Adoption of centralized Carbon trading mechanism:

In COP-29, the initiative of carbon trading ~~has~~ had been brought into operation. The countries and organization are allowed to trade their carbon assets ~~for~~ by avoiding the carbon emission or by plantation to conserve environment. It was the long awaited project that was decided under Article 6.4 of Paris Agreement.

iii- Loss & Damage Fund:

Loss and damage fund was established in COP-27 in Egypt. It was ~~not~~ expected in COP-29 that a proper framework would be set out in it. But all the parties just discussed it and reached to an amount of ~~200~~ 759 billion million dollars. They just acknowledge that a gap exist but further discussion did not make out.

iv- Pledge to reduce Methane Emission:-

The Global Methane Pledge was made in COP-26 that committed cut out the methane emission by 30% upto 2030. In COP-29, this pledge was endorsed by various larger methane emitter countries. Methane is one of the ~~the~~ dangerous green house gas which cause global warming ~~28~~ 28 times greater than CO₂ on a 100 year time scale.

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V- Deforestation:

The world has lost one third of its forests. It resulted in desertification and food insecurity. Moreover, deforestation is responsible for 20% of global CO₂ emissions.

The Global Forest Coalition (GFC) and allies from central Asia & Caucasus issued the "Baku Forest Declaration" in the summit. They urged to prioritise negotiations about forest protection in the climate summits. In addition the UK granted 300 million dollars to help forest rich countries.

Vi- Agriculture & Food Security

The COP 29 presidency and FAO launched the "Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers" to help farmers and to support climate resilient agrifood systems. Moreover the alliance of food champions of food system which was held in COP-28 also emphasised to prioritise food security talks.

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Failures of COP-29:

i- A Short Fall in Climate Finance :-

At COP29, wealthy nations pledge to grant 300 billion dollars annually by 2035. It is an increase from previous targets, but it is still below the 1.3 trillion dollars which was ~~req~~ required to mitigate climate change destructions.

ii- Absence of Key Leaders:

The climate summit 2024 was not attended by the carbon-em leaders of carbon emitting grants. The leaders from China, US and India were absent. Despite of the fact that US alone is responsible for 20% of carbon emission, it did not ~~entered~~ get bothered.

iii- Pursuance of Fossil Fuel Interests:

The COP-29 was attended by nearly 2000 fossil fuel

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lobbyists and industrialists. It included the heads of oil giants such as Shell and BP. These people always used the climate conferences in their own interest. They push for false solutions like carbon offsetting to prevent the phase out of fossil fuel.

iv- Frustration & Walkout by climate vulnerable Nations:

The developing nations reacted in fury. They called the Finance deal "a joke, a betrayal and an insult. Many critics including UN officials & climate groups called it scrutinized this summit. Moreover, the countries such as Argentina and some others pulled out their negotiators.

v- Petrostate Hosts: A Controversial location:

The location of climate summit ie Azerbaijan is a country, that thrive on fossil

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Fuel. Its president called the oil & and gas, a major gift from God ignoring various other natural gifts which are at stake.

The climate scientist Frederikke Otto said "It's been another oil stained COP".

vi- Trump Factor is a big negative:

The victory of a climate hoaxer in America is a disturbing factor for the climate efforts.

The COP-29 it soured the mood at COP-29. Donald Trump already said that he would pull out the US from climate actions which means that the remaining nations would have to struggle more in terms of finance.

Conclusion:-

The Baku COP-29 concluded with 300 bn dollar finance agreement. This funding is far less but still a major success

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as compared to previous finance deals. The environment illness is posing the biggest part of the time. It require more dedicated approach from the ~~govt~~ govt of all the return-states. It is hoped that the COP-30 which is to be held in Brazil would bring more improved commitments.)

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Question 1:

11/20

Introduction:-

The era of multilateralism is on display around the world. Various players are emerging out from the different regions of globe. The multilateral organizations are leading this phenomena. One such expanding entity is SCO, made of key countries like Russia and China. Pakistan is also a member of this organization and thus a participant of these co-operative efforts.

Pakistan hosted the 22nd twenty third conference of SCO. It placed a full stop on the allegations of isolation to Pakistan. Moreover, light was shed on multiple subjects such as discussion of tensions b/w India & Pakistan, expansion of BRI, Afghanistan question and proposal for an independent banking system of SCO. Ahead of this conference, Islamabad

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has to follow some measures to stay active in the environment of multilateralism.

SCO - Its objectives and significance:

The SCO was established in 1996 by Russia and China as Shanghai Five. Later it expanded in 2001 and named as SCO Shanghai co-operation organization. Its core objective were dealing with counter cross border disputes and to combat three evils that is terrorism, separatism and extremism. Today, its objectives are expanded with economic, cultural & scientific co-operation. Pakistan joined the SCO in 2017.

The SCO comprised of countries which make 1/3 of total world population, & 23% of total global GDP. Moreover, it has one fourth of world oil reserves, one third

of global gas reserves and half of the known Uranium reserves. It is committed to not only deal with traditional security threats & making old school military pacts but it is a co-operation to deal combat with non-traditional security threats with multilateral approach.

SCO conference in Islamabad:-

The 23rd conference of SCO held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 15 & 16 October 2024. The meeting was held under the successfully under the tight security conditions due to the political protests and the attacks of Baloch insurgent as in Karachi. 10000 Paramilitary personnel were appointed for the protection of 900 delegates.

Major Takeaways for Pakistan:-

The key Takeaways for Pakistan, from SCO conference are as under:

i- Full stop on the allegations of Isolation:-

The allegations of international isolation were lifted from Pakistan after the organization of a leader's level SCO meeting. It was a major event hosted by Pakistan. After the OIC meeting 2014 & Asta conference 2022.

ii- Dilution of Security Concerns

The successful conduct of SCO conference displayed that the security condition is stable in Pakistan. The Pakistan government took serious measures to ensure security after the attack of Baloch insurgents in Karachi which resulted in the deaths of two Chinese nationals.

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iii- Idea of Expansion of BRI:-

The sino Pakistan all weather friendship was overwhelmed the meeting. Pakistan govt emphasized the expansion of BRI and CPEC in particular. Moreover, it encouraged International North South Corridor (INSC) & gave idea to merge it with ML-2.

iv- Sideline meetings:

Pakistan govt engaged in various side line meetings mostly with chinese officials. They signed a MOU on IT & agricultural projects. In addition, the virtual inauguration of Gwadar port was a big success.

v- Diffusion of tensions

with India:-

Pakistan tried to diffuse tensions with India. The India foreign Minister Mr Jaishankar toned down his stance saying that countering the terrorism is

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necessary to carry out the multilateral efforts. He did not mention the name of Pakistan.

vi- Afghanistan Question:

The Pakistan PM said that the peace in Afghanistan is not desirable just desirable but it is essential. He highlighted the issue on such platform urging international community to provide humanitarian aid of ~~the~~ Taliban gov to adopt an inclusive political approach.

vii- Proposal about SCO's independent Banking System:

The Russian PM proposed to establish an independent banking system to ease the business and trade. This proposal also aligned with China's ambition to decrease reliance on US dollar. This initiative was openly opposed by India.

Date: _____

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Recommended Measures for Islamabad :-

i- Bilateral Trade with India:

It is a great opportunity for Pakistan to start bilateral trade with India to normalize the relations. Pakistan govt should need to initiate a comprehensive effort to build the trade ties with India.

ii- Settle Down the relations with Afghanistan:

Pakistan can synchronize its policy with the rest of Russia & China in dealing with Afghanistan. Otherwise, it must deal with Taliban on bilateral terms and negotiate for the strict actions against TPP.

iii- Need for a favourable environment for Investments:

Pakistan must set out a favourable environment to attract investments from foreign countries. It needs to make following measures:

a- Political Stability:

The uncertain political situation in Pakistan is the biggest inhibiting factor for development. The key political parties and relevant stakeholders must neutralize their tussles in order to gain political stability which inturns is essential for progress.

b- Stable Security Conditions:

The growing threat of terrorism is not another challenge for the prosperity of Pakistan. The strict counter terrorism initiatives are necessary to stabilize the development projects.

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c- Economic Uplift:-

The Pakistan economic situation is suffering from major setbacks. Various structural reforms are needed to make the economic landscape stable and attract foreign investment.

Conclusion:-

The organization of SCO conference in Islamabad is a major success for Pakistan. It affected the image of Pakistan positively in international community. It is hoped that Pakistan would make more progress in the future by hosting various other large scale meetings and would play important role in promoting democratic values.