

Q No. 1

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Pakistan successfully conducted SCO conference in Islamabad. Critically evaluate the major takeaways for Pakistan. What measures would you recommend for Islamabad to follow?

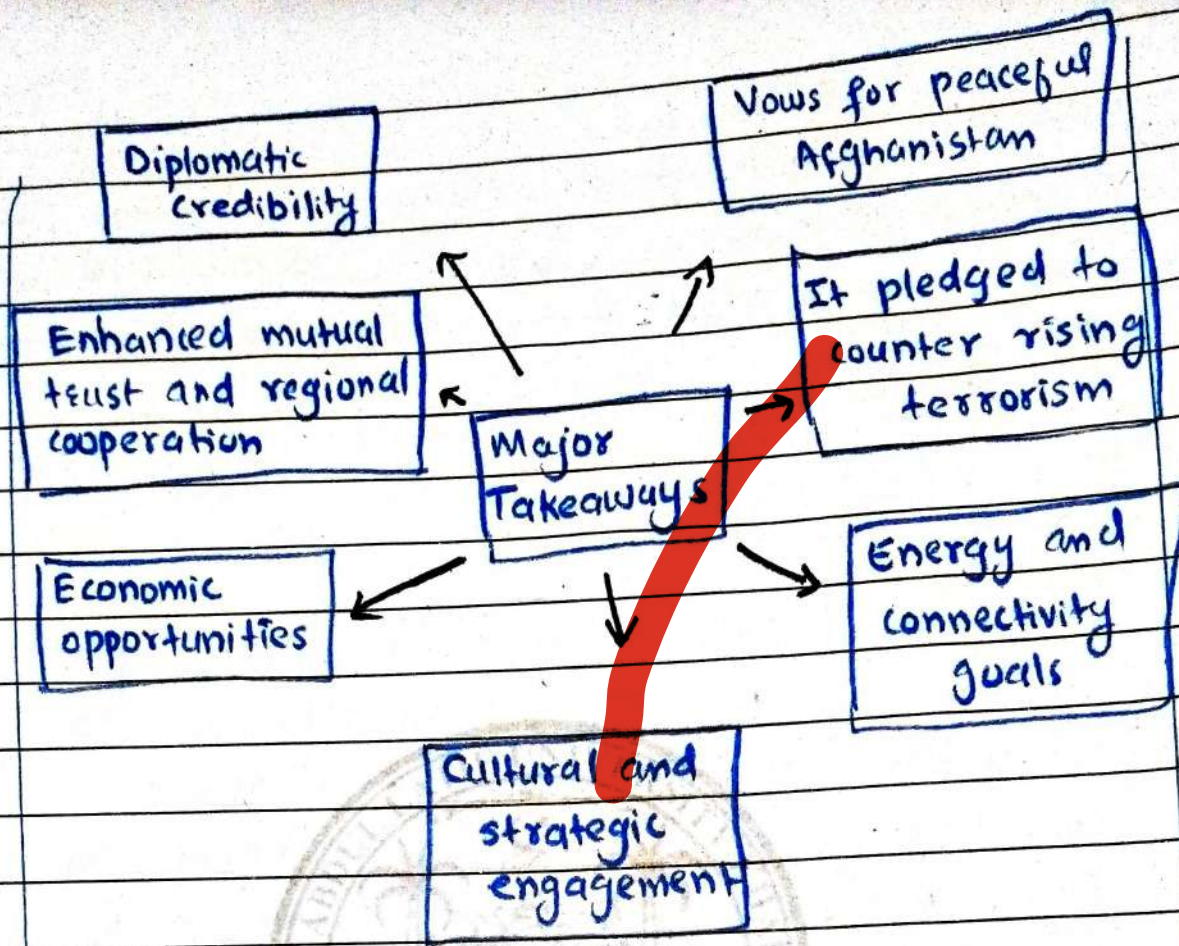
Introduction

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Pakistan hosted 23rd meeting of SCO members on 15-16 October in Islamabad. It was a successful event of multi-lateral organization conducted by Pakistan. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was created to build mutual trust, cooperation, peace and regional stability. The objectives of SCO also include anti-terrorism efforts and combat extremist and separatism. Pakistan proved itself a successful diplomat, marking its commitment for regional peace, cooperation and economic development.

Major Takeaways for Pakistan

The major takeaways for Pakistan are discussed below:



① Diplomatic Credibility

Pakistan successfully hosted SCO summit of heads of government proving itself as a successful diplomat. It enhanced cooperation and integration among members of SCO. Pakistan reinforced its image as a peaceful country to the world, increasing its credibility and super power. It demonstrated country's ability to host high-level forums, despite geo-political and economic challenges.

② Enhanced mutual trust and cooperation

Pakistan, through this conference underscored the significance of cooperation and integration. It hosted rival country, India as well. This multi-lateral meeting of countries provided a platform to initiate negotiations and build mutual trust and cooperation.

Pakistan deepened the ties with SCO members including China, Russia, and Central Asian Republics. The SCO conference provided Pakistan a platform to advocate for its stance, especially on critical issues such as Kashmir, without direct confrontation.

③ Economic Opportunities

The SCO conference provided Pakistan an opportunity to create ~~an~~ diverse economic ties with several countries. The conference provided a chance to discuss on various dynamics such as trade, business, infrastructure development, energy, health, education with Central Asian countries and global powers such as Russia, China.

④ Vows for Peaceful Afghanistan

In the SCO conference, Pakistan vowed in front of world to bring peaceful efforts and neutralize the tense situation in Afghanistan. The current Taliban regime has raised concerns in the world regarding basic fundamental rights and gender apartheid. Pakistan took a stance that it would maximize its efforts for peaceful Afghanistan.

⑤ It pledged to counter rising terrorism

Recently, Pakistan has faced extreme terrorism and militancy with several attacks on civilians, security personnel and Chinese nationals. The terrorists efforts to undermine future of CPEC by attacking on Chinese nationals raised concerns. Pakistan pledged to control these terrorist activities with comprehensive strategies. Hence, another takeaway for Pakistan at SCO conference was to gain trust of China ensuring their safety.

⑥ Energy and connectivity goals

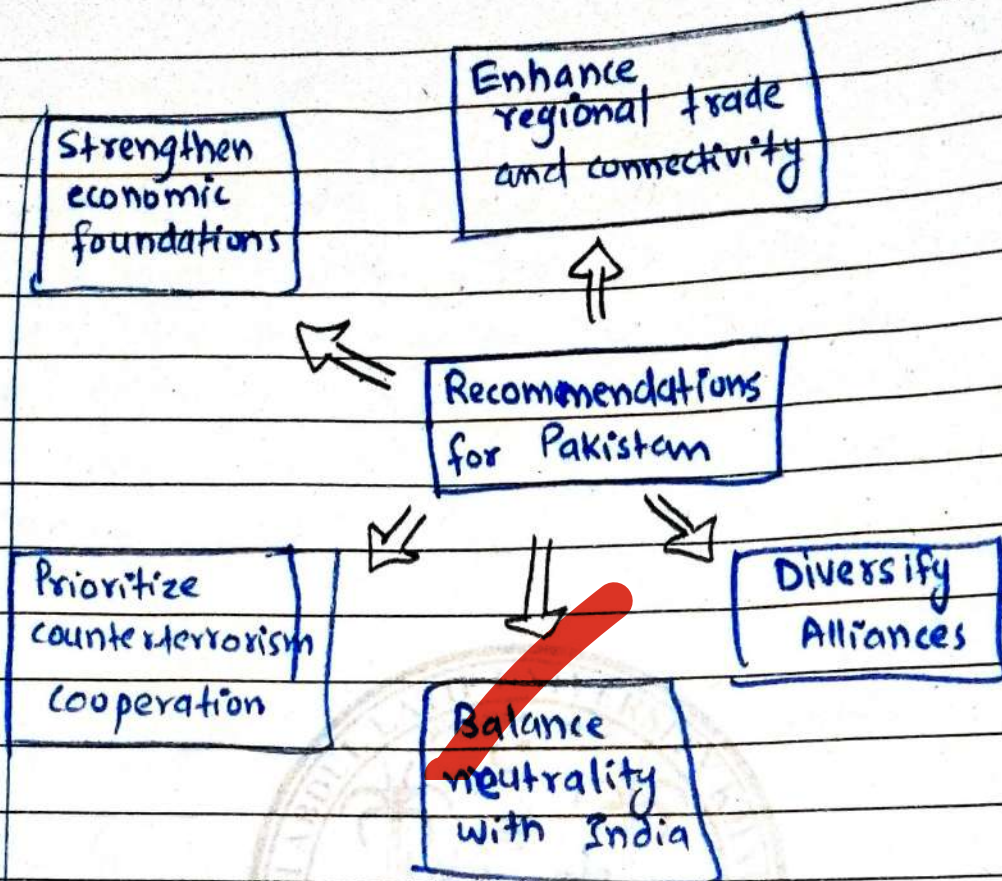
The conference provided an opportunity for Pakistan to take initiatives and discuss energy cooperation especially with ~~the~~ rich-resource countries such as central Asian nations. ~~It~~ It was a takeaway for Pakistan to strengthen energy ties that can help alleviate energy shortage issues.

⑦ Cultural and strategic engagement

The SCO conference held in Islamabad where Pakistan was able to show its diverse culture. The SCO members with various traditions and cultures met at one platform. Hence, it fostered multi-cultural engagement. Pakistan demonstrated its foreign policy of multi-lateralism that strengthens Pakistan's partnership with multipolar world.

Measures Recommended For

Islamabad



① Strengthen ^{economic} ~~economic~~ foundations

Pakistan must take stabilize its economy through adequate measures such as, increase the industrial and agricultural productivity, diversify its exports, focus on human resource development etc. By strengthening economy, it can attract direct foreign investments from SCO members. Pakistan must take collaborative actions to initiate Turkmanistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) and CASA-1000 energy projects to tackle with chronic energy scarcity.

② Enhance regional trade and connectivity

Pakistan should accelerate its connectivity project i.e. CPEC and enhance transit trade and integration with ~~the~~ central Asian countries and other neighbouring countries like India, Afghanistan. It should build infrastructure to enhance Pakistan's role as a transit hub for trade between Central Asian and South Asian countries.

③ Prioritize Counter-terrorism Cooperation

Pakistan must enhance ~~cooperation~~ collaboration with SCO - Regional anti-terrorism structure (RATS) to combat terrorism and extremism. It should promote Pakistan's image as a victim of terrorism and an active contributor of peace. The country should prioritize its efforts to take adequate measures to curb terrorism in Pakistan.

④ Diversify Alliances

Islamabad should diversify its alliance from China to other Central Asian countries. It must increase

collaboration for trade, energy and cultural exchanges. Deepen ties with Russia as well and diplomatically balance both China and Russia to prevent dependency on any single partner.

⑤ Balance neutrality with India

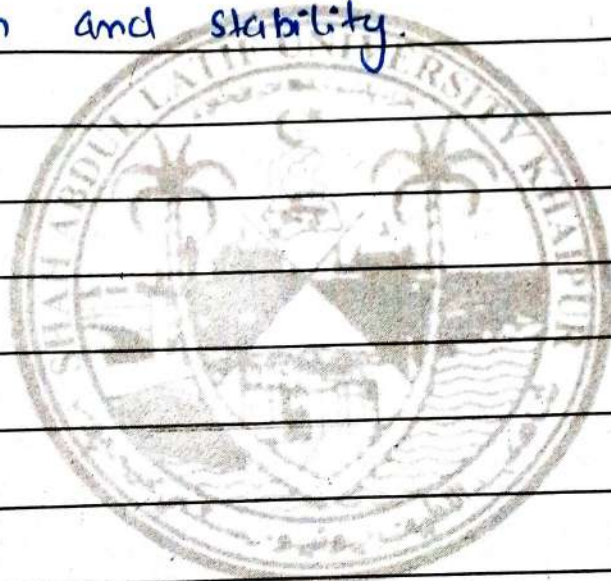
Pakistan should use such platform like SCO conference to maintain dialogue with India, focusing on trade and security, while balancing neutral stance, Islamabad should diplomatically address contentious issues like Kashmir.

Conclusion

The successful hosting of SCO conference by Islamabad proved its capability and marked a pivotal moment to highlight Pakistan's diplomatic efforts, demonstrating its commitment of multi-lateralism, peace, regional cooperation and economic development. By addressing some challenges, Islamabad can maximize the benefits of multi-lateral meeting. Pakistan needs to stabilize its economy.

and maintain a balanced foreign policy.

It must prioritize its counter-terrorism policy to bring peace and stability. Also, Pakistan needs to diversify its alliances and reduce ^{over-}dependency on china and balance a neutral stance with its rival country, India. Through these efforts Pakistan can contribute meaningfully towards regional cooperation and stability.



Q.No. 2

Dollar and SWIFT being used as a weapon by US against the countries of Global South. Critically evaluate how BRICS+ could counter this to get rid of the western exploitation on permanent basis.

Ans.

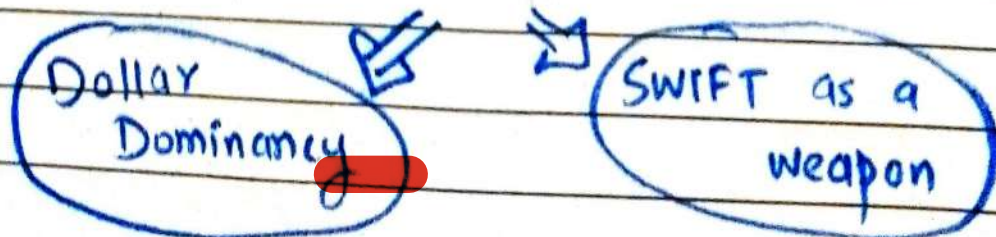
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Introduction

The United States uses dollar and SWIFT as a weapon to undermine credibility, sovereignty and power of other nations of Global South. BRICS+ has emerged as a counter-organization to reduce influence of the United States and promote trade, cooperation and prosperity in Global South. This answer will discuss how Dollar and SWIFT are used as a weapon by US and how BRICS+ could counter this to get rid of western exploitation on permanent basis.

①

Dollar And SWIFT as Tools of Control



(a) Dollar dominance

Dollar is used as a global reserve currency and it is also used for global financial transactions, especially for commodities like gas and oil.

This dominance allows US to impose unilateral sanctions on global South and influence the political and economic stability of southern nations.

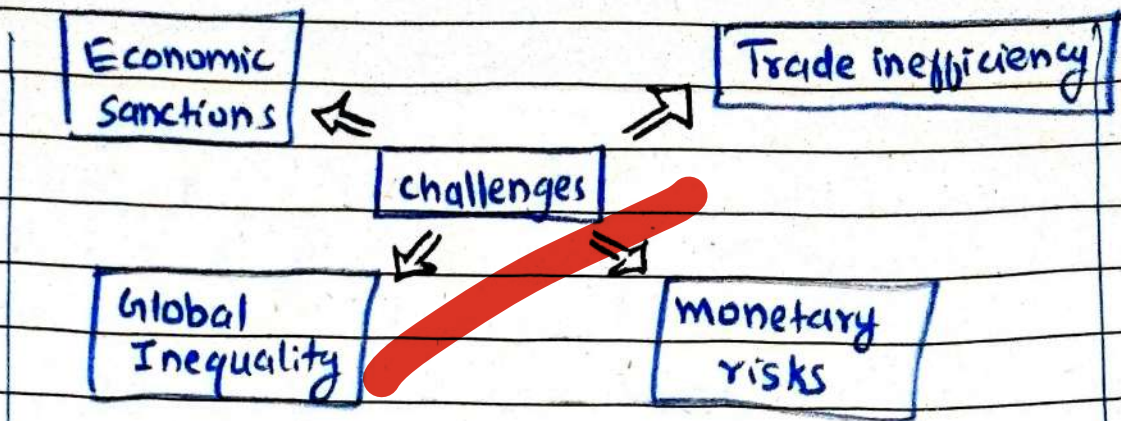
SWIFT

(b) SWIFT as a weapon of control

The Society for world inter-bank financial telecommunication (SWIFT) is a global messaging network that control the world's cross border trade transaction.

The United States pressurizes SWIFT to remove his rivals such as Iran, Russia, North Korea in order to alienate them from the global trade and shatter their economy.

Challenges posed by Dollar and SWIFT dominance



(a) Economic sanction

The dollar and SWIFT dominance allows US to impose unilateral sanction on country such as its rivals. Hence, it prevents countries from pursuing independent policies.

(b) Global Inequality

This system reinforces dominance of western power over global South. Therefore, this system leads to increasing global inequality.

(c) Trade inefficiency

Dollar dominance creates hurdles in trade for weak economies such as high transaction costs reduce their trade efficiencies.

(d) monetary risks

The US uses its dominant policies and manipulate such policies in its own favour, such as interest rate hikes that result in capital outflow and depreciation of currency in the global south.

BRICS+ as a Counterforce of US-Dominancy

(1) The expansion of BRICS

The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) has now expanded with joining of UAE, Iran and other nation. Currently, the BRICS constitute almost 41% of population of the world and approximately 37% of global GDP. This huge weight of expansion can be used by BRICS nations to counter US-dominancy.

(2) Alternative payment methods

(3) Decolonization

The BRICS is working on

alternative currencies such as Yuan or local currencies to use them for trade purpose. This decolonization policy of BRICS can be used to counter US dominance. BRICS has already started discussions to introduce a common currency to continue trade within the bloc.

(b) Establishment of new development bank (NDB)

BRICS has established new development bank to facilitate weak nations and support them through funds and loans. The aim of this is to reduce dependency of global south on western organizations such as IMF and World Bank. It encourages use of NDB to build infrastructure, ^{finance} trade within BRICS nations.

(c) Alternative payment systems

BRICS can integrate other financial systems such as SPFS from Russia (system for transfer of financial messages) and CIPS from China (cross-border interbank payment system). This integration would create a decentralized payment system and ultimately counter SWIFT control.

④ Energy and Trade Agreement

Foster cooperation with other nations to conduct oil, gas and energy transport in local currencies or through barter system. BRICS could encourage organization for petroleum exporting countries (OPEC) to use alternative trade systems. This would result in reduced US-dominancy in global South.

Challenges for BRICS+

① Lack of cooperation due to diverse interest

Internal disagreements within BRICS nations and lack of cooperation present a challenge before BRICS. For example stance of China and India against dollarization policy of BRICS.

② Western resistance

The US and its allies strongly resist dollarization policies of BRICS. Even Donald Trump has threatened to impose 100% tariffs against BRICS nations.

(c) Operational hurdles

The objective of BRICS to establish alternative financial system requires adequate capacity development to support financially. It needs to strengthen its cooperation and develop patience, so that smaller nations are supported to be in alignment with BRICS.

Recommendation for BRICS+ to ensure Success

(a) Strengthen institutional capacity

Enhance the capability to handle large-scale financial transactions. BRICS should strengthen its institution such as New Development Bank to provide financial security to its nations.

(b) Promoting multi-lateral cooperation

BRICS should expand its alliances with other global south countries to increase cooperation with other countries. Multi-lateral cooperation may provide credible members to support in countering

western dominance.

(c) Develop digital currencies

BRICS should establish digital currency such as central bank digital currency (CBDC) to create a secure and efficient financial system.

(d) Diplomatic engagement with west

BRICS should engage diplomatically with western countries to develop trust and reduce their hostility, especially the United States. It would result in smooth transition of financial system from US dominance to the BRICS bloc.

Conclusion

BRICS+ provide a transformative opportunity to counter dollar dominance and transit from dollar to alternative mechanisms. With capacity building of its institutions and enhanced cooperation, BRIC can counter western dominance and eliminate western exploitation of Global South permanently.