

Question #101

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

Outline:

1. Introduction
2. SCO summit, 2024
3. Major takeaways for Pakistan
 - a. Diplomatic success
 - b. Economic opportunities
 - c. Climate change
 - d. Security challenges
4. Challenges for Islamabad
 - a. Internal political instability
 - b. Balancing western perception
 - c. dominance of major powers (China, Russia)
5. Recommendations for Islamabad
 - a. focus upon CBM with member states
 - b. Focus upon collective gains
 - c. focus upon equal say in organization
 - d. Climate diplomacy
6. Conclusion

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SCO, a regional Eurasian organization, had its summit 2024 in Islamabad. This summit impacts great diplomatic, economic, strategic, security and climate related significance for Pakistan. Since the world is moving towards multipolarity and regionalism at a very fast pace, this summit holds great importance for Pakistan. But Pakistan can gain much from it if it overcomes its internal issues, balancing approach between ^{the} east and the west and progressive approach to solve its devastating situation of economy. Pakistan has need to adopt a coordinated concrete and multidimensional approach to benefit more from this platform. SCO is an emerging security, economic and cultural organization often referred as NATO of the East. It has great prospects for Pakistan.

Major Takeaways for Pakistan

From SCO summit in Islamabad, Pakistan has following takeaways.

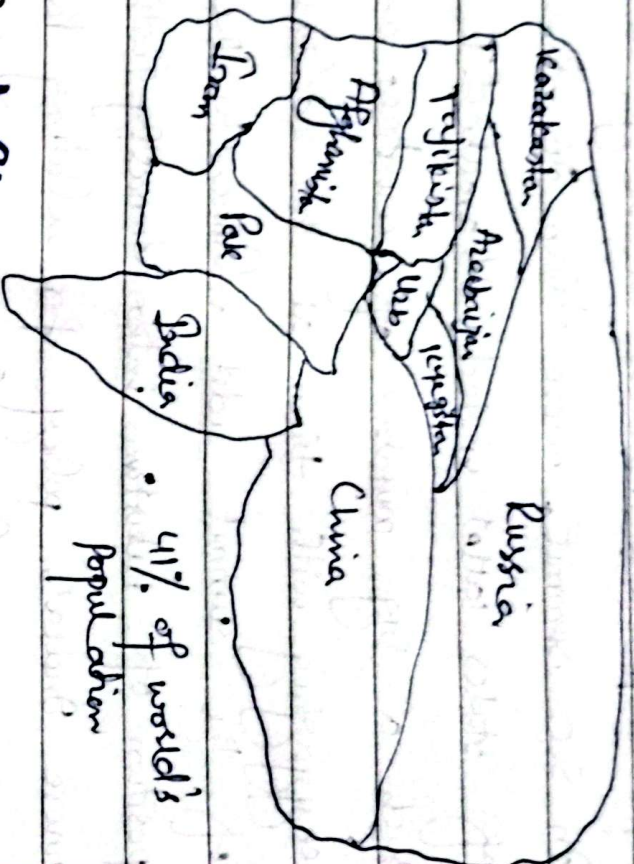
Diplomatic Success:

Pakistan has long been longing for diplomatic success at a global level. In SCO summit, more than 26 heads of states either visited Islamabad. To host such a big number of countries and engaging with them at the sidelines of the summit add volume to the position of Pakistan internationally. Further, more India's policy for isolating Pakistan at international level got a big blow.

Economic Opportunities:

Pakistan is facing economic deadlock due to its deteriorating economy. It has launched an investment programme to revitalize its economy. SIEC (Special Economic Investment Facilitation Council), SCO includes great economies like Russia, India and China's CBRs. Through SCO forum, Pakistan has a great opportunity to attract foreign direct investment which will boost its economy. Specially in the field of gas and oil from CBRs and Russia.

Map of SCO countries



Climate Change:

Pakistan is a country which contribute least to climate change via greenhouse gas emissions and bears more brunt of it. Recent floods clearly this disastrous impact of climate on Pakistan, which caused damaged to its economy, infrastructure and lives. Through SCO, Pakistan can effectively convey the damages faced by it and can get some benefits in the form of climate change funds.

Security challenges:

Pakistan is facing security challenges again. Recent surge of terrorism has greatly affected its society as a whole. Since SCO is aimed to eliminate these evils "extremism, terrorism and separatism", Pakistan can get more benefits for solving its security issues through RATS (regional anti-terrorist structure), which is world's largest intelligence sharing platform.

Challenges for Islamabad:

SCO is an emerging regional organization, and it counters the stance of Fikrnamina "Rising Western democracy" and the idea of non-existence of Communist stance. Pakistan has always been tilted towards western bloc, but due to changing geopolitics and geostrategic interests, there is dire need to keep balanced approach between both blocs. There is dire need to clear position of Pakistan.

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al western level too. Otherwise, it will have to face difficulties in the form of sanctions as seen by recent event. Furthermore, the dominance of Russia, India and China in SCO leaves little room for small economies. Like Pakistan and CBRs. It is also important to get fully benefitted from SCO, the internal political instability and governance has also need of authorities.

Steps to be followed by Islamabad

Following are recommendations for Islamabad to be followed.

Focus upon CBM initiatives:

To get great fruits of SCO summit, Pakistan has need to focus upon confidence building measures (CBM) with member states and to provide conducive environment for business and investment. It will improve economic condition of Pakistan. Non-state actors in the country, must be handled carefully.

Focus upon Collective Spirit:

Since this forum comprises of countries with diverse political systems, ideologies and issues. They share differences among them too. For example Russia's China in marketing differences and Pakistan vs India at foreign policy differences. But it is the only forum which can play a pivotal role in making the ice of Pakistan and India conflict. For collective gain bilateral issues must set aside which will reduce the intensity of bilateral issues too.

Democracy in Organization:

Pakistan should promote the idea of equal weightage. Big and small countries must have equal weightage. It will enhance the importance of small countries like Pakistan and OICs and will improve their economic conditions.

Climate Change Diplomacy:

Pakistan has need to use this forum effectively and must promote idea of climate change diplomacy, which

can generate some funds to mitigate effects of climate change.

Conclusion:

SCO as an emerging regional organisation has lot to offer to Pakistan in diplomatic, social, economic and climate pathways. But there are certain limitations at internal level of Pakistan and SCO. There is a dire need to address those challenges via CBRA, climate change diplomacy, democracy at structural level and by focusing upon larger gains by putting into bilateral context.

Question No. (2)

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

Outline:

1. Introduction
2. BRICS (an overview)
3. Dollar and SWIFT as tool against south
 - High interest rates on \$
 - Impact of decline of US economy
4. Mechanism to counter \$ exploitation
 - Single currency by BRICS
 - Resolution by UN forum to internationalized other currencies
 - Trade in Yuan will lead devaluing of \$.

5. Conclusion

De-dollarization is a preventive effort not aggressive to counter US.

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