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PAKI
CURRENT AFFAIRS

QUESTION:01

Analyze the expansion of BRICS and the SCO, emphasizing the transition from old to new multilateralism. How can Pakistan capitalize on these organizations to enhance multilateral dimensions of its F-P?

INTRODUCTION: Shift from Unilateralism to Multilateralism in global order

In international politics, alliances do not eliminate vulnerabilities; they redefine influence.

The global diplomatic framework is undergoing a significant shift from the old multilateralism to a new multilateralism. This major evolving shift from Western led institutions such as the United Nations (UN), IMF, World Bank and NATO to emerging power coalitions at regional and global level advocates multipolarity, inclusivity, equity in global governance. Organizations like BRICS and SCO exemplify this shift due to their extended economic, political and regional cooperation. Therefore, Pakistan can leverage these

platforms to enhance the multilateral dimension of its foreign policy.

(ii) Expansion of BRICS: From Informal Club to Global Collective

The BRICS was initially composed of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. This has transitioned from an informal forum for dialogue to a broad coalition representing a significant portion of the global economy and population. With the addition of new countries i.e., Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, the BRICS+ now represents a much wider geographic and economic footprint in global affairs. This evolved multilateral approach of BRICS signals its aspiration to influence international economic governance structures from outside Western nations.

A. New Development Bank: Coordinating Financial Mechanisms

The growing institutionalisation of BRICS, including bodies such as the NDB and efforts to coordinate financial mechanism illustrate a move toward structural alternatives to Western financial institutions i.e., IMF (International Monetary Fund). These developments point to a multilateralism rooted in shared interests of emerging economies rather than a ideological alignment with existing global powers.

(iii) SCO's Evolution: Broader Agenda Beyond Security Cooperation

The SCO plays a stabilizing role in building multipolar world
— SCO summit speech —

Originally SCO conceived as a regional security organization, the SCO has evolved into a comprehensive multilateral platform addressing economic cooperation, connectivity, energy security and cultural exchanges. The inclusion of major regional actors such as India, Pakistan, and Iran has expanded its geopolitical relevance and institutional depth.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has described the SCO as playing, "a stabilizing role in building a multipolar world," reflecting its growing importance in regional and global governance.

The SCO's expanded agenda ranging from **SCO RATS** for counterterrorism to proposals for an **SCO Energy Club** demonstrates its transition from a narrow security mechanism to a multidimensional organization.

As Barry Buzan notes,

"Regional organizations increasingly shape global security governance," and the SCO, exemplifies how regional multilateralism can complement rather than replace global institutions.

(iv) BRICS and SCO as Manifestations of New Multilateralism

Together, BRICS and the SCO illustrate how new multilateralism differs fundamentally from older models. Unlike NATO or Bretton Woods institutions, these organizations do not impose ideological conformity or rigid conditionalities. Instead, they operate through consensus, mutual respect for sovereignty, and issue based cooperation.

The International System has long been dominated by power, not principles

-Noam Chomsky-

This assertion of Noam Chomsky helps to explain why many developing states gravitate toward these forums: they perceive them as spaces where power is more diffused and negotiation more equitable. Thus, BRICS and SCO reflect a recalibration of global governance in favor of pluralism and inclusivity. ✓

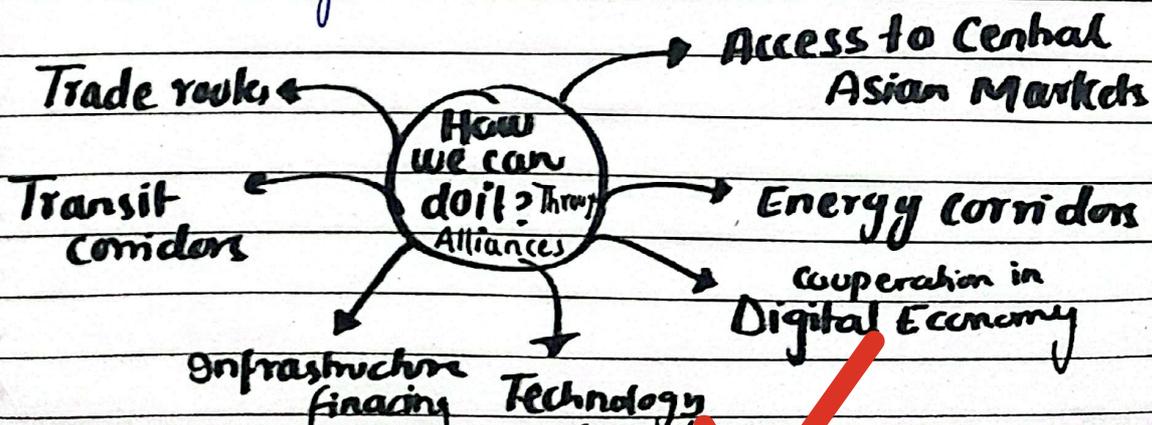
(v) Ways: How Pakistan can Capitalize on BRICS and SCO

1- Enhancing Strategic Autonomy through diversified Partnerships:

Pakistan's application for BRICS membership signals its intent to broaden diplomatic options and reduce over-reliance on Western dominated institutions. Engagement with BRICS can integrate Pakistan into alternative economic and financial networks, strengthening its bargaining position globally. Hans Morgenthau notes that, "Nations pursue interests defined in terms of power," Hence, the diversified partnerships enhance Pakistan's strategic leverage.

2- Shift from Geopolitic to Geoeconomic Objectives

National Security Policy (NSP) (2022-26) articulates its objectives as non-exclusive, mutual benefit and geoeconomic focus. As NSP states that, "**Economic integrity is the bedrock of national security.**" So, a shift towards geoeconomic strategy is required in Pakistan's diplomacy. Therefore, Pakistan can advance its geoeconomic agenda through BRICS linked financial mechanisms and SCO facilitated connectivity.



3. Enhancing Multilateral Diplomacy and Regional Relevance

Pakistan's participation in SCO counter-terrorism frameworks and regional dialogue enhances its image as a responsible stakeholder in Eurasian stability. Former foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has emphasized that, "Pakistan seeks partnerships based on connectivity, cooperation and multilateralism," a vision well-suited to SCO and BRICS.

4. Championing Global South Narratives: De-dollarization

By aligning with BRICS and SCO on issues such as development financing reform, climate justice and opposition to unilateral sanctions, Pakistan can project itself as a voice of Global South. This reinforces its multilateral credentials and strengthens its normative influence in international forums.

Moreover, by aligning itself with multiple regional platforms that are in favor of de-dollarization. The chances of economic betterment will increase as it leads to decline in international sanctions and bindings. The equity will ensure in all the states around the globe.

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Conclusion: Structural Transition in Global Governance

"The rise of the rest is creating
a post-Western world, not an
anti-Western one."
-Fareed Zakaria

The expansion of the BRICS and SCO symbolizes a structural transition from old, hierarchical multilateralism to more inclusive and multipolar model of global governance. For Pakistan, effective engagement with BRICS and the SCO offers a pathway to enhance strategic autonomy, diversify economic partnerships and strengthen its multilateral foreign policy. However, capitalizing on these opportunities requires coherent diplomacy, economic reform, and proactive participation.

Ultimately, BRICS and SCO are not alternatives to global multilateralism but strategic multipliers that can elevate Pakistan's role in an increasingly complex world order.

QUESTION: 02

COP-30

Introduction: COP30 as a Test of Global Climate Resolve Amid Geopolitical Fractures

The climate crisis is a code red for humanity, and multilateralism is our only lifeline.

— Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General —

The 30th Conference of Parties (COP30) represented a critical juncture in global climate governance, as it sought to convert decades of climate pledges into measurable implementation outcomes. Convened against a backdrop of escalating climate disasters, widening North-South inequalities, and weakening multilateral consensus, COP30 tested whether the international community could move beyond rhetoric toward climate justice, resilience and equitable finance. For climate vulnerable countries like Pakistan, the conference was not merely diplomatic but existential. It was focused on securing grant based finance, operationalizing loss and damage mechanisms and strengthening national resilience. However, the effectiveness of

COP30 was significantly challenged by structural weaknesses in global climate governance, most notably the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement which undermines trust, finance and leadership in collective climate action.

(i) COP30's Agenda Reflected Urgency but its' Outcomes Remained Incremental Rather than Transformational

COP 30's agenda emphasized implementation of the Global Stocktake, scaling up adaptation, operationalising loss and damage finance, and aligning climate action with development needs. While this focus acknowledged the severity of the crisis, outcomes largely reaffirmed existing commitments rather than introducing binding mechanisms. **According to UNEP Emissions Gap Report, current pledges still place the world on a 2.5-2.9°C warming trajectory, far above the 1.5°C target.** This gap highlights that COP30 advanced process, not pace.

(ii) Pakistan Effectively Leveraged Climate Vulnerability to Advocate for Climate Justice

Pakistan's participation at COP30 was grounded in its status as front-line climate affected country, despite contributing less than 1% to global emissions. Recurrent floods, heatwaves and glacial melt have imposed billions in losses, strengthening Pakistan's moral claim for international support. Scholars argue that climate diplomacy increasingly rewards evidence based vulnerability narratives, which Pakistan effectively employed. **World Bank estimates Pakistan's climate losses in billions annually.**

(iii) Pakistan's Demand For Grant Based Climate Finance Addressed the Debt Climate Trap

A central pillar of Pakistan's advocacy at COP30 was the call for grant based rather than loan based climate finance. Pakistan argued that loans exacerbate debt burdens and undermine long term resilience. According to IMF, climate vulnerable states are increasingly caught in a debt climate spiral where disaster recovery fuels indebtedness. Pakistan's stance aligned with broader Global South concerns that climate finance must reflect historical responsibility. **As UNDP policy briefs state that, "Climate finance"**

must not become climate debt."

(iv) Pakistan's Emphasis on Resilience Highlighted Adaptation as a Development Imperative

Adaptation is not optional; it is survival
—IPCC chair

At COP30, Pakistan underscored adaptation and resilience particularly in water management, agriculture and disaster preparedness as national priorities. This approach reflects the reality that mitigation alone cannot protect vulnerable societies from existing climate impacts. IPCC Sixth Assessment Report confirms that adaptation investment yields high social returns for developing countries.

(v) The United States' Exit from the Paris Agreement Undermines Global Climate Governance

The withdrawal of US, historically one of the largest emitters of and climate finance contributors, poses a severe challenge to the credibility of Paris Framework. Climate governance relies on collective participation and trust, both of which are weakened by

the exit of major powers. Analysts warn that such disengagement risks encouraging free-riding behavior among other states. (Brookings Institution analysis on climate leadership).

**| When major emitters step back, |
ambition everywhere suffers |**
- Nicholas Stern -

(vi) US withdrawal creates a Leadership and Financing Vacuum

Beyond exit symbolism, the U.S. exit has tangible consequences for climate finance flows particularly for mechanisms like Green Climate Fund and Loss and Damage arrangements. Developing countries fear that promised funds may remain unmet, eroding confidence in multilateral solutions. K.K. Aziz notes that international regimes fail when power and responsibility are disconnected. As K.K. Aziz notes that, "Global cooperation collapses when leadership abdicates responsibility".

(vii) COP30 Exposed Structural Weaknesses in Multilateral Climate System

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Despite ambitious language, COP30 reaffirmed that global climate governance suffers from weak enforcement, voluntary compliance, and geopolitical fragmentation. The absence of binding timelines for fossil fuel phase out and finance delivery reflects the limitations of consensus building in diplomacy. As Ishtat Hussain argues, institutions without enforcement mechanisms rely excessively on political goodwill.

(viii) Conclusion: Climate Governance at Cross Roads between Moral Responsibility & Political Will

The greatest danger to our future is apathy disguised as realism.

— Antonio Gramsci —

COP30 underscored both the urgency of climate change crisis and limitations of existing global climate governance frameworks. Pakistan principled advocacy for climate justice, resilience building and non-debt creating finance highlighted the ethical dimension of climate action, yet structural inequalities persist. The US exit from Paris Agreement further weakened collective resolve, undermining trust and financial credibility in multilateral system.