International Relations · GS - II

Examine the significance of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation as a platform for India-Pakistan engagement. How can multilateral diplomacy help manage bilateral tensions arising from disputes such as the Indus Waters Treaty?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

SCO, regional cooperation, India-Pakistan relations, Indus Waters Treaty, water diplomacy, multilateralism, confidence-building, strategic interests, diplomatic engagement, regional stability.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) provides a multilateral platform for regional cooperation among Eurasian countries, including India and Pakistan. It offers opportunities for dialogue despite bilateral tensions.

Significance of the SCO

- Facilitates cooperation on regional security, counterterrorism and connectivity.
- Provides diplomatic opportunities for member states to interact.
- Encourages engagement on economic, cultural and environmental issues.
- Helps maintain communication channels during periods of bilateral strain.

Indus Waters Treaty and Bilateral Challenges

The 1960 Treaty, facilitated by the World Bank, governs the use of the Indus river system. Disagreements over its interpretation and implementation have complicated India-Pakistan relations. Political rhetoric can further weaken

mutual trust and constructive dialogue.

Way Forward

- Maintain diplomatic communication through appropriate bilateral and multilateral channels.
- Respect international legal frameworks and established dispute-resolution mechanisms.
- Promote technical dialogue on water management and climate-related challenges.
- Separate regional cooperation from contentious bilateral issues wherever feasible.

Conclusion

The SCO cannot resolve every bilateral dispute, but it can sustain regional dialogue. Constructive diplomacy and institutional engagement remain important for regional stability.

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