International Relations · GS - II

'Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO' - In the light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating the problems.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2023	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

India must use strategic autonomy, dialogue, consensus-building and issue-based cooperation to prevent bilateral conflicts among SCO members from paralysing the organisation, while preserving its own security and national interests.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) brings together major Eurasian powers with divergent strategic interests. Conflicts among members, particularly geopolitical tensions, can obstruct the organisation's cooperative agenda.

Body

Problems Affecting SCO

The Russia-Ukraine conflict, India-China tensions, Afghanistan's instability, India-Pakistan differences and broader great-power rivalry can divert the SCO from regional cooperation towards geopolitical contestation.

India's Role

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Promoting dialogue: India can encourage diplomatic engagement and peaceful resolution of disputes rather than allowing bilateral tensions to dominate SCO deliberations.

Issue-based cooperation: India can focus on areas of common interest such as counter-terrorism, connectivity, energy, trade, climate and disaster management.

Counter-terrorism: Through the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, India can promote coordinated action against terrorism and extremism without political selectivity.

Afghanistan: India can support an inclusive, stable and peaceful Afghanistan while encouraging humanitarian assistance and counter-terrorism cooperation.

Strategic autonomy: India's independent foreign-policy approach enables it to engage simultaneously with Russia, Central Asian states, China and other partners.

Consensus-building: India can emphasise the SCO's original regional-cooperation objectives and prevent it from becoming an arena of bloc politics.

Conclusion

India cannot eliminate geopolitical conflicts within the SCO, but it can act as a **bridge-builder and issue-based consensus facilitator**. Its balanced diplomacy can help preserve the organisation's functional relevance.

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