International Relations · GS - II

Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO.

What importance does it hold for India?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, regional security, counterterrorism, separatism and extremism, economic cooperation, Eurasian connectivity, India's membership, Central Asia, China and Pakistan, Afghanistan, sovereignty concerns, strategic autonomy.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian intergovernmental organisation established in 2001 to promote regional security, stability and cooperation. India became a full member in 2017.

Aims and Objectives

- **Regional security:** Combat terrorism, separatism and extremism through cooperation among member states.
- **Economic cooperation:** Promote trade, investment, energy cooperation and regional development.
- **Connectivity:** Encourage transport links and economic integration across Eurasia.
- **Political cooperation:** Facilitate dialogue on regional and international issues while respecting sovereignty.
- **Cultural exchange:** Strengthen educational, scientific and people-to-people cooperation.

Importance for India

- **Counterterrorism:** Provides a platform to discuss terrorism and regional security challenges.

- **Central Asian engagement:** Strengthens India's diplomatic and economic ties with resource-rich Central Asian republics.
- **Energy security:** Offers opportunities for cooperation in hydrocarbons, uranium and other resources.
- **Afghanistan:** Facilitates regional discussions on stability, terrorism and humanitarian concerns.
- **Strategic autonomy:** Enables India to engage with Russia, China and Central Asian states within a multilateral framework.

Limitations

Divergent interests between India and China, tensions with Pakistan, limited economic integration and concerns about terrorism can restrict effectiveness. Connectivity initiatives may also face geopolitical obstacles.

Conclusion

The SCO provides India with an important platform for Eurasian engagement, but its benefits depend on pragmatic diplomacy, counterterrorism cooperation and mutually beneficial economic initiatives.

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