



SCO Summit

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Why in news

The 20th Summit of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Council of Heads of State was held **recently** via **Video Conferencing**.

The Meeting was **chaired** by **Russian President** Mr. Vladimir Putin.

Key points

- **Significance of SCO Meet:** 20th Summit of SCO Heads of State is important as it **brought President Xi Jinping of China and Mr. Modi together** in the virtual format even as **both sides are caught in the high tension confrontation in Eastern Ladakh** along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

This was the **first SCO Summit** held in **Virtual Format** and the **third meeting** that India participated after becoming a **full member in 2017**.
- **The Republic of Tajikistan assumed chairmanship** of SCO for 2021-22.
- India has proposed to set up a **Special Working Group** on Innovation and Startups and a **Sub Group on Traditional Medicine** within SCO.
- The Prime Minister of India indirectly referred chinese infrastructure projects in **Pakistan Occupied Kashmir** and **India China standoff at line of actual control** and urged members of the SCO to respect “**territorial integrity**” and “**sovereignty**” of each other.
- **Connectivity:** PM highlighted India's role in **supporting infrastructure and connectivity development** projects in the SCO region. **Examples:**
 - **Chabahar port,**
 - The **International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** is a multi-modal connectivity project to establish transport networks (**ship, rail, and road route**) for moving freight between **India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia**.



- **Responsible Global Governance:** Bringing changes in **global governance** will be the focus of India as a non-permanent member of the **United Nation (UN) Security Council**. From 2021 India will take part in the UN Security Council as a **non-permanent member**.
- **Reformed Multilateralism:** In the context of the fallout of the **pandemic** and the **economic downturn**, India sought support of the **SCO members** in attaining a reformed multilateralism.
- **Organised Crime:** India highlighted the challenges posed by the **smuggling of illegal weapons, drugs and money laundering**.
- **Strengthening Cultural Heritage:** The **National Museum of India** will hold an exhibition on **the Buddhist heritage of the SCO countries** and India will host a **food festival** reflecting the **culinary traditions of the SCO region**.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
- It's a Eurasian **political, economic and military** organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- It was **created in 2001**.
- The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.
- The SCO's **official languages are Russian and Chinese**.

- SCO has **two Permanent Bodies**
 - **SCO Secretariat in Beijing**, and
 - Executive Committee of the **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent**.
- The Chairmanship of SCO is by rotation for a year by Member States.

Genesis

- Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the **Shanghai Five**.
- **Shanghai Five (1996)** emerged from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks which the four former Soviet republics held with China to ensure stability along the borders.
- Following the accession of Uzbekistan to the organisation in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
- **India and Pakistan became members in 2017.**

Way Forward

The SCO must be used as a platform to **deepen solidarity** and **mutual trust** and **resolve disputes and differences through dialogue and consultations**. It will help in **de-escalating tensions** between India and its neighbouring countries China and Pakistan.

Source:TH