



## SCO Online International Exhibition

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### Why in News

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Recently, the **Vice President of India** has launched the first ever **SCO Online Exhibition on Shared Buddhist Heritage**.

The launch happened during the **19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Heads of Government (SCO CHG)**, held in **New Delhi**.

India highlighted that the **crossborder terrorism** is the **biggest challenge** for the SCO countries.

### Key Points

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- **SCO Online International Exhibition:**
  - **Developed by: First ever of its kind** the exhibition was developed and curated by the **National Museum, New Delhi**, in active collaboration with SCO member countries.
  - **Participants:** Museums from India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
  - **Significance:**
    - **Buddhist Connection:** Buddhist philosophy and art of Central Asia connects **SCO** countries to each other and presents an excellent **opportunity for visitors** to access, appreciate and compare **Buddhist art antiquities from SCO** countries on a **single platform**.
    - **Knowledge about Different Schools of Buddhism:** The visitors can explore the Indian Buddhist treasures from the **Gandhara and Mathura Schools, Nalanda, Amaravati, Sarnath, etc. in a 3D virtual format**.
    - **Artistic Wealth and Excellence:** The international exhibition gives a glimpse of the artistic wealth displayed in various museums across Asia and also represents the artistic excellence embedded within an eclectic historical timeline.
  - **Highlights:**
    - The **Pakistan Hall** depicts the life of **Gautama Buddha** and **buddhist art through a collection of impressive Gandhara art objects** including fasting Siddhartha and footprint of Buddha from Sikri, meditating Buddha from Sahri Bahlol, miracle of Sravasti from Gandhara, etc.
    - The **State Oriental Art Museum, Moscow** contributed objects which depict the **Buddhist Buriyat Art of Russia** through icons, ritual objects, monastery traditions etc.
    - The **Dunhuang Academy of China** contributed a rich **digital collection on buddhist art** which include **ingenious architecture, resplendent murals, decorative designs, costumes etc.**
- **India on Terrorism:**
  - India raised the issue of terrorism at the meeting and highlighted it as the enemy of humanity. It expressed its concerns on the **state sponsored terrorism and in particular crossborder terrorism**.
    - India supports the **BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy**.
    - Recently, **India's annual resolution on the issue of counter-terrorism** was adopted by consensus in the **First Committee** of the **United Nations General Assembly** (UNGA).
  - India also criticised Pakistan for using terrorism as a **instrument of state policy** and called upon the members of **SCO** to fight it **collectively**.

## Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

- It is a **permanent intergovernmental international organisation** and a **Eurasian political, economic and military organisation** aiming to maintain **peace, security and stability in the region** created in **2001**.
- The **SCO** is widely regarded as the "**Alliance of the East**", due to its growing centrality in Asia-Pacific, and has been the primary security pillar of the region.
- It is the **largest regional organisation in the world** in terms of geographical coverage and population, covering **three-fifths of the Eurasian continent and nearly half of the human population**.
- **Members:** Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.
- **Observer states:** Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.
- **Dialogue Partners:** Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka.

**Source:PIB**