



21st SCO Summit

Why in News

The 21st Summit of the [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\)](#) Council of Heads of State was held recently via video Conferencing in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**.

- At the meet the focus was primarily on the **ground [situation in Afghanistan](#) and its global repercussions.**
- **Iran** has been accepted as the **ninth full member of the organisation.**

Key Points

▪ India's Stand:

- It took a **strong stance against [radicalisation](#) and [extremism](#)**, urging the panel to come up with a **joint approach** and frame a **code of conduct** to stop terror financing and cross-border terrorism.
 - It also stressed upon the **importance of moderate Islam in Central Asia.**
- Flagged **concerns over the serious humanitarian crisis** unfolding in Afghanistan, noting that the economic woes of the Afghan people are increasing due to the **blockage in financial and trade flows.**
- Pointed out that the developments in the country could lead to an **uncontrolled flow of drugs, illegal weapons and human trafficking.**
- It is **committed to increasing its connectivity with [Central Asia](#)**. Asserting that **there should be respect for the territorial integrity** of all countries.

▪ Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

◦ About:

- It is a **permanent intergovernmental international organisation**. It was **created in 2001.**
- The **SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.**
- It's a **Eurasian political, economic and military organisation** aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- It is seen as a counterweight to [North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\)](#), It is a **eight-member economic and security bloc** and has emerged as one of the **largest transregional international organisations.**

◦ Official Languages:

- Russian and Chinese.

◦ Permanent Bodies:

- SCO Secretariat in Beijing
- Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent.

◦ Chairmanship:

- It 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. Iran is the ninth and the newest member of SCO.**
 - **India was made an observer at the SCO in 2005** and has generally participated in the ministerial-level meetings of the grouping which focus mainly on security and economic cooperation in the Eurasian region.

[Source: IE](#)

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