

Ministry of External Affairs
[Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Division]

BRIEF ON SCO

The **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** is a eight-member multilateral organization, established on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. These countries, except for Uzbekistan, had been members of the **Shanghai Five** group, formed on 26 April 1996 with the signing of the *Treaty on Deepening Military Trust in Border Regions*. In 2001, during the annual summit in Shanghai, the five member nations first admitted Uzbekistan in the Shanghai Five mechanism (thus transforming it into the Shanghai Six). Thereafter, on 15 June 2001 the *Declaration of Shanghai Cooperation Organization*, was signed and in June 2002 the heads of the SCO Member States signed the SCO Charter which expounded on the organization's purposes, principles, structures and forms of operation, and established it in international law. At the July 2005 Astana Summit, India, Iran and Pakistan were granted Observer status. In July 2015 in Ufa, Russia, the SCO decided to admit India and Pakistan as full members. India and Pakistan signed the memorandum of obligations in June 2016 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, thereby starting the formal process of joining the SCO as full members. On 9 June 2017, at the historic summit in Astana, India and Pakistan officially joined SCO as full-fledged members.

The SCO has established relations with the United Nations in 2004 (where it is an observer in the General Assembly), Commonwealth of Independent States in 2005, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2005, the Collective Security Treaty Organization in 2007, the Economic Cooperation Organization in 2007, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2011, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in 2014, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 2015 (ESCAP), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 2018.

Structure

SCO has two Permanent Bodies — (i) SCO Secretariat in Beijing and (ii) Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent. The Chairmanship of SCO is by rotation for a year by Member States. Presently Kyrgyzstan is the Chair of SCO for 2018-19.

The Council of Heads of States is the apex decision-making body in the SCO. This council meets at the SCO summits, which are held each year in one of the member states' capital cities. The Council of Heads of Governments is the second-highest council in the organization. This council also holds annual summits, wherein members discuss issues of multilateral cooperation. The council also approves the organization's

budget. The Council of Foreign Ministers holds regular meetings, where current international situation and the SCO's interaction with other international organizations are discussed. The Council of National Coordinators coordinates the multilateral cooperation of member states within the framework of the SCO's charter.

The Secretariat of the SCO is the primary executive body of the organization. It serves to implement organizational decisions and decrees, documents (such as declarations and agendas), functions as a document depository for the organization, arranges specific activities within the SCO framework, and promotes and disseminates information about the SCO. It is located in Beijing. Each Member State has a Permanent Representative to the SCO. The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against terrorism, separatism and extremism. Each member state also sends a permanent representative to RATS. The SCO Secretary General and the Executive Director SCO RATS are appointed for a term of 3 years. Mr. Rashid Alimov from Tajikistan and Mr. Yevgeny Sysoyev from Russia have respectively been the SCO Secretary General and Executive Director of RATS since 1 January 2016. The Qingdao Summit of SCO Heads of State held on 9-10 June, 2018 confirmed appointment of Mr. Vladimir Imamovich Norov from Uzbekistan as the next Secretary General of SCO from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021 and Mr. Zumakhon Faiyozovich Giyosov from Tajikistan as the Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO-RATS from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021.

In addition to these, there are mechanisms for regular meetings of Heads of Parliament, Ministers of Defence, Emergency Situations, Economy/Trade, Transport, Culture, Education, Health, Justice, Supreme Courts, Prosecutors General, Secretaries of National Security Councils, etc.

The official working languages of the Shanghai Cooperation organization are Chinese and Russian.

Observer States

Observer states of SCO are Afghanistan (received observer status at the 2012 SCO summit in Beijing, China on 6 June 2012), Belarus (accepted as a Dialogue Partner at the 2009 SCO Summit in Yekaterinburg, and was granted observer status in 2015), Iran (has observer status, and applied for full membership on 24 March 2008. After the UN sanctions were lifted, Chinese president Xi Jinping announced support for Iran's full membership in SCO in January 2016), Mongolia (became the first country to receive observer status at the 2004 Tashkent Summit).

Dialogue Partners

The position of Dialogue Partner was established in 2008 in accordance with Article 14 of the SCO Charter of 7 June 2002. Presently the dialogue partners of SCO are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal (was granted dialogue partner status in the SCO at 2015 summit, Ufa, Russia), Sri Lanka (was granted dialogue partner status at the SCO at 2009 summit, Yekaterinburg) and Turkey (a member of NATO, was granted dialogue partner status at the SCO at 2012 summit, Beijing).

SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group

A protocol was signed between SCO and Afghanistan on the sidelines of the SCO Heads of State Summit held in Qingdao on 9-10 June, 2018 to establish the SCO-Afghanistan Contact group. The Contact Group is a consultative mechanism for developing proposals and recommendations to support the efforts of the Government and People of Afghanistan to establish a peaceful, stable and economically prosperous state, free from terrorism and extremism.

India and SCO

India was granted Observer status at the July 2005 Astana Summit, and subsequently participated in all SCO forums open to Observers. India formally submitted an application for the full membership to the then SCO Chair, Tajikistan, prior to the SCO Summit in Dushanbe in September 2014. Thereafter, the next SCO Summit in July 2015 in Ufa (Russia), declared the initiation of the process of accession of India's (and Pakistan's) full membership in SCO.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the SCO Summit in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 23-24 June 2016, wherein India signed the Memorandum of Obligations (MOO) to obtain the status of Member of SCO. The MOO outlined various obligations to be fulfilled by India in a sequential step-by-step and time bound manner to obtain full membership. As per the obligations under MOO, India had acceded to 34 SCO Agreements including the SCO Charter and Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism and 3 additional SCO Agreements that entered into force after signing the MOO. The MOO came into force for India on 25 March 2017, i.e 30 days after the last written notification from SCO members. India completed all its obligations under the MOO and was granted the status of full member (along with Pakistan) on June 9, 2017 at the SCO Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

India's entry into SCO as a full member since 9 June 2017, has been further activated with the establishment of the SCO Division in MEA and appointment of National Coordinator and Permanent Representative to SCO. There has been regular participation in various SCO meetings. Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of Home Affairs, attended the 9th meeting of SCO Heads of Emergency Prevention and Relief Agencies in Choplon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, on 24-25 August 2017. External Affairs Minister Ms. Sushma Swaraj attended the non-regular meeting of SCO Council of Foreign Ministers on 20 September 2017 on the side-lines of 72nd Session of UN General Assembly in New York. MOS for Law and Justice, Shri P. P. Chaudhary led delegation attended 5th Law Ministers' and expert meetings in Tashkent on 20-21 October, 2017. Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Suresh Prabhu attended the Meeting of SCO Ministers responsible for external economic and external trade activities in Moscow on November 15, 2017. Ms. Pinki Anand, Additional Solicitor General, Ministry of Law and Justice attended 15th SCO Prosecutor Generals meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia. EAM attended the meeting of SCO Heads of Governments on 30 November- 1 December 2017 in Sochi, Russia. EAM attended the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting

held in Beijing on 23-24 April, 2018. Raksha Mantri led delegation attended the SCO Defence Ministers meeting in Beijing, China on 24-25 April, 2018. MoS (IC) for Tourism led delegation attended the SCO Tourism Ministers Meeting in Wuhan 7-11 May, 2018 and MoS (IC) for Culture visited Sanya for the 15th SCO Culture Ministers Meeting 15-18 May, 2018. Additional Solicitor General, Ministry of Law and Justice attended 16th SCO Prosecutor Generals meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 20 September, 2018, EAM attended the meeting of SCO Heads of Governments on 11-12 October, 2018 and MoS Ministry of Human Resource Development attended the 7th meeting of SCO Education Ministers held in Astana on 17 October, 2018.

PM Shri Narendra Modi led the official delegation to Summit of Heads of State in Qingdao, China on 9-10 June 2018. The meeting was chaired by President of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping. President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Emomali Rahmon, and President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev participated.

The meeting was also attended by Heads of States of Observer countries, namely, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Mr. Ashraf Ghani, President of the Republic of Belarus Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mr. Hassan Rouhani and President of Mongolia Mr. Khaltmaagiin Battulga.

A total of 22 outcome documents were signed including the Joint Communique and Appeal to Youth against radicalization. Other documents pertained to Prevention of Narcotics Abuse, Environmental Protection, Fight against threat of Epidemics, Trade Facilitation, MSMEs, Customs and Tourism. Plan of Action for SCO Treaty on Long term Good Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation for 2018-2022 and Protocol on the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group were also signed.

External Affairs Minister participated in the 17th Council of Heads of Government meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 11-12 October, 2018. This was the second CHG meeting since India became a full member of SCO in June 2017. It was the first major meeting since Kyrgyzstan took over as chair of the Organisation. Leaders discussed prospects for further development of SCO including regional and international economic cooperation. A series of decisions were taken on various issues of cooperation among SCO member states, including a Memorandum on Technical Cooperation in the Field of Joint Prevention and Control of Trans-boundary Diseases.

India hosted the preparatory Experts meeting for the SCO Joint Urban Earthquake Rescue Exercise in New Delhi on 1-2 November 2018. The SCO Joint Urban Earthquake Rescue Exercise as well as the 10th meeting of SCO Ministers of Emergency

Situations scheduled to be held in India from February 21-25, 2019 were postponed due to Pulwama tragedy.

Secretary (West), MEA Shri A. Gitesh Sarma represented India at the last meeting of SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group held in Bishkek on 18-19 April 2019. Raksha Mantri Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman led a delegation of MoD to attend the 16th Meeting of Defence Ministers of SCO Member Countries on 29 April 2019 in Bishkek. Kyrgyzstan will be hosting meetings of Secretaries of National Security Councils, (13-15 May 2019), Ministers of Foreign Affairs, (21-22 May 2019) followed by the SCO Heads of States meeting (SCO Summit) on 13-14 June 2019.

May 2019

SCO- Chronology

1996: Shanghai Five' constituted in 1996 by China to address border security issues with Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

2001: On June 15th, 2001, Uzbekistan was invited to join the group, and it was officially renamed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Thus Uzbekistan too is founding member of SCO.

2005-2015: Observer states admitted. India, Iran and Pakistan (2005), Mongolia (2004), Afghanistan (2012) and Belarus (2015)

2009-2015: Dialogue Partners admitted. Sri Lanka (2009), Turkey (2012) and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Nepal and Cambodia (2015)

2011 Jun: SCO adopts a model MoO to regulate grant of new membership.

2014 Sep Dushanbe: SCO Adopts 1) new MoO for applicant state to become a full member; 2) Procedures for admitting new member and 3) Rules of Admission for new members

2014 Sep Dushanbe: India submits its formal application for the full membership of the SCO

2015 Jul Ufa: Decision of admitting India and Pakistan as new members is taken in the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the SCO (June 2015, Moscow) and announced at the Ufa Summit in July 2015.

2015: India receives SCO documents (35) to be acceded to by India as per MoO.

2016 Jun 15 CCS approves signing of MoO and the 35 MoUs/Agreements under SCO framework.

2016 Jun 24: MoO signing scheduled during SCO Summit in Tashkent.

2017 Mar 25: Memorandum of Understanding comes into force for India

2017 April – May: As per MoO, India is also obliged to accede to three more SCO documents, viz., those that entered into force after we had signed MoO. CCS approves and India submits with SCO Secretariat in Beijing the Instruments of Accession in respect of this last set of documents.

2017 May 8: All the documents were acceded by India to become full members of SCO.

2017 June 9: India and Pakistan granted the status of full members bringing the total membership to 8

2017 August 24-25: Hon'ble Home Minister led to the 9th Meeting of the Departments of SCO Member States dealing with the issues of the prevention and elimination of emergency situation at Cholpon Ata City, Kyrgyz Republic.

2017 September 20: Hon'ble EAM attended the Extra-ordinary Meeting of SCO Council of Foreign Ministers in New York on the sidelines of 72nd Session of UNGA.

2017 October 20-21: Hon'ble MOS for Law and Justice, Shri P. P. Chaudhary led Indian delegation attended the 5th SCO Law Ministers' and expert meetings in Tashkent.

2017 November 15 : Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu led the delegation in the meeting of the Ministers of SCO Member States responsible for foreign economic and foreign trade activities in Moscow.

2017 November 28-30 : Additional Solicitor General, Ms. Pinky Anand attended the 15th SCO Prosecutor Generals meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia.

2017 November 30 – December 01: Hon'ble EAM led delegation attended the 16th SCO Council of Heads of Governments meeting at Sochi, Russia.

2017 January 30 – 02 February: Mr. Yevgeniy Sergeyevich Sysoyev, Director, EC, SCO-RATS, visited India for the SCO-RATS Legal Experts Group Meeting.

2018 April 23-24: External Affairs Minister attended the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Beijing, China.

2018 April 24-25: Raksha Mantri led delegation attended the SCO Defence Ministers meeting in Beijing, China.

2018 May 07-08: Mr. Rashid Alimov, Secretary General of SCO visited India on an official tour.

2018 May 07-11: MoS (IC) for Tourism led delegation attended the SCO Tourism Ministers Meeting in Wuhan

2018 15-18 May, 2018: MoS (IC) for Culture visited Sanya for the 15th SCO Culture Ministers Meeting.

2018 June 9-10: Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the first Summit of Heads of State, after becoming full members.

2018 July 12: Secretary (West) led the Indian side for Consultations at Deputy Foreign Ministers level on SCO's International Activities and cooperation with International Organisations.

2018 September 20: Additional Solicitor General, Ministry of Law and Justice attended 16th SCO Prosecutor Generals meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

2018 October 11-12: EAM attended the meeting of SCO Heads of Governments meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

2018 October 17: MoS Ministry of Human Resource Development attended the 7th meeting of SCO Education Ministers held in Astana.

2018 November 01-02: Preparatory meeting of SCO Urban Earthquake Search and Rescue Exercises held in New Delhi.

2019 April 18-19: Secretary (West) led a delegation to attend SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group Meeting in Bishkek.

2019 April 29-30: Raksha Mantri Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman led a delegation to attend 16th Meeting of the Defence Ministers of SCO Member States.

Summits

According to the Charter of the SCO, summits of the Council of Heads of State shall be held annually at alternating venues. The locations of these summits follow the alphabetical order of the member state's name in Russian. The charter also dictates that the Council of Heads of Government (that is, the Prime Ministers) shall meet annually in a place decided upon by the council members. The Council of Foreign Ministers is supposed to hold a summit one month before the annual summit of Heads of State. Extraordinary meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers can be called by any two member states.

List of summits

Heads of State		
Date	Country	Location
14 June 2001	<u>China</u>	Shanghai
7 June 2002	Russia	Saint Petersburg
29 May 2003	Russia	Moscow
17 June 2004	Uzbekistan	Tashkent
5 July 2005	Kazakhstan	Astana
15 June 2006	China	Shanghai
16 August 2007	Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek
28 August 2008	Tajikistan	Dushanbe
15–16 June 2009	Russia	Yekaterinburg
10–11 June 2010	Uzbekistan	Tashkent
14–15 June 2011	Kazakhstan	Astana
6–7 June 2012	China	Beijing
13 September 2013	Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek
11–12 September 2014	Tajikistan	Dushanbe
9–10 July 2015	Russia	Ufa
23–24 June 2016	Uzbekistan	Tashkent
8–9 June 2017	Kazakhstan	Astana
9-10 June 2018	China	Qingdao

Heads of Government		
Date	Country	Location
14 September 2001	Kazakhstan	Almaty
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23 September 2003	China	Beijing
23 September 2004	Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek
26 October 2005	Russia	Moscow
15 September 2006	Tajikistan	Dushanbe
2 November 2007	Uzbekistan	Tashkent
30 October 2008	Kazakhstan	Astana
14 October 2009	China	Beijing
25 November 2010	Tajikistan	Dushanbe
7 November 2011	Russia	Saint Petersburg
5 December 2012	Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek
29 November 2013	Uzbekistan	Tashkent
14–15 December 2014	Kazakhstan	Astana
14–15 December 2015	China	Zhengzhou
2–3 November 2016	Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek
30 November – 01 December 2017	Russia	Sochi
11-12 October, 2018	Tajikistan	Dushanbe
