

**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- members.

2. 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**

3. 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 Tajikistan is the Chair of SCO for 2020-21.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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

## **Observer States**

8. 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**

9. 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**

10. 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**

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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. The then EAM Ms. Sushma Swaraj attended the non-regular meeting of SCO Council of Foreign Ministers on 20 September 2017 on the side-lines of 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of UN General Assembly in New York. MOS for Law and Justice, Shri P. P. Chaudhary led delegation attended 5<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

14. The then EAM attended the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting held in Beijing on 23-24 April, 2018. The then 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 15<sup>th</sup> SCO Culture Ministers Meeting 15-18 May, 2018. India took part in an anti-terror drill of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) from August 22 to 29, 2018 in Chebarkul, Russia. The exercise involved tactical level operations in an international counter insurgency or counter terrorism environment under the SCO Charter. This was the first time India participated in the SCO military exercises since becoming a full member of the SCO in June 2017. SCO Peace Mission Exercise is conducted biennially for the SCO member states. About 3,000 soldiers from China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan participated in the drill. The Indian contingent comprised of 200 personnel primarily composed of troops from infantry and affiliated arms and services along with the Indian Air Force.

15. Additional Solicitor General, Ministry of Law and Justice attended 16<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of SCO Education Ministers held in Astana on 17 October, 2018.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. The then EAM participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

20. 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 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of SCO Ministers/Heads of Emergency Situations scheduled to be held in India from November 04-08, 2019.

21. Secretary (West), MEA Shri A. Gitesh Sarma represented India at the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group Meeting held in Bishkek on 18-19 April 2019. Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attended the meeting of Ministers of Defence of SCO Member Countries on 29-30 April 2019 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Dy. NSA Shri Pankaj Saran led a delegation for the meeting of NSAs' on 13-14 May 2019 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The then EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj attended the meeting of SCO Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 21-22 May 2019.

22. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Council of Heads of State (CHS) of SCO from 13-14 June 2019 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. PM participated in both the restricted format and the expanded formats of the Summit. Four Observer countries Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia were also represented by their respective Presidents in this summit. Issues on terrorism, Afghanistan, the economic and investment cooperation, humanitarian and cultural cooperation were raised. An acronym HEALTH ('H' for Health-care cooperation, 'E' for Economic cooperation, 'A' for Alternate Energy, 'L' for Literature and Culture 'T' for Terrorism free society, 'H' for Humanitarian Cooperation), was coined by PM. PM's message summed up India's constructive and positive approach to the entire SCO process while assuring our resolve and commitment to work with the SCO countries in close cooperation. The Summit marked the culmination of Kyrgyzstan's year-long Chairmanship of SCO and passing of the baton to Russia for the next one year 2019-2020.

23. Twenty-two outcome documents were signed at the Summit including a joint Statement- Bishkek Declaration. The documents covered cooperation in the areas of Digitization and Information and Telecommunication Technologies, Forum of Heads of Regions, Development of Inter-regional Cooperation, Mass Media, Physical Education and Sports, Astana International Financial Center, World Tourism Organization etc.

24. The first two-day Military Medicine Conference inaugurated by Raksha Mantri was hosted in India on 12-13 September 2019 as part of the SCO Defence

Cooperation Plan 2019-20. The Indian Armed Forces demonstrated the Rapid Action medical Team and organized a guided tour for delegations of military medicine experts to Army Research and Referral Hospital in New Delhi.

25. First Expert Group Meeting on preparation of the 7th Session of the Ministers of Justice of the SCO Member States (17-18 September 2019, New Delhi).

26. An Indian Delegation led by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change attended the First Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Departments responsible for Environmental Protection of the SCO Member States, held in Moscow from 25 to 27 September.

27. Shri Som Parkash, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, led a delegation to the Meeting of Ministers of the SCO Member States responsible for External Economy and Foreign Trade, Tashkent, Uzbekistan on September 26, 2019.

28. Additional Solicitor General, Ministry of Law and Justice attended 17<sup>th</sup> SCO Prosecutor Generals meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 01 October, 2019.

29. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh attended the meeting of SCO Heads of Governments meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on November 01-02, 2019. Main outcomes of the CHG Meeting are adoption of the new SCO program of Multilateral Trade-Economic Cooperation and signing of various other documents.

30. Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah chaired the Tenth SCO Meeting of the Heads of Departments of Member-States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Dealing with Prevention and Elimination of Emergency Situations was held in New Delhi on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. Minister of Home Affairs also inaugurated the four-day SCO joint exercise on urban earthquake search and rescue- 2019. The exercise were held from November 04-07, 2019 and a meeting of experts dealing with Prevention and Elimination of Emergency Situations on November 07, 2019.

31. As part of ongoing cooperation between the SCO countries in the field of tourism, a "SCO Corner in SATTE 2020" was put up in SATTE (South Asian Travel and Tours Exhibition) 2020, a travel mart event organized in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism, Incredible India and UNWTO showcasing the tourism potential of the SCO member states in the field of tourism. The event took place from January 8-10, 2020 at Noida.

32. A delegation of SCO led by Secretary General Mr. Vladimir Norov visited India from January 12 to 15, 2020. As part of his visit, he had courtesy call on Hon'ble EAM and Hon'ble CIM. Areas of common interest were discussed. Besides

attending the Raisina Dialogue, during his visit, SG, SCO delivered a lecture on “The future trajectory of the SCO and India's role” at Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi. He also had interaction at FICCI and Invest India.

33. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar participated in the Video Conference of Minister of Foreign Affairs of SCO member States held on 13 May, 2020. The video conference was convened in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and discussions centered around COVID-19 crisis and coordination of the efforts to deal with its trade, economic and social consequences. SCO Foreign Ministers also discussed the preparations for the SCO Council of Heads of State Meeting (SCO Summit) in Saint Petersburg, the situation in Afghanistan and the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War II.

34. Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated in the Third Meeting of Health Ministers of SCO member States held on July 24, 2020 in Video Conference format. The Indian side proposed to set up a new sub- Group of Traditional Medicine under the SCO Health Ministers Meeting for achievement of SDG-3. The meeting took overview of the current situation of COVID-19 in the SCO member states and discussed the best measures taken by the SCO member states to counter the spread of COVID-19. At the end of the meeting a Joint Statement was issued.

35. Preparatory Seminar for the first ever SCO Startup Forum hosted by Invest India on August 11, 2020 and First Meeting of Consortium of Economic Think Tanks of SCO was hosted by Centre for Regional Trade on August 20-21, 2020, both held through videoconferencing.

36. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh led Indian delegation in the joint Meeting of Defence Ministers of the SCO, CIS and CSTO countries held in Kubinka, Moscow Region on September 4, 2020. The ministers exchanged views on current international and regional security topics, the consolidation of efforts to prevent wars and armed conflicts, as well as the further strengthening of military cooperation under modern-day conditions.

37. External Affairs Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar led Indian delegation in the meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Moscow on 9-10 September, 2020. The meeting reviewed the preparations for the forthcoming SCO Summit and also exchange views on international and regional issues.

38. Hon'ble Minister Prahald Singh Patel, Ministry of Culture participated in the 17th SCO Culture Ministers Meeting in the Video-conference Format on September 10,



2020. The participants discussed the development of cooperation in culture and arts in the preceding period, exchanged views on the implementation of the agreements reached at previous SCO culture ministers' meetings and discussed measures taken in their countries to support cultural facilities during the coronavirus pandemic.

39. National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval led the Indian delegation in the 16th Meeting of Secretaries of Security Councils of SCO held on 23 June, 2020 in Dushanbe. In preparation for the meeting of the Council of Heads of SCO Member States scheduled in September 2021, the Secretaries of the Security Councils exchanged views on the situation in the field of ensuring security and stability in the Organization's space.

40. Hon'ble Minister, AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the "Webinar on the topic "Role of Ayurveda and other Traditional Medicine to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-3) in SCO Countries", which was hosted by India on 22nd September, 2020, in the video-conference format. Hon'ble Minister emphasized the cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicine can act as a force multiplier in each member state in providing an access to low-cost, safe & effective coverage for promotion of health and prevention of diseases in all Member states.

41. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice, Communication and Electronics & Information Technology chaired the 7th Session of the Ministers of Justice of the SCO Member States hosted by India on October 16, 2020 (via video conference).

42. Learned Solicitor General of India Shri Tushar Mehta led the Indian delegation in 18<sup>th</sup> SCO Prosecutor Generals meeting on 20 October, 2020 (via video conference). The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting will be hosted by India.

43. Mr. Parshottam Rupala, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare participated in SCO Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (Video-conference) on 21 October 2020 and elaborated on India's measures for ensuring smooth agricultural operations for continued food security & farmers' welfare.

44. The first ever online SCO Start-up Forum was launched by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry on October 27, 2020 as a part of India's chairmanship for Council of Heads of Government of SCO Members States. The Forum saw registration from 2500 plus participants from 60 countries.

45. Mr. Giridhar Aramane, Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways represented India at the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting (video-conference) of SCO Transport Ministers on 28 October 2020. He mentioned, *inter alia*, that connectivity with SCO countries is a priority for India.

46. Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, chaired the nineteenth Meeting of Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States responsible for Foreign Economic and Foreign Trade activities hosted by India through videoconference on 28 October 2020. The Heads of Delegations approved the Draft Action Plan for 2021-2025 for Implementation of the Program for Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation of the SCO and other outcome documents.

47. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Judge, Supreme Court of India led the the Indian Delegation in the XV Meeting of Chief Justices of the Supreme Courts of the SCO Member States held 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 via Video Conference.

48. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Council of Heads of State (CHS) of SCO hosted by Russia in Video Conference Format on November 10, 2020. This was the first SCO Summit held in Virtual Format. Prime Minister, in his address, highlighted the imperative of a reformed multilateralism to meet the expectation of a world suffering from the social and financial after-effects of the pandemic. He reiterated India's firm belief in regional peace, security and prosperity and raising voice against terrorism, smuggling of illegal weapons, drugs and money-laundering. He underlined India's strong cultural and historical connect with the SCO region and reiterated India's firm commitment towards strengthening connectivity in the region.

49. Hon'ble Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu chaired the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Governments (CHG) hosted by India in the virtual format on November 30, 2020. This is the first time that a Summit-level Meeting was held under India's Chairmanship, since it gained full-membership of the organization in 2017. The meeting ended with the adoption of the Joint Communiqué. During the course of India's Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of Government in 2020, India has particularly focused on creating three new pillars of cooperation: **Startups and Innovation, Science and Technology and Traditional Medicine** and also proposed many other concrete initiatives. India has offered to create and Chair a new **Special Working Group on Startups and Innovation** and to set up a new **Expert Working Group on Cooperation in Traditional Medicine**. India has also organized

in the virtual format, the first-ever **SCO Young Scientists Conclave** (24-28 Nov) in which more than 200 young scientists participated, the first-ever **Consortium of SCO Economic Think Tanks** (20-21 Aug) and the first-ever SCO Startup Forum (27 Oct). In the B2B format, FICCI has convened the first **SCO Business Conclave** (23 Nov) with special emphasis on Cooperation in MSMEs through the national chapters of the SCO Business Council. All Member States have commended India's initiatives and participated in the activities and the same have been reflected in the Joint Communique.

51. National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval led the Indian delegation in the 16th Meeting of Secretaries of Security Councils of SCO held on 23 June, 2021 in Dushanbe. In preparation for the meeting of the Council of Heads of SCO Member States scheduled in September 2021, the Secretaries of the Security Councils exchanged views on the situation in the field of ensuring security and stability in the Organization's space.

52. Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated in the Fourth Meeting of Health Ministers of SCO member States held on June 30, 2021 in Video Conference format.

53. External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar led the Indian at the meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers of SCO held on 14 July 2021 in Dushanbe. Important issues like expansion of the organization, changing geopolitical and security landscape of the region were the main points of discussion at the meeting. He also attended the meeting of SCO Contact Group on Afghanistan that was held the same day.

54. Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Mr. Rajnath Singh took part in the meeting of Defense Ministers of SCO Member States held on 28 July 2021 in Dushanbe. During the meeting it was decided to adopt the Plan of Cooperation between the SCO Defense Ministries for 2022-2023. Consultations were held on efforts to deal with terrorism and other security challenges in the region.

55. Minister of Law & Justice, Mr Kiren Rijiju and Minister of State for Law and Justice, Prof SP Singh Baghel took part in the meeting of SCO Justice Ministers held on 30 July 2021 via video conference. Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar led the Indian delegation at the meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of SCO Member States held online on 12 August 2021.

56. Meeting of a number of SCO institutional mechanisms were held in the run up to the Summit in September. Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Arvind Sigh led the

Indian delegation at the meeting of Heads of Tourism Administrations of SCO Member States on 16 July 2021 (via videoconference). The same day SCO food festival was held in Dushanbe by the Tajik side in collaboration with Indian Embassy there and a forum of tourism agencies were also held in the virtual format. Secretary, Department of Heavy Industries, Mr Arun Goel led the Indian delegation at the first ever meeting of Ministers of Industry of SCO Member States held on 16 July 2021. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Mr Rameshwar Prasad Gupta took part in the online meeting of Heads of Ministries & Agencies of SCO Member States responsible for Environment Protection on 29 July 2021. At the meeting the “Action Plan to implement the SCO Member States’ Concept of Environmental Protection for the period 2022-2024” was approved. Secretary Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Mr. Tarun Kapoor attended the first meeting of SCO Ministers of Energy on 12 August 2021 via videoconference. On August 18, 2021, the meeting of SCO Heads of Railway Administrations was held. The Principal Executive Director of Ministry of Railways took part in meeting that was held online. Minister of State for Culture, Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal took part in the meeting of SCO Ministers of Culture. The meeting was held through video conference on 18 August 2021. 3 agreements of cooperation were finalized at the meeting.

57. Hon’ble Prime Minister led the Indian delegation at the Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State, held in Dushanbe on 17 September 2021. He addressed the session via video link. PM also addressed the SCO-CSTO outreach session via video message. External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar attended the sessions in person.

58. Hon’ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar participated in the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting (VC) on 25 November 2021.

59. India’s Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressed the SCO meeting of Science & Technology Ministers through virtual mode on 8 April 2022 and called upon the countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to join hands to innovate affordable scientific solutions for common challenges like ensuring food, affordable healthcare and energy access for its people.

60. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Culture, Government of India participated in the 19th Culture Ministers meeting of SCO Member States in Tashkent on 19 May 2022.

61. Indian side was represented by senior officials viz. Secretary/Additional Secretary in the other SCO Ministerial meetings, viz. Environment Ministers meeting, Health Ministers Meeting and Energy Ministers meeting which were held in May-June 2022.

62. Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Hon'ble Minister of Industry, participated virtually in the meeting of SCO Industry Ministers on 15 July 2022.

63. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs led delegation participated in the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of SCO Member States in Tashkent on 28-29 July 2022.

64. Shri Nityanand Rai, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs, GoI participated in the meeting of SCO Ministers for Internal Affairs and Public Security on 18 August 2022 in Tashkent.

65. Shri Vikram Misri, Dy. NSA participated in the meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Councils of SCO Member States on 18-19 August 2022 in Tashkent

66. Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri participated in the meeting of Defence Ministers of SCO Member States on 23-24 August 2022 in Tashkent

September 2022.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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 : 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of UNGA.

2017 October 20-21: Hon'ble MOS for Law and Justice, Shri P. P. Chaudhary led Indian delegation attended the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> SCO Prosecutor Generals meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia.

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

2018 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 : Shri Rajinder Khanna, Deputy NSA attended 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of SCO RATS in Tashkent

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

2018 May 2-5, 2018 : Shri Suresh Chandra, Secretary, Deptt of Legal Affairs attended Expert group meeting on legal affairs ad forensic experts of SCO Member States in Bishkek.

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 May, 15-18 : Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minster of Culture visited Sanya for the 15<sup>th</sup> SCO Culture Ministers Meeting.

2018 May 21-22 : Shri Rajinder Khanna, Deputy NSA attended 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of SCO RATS in Beijing

2018 May 25, 2018 : Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. K. Sikri led Indian delegation at 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Presidents and Chief Justices of the Supreme Courts of the SCO Member States in Beijing.

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

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 in Moscow.

2018 August 22-24: Shri Suresh Chandra, Secretary, Deptt of Legal Affairs attended Expert group meeting on legal affairs ad forensic experts of SCO Member States in Bishkek.

2018 September 19-20 : Shri Rajen Gohain, MoS (Railways) attended SCO Railways Heads of Meeting and International Conference in Tashkent.

2018 September 20: Additional Solicitor General, Ministry of Law and Justice attended 16<sup>th</sup> 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 15-18: Dr. Satya Pal Singh, MoS Ministry of Human Resource Development attended the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 March : Shri R.N. Ravi, Dy NSA attended 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SCO RATS

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

2019 April 25 : Director General of Narcotic Control Bureau (MHA) Shri Abhay represented India in the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of SCO Heads of Agencies responsible for combating illegal drug trafficking in Cholpon-Ata (Kyrgyzstan).

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

2019 May 14-15: Dy. NSA Shri Pankaj Saran led a delegation to attend 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of NSAs of SCO Members States in Bishkek.

2019 May 15: Secretary, Ministry of Culture Shri Arun Goel represented India in the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of SCO Ministers of Culture in Bishkek.



2019 May 21-22: External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj, attended the SCO Council of Foreign Affairs Meeting (CFM) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

2019 June 13-14: Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) Meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

2019 June : Shri Rajni Kant Mishra, DG, BSF attended 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Border Services of SCO Member States in Tashkent

2019 June 17-19 : Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Chief Justice of India, led Indian delegation to the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Chairman of Supreme Courts of SCO Member States, in Sochi, Russia.

2019 September 13-14: Ministry of Defence, India, hosted Seminar on Military Medicine for SCO Member Countries, New Delhi.

2019 September 18-20: Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav, Chairman Railway Board led delegation at Meeting of SCO Heads of the Administration (Railways)

2019 September 25-27: Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, led a delegation to the First Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Departments responsible for Environmental Protection of the SCO Member States, Moscow.

2019 September 26: Shri Som Parkash, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, led a delegation to the Meeting of Ministers of the SCO Member States responsible for External Economy and Foreign Trade, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

2019 October 01: Additional Solicitor General, Ministry of Law and Justice attended 17<sup>th</sup> SCO Prosecutor Generals meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

2019 November 01-02 : Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh attended the meeting of SCO Heads of Governments meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

2019 November 08 : Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah chaired the Tenth SCO Meeting of the Heads of Departments of Member-States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Dealing with Prevention and Elimination of Emergency Situations was held in New Delhi.

2020 January 12-15 : SCO Secretary General Mr. Vladimir Norov visited India from January 12 to 15, 2020.

2020 May 13 : External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar participated in the Video Conference of Minister of Foreign Affairs of SCO member States.

2020 July 24 : Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated in the Third Meeting of Health Ministers of SCO member states in Video Conference format.

2020 September 4, 2020: Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh attended the joint Meeting of Defence Ministers of the SCO, CIS and CSTO countries held in Kubinka, Moscow Region.

2020 September 09-10: External Affairs Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar attended in the meeting of SCO Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Moscow.

2020 September 10: Hon'ble Minister Prahlad Singh Patel, Ministry of Culture participated in the 17th SCO Culture Ministers Meeting in the Video-conference Format.

2020 September 15 : National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval attended the 15th Meeting of Secretaries of Security Councils of SCO held in the Video-conference Format.

2020 September 22: Hon'ble Minister, AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the "Webinar on the topic "Role of Ayurveda and other Traditional Medicine to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-3) in SCO Countries", which was hosted by India.

2020 October 16: Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice, Communication and Electronics & Information Technology chaired the 7th Session of the Ministers of Justice of the SCO Member States.

2020 October 20: Learned Solicitor General of India Shri Tushar Mehta led the Indian delegation in 18th SCO Prosecutor Generals meeting.

2020 October 21 : Shri Parshottam Rupala, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare participated in SCO Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (Video-conference).

2020 October 28 : Mr. Giridhar Aramane, Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways represented India at the 8th Meeting (video-conference) of SCO Transport Ministers.

2020 October 28: Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, chaired the 19th Meeting of Ministers of SCO Member States responsible for Foreign Economic and Foreign Trade activities.

2020 October 30: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Judge, Supreme Court of India led the Indian Delegation in the 15th Meeting of Chief Justices of the Supreme Courts of the SCO Member States via Video Conference.

2020 November 10 : Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) Meeting, hosted by Russia in Videoconferencing format.

2020 November 30 : Hon'ble Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu chaired the 19th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Governments (CHG) hosted by India in the virtual format .

2021 June 23: National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval led the Indian delegation in the 16th Meeting of Secretaries of Security Councils of SCO held on 23 June, 2021 in Dushanbe.

30 June 2021: Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated in the Fourth Meeting of Health Ministers of SCO member States held on June 30, 2021 in Video Conference format.

2021 July 14 : External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar attended the meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers of SCO in Dushanbe. He also attended the meeting of SCO Contact Group on Afghanistan that was held the same day.

2021 July 15 : Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Arvind Sigh led the Indian delegation at the meeting of Heads of Tourism Administrations of SCO Member States. The meeting was held online.

2021 July 16 : Secretary, Department of Heavy Industries, Mr Arun Goel led the Indian delegation at the first meeting of Ministers of Industry of SCO Member States.

2021 July 28 : Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Mr Rajnath Singh took part in the meeting of Defense Ministers of SCO Member States in Dushanbe.

2021 July 29 : Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Mr Rameshwar Prasad Gupta took part in the online meeting of Heads of Ministries & Agencies of SCO Member States responsible for Environment Protection.

2021 July 30 : Minister of Law & Justice, Mr Kiren Rijiju and Minister of State for Law and Justice, Prof SP Singh Baghel took part in the virtual meeting of SCO Justice Ministers.

2021 August 12 : Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar led the Indian delegation at the meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of SCO Member States (VC).

2021 August 12 : Secretary Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Mr. Tarun Kapoor attended the first meeting of SCO Ministers of Energy.

2021 August 18 : Principal Executive Director of Ministry of Railways took part in meeting of SCO Heads of Railway Administrations.

2021 August 18: Minister of State for Culture, Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal took part in the meeting of SCO Ministers of Culture. The meeting was held through video conference.

2021 September 17: Hon'ble Prime Minister led the Indian delegation at the Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State, held in Dushanbe. He addressed the session via video link. PM also addressed the SCO-CSTO outreach session via video message. External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar attended the sessions in person.

25 November 2021: Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar participated in the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting (VC).

8 April 2022: India's Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh virtually participated in the Meeting of SCO Science & Technology Ministers.

19 May 2022: Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Culture, Government of India participated in the 19th Culture Ministers meeting of SCO Member States in Tashkent.

15 July 2022 : Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Hon'ble Minister of Industry, virtually participated in the meeting of SCO Industry Ministers.

28-29 July 2022: Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs led delegation participated in the meeting of the Council of Foreign Minister of SCO Member States in Tashkent.

18 August 2022 (Tashkent): Shri Nityanand Rai, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs, Government of India participated in the meeting of SCO Ministers for Internal Affairs and Public Security in Tashkent.

18-19 August 2022 (Tashkent): Shri Vikram Misri, Dy. NSA participated in the meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Councils of SCO Member States

23-24 August 2022 (Tashkent): Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri participated in the meeting of 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**

<b>Heads of State</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Location</b>	
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	
13-14 June 2019	Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek	
10 November, 2020	Russia	Moscow (Video conference)	
17 September, 2021	Tajikistan	Dushanbe (Hybrid Format)	



<b>Heads of Government</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Location</b>	
14 September 2001	Kazakhstan	Almaty	
—	—	—	
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	
01-02 November, 2019	Uzbekistan	Tashkent	
November 30, 2020	India	New Delhi (Video conference)	
November 25, 2021	Kazakhstan	Nur-Sultan (Hybrid)	

\*\*\*\*\*