



Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2022

For Prelims: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO), Afghanistan, Russia, Resilient supply chains, International Year of Millets, Global Center for Traditional Medicines.

For Mains: India and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Why in News?

The [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\)](#) summit 2022 was held recently in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**.

- Samarkand declaration was signed by the member states.
- India takes over Presidency of the SCO for 2023.

What are the Key Highlights of the Summit?

- The Samarkand declaration advocated “commitment to peaceful settlement of differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation”.
- They stress that the principles of mutual respect for **sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity of States**, equality, mutual benefit, non- interference in internal affairs, and non-use or threat of use of force are the basis for sustainable development of international relations.
- The member countries are planning to develop common principles and approaches to form a **unified list of terrorists, separatist and extremist organizations** whose activities are prohibited on the territories of the SCO member states.
- Russia is also looking at **more customers for its gas** as Western countries look to cut their dependence on it.
- Russia suggested that the organisation should think about holding its own big athletic event.
- **Indian Perspective:**
 - **Connectivity:** India urged Shanghai Cooperation Organisation **member states to give each other full right to transit**, as it would **enhance connectivity** and help in establishing **reliable and resilient supply chains in the region**.
 - **Food Security:** As the whole world is facing an unprecedented energy and food crisis, India emphasised the initiative to promote millet and address issues related to food security.
 - In this context, India is trying to popularise millets, as SCO can play a big role in marking 2023 as the **International Year of Millets**.
 - **Working Group on Traditional Medicine:** [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) opened its **Global Center for Traditional Medicines** in Gujarat in April 2022.
 - This was the **first and only worldwide centre for conventional medicine** established by the WHO.
 - **Tourism: Varanasi was declared as the SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital** for 2022-2023 to promote the **rich cultural and historical heritage** of the people and the **tourism potential of SCO member states**.
 - Further, it will **promote tourism, cultural and humanitarian exchanges**

between India and the SCO member Countries.

- It also underlines **India's ancient civilizational links with the Member States of SCO**, especially the Central Asian Republics.
- Under the framework of this **major cultural outreach program, a number of events will be hosted in Varanasi during 2022-23.**

What do we know about Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?

▪ 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 **nine-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.**
- **Current Members: Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.**
- **Iran** is set to **become a permanent member of the SCO in 2023.**
 - **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.

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