



SCO 'Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)' Meeting

For Prelims: SCO, RATS, Council of RATS-SCO

For Mains: Diplomatic and Economic relations of India with SCO, Bilateral relations of India with SCO member nations

Why in News?

Recently, a meeting held between the member nations of the **SCO** under the framework of the **SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)**. It is the first such meeting in India since Russia's evasion of Ukraine and China's transgression along the Line of actual control.

- SCO-RATS meeting agenda is to boost cooperation in fighting different global and regional security challenges.
- **India has chaired** the Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO (RATS SCO).

What is the Agenda Discussed in the Meeting?

- Situation of Afghanistan and security concerns raised due to the fall of Afghanistan in the hands of the Taliban was the main agenda of the meeting.
- India has expressed a strong desire to strengthen its security cooperation with the **SCO** and its **Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure**, which focus on security and defence matters.

What is Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure-SCO?

- **SCO-RATS** is a permanent body of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**.
- It is promoting coordination and interaction between the **SCO** member states as per as fight against **terrorism, extremism** and **separatism** are concern.
- The main functions of **SCO-RATS** are **information sharing**.
- As a member, India has actively participated in the activities of **SCO-RATS**.
- India's permanent membership would enable it to generate greater understanding among members for its perspective.

What is the Shanghai Cooperation Organization?

- **About:**
 - SCO was created in 2001.
 - The **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** was established as a **multilateral association** to ensure security and maintain stability across the vast **Eurasian region**.
 - It envisages joining forces to counteract emerging challenges and threats, and enhance trade, as well as cultural and humanitarian cooperation.
 - 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 organization in 2001, the **Shanghai Five** was renamed the SCO.
- The SCO Charter was signed in 2002 and entered into force in 2003. The SCO's official languages are **Russian** and **Chinese**.
- SCO has two Permanent Bodies:
 - SCO Secretariat in Beijing,
 - Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent.
- **Member Nations:** Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan.
 - Recently, **Iran's bid to become a full member of the SCO has been approved.**

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