



SCO Adopts India's Proposal to Support DPI

For Prelims: [SCO](#), [DPI](#), [Aadhaar](#), [UPI](#), [DigiLocker](#)

For Mains: SCO, Concept of digital public goods and its utility, Good Governance through Digital Means.

Why in News?

The [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\)](#) has recently adopted India's proposal to support the development and adoption of the [country's digital public infrastructure](#) (DPI).

- This move highlights India's leadership in the digital realm and its commitment to bridging the digital divide in the region.

What does India's DPI Proposal Entail?

- India's DPI proposal entails supporting the development and adoption of India's DPI by the member states of the SCO.
 - The proposal includes platforms such as [Aadhaar](#), [United Payments Interface \(UPI\)](#), and [DigiLocker](#) which are based on open and interoperable [application programming interfaces \(APIs\)](#) and enable digital inclusion, innovation, and social empowerment.
 - These platforms aim to provide a robust and secure digital infrastructure for various services.
- India's DPI proposal also entails collaborating with the SCO members on various aspects of digital public infrastructure such as **design, development, implementation, evaluation, and governance**.

How does India's DPI proposal benefit the SCO members?

- By offering them a **model of developing their own DPI** based on open and interoperable APIs.
- The proposal can help the SCO members to **achieve their common goals of enhancing connectivity, trade, tourism, education, health care, and security** in the region.
- It can also help the SCO members to address their common challenges of the **digital divide, cyber threats, data protection, and privacy** in the digital era.

What is DPI?

- DPI refers to blocks or **platforms such as digital identification, payment infrastructure and data exchange solutions** that help countries deliver essential services to their people, empowering citizens and improving lives by enabling digital inclusion.
- India, through **India Stack**, became the first country to develop **all three foundational DPIs**, [Digital identity \(Aadhaar\)](#), [Real-time fast payment \(UPI\)](#) and [Account Aggregator](#) built on the [Data Empowerment Protection Architecture \(DEPA\)](#).



What is SCO?

- **About:**
 - The **SCO** is a regional **intergovernmental organisation** that promotes cooperation between its member states in the areas of security, economy, and culture.
- **Genesis:**
 - Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, **Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan** were members of the **Shanghai Five**.
 - Following the **accession of Uzbekistan to the organisation in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.**
 - **India and Pakistan became members in 2017.**
 - **Observer States:** Iran and Belarus
 - Iran will be the **newest member of the largest regional organisation-** the **SCO**, when it joins the forum in **2023** under the chairmanship of India.
- **Structure:**
 - **Heads of State Council:** The Supreme SCO body which decides its internal functioning and its interaction with other States & international organisations, and considers international issues.
 - **Heads of Government Council:** Approves the budget, considers and decides upon issues related to economic spheres of interaction within SCO.
 - **Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs:** Considers issues related to day-to-day activities.
 - **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS):** Established to **combat terrorism, separatism and extremism.**
- **Official language:**
 - The official working language of the SCO Secretariat is Russian and Chinese.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year's Question (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements: (2018)

1. Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.
2. Once issued, Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing Authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Mains

Q. Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. What importance does it hold for India? **(2021)**

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