

21st meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

September 20, 2021

In news- Prime Minister of India virtually participated in 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO.

Key highlights of the meeting-

- The meeting was **chaired by H.E. Emomali Rahmon, the President of Tajikistan.**
- In his address, the Prime Minister highlighted the problems caused by growing radicalisation and extremism in the broader SCO region.
- He noted that recent developments in Afghanistan could further exacerbate this trend towards extremism.
- He offered to share Indian digital technologies with other SCO members.
- This is the **first SCO Summit being held in a hybrid format and the fourth that India has participated in as a full-fledged member of SCO.**
- This Summit assumes significance as the organization is celebrating its **20th anniversary this year.**
- The SCO Summit was followed by an Outreach session on Afghanistan between SCO and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO).

The Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)(led by Russia)-

- CSTO is an intergovernmental military alliance in Eurasia that consists of selected post-Soviet states.
- The Collective Security Treaty Organization originates from the conclusion of the Collective Security Treaty,

which was signed in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) on May 15, 1992 by the heads of **Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.**

- Later, it was **joined by Azerbaijan, Belarus and Georgia (1993).**
- The **treaty entered into force** upon completion of the national ratification procedures on April 20, **1994.**
- The CSTO charter reaffirmed the desire of all participating states to abstain from the use or threat of force.

About the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)-

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
- The creation of SCO was announced on **15 June 2001** in Shanghai (China) by the Republic of **Kazakhstan**, the People's Republic of **China**, the **Kyrgyz** Republic, the **Russian Federation**, the Republic of **Tajikistan**, and the Republic of **Uzbekistan.**
- The SCO Charter was signed during the St.Petersburg SCO Heads of State meeting in June 2002, and **entered into force on 19 September 2003.**
- India was made an observer at the SCO in 2005.
- During the meeting of Heads of State Council of SCO ON 8-9 June 2017 in **Astana** the status of a full member of the Organization was granted to the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- **India and Pakistan** became its permanent members in **2017.**
- **SCO's main goals are as follows:**
 - strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states;
 - promoting their effective cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology and culture, as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, and other areas

- making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region; and
- moving towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.
- The organisation has **two permanent bodies** – the SCO Secretariat based in Beijing and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent.
- The SCO's **official languages are Russian and Chinese.**
- The Council of National Coordinators of SCO Member States (CNC) acts as the SCO coordination mechanism.