

4

India and Shanghai Cooperation Organization: An Overview

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Abstract

India's engagement with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization reflects its strategic efforts to strengthen its regional cooperation across Eurasia. Originally founded in 2001 by China, Russia and CAR, it focuses on counterterrorism, transnational security and economic partnership. India became a full member in 2017, marking a significant step in its Connect Central Asia Policy. India's participation in the SCO is vital as this platform provides opportunities to expand trade, counter terrorism, energy partnerships and connectivity with resource-rich Central Asian Republics. Initiatives like the International North-South Transport Corridor, complement SCO objectives. India must navigate complex geopolitical dynamics within the organization, especially with the presence of China and Pakistan. Despite these challenges, the SCO offers India a valuable multilateral forum to promote a multipolar world order, strengthen regional stability and assert its role as a key stakeholder in Eurasian affairs.

Keywords: India, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, National Security, International Relations.

Introduction

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a permanent intergovernmental organization formed in the year 2001, in Shanghai. This regional intergovernmental organization comprises ten member states, three observer states and sixteen dialogue partners. Established as a multilateral organization, in order to maintain peace and tranquility across the Eurasian region. It reinforces mutually beneficial cooperation, prevents confrontations and maintains indivisible security, aiming to build a just, polycentric world order, in full conformity with the norms of international law and principles of mutual respect. This meets the national interests of each member state. Considering its mutual needs and aspirations, it acts as a multi-state and multicultural organization. SCO strives to strip off the clash of civilization's narrative across its respective regions, with a focus on non-alignment and openness.

The SCO does not seek to create any international alliance or power bloc against any nation-states; rather, it actively pursues dialogue, cultural exchanges, economic partnerships and defence cooperation amongst its member states. This signifies a firm adherence to the principles laid out in the United Nations Charter, which includes equality, sovereignty, non-intervention, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, peaceful settlement of disputes and other recognized norms of international law, aiming to achieve peace and security. It also aims to establish partnerships between States by protecting the nation's sovereignty and respecting the right to determine one's own destiny.

Since its inception, SCO has mainly focused on economic development, regional security, counterterrorism, ethnically based separatism and religious extremism. In the year 2005, the UN General Assembly was granted SCO observer status. Similarly, in April 2010, the UN and SCO signed a Joint Declaration on Cooperation. The SCO Secretariat has been established in partnership with the International Organization for Migration, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, the UN Office on Counterterrorism and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. In the year 2021, the SCO started the accession process of Iran into the SCO as a full member, while Egypt, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia became new dialogue partners. India was granted full membership of the SCO in March 2017.

Historical Background and Formation

After the collapse of the erstwhile Soviet Union, the need to resolve Sino-Soviet borders, which included independent nations of Central Asian Republics, led to a meeting between the Heads of States of Central Asian Republics, Russia, and China at Shanghai in April 1996. The key agenda of this discussion was to discuss security, resolve border issues and establish confidence-building measures. This initiative paved the way for a new organization called the Shanghai Five. In the meeting of the Shanghai Five, which was held in June 2001, a new organization comprising the Shanghai Five plus Uzbekistan was created, which was then christened into the SCO. The members formally signed the SCO charter in July 2002, and it became effective on 19th September 2003. According to the charter, the SCO aimed to promote political, economic and security cooperation among its member states. With this stated objective, the vital factor for its origin lies in the increased concerns among Russia and China towards the growing influence of the USA in the Central Asian Region. With the need to maintain and preserve its influence in its immediate neighbors and beyond. Russia and China have teamed up to balance US influence in Central Asia. As part of this initiative, China saw it as an economic opportunity to leverage its trade relations with the Central Asian Region. For both Russia and China, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a vital instrument to keep NATO out of Asia.

Primary Objectives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- Strengthen Mutual Trust and Partnership amongst Member States.
- Promote Cooperation in Trade, Culture, Technology, Transport, Entrepreneurship, Energy and Economy.
- Ensure Peace and Tranquility in the Central Asian Region.
- Establish New Political and Economic Order.
- Conduct Joint Military Exercises.
- Share Intelligence on Counter Terrorism.
- Pursue Internal Policy through principles of Mutual Benefit, Trust, Equality and Cultural Diversity.
- Pursue External Policy through principles of Non-Alignment.

Key Facts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization	
Full Name	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
Established	Year 2001
Headquarters	Beijing, China
Official Language	Chinese and Russian
Official Members	Belarus, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.
Observers	Afghanistan, Belarus, Mongolia.
Dialogue Partners	Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Nepal, Bahrain, Laos, Cambodia, Armenia, Sri Lanka, Azerbaijan, Myanmar and Maldives.
Decision Making Body	Heads of the State Council
Permanent Bodies of SCO	SCO Secretariat, Beijing, (China)
	SCO Business Council Secretariat, Moscow (Russia)
Notable Body	Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, Tashkent (Uzbekistan)
Key Principles	Cooperation and Mutual Trust.
India accession into SCO	Year 2017

Source: Compiled and Created by Author

Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization	
Heads of State Council	Apex Body of the SCO, which makes decisions on the internal policy of the organization.
Heads Government Council	Make decision on the issues related to the economic spheres within the organization
Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (National Coordinators)	Make decisions related to the day-to-day issues of the organization
Regional Anti- Terrorist Structure	Focus Areas; Counterterrorism, Separatism, Extremism and Sharing Intelligence on Terrorism.

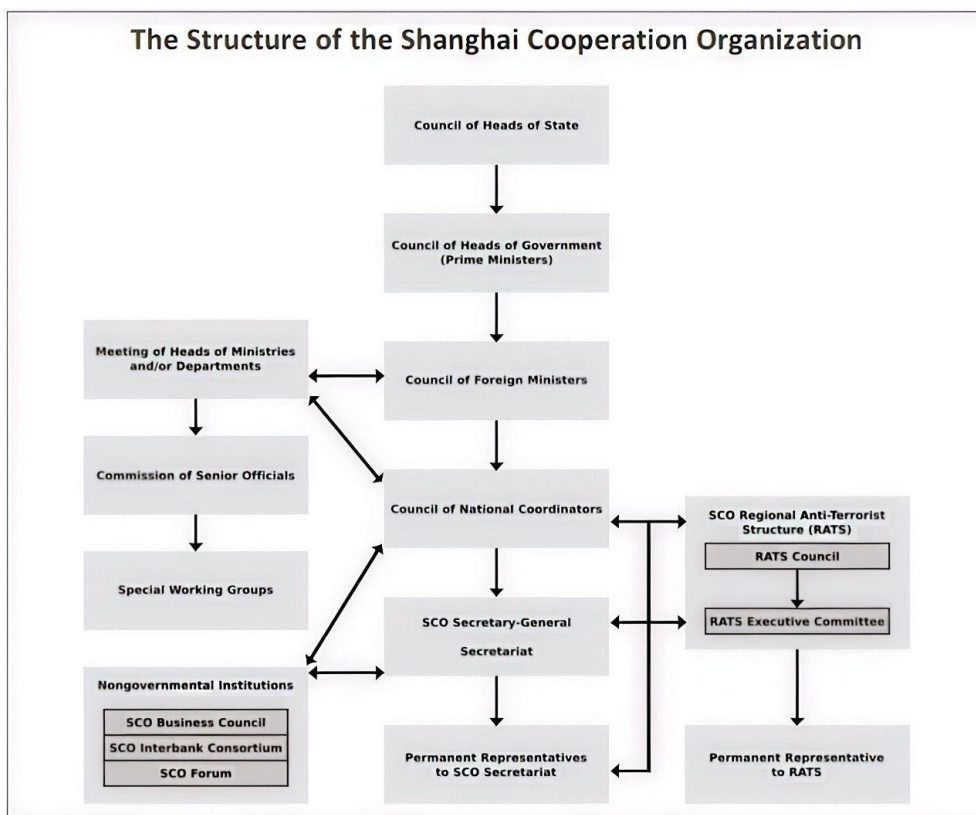
SCO Secretariat	Provides administrative and organizational support
SCO Afghanistan Contact Group	Diplomatic platform for shared strategies for peace in Afghanistan.
SCO Business Council	To boost economic cooperation within the organization.
SCO Interbank Consortium	To promote financial cooperation among member states.
SCO Working Groups on Start-Ups (India Initiative)	To foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and startup ecosystems within SCO.
SCO Working Groups on Medicine (India Initiative)	Fostering cooperation in traditional medicine within the SCO. Ayurveda (India), Traditional Chinese Medicine (China).

Source: Compiled and Created by Author

Organizational Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- The Council of Heads of State, the highest governing authority within the SCO, conducts its meetings each year in the country holding the chairmanship. This chairmanship rotates according to a system dictated by the Russian alphabet. India hosted the 23rd Summit of CHS in virtual mode on 4th July 2023. The recent 25th Summit of CHS was held in Tianjin, China as on 1st September 2025.
- SCO's second most vital organ, the Council of Heads of Government, meets annually to consider significant trade-economic cooperations and its annual budget. India hosted the 19th meeting of CHG virtually in November 2020. The 24th meeting of CHG was held in Moscow on November 18, 2025.
- The Council of SCO Foreign Ministers meets once a year, typically one month before the meeting of CHS to consider the draft outcome documents and other preparations for the CHS meeting. The last meeting of CFM was held in Tianjin, China, on 15 July 2025.
- The Council of National Coordinators is an important mechanism for coordinating its day-to-day activities of the SCO. CNC handles all the arrangements for high-level gatherings such as the Council of Heads of State, the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) and the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs.
- There are also other dialogue mechanisms, i.e. annual meetings of Ministers of Defence, Economy & Trade, Transport, Culture, Tourism, Education, Health, Justice, Emergency Situations, Secretaries of National Security Council, Supreme Court Chief Justices, Prosecutors, General, etc.
- There are two permanent bodies within the SCO. First, we have the SCO Secretariat and second, the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-

Terrorist Structure. The current SCO Secretary General Mr. Nurlan Yermekbaev (formerly Kazakhstan's Minister of Defense), began his three-year term in January 2025. India actively contributes towards the SCO with over 5.9% of its annual budget. India also has two quota posts, that is (Deputy Secretary General and Referent) each in the SCO Secretariat located at Beijing and SCO-RATS headquarters in Tashkent.



Source: <https://sl1nk.com/4fukomf>

India and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

India's engagement with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization dates back to the year 2005, when India joined the multilateral organization as an observer state along with Iran and Pakistan. Between 2005 - 2010 after getting observer status, India showed keen interest in joining this organization as a full member. India's participation in the SCO had been constrained, primarily because its observer status offered limited access to the SCO platform with no role in the decision-making. Under such restrictions, India had limited relations with the SCO then. However, since 2010, there has been a gradual rise in India's engagement within the SCO. Besides

economic, energy, connectivity and security interests, it also had long-term policy objectives in the Central Asian Republics. That is to connect with the Eurasian landmass, facilitate trade and promote counterterrorism cooperation. Institutions like the SCO Business Council and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure could help India achieve these interests.

Importance of SCO for India

- Participation in the SCO would mean India's commitment to a Multi-Aligned Foreign Policy.
- Increase in Terrorism, coupled with Radicalization and Subversion, led to prevailed instability. This casts shadow on India's sovereignty and its territorial integrity.
- Regional Anti-Terror Structure could be a vital asset for India's fight against terrorism.
- SCO would enable India to expand its strategic footprint within CAR nations.
- India's membership in SCO, would boost its energy security by providing direct access to energy markets.
- INSTC would help India to link itself with Eurasia and Europe.
- India to emerge as a Pan-Asian player; transcend South Asian limits.
- India could play a critical role in Public Diplomacy through People-to-People engagement.
- Provide a credible diplomatic forum to effectively leverage China and Pakistan.
- Opportunity to Balance International Relations between China – Russia – Central Asian Republics.

India's Key Prospects at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- **Russian – Ukraine War**

The present Russian-Ukrainian conflict attempts to split the world by challenging the present world order and promoting bloc confrontation between NATO and Russia. This underscores the increasing significance and appeal of the Shanghai Spirit. The fundamental principle of the SCO advocates for mutual trust, shared benefits, equality, respect for different cultures and pursuit of collective growth. According to Chinese analysts, foreign ministers of SCO (National Coordinators) had gathered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan to discuss current international tensions and regional issues along with SCO's cooperation ahead. A Russian invasion would compel India to make a choice between the Western Alliance and Russia. Maintaining strong relations with Russia serves India's core strategic interests. While any western lead alliance aiming to isolate Russia is not feasible for India in the

future, the probability of CAATSA sanctions being imposed upon India by the U.S. because of the S-400 missile and crude oil purchases, cannot be ignored. The contentious issue of the Ukraine conflict lies in the fact that the world has become increasingly economically and geopolitically interconnected. The presence of a substantial Indian diaspora in the war-torn region poses a danger to the lives of numerous Indian medical students. A peaceful resolution to this conflict, achieved via continuous diplomatic efforts, is essential for long-term peace and stability. India has repeatedly abstained from voting in the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council resolutions that sought to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine, plus the ongoing conflict has resulted in global food crisis, increased price rises, oil and gas shocks due to supply chain disruptions. India demands an immediate cessation of violence and seeks a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two nations through diplomatic efforts.

- **Afghanistan**

The historical, cultural and people-to-people relations between India and Afghanistan span across centuries. As an immediate neighbor, India is worried about Afghanistan. Particularly after the US withdrawal, in addition to the establishment of the Taliban's government. The internal developments in Afghan politics and policies have direct repercussions on India's external security. Its top concern includes the political upheaval in Afghanistan since August 2021, which has resulted in the swift evacuation of its citizens stuck in the region, while delivering humanitarian aid to those affected. The Government of India executed Operation Devi Shakti with the creation of a round-the-clock Special Afghanistan Cell within India's Ministry of External Affairs, leading to the successful repatriation of 669 Indian and foreign nationals. Through international forums, India consistently works with other nations to provide support for Afghanistan. India has been instrumental in championing the United Nations' work in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister took part in the SCO's CSTO Outreach Summit in September 2021 and the G-20 Extraordinary Summit on Afghanistan in October 2021. The Indian Foreign Minister attended Afghanistan's conference, convened by the USA and Germany in September 2021. The Foreign Minister also represented India in a high-level meeting on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. India hosted the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan in 2021. This dialogue was held between National Security Advisers and the Secretaries of Security Councils, which was chaired by India's NSA. In 2021 alone, India had sent out four consignments of medical aid to Afghanistan that included vaccines to fight the COVID pandemic. Over the past twenty years, India's collaboration with Afghanistan has primarily focused on five key areas, namely: infrastructure projects, education and human resource development, humanitarian aid, capacity building and community development projects.

- **Pakistan**

Since India and Pakistan were included in the SCO together as full members, Pakistan's agenda of opposing India and seeking parity with it could vitiate the atmosphere within the SCO, as is the case in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. China is Pakistan's all-weather ally, which makes Beijing support Pakistan's agenda against India in, in order to maintain the balance of power. The strategic landscape for India within the SCO presents significant geopolitical challenge with China continuing to support Pakistan by linking it to India's bid for the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

- **Iran**

Iran's inclusion in the SCO will eventually strengthen the forum, as members of the SCO would now avail the opportunity to use its facilities, particularly the strategic seaport of Chabahar and the Strait of Hormuz. Located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman, the Chabahar port serves as a key strategic asset. Being the only Iranian port with open-ocean access, it serves as a crucial gateway for international maritime trade. It is connected to the Sistan-Baluchistan province on Iran's energy-rich southern coast. The Chabahar Seaport stands as a geo-strategic and geo-political asset with a golden gateway for trade opportunities for India, China, and CAR's nations. Recently, during the foreign ministerial meeting at the SCO, India pushed forward the demand for a greater role for Chabahar Port to increase regional connectivity with the Central Asian Region.

- **China**

Over the past three decades, peace and tranquility in the border region of Indo-China have formed the basis for mutual relations between the two nations. Although the year 2020 was celebrated for seven decades of diplomatic relations between the two nations, it saw a sudden increase in military tensions along the India-China border. Particularly in the Western Frontier, since August 2020. As a result of the Galwan Valley crisis, there has been an enhanced deployment of forward troops and armaments by both sides on the Line of Actual Control, followed by regular visits by the Indian Defence Minister. The Indian Foreign Minister met the State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China in September 2021 in Dushanbe, on the sidelines of the 21st SCO Summit, to discuss shared perspectives on the border situation along the Line of Actual Control. Acknowledging that an extended conflict would be disadvantageous and negatively impact the economies of both nations, military and diplomatic efforts are underway between the two nations, as both sides meet regularly to continue discussions on resolving the border conflict at the earliest possible opportunity.

Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure

The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure would be a significant step towards India's fight against terrorism. In the year 2011, during the Heads of State Summit, India's Foreign Minister summed up India's guiding factor in its growing engagement with the SCO. The Minister points out: "We are impressed that the SCO has taken several significant steps in recent years, especially in two key areas: First, in combating terrorism; Second, in promoting economic cooperation in the Eurasian region." On similar lines, in the year 2013, at the Heads of State Summit of the SCO, the Indian Foreign Minister emphasized that "India has long been a victim of terrorism and is acutely aware of the threat that its perpetrators pose to its people. It is the firm view that only multilateral efforts and integrated coordinated actions can help effectively counter these negative forces, including the related evils of drug trafficking, human trafficking and arms proliferation." Thus, an increase in Indian connects with Central Asian Republics for both security and economic purposes has become apparent through these statements. SCO's RATS mechanism would help India to develop a multi-pronged approach to deal with terrorism and extremism in South Asia. Article 7 of RATS binds its signatories to the obligation of actively cooperating in counter-terrorism efforts.

International North-South Transport Corridor

INSTC is a multimodal transport system of sea, rail, and road routes designed to facilitate freight movement across Europe, Central Asia and India. This route primarily involves the movement of ships, rails, roads to carry freight from India, Azerbaijan, and Russia. The corridor is designed to improve trade connections for cities such as Mumbai, Moscow, Tehran, Astrakhan and Bandar Anzali. INSTC is a positive step in the direction of aiming to connect international networks that could help create an East-West corridor. It could potentially benefit India to connect with Europe. In 2016 at SCO's Annual Summit, the Indian Prime Minister mentioned that his country would be pleased to contribute towards the development of infrastructure in this region. India's active effort to create an environment that could ease trade and economic relations with CAR's could facilitate rich investments in the region. The region stands to benefit from increased prosperity and deeper engagement in various fields, including human resources, IT, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, digital banking, capital markets, enterprises, and food and agriculture, as a direct result of India's substantial energy needs and its large consumer base. With economic and financial gains emerging from this region. INSTC provides the push factor for India's pull towards SCO.

Ashgabat Agreement

The Ashgabat Agreement is a significant initiative focused on establishing a multimodal transportation corridor that connects Central Asia to the Persian Gulf. This

holds strategic significance from an economic point of view for India, as it establishes new routes towards Central Asia, thereby enhancing its influence towards the west. The Ashgabat Agreement is a multimodal transport accord established by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, India and Oman. This agreement aims to create an international transit corridor, facilitate the movement of goods and services between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf. The agreement aims to develop the shortest trade routes possible between Central Asian Republics, Iran and Oman's seaports. This transit corridor would provide uninterrupted access to the landmasses of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran. Thus, connecting Central Asia and the Middle East.

Central Asian Republics

India's growing proximity towards the Central Asian Republic, comprising Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan has been reflected in its heightened cooperation and emerging geopolitical challenges in the backdrop of Russian - Ukraine conflict, Covid-19 Pandemic, One Belt One Road Initiative, Terrorism, Bilateral Relations and changing International Political World Order. Presently, both sides agree to enhance their economic cooperation and deliberations in areas such as trade, connectivity, economics, energy, healthcare, climate change and address geopolitical concerns regarding Afghanistan. Both have further reiterated their commitment towards building a long-term economic partnership within the India-CAR's geopolitical architecture. In its third India-CAR Dialogue held in New Delhi in 2021, the two sides continued to agree on their initial commitment, i.e. robust partnership and addressing geo-political concerns. The Indian Prime Minister official visited the five CARs in 2015. It was the second such official visit after the 1990s, which witnessed the fall of the Soviet Union besides making him the first Indian Prime Minister to visit all five republics. These visits can be seen as New Delhi's push towards rejuvenating its strategic convergence with CAR nations, which will provide a much-needed equilibrium for it to extend its reach in the North. India has extended a one-billion credit line for the development of connectivity projects that enhance trade relations with CAR nations. It also focuses on the optimal usage of the INST Corridor along with the Ashgabat Agreement.

On the security frontier, both sides agree on the strategic implications for a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan, especially in the countries sharing land borders with it. Particularly Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and India. In a Joint Statement issued by the India and CAR nation it said "*Upon the formation of a truly representative and inclusive government, combating terrorism and drug trafficking, the central role of the UN, providing immediate The unanimous consensus and reaffirmation of the strategic significance of UNSC Resolution 2593 (2021) and unequivocally demands that Afghan territory not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing terrorist acts and called for concert action against all terrorist*

groups". The statement underscores the pressing demand to fully put into practice the relevant UNSC resolutions that establish the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and FATF standards.

On the energy frontier, it stands towards long-term commitment through capacity building and connectivity enhancement. India appreciates the significant endowment of natural resources found in Central Asia, especially in the large reserves of oil, coal, gas, and mineral resources, which could meet its domestic demands. Enhanced cooperation between national institutions in areas of renewable energy and information technology is a step toward energy cooperation. On the economic front, the expansion of trade portrays achieving full trade partnership in areas such as pharmaceuticals, information technology, agriculture, energy, textiles, gems and jewelry. The move towards establishing direct links between the two will help to scale new trade dynamics. As part of the SCO club, India can benefit from a limitless supply of energy from one of the world's largest energies producing nations. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states collectively controls vast natural resources, including 25% of the world's oil, 50% of its gas, 35% of its coal, and approximately half of all known uranium deposits. This can help India achieve its long-term energy interests with the help of the INSTC. If India persuades members of the SCO to join the INSTC project along with other connectivity projects, it could be a path-breaking initiative.

SCO Working Groups on Startups and Innovation, Traditional Medicine

India's SCO Presidency during 2022 steered in five key pillars: First, fostering innovation through startups; Second, advancing traditional medicine; Third, developing youth; Fourth, ensuring digital access for all; and Fifth, preserving shared Buddhist heritage. Out of these five; two new initiatives were launched. The Startup Forum and the Forum of Traditional Medicine. India proposed that collaborative efforts in start-ups could be key to revitalizing SCO economies after the pandemic's impact. Considering this, India extended an invitation to all SCO Member States to participate in the 2nd Start-up Forum scheduled held in October 2021. There's a major digital divide between developed and developing countries that can be bridged by improving digital capabilities. From an environmental perspective, India is in favor of environmental preservation and the adoption of strategies to mitigate the adverse consequences of climate change. Furthermore, it was stressed that the climate change agenda ought not to impose superfluous measures that might lead to trade impediments. India also underscored that SCO member nations should be prepared to act collectively by standing together in solidarity to pursue an agenda characterized by fairness, inclusivity and commitment to development.

To certify traditional medicine products and validate AYUSH offerings, India intends to introduce the AYUSH hallmark. Ancient Indian sciences indicated that Ayurveda and Yoga originated more than 5,000 years ago. Sidha is an ancient and

widely practiced medicinal system in South India. While Unani is a traditional form of medicine, traces its origins back to ancient Greece. Samuel Hahnemann, a physician of German origin, is credited with the invention of homeopathy during the early 1800s. Such ancient health systems have largely benefited the public for a long time. The Unani system of medicine has its roots in Greece and subsequently flourished in India during the medieval period. It prioritizes the utilization of medicines sourced from nature, predominantly herbs, marine and mineral backgrounds. In Gujarat's Jamnagar, India plans to launch WHO's Global Center for Traditional Medicine, which marks a significant step for global health and would be the first global center for traditional medicine.

Conflict Resolution

The success or failure of conflict resolution is determined by the extent to which the goals of the participants coincide and how they yield in their interaction with each other. The admission of Delhi and Islamabad to the organization was thought to bring a new array of conflicts within the organization. However, one cannot build a full-fledged system of stability on the Eurasian Continent without both. After eight years in the SCO as full members, it is clear that the SCO is still functional. However, the India-Pakistan conflict continues to worsen in its current phase, as Pakistan was put on the FATF Grey List (2022), is now in conflict with India, post Operation Sindhoor in response to Pahalgam terror attacks (2025). The dialogue between the two nuclear-armed nations remains contested on a range of issues. Bilateral relations between the two have virtually stopped as India accuses Pakistan of training and infiltrating insurgents into the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure requires both nations to share intelligence on the fight against terrorism. However, it has been difficult to achieve, as India blames Pakistan for promoting cross-border terrorism. Thus, the mutual trust between the two nations remains low with little scope for conflict resolution.

Conclusion

In conclusion, India's participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization represents a significant dimension of its strengthening foreign policy and regional strategy. As a full member, India has engaged deeply with Eurasian geopolitics, contributing to discussions on security, economic cooperation and cultural exchange. SCO provides India with a valuable platform to strengthen ties with Central Asian Republics, access energy resources and promote connectivity initiatives that align with its broader strategic interests. One of the key benefits for India lies in enhanced cooperation on counterterrorism and regional security. Through mechanisms like the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, it can collaborate with its member states to address common threats such as terrorism, separatism and transnational crime. This is important, given India's security concerns in its immediate and extended neighborhood. SCO would enable India to participate in and shape regional norms

and policies, reinforcing its commitment towards a multipolar world order. Despite constraints, India continues to view the SCO as a pragmatic and important forum for dialogue and collaboration.

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