



## SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION : INTERNATIONAL RELATION

**NEWS :** *Jaishankar will go to Pak for SCO meeting, first visit by EAM since Sushma Swaraj 9 years ago*

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS ?

Indian External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, will lead India's delegation to Pakistan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15-16, 2024.

### Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Overview:

#### Origins:

- SCO evolved from the "Shanghai Five" (formed in 1996) with China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.
- Formed to address concerns about extremist religious groups and ethnic tensions post-USSR dissolution (1991).

#### Establishment:

- Established on 15th June 2001 in Shanghai with Uzbekistan joining as the 6th member.
- Current members (before Belarus inclusion): India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.
- Afghanistan and Mongolia hold Observer Status.

#### Pakistan's Role as Host (2024):

- Pakistan holds the rotating chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG).
- Invitations extended to all member states, including Indian PM Narendra Modi.
- Meeting in Islamabad amidst Pakistan's internal unrest, security tightened.

#### Past Diplomatic Engagements (India-Pakistan):

- 2015: Sushma Swaraj's visit led to the Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue.
- 2015: PM Modi's surprise Lahore visit to meet Nawaz Sharif.
- Relations have been strained since 2019 (Article 370 abrogation, Pulwama attack).

#### Strained Bilateral Relations:

- Tensions since 2019, worsened by Pulwama attack and Balakot airstrikes.
- Limited diplomatic interaction despite a May 2023 meeting at an SCO event in India.



## Context and Implications:

- The meeting offers a rare diplomatic interaction, but a significant breakthrough is unlikely due to ongoing tensions.
- The SCO provides a multilateral platform for engagement.

## Relevance of SCO for India:

- **Regional Cooperation:** Enhances relations with Central Asian countries on security and cooperation.
- **Counter-Terrorism Efforts:** Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) aids in counter-terrorism and intelligence sharing.
- **Economic Cooperation:** Promotes economic ties with resource-rich Central Asian nations.
- **Energy Security:** Enables engagement with energy-rich Central Asia for energy cooperation.

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