

SCO's Council of Heads of Government Meeting 2026

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | International Relations

Why in News?

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is representing India at the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

- **Venue** - Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- **Dates** - 19-20 October 2026.
- **Objective** - It focuses on strengthening multilateral cooperation among SCO member states in trade, economy, investment, connectivity, innovation and cultural-humanitarian exchanges.
- The meeting will also review ongoing cooperation initiatives and consider matters concerning the organisation's financial and institutional functioning.

Previous CHG meeting - Held in Moscow, Russia, on 18 November 2025, where India was represented by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.



Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Key Facts

Established	15 June 2001
Origin	Shanghai, China
Headquarters	Beijing, China
Nature	Permanent intergovernmental international organisation
Predecessor	Shanghai Five mechanism
Official languages	Chinese and Russian
Key areas	Security, economic cooperation, connectivity and cultural exchanges

Member countries (10)

India	China	Russia	Pakistan	Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Iran	Belarus

Expansion Timeline

2001 SCO established (15 June 2001)	2017 India and Pakistan became full members	2023 Iran joined as a full member	2024 Belarus joined as a full member
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- **Key Objectives**

- To strengthen mutual trust and foster good-neighbourly relations among member states.
- To promote cooperation in the fields of politics, trade, economy, science, and technology.
- To maintain regional peace, security, and stability.
- To combat terrorism, separatism, and extremism.
- To encourage cultural exchanges and enhance people-to-people contacts.

- **Key Institutional Bodies** - It comprises two principal institutional bodies responsible for conducting high-level meetings.

Body	Composition / role
Council of Heads of State (CHS)	Highest decision-making body; meets annually and determines major priorities
Council of Heads of Government (CHG)	Focuses on multilateral cooperation, particularly economic and budgetary matters

- **Significance**

- **Strategic Engagement** - Strengthens regional cooperation in security, connectivity, and diplomacy.
- **Economic & Technological Cooperation** - Promotes trade, investment, digital governance, innovation, and cultural exchanges.

Reference

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