SCO’s Upcoming Summit

What is the issue?

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The upcoming SCO Summit in June is expected to open new vistas for India in terms of anti-terrorism and improving regional ties.

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What is the SCO?

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- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a multi-government organisation formed in 2001 by China, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.
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- It was launched as an expression of greater coordination among the major powers in the Eurasian region after the cold war.
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- And it aimed to create a fair and rational new international political and economic order.
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- Its agenda was shaped under the Shanghai Five Mechanism which included violent liberation movements and counter-terrorism efforts against the growing unilateral moves by the US.
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- The Organisation served as a platform to facilitate warmer ties among its members by enhancing cooperation on various fronts.
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- The SCO also played a major role in helping China resolve its border problems with the Central Asian region.
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What is the significance of this upcoming summit to India?

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- This is the first full-fledged summit after India’s membership in 2017.
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- India is expected to participate in all activities of SCO Secretariat in Beijing.
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- It will also gain access to the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) which provides a rare platform for regional cooperation to counter-terrorism.
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- India along with all the members including Pakistan will participate in counter-terrorism exercises.
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- This summit is likely to push for Iran’s formal entry into SCO as a signal against the US withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal.
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- Hence it will be an opportunity for India to reset its regional ties with China and Russia as they navigate the adverse impacts of U.S. Treasury sanctions.
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Source: The Hindu

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