

→ Pak joined as permanent in 2016 at Astana Kazakhstan.  
Observer States: Iran, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Belarus.

# Feedback:

o established in 2001 in Shanghai  
Permanent Members: ① China, ② Russia, ③ Uzbekistan, ④ Tajikistan, ⑤ Kyrgyzstan, ⑥ Kazakhstan, ⑦ Pak, ⑧ India

## SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

Don't write detailed paragraphs in notes. Use short and crisp sentences in point form. Add more points on relevance of SCO in current changing scenarios.

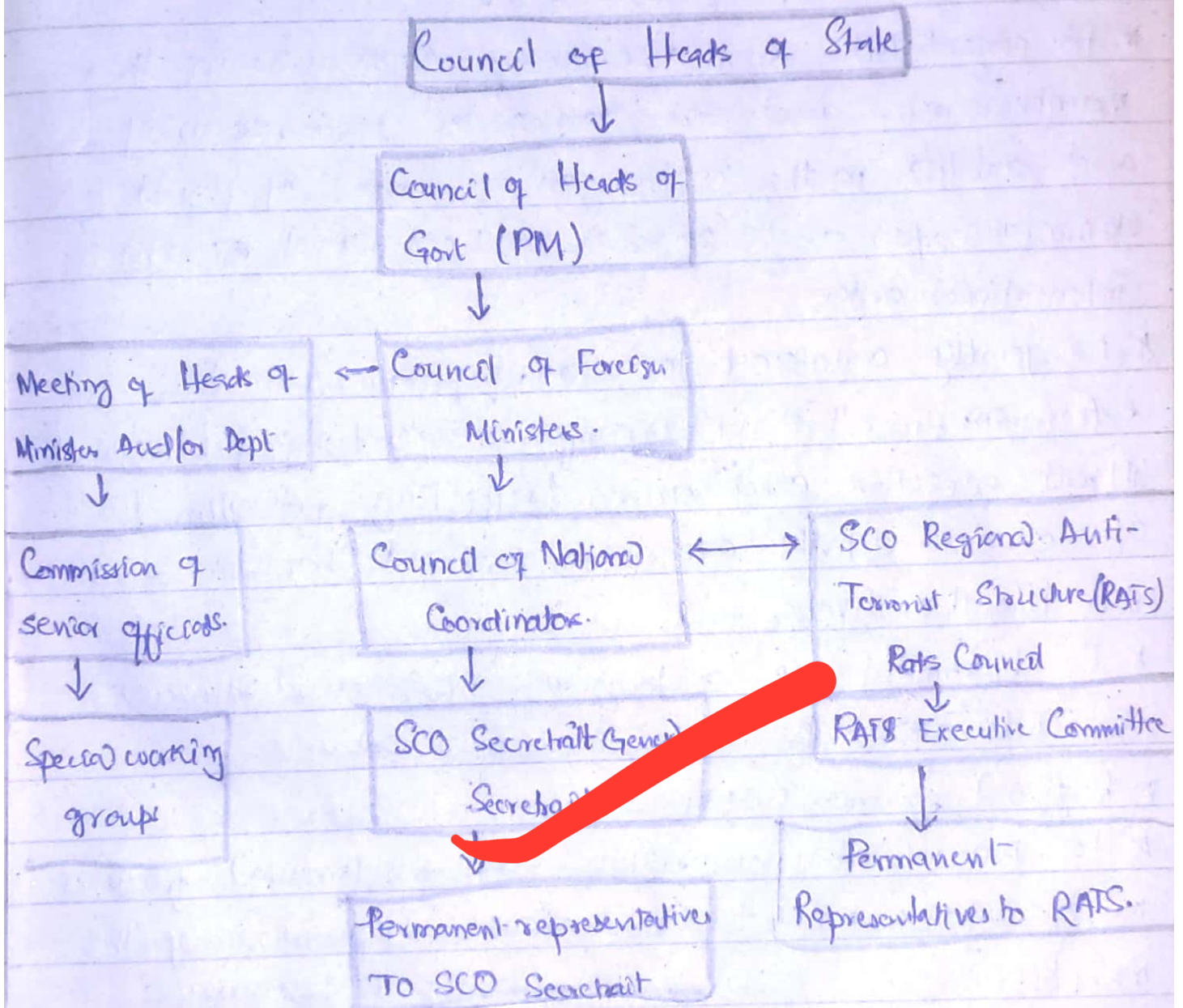
The SCO is an important regional security organization consisting of Russia, China and the 4 central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and two South Asian nations Pakistan and India.

It was established in 2001. Its ultimate objective was to compete with the growing influence of the US and NATO force in the region. Its prime concern is the growing threats of terrorism, separatism, and extremism.

Pakistan not only contributes to the preservation of peace and stability in the region, but more specifically, also to the development of transport and energy corridors which will be helpful toward this end. More significantly, under the banner of SCO, Pakistan can improve its relations with Russia, China, and CARs, India, Iran and Afghanistan.

Except Uzbekistan, the founding member states were founded. Shanghai founded in 1996. After inclusion of Uzbekistan, members renamed the organization. During the June 2002 summit, at Saint Petersburg Russia and Organization's member states

signed charter.  
THE STRUCTURE OF THE SCO



## GOALS & TASKS: (ARTICLE 1)

The main goals and tasks of SCO are:

- ★ To strengthen mutual trust, friendship and good neighbourliness between the members states.
- ★ To consolidate multidisciplinary cooperation in the maintenance and strengthening of peace, security and stability in the region and promotion of new democratic, fair and rational political and economic international order.
- ★ To jointly counteract terrorism, separatism and extremism in all their manifestations, to fight against illicit narcotics and arms trafficking and other types of criminal activity of a transnational character and also illegal migration.
- ★ Establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.
- ★ Regional economic linkages.
- ★ To promote human rights and fundamental freedom in accordance with the international obligations of the members states and their national legislations.
- ★ To maintain and develop relations with other states and international organizations.

→ To cooperate in the prevention of international conflicts and in their peaceful settlement

→ To jointly search for solutions to the problems that would arise in 21<sup>st</sup> Century -

## PRINCIPLES (ARTICLE 2)

The members of SCO shall adhere to the following principles:

\* Mutual respect of sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity of States and inviolability of States borders, non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, non use of force or threat of its use in International relations, seeking no unilateral military superiority in adjacent areas.

\* Equality of all members states, search of common position on the basis of mutual understanding and respect for opinion of each of them.

\* Gradual implementation of joint activities in the sphere of mutual interest.

\* Peaceful settlement of disputes b/w the member states

\* SCO being not directed against the other states and international organization.

\*Prevention of any illegitimate acts directed against the SCO interests.

## BODIES (Article 4)

1. For the implementation of goals and objectives of the present charter the following bodies shall operate within the organization.

- 1) The Council of Head of States
- 2) The Council of Head of Govt (Prime Ministers)
- 3) The Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
- 4) Meetings of Head of Min<sup>is</sup> and/or Agencies.
- 5) The Council of National Coordinators
- 6) The Regional Counter terrorist structure.
- 7) Secretariat

2) The functions and working procedures for the SCO bodies except Regional Counter terrorist structure shall be governed by appropriate provisions adopted by Council of Head of States.

3) The Council of Head of States may decide to establish other SCO bodies.

-New bodies can be established by the adoption of additional protocol to the present charter.

## THE COUNCIL OF HEADS OF STATES: (ARTICLE 5)

- Supreme SCO body.
- Determine priorities and define major areas of activities of Organization.
- Hold regular meeting Once in a year.
- Chaired by the head of state organization regular meeting.
- Venue of regular meeting of Council shall determined <sup>by</sup> Russian alphabetical order of names of SCO member states.

## THE COUNCIL OF HEADS OF GOV (Prime Minister) (Article 6)

- Approve the budget of organization, consider and decide upon major issues related <sup>to</sup> speedy economic spheres of interaction within organization.
- Hold regular meeting Once in a year.
- Chaired by the PM of state where meeting takes place.
- Venue decided by prior agreement among heads of Government (PMs) of member states.

## THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (ARTICLE 7)

- Consider issues related to day to day activities of organization.
- Preparation of meetings of Council of Heads of state and holding of consultations on international problems within the organization.
- Hold meeting 1 month prior to meeting of Council of Heads of States.
- Extraordinary meeting <sup>shall be</sup> held on the initiative of at least 2 member states
- Venue of regular/Extraordinary meeting of council shall be determined by mutual agreement.
- Chaired by the ministers of Foreign affairs of member states who territory the regular meeting of council of heads of states takes place.

## MEETINGS OF HEADS OF MINISTERS AND /OR AGENCIES. (ARTICLE 8)

- Hold regular basis of meetings for consideration of particular issues of interaction in respective fields within SCO.

→ Chaired by the Head of respective ministry and  
for agency of state organizing meeting

## \* THE COUNCIL OF NATIONAL COORDINATORS

### ARTICLE 9

- SCO body coordinates and directs day-to-day activities of the Organizers.
- Make preparation for meetings.
- Appointed by each member states as per internal rules and procedure.
- Hold its meeting 3 times a year.
- Chaired by National coordinator in which states has meeting role

### - REGIONAL COUNTER TERRORIST STRUCTURE (Article 10)

- established by member states of SCO to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism. on June 15, 2001. in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

### SECRETARIAT (ARTICLE 11)

- Standing SCO administrative body.
- Provide organizational and technical support to the activities carried out in the framework of SCO
- Prepare proposal of annual budget



- Headed by the Executive Secretary to be appointed by the Council of Heads of States
- Executive secretary appointed from among the nationals of member states
- Executive secretary deputies shall be appointed by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
- Secretariat officials recruited from among nationals of the member states on quota basis.
- LOCATION: Beijing

## **FINANCING** (Article 12)

- Own budget drawn up and executed in accordance with a special agreement b/w member states.
- Determine the amount of contribution paid annually by member states

## **MEMBERSHIP:** (ARTICLE 13)

- Open for other states in the region
- Admission of new members to SCO shall be decided upon by the Council of Heads of States on the basis of a representation made by Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

- Any member State shall be entitled to withdraw from SCO by transmitting to the Depositary an official notification of its withdrawal from this Charter no later than 12 months before date of withdrawal.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER STATES & I. Organizations (ARTICLE 14)

- Interact and maintain dialogue, in particular in certain areas of cooperation, with other states and International organization.

- SCO may grant to the state or international organization concerned the status of dialogue partner or observer.

↳ The rule and procedure for granting shall be established by a special agreement of member states.

## LEGAL CAPACITY: (ARTICLE 15)

SCO shall enjoy rights of a legal person and may in particular.

- Conclude treaties - Acquire movable and immovable property and dispose of it.

## DECISION TAKING PROCESS (ARTICLE 16)

SCO bodies shall take decisions by agreement without vote and their decision shall be considered adopted if no member state has raised objection during

vote (consensus), except for the decision on suspension of membership or expulsion from SCO that shall be taken by consensus minus one vote of member states concerned.

### PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE. (ARTICLE 18)

Member state shall appoint their permanent representatives to SCO Secretariat

**PAK REPRESENTATIVE: M. Raza Raza**

**LANGUAGES** RUSSIAN & CHINESE (ARTICLE 20)

**DEPOSITORY.** People Republic of China (ARTICLE 25)

**REGISTRATION: (ARTICLE 26)**

Consistent to Article 102 of Charter of UN is subject to registration with the Secretariat of UN.

— It was done at Saint-Petersburg the

7th June 2002.

## SCO & THE RISE OF CHINA

The SCO has become the most important vehicle for Chinese cooperation with central Asian member states and Russia. China seeks to play an active role and exert strong influence in the SCO for economic reasons.

BRI is the network of ① Roads ② Railway, ③ Ports, ④ Industries ⑤ Energy Projects ⑥ Oil & Gas Pipelines

and strategic considerations. China aims to resolve territorial and border issues with Central Asian states, maintain stability in Xinjiang, develop the economy of western areas and ensure energy security by playing a leading role in the SCO.

Belt and Road Initiative. (started in 2013)

China's initiated BRI to be connected with ~~with~~.

2 types of routes to the world:

1) Overland Route } Connect China with South Asia

2) Maritime Route } Africa & Europe

\* Gigantic plan for a global network of ports, roads, railways and other infrastructure to connect China <sup>to</sup> the world.

\* ~~Now~~ China's initiated this BRI to confirm its role in Global power.

\* It ~~will~~ involved 60% of the world.

⇒ SCO injects more positivity into regional stability and BRI.

↳ In <sup>the</sup> past years, the SCO has unleashed enormous development opportunities for the region and the wider

world by building up connectivity under the Belt and Road framework.

→ China and other member states have been using SCO as a platform to promote the synergy between the China-proposed BRI and development strategies of other countries.

## SCO & PAKISTAN

Pakistan had been trying to get permanent membership of SCO. President Asif Ali Zardari requested to the 6 permanent members in the SCO conference in Astana June 2011. "We hope that our membership application will be put on fast track". Pakistan got full membership of SCO because it wanted to be a part of regional and transregional cooperation gets up by SCO by becoming a permanent member of SCO.

Now, Pakistan can get multifaceted, like to cooperate with regional countries in the financial and banking sector, the setting up of joint ventures, educational, infrastructural and theological programs. Pakistan like other <sup>Astana</sup> countries is suspicious about America's imperialistic intentions. It is worried about its own security and progress which does not seem possible being an ally of US. Therefore Pak wanted to join SCO and be a part of joint security and military venture of SCO.

Pakistan strongly feels that US is losing her grip over the world. Her economic conditions is becoming weakening. Now, it was high time that Pakistan turn towards East (towards

SCO and China in particular)

Pakistan strongly feels that presence of US and NATO — on soil of

- Once becomes a permanent member of SCO, Pakistan can get huge economic benefits by becoming the transit corridor for SCO nations, accessing the Central Asian markets, banking, cooperation and preferential trade with SCO nations. With the help of SCO, Pakistan can curb the 3 evils called Extremism, Terrorism, & Separatism.

## IMPACTS OF PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP OF SCO ON PAKISTAN

Pakistan believes that its membership enables to diversify its foreign policy and enable it to play a more effective role in the stability of region.

\* Geo-Political Impacts of SCO on Pakistan

- SCO can act as an effective player to bridge the gap between India and Pakistan through a series of diplomatic moves that would urge both parties to bring an end to the historical disputes and hostility between the two neighbouring states as; a 3000 km border dispute along the Sino-former Soviet border has been resolved at this platform.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cheng Guoping said "Pakistan's admission to the SCO will play a constructive role in the improvement of bilateral relations between India and Pakistan. Geopolitically SCO membership could highlight avenues for greater cooperation between India and China in areas such as Terrorism and Afghan reconstruction, which will ultimately benefit Pakistan in its wider interest and regional stability.

Pakistan's membership will help in nascent close relations with Russia, which were never witnessed before up to this extent. By becoming permanent member of SCO, Pakistan will along with other SCO members can take appropriate measures for counter terrorism etc through joint ventures. By the burgeoning affinity between India and US, Pakistan was aloof in the international political scenario; thereby SCO's permanent status will give impetus and thrive to Pakistan's political standing in the globe. Four central Asian Countries of SCO have been in good ties with Pakistan because of their fellowship in ECO. The membership will pave way



for the further strengthening of Pakistan's political ties with central Asian countries. Russia and China have significant role in SCO due to their global and regional importance as major powers, becoming close ally of these powers through SCO will brace Pakistan's stance on the international forum. Permanent membership can enhance Pakistan's stature in the diplomatic ranking of the region if Pakistan plays its cards well.

### Eco-Economic Impacts of SCO on Pakistan

Ideally location of Pakistan has enabled it to become a source for regional economic integration within and between SCO member states. Chinese assistance in developing the CPEP in Pakistan's developing Gwadar Port and Kashgar as a special economic zone, upgrading the Karakorum Highway and linking Gwadar with Kashgar and Central Asia via KKA are steps being taken with SCO's efforts to create trans-continental overland connectivity.

The permanent status of SCO will bring immense economic and trade opportunities for Pakistan as the dominant powers of the SCO i.e. China

and Russia are huge industrial and economic hub. Central Asian members of SCO are immensely rich with their oil and natural gas resources that are more than enough for energy starved nations like Pakistan.

SCO since 2007, unlike ASEAN, SAARC etc is moving towards increasing Regional Economic Cooperation via big projects in the energy sector. Pakistan could also use SCO effectively by looking at multiple options in order to deepen economic cooperation because economic development is the best remedy to the threat of terrorism.

For landlocked countries of SCO members Pakistan will be a nearest transit access to warm waters which can earn lot of foreign exchange through transit-fee and improve the foreign exchange reserves of Pakistan. Once the CPEC will be ~~neutralized~~ materialized completely, it will be in direct contact with the International maritime route and will provide Pakistan with great trade opportunities with multiple countries and will generate enormous job opportunities. As it is close to the Strait of Hormuz, through which more than 13 million barrel oil per day passes.

## Geo-strategic Impacts of SCO on Pakistan.

Pakistan's geography, history and cultural background place it in a unique strategic position. It lies at the tri-junction of South Asia, West Asia, and Central Asia and can effectively act as a conduit between the SCO and the rest of the world.

SCO's activities have expanded to include military cooperation, intelligence sharing and counterterrorism drills in order to combat 3 evil forces: separatism, extremism and terrorism. Even Russia has signed a landmark defence deal with Pakistan that includes the sale of four Mi-35 'Hind E' attack helicopters to Pakistan.

Pakistan's strategic and geographical location in relation to the landlocked states and regions of the SCO could translate into Pakistan's emergence as a regional trade and energy corridor. The significance that Pakistan has attached to the SCO is based on Pakistan's potential as a viable trade corridor for landlocked CARs and Xinjiang, western China. Pakistan's membership of the SCO, would not only provide an opportunity to Pakistan in influencing the regional security architecture.

to its benefit but it could also be able to acquire an important position in the SCO's 2015 to 2025 vision.

Hence, it is needed to consider the SCO as an alternative forum to help in resolving its long lasting disputes with India. The creation of Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) that has a remarkable ~~quite~~ number of ~~quick~~ response forces and the members of SCO often conducts collective military and naval drills which will add to our military and naval power effectively. China is also in process of developing a naval base in Arabian sea, which will be of great strategic importance to Pakistan. SCO's policies are in consonance with Pakistan's long-term objective of promoting peace and stability in the region, containing and eradicating the menace of terrorism from the region, containing and eradicating and working with members to build stronger and more productive relationship in the future. The current situation of the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan has added a new dimension to Pakistan-Central Asia ties, particularly in the context of difficult

India-Pakistan relations. So Pakistan needs to improve bilateral relations with India. The SCO was originally formed to fight threats posed by radical Islam and drug trafficking from Afghanistan. This depicts the emphasis of SCO on Afghanistan peace process, which is one of the strategic goals of Pakistan. The permanent SCO membership for Pakistan will ensure greater access to resources and energy input projects within the grouping's framework. It would give Pakistan a trump card in dialogue with traditional donors, particularly the US, who always tries to use its economic support as a pressure tactic.

### ADVANTAGES FOR PAKISTAN AFTER JOINING SCO

- ★ The post 9/11 world is fighting a war against terrorism and, in this, Pakistan is an important state. The SCO member countries have also become victims of terrorism. Pakistan and SCO can work closely to root out the growing menace of terrorism.

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- Religious extremism has become a great problem for the countries of SCO most of whom are experiencing its worst form. Pakistan has always denounced extremism and religious fundamentalism. Therefore SCO and Pakistan can work together on this grave problem.

- Under the SCO banner Islamabad can improve its defence and security relations with Russia. Moreover SCO's regional anti-terrorism structure (RATS) will help Pakistan to institutionalize anti-terrorism cooperation in more comprehensive and at a wider scale.

- Pakistan can provide trade facilities to land-locked Central Asian States at the Gwadar port. This port is more useful and convenient potential trade route for CARs. From the Gwadar port, goods can be transported via land routes to Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan and deep into central Asia. Railway and road networks are being laid to link Gwadar, Afghanistan and Iran.

- Pakistan can also use this forum to have good relations with Russia.

\* By joining this organization, Pakistan has another forum to express her views on world's changing political scenario.