



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

Pahalgam excluded - India declines to sign SCO statement

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Context

- **India declined to endorse the joint statement at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in China**, and pushed for including tougher language on terrorism that would reflect the Indian position, particularly since the Pahalgam attack on April 22.
- Sources said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh refused to sign the document on Thursday as **it did not mention the Pahalgam attack but included militant activities in Balochistan**.
- Pakistan and China were trying to divert attention from terrorism, and the document would have diluted India's position on critical issues, particularly terrorism and regional security, sources added.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

- It emerged as a successor to the **Shanghai Five**, which was established in **1996 by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan**.
- These countries, along with **Uzbekistan, came together on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai** to announce the formation of a new organization aimed at deepening political and economic cooperation.
- Over time, the organization expanded its membership to include eight states, with **India and Pakistan joining on 9 June 2017**.
- **Iran** officially became a member in 2023.
- **Belarus** became a member in 2024
- The SCO is governed by the **Heads of State Council (HSC)**, which serves as its **highest decision-making body and convenes once a year**.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation has **10 members**, including **China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Belarus**.

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Belarus inclusion in SCO

Significance



Belarus will be the **first exclusively European country** to join SCO.



Belarus's inclusion is growing international alliances through its influence.

concerns



Belarus's inclusion strengthens China's institutional access to Eastern Europe.



Belarus's inclusion may damage SCO's credibility, as it is a sanctioned supporter of Ukraine.



Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)



Genesis: It was founded at the Shanghai summit in 2001 by Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan



SCO has 10 members: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan, Pakistan, Iran (2023) and Belarus (2024).

➡ It includes 3 observer states and 6 dialogue partners.



Structure:

- ➡ **The Council of Heads of States:** apex decision-making body
- ➡ **Council of Heads of Governments:** second-highest council
- ➡ **Two permanent bodies** – the Secretariat in Beijing (China) and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan



Major Goals and Objectives:

- ➡ To address **security related concerns and resolving border issues**
- ➡ **Military Co-operation and intelligence sharing.**
 - ➡ Exercise **Peaceful Mission, 2021 (hosted by Russia).**
- ➡ **Countering terrorism** and Co-operation in **education, energy, science and technology**