



India Hosts a Virtual SCO Summit

At the 23rd Leaders' Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) hosted by India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid out five pillars of the SCO's vision: security, economic development and connectivity, unity, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and environmental protection. This Summit was held virtually on July 04, 2023.

Apart from leaders of this eight-member organisation, the President of Turkmenistan was the Guest of the Chair, and the Presidents of Belarus, Iran and Mongolia, who are observers, also participated. In this edition of CUTS ONW, news of significant importance and expert analysis on this Summit are highlighted.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>India concludes a successful presidency with the SCO Summit <i>Ashok Sajjanhar</i> First Post July 10, 2023</p>	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually chaired the 23rd Session of the Council of Heads of State Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Presidents of member states of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and the Prime Minister of Pakistan attended the deliberations. The President of Turkmenistan as the Guest of the Chair, and the Presidents of Belarus, Iran and Mongolia who are observers in the organisation also participated.</p>
<p>What the SCO implies for India <i>Financial Express</i> July 12, 2023</p>	<p>At the July 04, 2023 summit, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi denounced China's Belt Road Initiative (BRI), which runs into conflict with Delhi's territorial claims over Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, and it say in the South Asian region. He stressed that connectivity projects must not pose a potential threat to sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states.</p>
<p>China view on SCO summit: Iran welcome, need to 'save' group from India <i>Hemant Adlakha</i> <i>The Indian Express</i> July 11, 2023</p>	<p>Foreign Policy analysts in China have welcomed Iran's entry (Paywall), saying it can "prevent India from completely destroying the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)." In a popular Left-leaning social media platform, a blog by Xusheng (Empty Voice) "accused" India of spreading disharmony within the SCO, as being the host and only member country to openly oppose the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and unwilling to support the initiative to set up an SCO Development Bank.</p>
<p>Despite differences, India has scored with a consensus declaration at the SCO summit <i>Ashwani Mahajan</i> <i>Moneycontrol</i> July 10, 2023</p>	<p>The New Delhi Declaration at the end of the summit, underling the broad consensus, was carefully worded to indicate differences on two major issues, namely Belt Road Initiative (BRI) and Development Strategy. Apart from New Delhi Declaration, other agreements signed included the Memorandum of Obligations of the Republic of Belarus and statements on deradicalisation and digital transformation, among others.</p>

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<p>SCO summit issues document on deradicalisation The Economic Times July 05, 2023</p>	<p>Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit held under India's presidency issued a standalone declaration on de-radicalisation (Paywall) and decided to further develop cooperation in countering radicalisation that leads to terrorism, separatism and extremism. They will, among other efforts, share experiences and best practices in accordance with the SCO Charter and generally accepted principles and international law.</p>
<p>PM Modi raises pressing global issues and calls for increased cooperation at SCO summit <i>Umanath Singh</i> News on Air July 05, 2023</p>	<p>Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the virtual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and raised pressing issues like terrorism, climate change and others. During his address, he also raised the issue of the food, oil, and fertiliser crises prevailing in the world and called for decisive action against the threats of terrorism and extremism.</p>
<p>Joint statements on radicalisation leading to terrorism, digital transformation adopted under India's SCO presidency <i>Archana Raj</i> NewsX July 04, 2023</p>	<p>The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) leaders, under India's presidency, adopted a Delhi Declaration and two thematic joint statements on countering radicalisation and digital transformation. They also signed 10 decisions aimed at furthering cooperation among SCO nations. India's presidency focused on involving stakeholders beyond the government, leading to the organisation of various meetings, activities, and events over the past nine months.</p>
<p>Iran joins SCO as India hosts summit <i>Shashank Mattoo</i> Livemint July 04, 2023</p>	<p>Iran joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) at its 23rd leaders' summit, hosted virtually by India as chairman of the grouping. Iran's inclusion is set to give the West Asian nation more breathing room as it looks to break out of its diplomatic isolation after the collapse of its nuclear agreement with the U.S.</p>

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