CURRENT EVENTS 20 October 2026

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meets Iranian VP and Tajik PM at SCO Summit

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held bilateral meetings with Iranian Vice-President and Tajikistan Prime Minister on the sidelines of the SCO Heads of Government meeting in Dushanbe.

High-level diplomatic and defence engagements between India and Central/West Asian partner nations at multilateral regional summits.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** met Iranian First Vice-President **Mohammad Reza Aref** on **October 20, 2026**, in Dushanbe.
- The bilateral discussions took place on the sidelines of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** (SCO) Heads of Government meeting.
- Rajnath Singh also met Tajikistan Prime Minister **Qohir Rosulzoda** to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation and defence ties.
- The diplomatic meetings were held in **Dushanbe**, the capital of Tajikistan, on Tuesday.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** (SCO) was founded on **June 15, 2001**, in Shanghai, China, succeeding the Shanghai Five mechanism.

India became a full member state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in **2017** during the **Astana summit**.

The headquarters of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is located in **Tashkent**, Uzbekistan.

Iran officially became the ninth full member state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation at the **2023** virtual summit.

Tajikistan is a Central Asian landlocked nation bordered by Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, China, and Afghanistan, with Dushanbe as its capital.

India's **Chabahar Port** development project in Iran serves as a crucial trade and transit gateway to Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Iranian and Tajik leaders in Dushanbe at the SCO Heads of Government meeting.

Syllabus Relevance: Important for TNPSC Group 1 and 2 questions on international groupings, India's foreign policy, and bilateral diplomatic engagements.

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