

PAKISTAN TO TAKE PART IN CLOSING CEREMONY OF SCO ANTI-TERROR EXERCISE HOSTED BY INDIA

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: SCO and India

Anti-terrorism drills: The joint anti-terrorist exercise “Manesar Anti-Terror 2022” began at the NSG Manesar Garrison from October 8. [Twitter/@nsgblackcats](https://twitter.com/nsgblackcats)

Pakistan has been invited to the closing ceremony, on October 13, of the ongoing Joint Anti-Terror Exercise (JATE) within the ambit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) being hosted by India, official and diplomatic sources confirmed.

“Pakistan delegation has been extended an invitation for the closing ceremony on the last day of JATE ‘Manesar Anti-terror 2022’,” a diplomatic source said, which was also confirmed by official sources.

The National Security Guards (NSG) is hosting the multinational JATE “Manesar Anti-Terror 2022”, under the framework of SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), at the NSG Manesar Garrison.

It’s understood that a Pakistan team is participating in the event as a member of SCO, an official source said. India also participated in the RATS meet that Pakistan had organised last year, the source noted. An Indian delegation had participated in the closing ceremony of the two-week JATE-2021 hosted by Pakistan at National Counter Terrorism Centre, Pabbi, in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, in September 2021.

The exercise is aimed at exchanging expertise, best practices and build synergy between the Counter Terrorism Forces of the SCO RATS member countries to enhance capabilities for conducting anti-terrorist operations and countering other security threats collectively, the NSG said in a statement.

In May, counter-terror officials of Pakistan, Russia, China and four Central Asian countries met in Delhi under the structure as India assumed its role as Chairperson of the SCO-RATS mechanism in October 2021.

JATE is an annual counter terrorist exercise held within the framework of the SCO RATS.

“Stage-2 of the Exercise is being conducted from October 8 to 13 at NSG Manesar Garrison, in which eight representatives from NCTF of Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Uzbekistan, Russian Federation and NSG of Republic of India are participating,” a statement issued by NSG on Sunday stated.

The exercise will be witnessed by four “observers” from Executive Committee (EC) of RATS and one observer from State Committee for National Security of Tajikistan.

It will culminate in a closing ceremony which will be attended by high level delegations from EC RATS, including permanent representatives, delegates from SCO member countries, representatives of the diplomatic missions of the SCO member countries in India, representatives of International organisations collaborating with RATS SCO and national delegates from India, NSG said.

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