

## India Hosts SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh chaired the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi. The meeting included the participation from Defence Ministers of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Pakistan's Defence Minister participated virtually. Matters related to regional peace and security, counter-terrorism efforts, and effective multilateralism were extensively discussed. In his opening remarks, Shri Rajnath Singh stressed on the need to focus on the common agenda to ensure a secure, stable and prosperous region while asserting that India views SCO as an important entity to promote defense cooperation among member states. On the sidelines of the meeting, important bilateral talks were also held between Indian Defence Minister and his counterparts including the Defence Minister of China. Shri Singh reiterated that relations between India and China are premised on peace and tranquility at the borders, and that all issues at the LAC need to be resolved in accordance with existing bilateral agreements and commitments.