PM to inaugurate First SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum on 20 November

Three-day Forum to bring together scholars, academics, experts and cultural representatives to explore the shared civilisational heritage of SCO countries

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the First Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum on 20 November 2026 at around 5:30 PM at Purana Qila, New Delhi. He will also address the gathering on the occasion.

Being held from 20 to 22 November 2026, the Forum aims to celebrate the rich and interconnected civilisational heritage of the region, strengthen people-to-people ties and promote cross-cultural dialogue and cooperation.

The initiative builds upon the proposal made by the Prime Minister at the SCO Summit in Tianjin, China in 2025 to establish a dedicated platform for civilisational dialogue under the SCO framework. The proposal was subsequently welcomed in the Bishkek Declaration of SCO.

The inaugural ceremony will feature “Civilisations in Conversation - Cultural Show”, a presentation combining music, dance, visual storytelling and narration. Based on the theme “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - The World Is One Family”, it will highlight cultural connections across India and Eurasia.

The Forum will also feature exhibitions showcasing India's archaeological, artistic and literary heritage titled “ASTITVA – The Essence of Our Existence.” It will offer an immersive account of Delhi's history through archaeological evidence dating from 1200 BCE to 1200 CE, including excavated remains, artefacts, architectural fragments and other significant discoveries. The “Mahabharat Scroll Pavilion - Anant: A Rare 18th Century Mahabharata Scroll” will showcase an illustrated scroll reflecting India's rich epic and artistic traditions.

Four thematic sessions will be held on 21 and 22 November, bringing together scholars, academics, subject experts and cultural representatives. Discussions will cover cultural expressions such as music and performing arts, textiles, cuisine, traditional games; shared

traditions in art and architecture; language and literary traditions, including scripts and manuscripts; and monastic trails and philosophical traditions.

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