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SCOPE (Standing Conference of Public Enterprises)

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SCOPE (Standing Conference of Public Enterprises)

SCOPE is the shared voice of India's public sector firms. It speaks for them at home and at world forums. It took its apex role in 1973 and won formal recognition in 1976.

What it is An apex body of public sector enterprises (PSEs), set up as a registered society.

Key dates Apex body role from 10 April 1973; Union Cabinet recognition on 8 November 1976.

WhereSCOPE Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

In the news It co-hosted an AI summit with ITDC and LBSNAA on 13 to 15 July 2026.

SCOPE: the basics

1 What is SCOPE?

SCOPE is the apex body of India's public sector enterprises. Its full name is the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises. An apex body is the top body that speaks for a whole group.

A public sector enterprise (PSE) is a firm owned mainly by the government. SCOPE was formed to help such firms do better and compete well.

Is SCOPE a government office?

No, it is not. SCOPE is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. A society is a group of members who join for a shared aim.

Its money comes from member fees, gifts, grants and other sources.

Who can join SCOPE?

Firms of more than one kind can join. The form to join asks which kind the applicant is:

- A Government of India enterprise.
- A State Government enterprise.
- Any other body.

What does SCOPE aim to do?

Its vision is to help members become **globally competitive** in a market-driven world. Its mission is to help members improve their **overall performance**.

SCOPE sees its task in two parts:

- **Inside:** it helps member firms improve their total performance.
- **Outside:** it carries their views and advice to the people and the government.

Where is it based?

Its main office is the SCOPE Complex on Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

Quick check 1. SCOPE is a department of the Ministry of Finance. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: scopeonline.in; indiankanoon.org

Sources: scopeonline.in

2 When did SCOPE begin, and when was it recognised?

SCOPE took the role of apex body on 10 April 1973. The government gave it formal recognition on 8 November 1976. Its roots go back to 1970.

What was New Horizon?

New Horizon was the society that later became SCOPE. It was set up in New Delhi on 29 September 1970. Its first aim was to help people see what the public sector gives the nation.

How did New Horizon become SCOPE?

Over time, its aims grew wider. So New Horizon took a new name, SCOPE. On 10 April 1973, SCOPE took on the role of apex body for central public sector enterprises (CPSEs).

Who gave SCOPE formal recognition?

The Union Cabinet did. The Government of India gave this recognition on 8 November 1976. It came by a decision of the Cabinet. That was about 3 years and 7 months after April 1973.

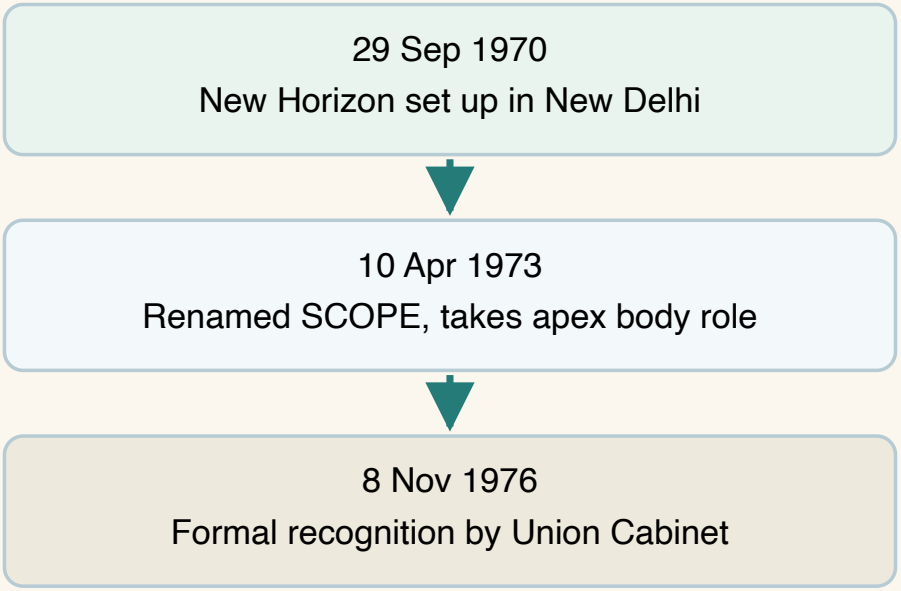


Illustration: Three dates, three steps, from the dates in this card.

> **Quick check 2.** SCOPE got formal recognition from the Union Cabinet in 1973. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: indiankanoon.org; scopeonline.in

3 What work does SCOPE do at home?

SCOPE speaks up for public firms before the government and the rule-making bodies. This work is called **policy advocacy**. It is one of SCOPE's key goals.

What are its four pillars?

SCOPE now groups its work under four pillars:

1. **Policy Advocacy**

2. **Programs & Workshops**
3. **Capacity Building**
4. **Skill Development & Brand Building**

Capacity building means raising the skills of people and firms. Brand building means making member firms better known.



Illustration: The four pillars named in this card.

Which ministries does it work with?

SCOPE works closely with these:

- The **Department of Public Enterprises** (DPE), Ministry of Finance.
- The Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Which watchdog bodies does it deal with?

It takes up members' issues with legal and rule-making bodies. Examples are:

- **CIC**, the Central Information Commission.
- **CVC**, the Central Vigilance Commission.
- **CCI**, the Competition Commission of India.

These bodies set or check rules in their own areas. SCOPE tells them what worries its members.

Does it study issues too?

Yes, it does. SCOPE runs joint studies with colleges and expert groups. Topics include women's empowerment, climate change, leadership, skills and digital tools.

What are some examples of this work?

- **Council of Indian Employers (CIE):** SCOPE sits on it with the All India Organisation of Employers and the Employers Federation of India.
- **RTI meet in Leh:** SCOPE held a National Meet on the RTI Act in Leh, Ladakh. Over 75 senior officials from 35 PSEs took part.
- **RTI message:** the meet called RTI the legal duty of every PSE. RTI means the Right to Information.

> **Quick check 3.** Capacity Building is one of SCOPE's four pillars. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: scopeonline.in

SCOPE at work and abroad

4 How does SCOPE speak for India abroad?

SCOPE speaks for Indian employers at world forums. Here, employers means the firms that hire workers.

At which world forums?

- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)**.
- The **United Nations (UN)**.
- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**.
- The **International Organisation of Employers (IOE)**.

What is a tripartite forum?

A tripartite forum brings three sides to one table. They are the government, the employers and the workers. SCOPE sits on the employers' side.

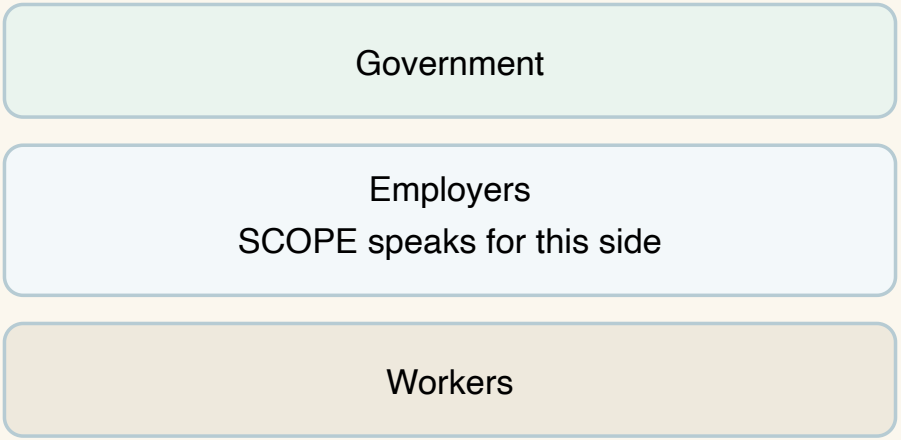


Illustration: Three sides meet at one table. SCOPE sits with the employers.

Who heads SCOPE's staff?

The Director General (DG) heads the staff. In July 2026, the DG was **Atul Sobti**. His other roles are below:

- Member of the ILO Governing Body in Geneva.
- Member of the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- Member of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).
- Earlier, Chairman & Managing Director of BHEL, a Maharatna PSE.

Who has served as Chairperson?

Heads of public firms have held this post. Two examples follow:

- **Soma Mondal**, Chairman of SAIL, served as Chairperson of SCOPE.
- **Dr. K. P. Mahadevaswamy** is listed as Chairman. He became CMD of NBCC (India) Ltd on 1 October 2023.

Quick check 4. SCOPE speaks for the workers' side at the ILO. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: scopeonline.in

Sources: scopeonline.in

5 What are the SCOPE Awards for Excellence?

They are SCOPE's own prizes for fine work in public firms. They were first given for the year 1996-97. They honour both firms and single leaders.

What do the awards try to do?

- Promote excellence and all-round growth where public money is invested.
- Support the growth of people who work in PSEs.
- Recognise outstanding work by firms and individuals.
- Push firms and leaders to aim higher.

Which categories are there?

Category	Who can win
Institutional Category I	Maharatna and Navratna PSEs
Institutional Category II	Miniratna I and II PSEs
Institutional Category III	Other profit-making PSEs
Individual Leadership	One for each of the three groups above

Category	Who can win
Special Institutional Award	Turnaround
Special award	Outstanding Woman Manager in PSEs

Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna are status labels for public firms. A turnaround firm is one that moved from loss back to health.

SCOPE Awards for Excellence

Category I: Maharatna & Navratna

Category II: Miniratna I & II

Category III: other profit-making

Individual Leadership

Special: Turnaround

Outstanding Woman Manager

Illustration: The award categories listed in this card.

Who picks the winners?

These are the legacy SCOPE Excellence Awards. A Panel of Judges picked the winners. Justice R.C. Lahoti, a former Chief Justice of India, was its chair in that period. SCOPE's current brochure says the newer Eminence Awards subsumed the earlier awards. A firm named Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India helped the panel judge.

Who has won?

Here are the 2010-11 firm winners:

- **Category I:** ONGC Limited and GAIL (India) Limited.
- **Category II:** Goa Shipyard Limited.
- **Category III:** Petronet LNG Limited.

How are they different from the MoU awards?

Do not mix the two. The MoU Excellence Awards come from the ministry and the DPE. The SCOPE Excellence Awards come from SCOPE itself.

Both were given at one event at Vigyan Bhawan on 15 December 2010. The Prime Minister was present there.

> **Quick check 5.** The SCOPE Awards for Excellence were first given for the year 1996-97. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: scopeonline.in; dpe.gov.in

SCOPE and leaders

6 How does SCOPE train public sector leaders?

SCOPE runs long training courses for senior PSE staff. Two of its flagship courses are DAKSH and the Advanced Global Leadership Program (AGLP).

What is DAKSH?

DAKSH is a 12-month learning journey for senior PSE staff. SCOPE runs it with the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) of the Government of India.

- **Full form:** Development of Aspiration, Knowledge, Succession & Harmony.
- **First batch:** it ended with a convocation, the DAKSH Dikshant Samaroh.
- **Third cohort:** a six-day stay at ISB, Hyderabad, with 72 executives from 21 PSEs.
- **Topics:** purpose-driven leadership, digital and AI-enabled change, and strategic renewal.

A cohort is a group of learners who study together.

What is the AGLP?

The AGLP is SCOPE's flagship course with IIM Calcutta. It trains top staff of public firms. The 8th AGLP was held in 2019. A newer round, AGLP 2.0, runs over three weeks. It includes a study tour abroad.

What did SCOPE study with a US group?

SCOPE teamed up with the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL), USA. They signed an MoU on 7 August 2020. An MoU is a written deal between partners.

- **Aim:** find gaps in leadership in PSEs.
- **Report:** “Future-Fluent Nation Builders: State of Leadership in Public Sector Enterprises”.
- **Release:** it came out during Public Sector Day events.

What was the AI Champions summit of July 2026?

It was a three-day AI summit for public sector leaders. Its full name was the **AI Champions for Digital Governance Summit**. SCOPE held it with ITDC and LBSNAA.

- **When and where:** 13 to 15 July 2026, at Hotel Samrat, New Delhi.
- **Who came:** CMDs, MDs and directors of PSUs, with senior ITDC officials.
- **Who spoke:** Atul Sobti, DG of SCOPE, spoke at the opening.
- **What it taught:** hands-on AI use for tasks like drafting and document analysis.

ITDC is the India Tourism Development Corporation. LBSNAA is the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration.

> **Quick check 6.** SCOPE organised the July 2026 AI summit on its own. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: scopeonline.in; itdc.co.in

Sources: devdiscourse.com

SCOPE in the exam hall Exam practice

7 How do exams test SCOPE?

Exams mostly test SCOPE's dates, its legal form and its role. Watch out for these traps.

What are the traps?

1. **Three dates, three events.** 1970 is New Horizon. 1973 is the apex role. 1976 is Cabinet recognition.
2. **10 April is not 1976.** The 10 April date belongs to 1973. Recognition came in November 1976.
3. **Legal form.** SCOPE is a registered society, not a ministry or a regulator.
4. **Whose voice?** At the ILO, SCOPE stands with employers, not workers.
5. **Which award?** SCOPE gives its own awards. The MoU awards come from the DPE.
6. **Who hosted in 2026?** Three bodies did: ITDC, SCOPE and LBSNAA.

How can you remember the dates?

Think of the years 70, 73 and 76. Read them as name, role and recognition.

Sources: indiankanoon.org; scopeonline.in

Review your 6 understanding checks

Review the feedback after each answer. The understanding-check score lasts for this page session.

Reset the checks when you want another attempt. This score is separate from the practice score below.

Questions to think through

Why is SCOPE not a government department?

It is a society set up by its members. They fund it with their fees. The government gave it formal recognition, but it stays a society.

Why does “recognised” point to 1976 and not 1973?

In 1973, SCOPE took up the apex role. The Cabinet’s formal nod came later, on 8 November 1976.

Why does SCOPE sit on the employers’ side?

Public firms hire workers, so they are employers. SCOPE speaks for these firms. Workers have their own voice at the same table.

Why would SCOPE co-host an AI summit?

Training leaders is part of its work. Capacity Building is one of its pillars. The summit built AI skills for public sector leaders.

Sources: indiankanoon.org; scopeonline.in

Practice MCQs

1. On what date did SCOPE (Standing Conference of Public Enterprises) come into existence?

A. 15 August 1976

B. 1 April 1969

C. 10 April 1973

D. 26 January 1980

See answer ↓

2. On what date did the Government of India give SCOPE formal recognition by a Union Cabinet decision?

A. 10 April 1973

B. 29 September 1970

C. 8 November 1976

D. 1 October 1966

See answer ↓

3. Under which law is SCOPE registered?

A. Societies Registration Act, 1860

B. Indian Trusts Act, 1882

C. Co-operative Societies Act, 1912

D. Companies Act, 1956

See answer ↓

4. Which of these is NOT one of SCOPE's four pillars?

A. Policy Advocacy

B. Disinvestment Planning

C. Capacity Building

D. Skill Development & Brand Building

See answer ↓

5. At forums such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), SCOPE speaks for which side?

A. Workers' unions

B. State governments

C. Employers

D. The Union Government

See answer ↓

6. For which year were the SCOPE Awards for Excellence first instituted?

A. 1996-97

B. 1976-77

C. 2010-11

D. 1973-74

See answer ↓

7. SCOPE runs its 12-month DAKSH leadership programme for senior PSE executives with which body?

A. Department of Personnel and Training

B. NITI Aayog

C. Union Public Service Commission

D. Capacity Building Commission

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **C.** The correct answer is **10 April 1973**. On that day, SCOPE took on the role of apex body of central public sector enterprises. Formal recognition came later, on 8 November 1976. Memory hook: 73 for the start, 76 for the stamp. ↑ Q1
2. **C.** The correct answer is **8 November 1976**. 10 April 1973 is when SCOPE took the apex role. 29 September 1970 is when New Horizon, its earlier form, was set up. ↑ Q2
3. **A.** The correct answer is **Societies Registration Act, 1860**. SCOPE is a society, not a company or a government department. It was first registered as New Horizon in 1970. ↑ Q3
4. **B.** The correct answer is **Disinvestment Planning**. The four pillars are Policy Advocacy, Programs & Workshops, Capacity Building, and Skill Development & Brand Building. ↑ Q4
5. **C.** The correct answer is **Employers**. Public firms hire workers, so they are employers. SCOPE represents them at the ILO, UN, OECD and IOE. ↑ Q5
6. **A.** The correct answer is **1996-97**. The awards cover firms and individual leaders. 2010-11 is a later award year, with winners such as ONGC and GAIL. ↑ Q6
7. **D.** The correct answer is **Capacity Building Commission**. DAKSH stands for Development of Aspiration, Knowledge, Succession & Harmony. Its third cohort studied at ISB, Hyderabad. ↑ Q7

Quick-check answers

1. **False.** SCOPE is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It works closely with the DPE but is not part of it. ↑ 1
2. **False.** In 1973 it took the apex role. Formal recognition by a Cabinet decision came on 8 November 1976. ↑ 2
3. **True.** The four are Policy Advocacy, Programs & Workshops, Capacity Building, and Skill Development & Brand Building. ↑ 3
4. **False.** SCOPE represents employers, meaning the public firms, at forums such as the ILO. ↑ 4
5. **True.** They were instituted for 1996-97 and cover firms and individual leaders. ↑ 5

6. **False.** Three bodies held it together: ITDC, SCOPE and LBSNAA. ↑ 6

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