



04 July 2024

National and International News

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| <p>Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)</p> | <p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India has officially announced its participation in the annual Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.</li> </ul> <p><b>About SCO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Establishment:</b> June 15, 2001, in Shanghai, China.</li> <li><b>Coverage:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World's largest regional organization by geography and population.</li> <li>Covers about 80% of the Eurasian landmass and 40% of the world population.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Objective:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote cooperation and peace among member states.</li> <li>Foster a new democratic, fair, and rational international political and economic order.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Founding Members:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kazakhstan,</li> <li>China,</li> <li>Kyrgyzstan,</li> <li>Russia,</li> <li>Tajikistan, and</li> <li>Uzbekistan.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Expansion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India and Pakistan joined in 2017.</li> <li>Iran joined in 2023.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Total: 9 member states.</b></li> <li><b>Observer States:</b> Mongolia, Belarus, and Afghanistan.</li> <li><b>Resources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Controls 20% of the world's oil reserves.</li> <li>Controls 44% of the world's natural gas reserves.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Organizational Structure:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supreme Decision-Making Body: Heads of State Council (HSC).</li> <li>Meets once a year.</li> <li>Adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organization.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Permanent Bodies:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SCO Secretariat based in Beijing.</li> <li>Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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# Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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|                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promotes cooperation against terrorism, separatism, and extremism.</li> <li>● <b>Official Languages:</b> Chinese and Russian.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>National Test House (NTH)</b> | <p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The union government is working on making the <b>National Test House (NTH) as the apex certification body for all Indian products.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About NTH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Establishment and Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Formerly known as the <b>Government Test House.</b></li> <li>○ Established in <b>1912.</b></li> <li>○ Rich legacy as <b>India's largest multi-location multidisciplinary industrial central government testing laboratory.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Facilities and Services:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Specializes in testing, calibration, and quality evaluation related to industry, commerce, and trade.</b></li> <li>○ Complies with international and national standards.</li> <li>○ Provides testing, evaluation, and calibration of raw materials and finished products.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Branch Locations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kolkata,</li> <li>○ Mumbai,</li> <li>○ Chennai,</li> <li>○ Ghaziabad,</li> <li>○ Jaipur,</li> <li>○ Guwahati, and</li> <li>○ Varanasi.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Functions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Test and evaluation</b> of materials, products, equipment, modules, systems, and sub-systems across all branches of Science &amp; Technology.</li> <li>○ <b>Test and Certification</b> of Welders under the Central Authority for Testing and Certification of Welders.</li> <li>○ <b>Assists industries in developing indigenous products for export promotion and import substitution.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Supports industries' quality assurance programs.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Assists BIS in the formulation of National Standards.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Provides R&amp;D support</b> in Test Engineering.</li> <li>○ <b>Assists NABL in the accreditation of Testing &amp; Calibration Laboratories in India.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Administrative Details:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Functions as a <b>subordinate office under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food &amp; Public Distribution, and the Department of Consumer Affairs.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>Exercise MAITREE</b>          | <b>Why in the news?</b>   |



- The Indian Army contingent has departed to participate in the joint military Exercise MAITREE with Thailand.

About Exercise MAITREE:

- **13th Edition:** India-Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE.
- **Location:** Fort Vachirapakan, Tak Province, Thailand.
- **Previous Edition:** Conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya in September 2019.
- **Main Representation:** Battalion of the LADAKH SCOUTS
- **Aim and Objectives:**
  - **Primary Aim:** To foster Military Cooperation between India and Thailand.
  - **Key Focus:** Enhancing combined capabilities in executing Joint Counter Insurgency/Terrorist Operations in Jungle and Urban Environments.
  - **Framework:** Operations conducted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

Saryu River



Why in the news?

- Efforts to drain an artificial lake formed in the Saryu River have failed for the second consecutive day, posing a significant threat.

About Saryu River:

- **States:** Flows through Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Alternative Names:** Also known as the Sarayu or Sarju River.
- **Significance:**
  - Mentioned in the Vedas and the Ramayana.
  - Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Rama, is situated on its banks.
- **Course:**
  - Originates from the foothills of the Himalayas.
  - Flows through Kapkot, Bageshwar, and Seraghat towns.
  - Discharges into the Sharada River at Pancheshwar on the India-Nepal border.
  - The Sharada River (Kali River) flows into the Ghaghara River in Sitapur District, Uttar Pradesh.
  - The lower Ghaghara is known as Sarayu, especially as it flows through Ayodhya.

Steel Slag Road

Why in the news?

- The member of Niti Aayog in the First International Conference on Steel Slag Road released guidelines for the utilization and processing of steel slag.
- It is jointly organized by CSIR-CRRI and PHDCCI at New-Delhi.

About Steel Slag Road:



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- **Industrial byproduct from steel manufacturing.**
- Produced in large quantities during **steel-making using electric arc furnaces** or by **smelting iron ore in a basic oxygen furnace.**
- **Primarily consists of calcium, magnesium, manganese, and aluminium silicates and oxides.**
- **Applications of Steel Slag:**
  - **Environmental Remediation:**
    - Acts as a **barrier material for waste sites, preventing heavy metal leaching.**
    - **High oxide mineral content** forces **heavy metals to precipitate out of solution in water runoff.**
    - **Successfully treats acidic water discharges** from abandoned mines.
  - **Construction:**
    - Replaces coarse aggregate due to higher impact and crushing strength.
    - Offers **better anti-skid capacity** for road surfaces.

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