



04 July 2024

National and International News

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

Why in the news?

- The union government is working on making the **National Test House (NTH)** as the apex certification body for all Indian products.

About NTH:

- **Establishment and Legacy:**
 - Formerly known as the **Government Test House**.
 - Established in **1912**.
 - Rich legacy as **India's largest multi-location multidisciplinary industrial central government testing laboratory**.
- **Facilities and Services:**
 - **Specializes in testing, calibration, and quality evaluation related to industry, commerce, and trade**.
 - Complies with international and national standards.
 - Provides testing, evaluation, and calibration of raw materials and finished products.
- **Branch Locations:**
 - Kolkata,
 - Mumbai,
 - Chennai,
 - Ghaziabad,
 - Jaipur,
 - Guwahati, and
 - Varanasi.
- **Functions:**
 - **Test and evaluation** of materials, products, equipment, modules, systems, and sub-systems across all branches of Science & Technology.
 - **Test and Certification** of Welders under the Central Authority for Testing and Certification of Welders.
 - **Assists industries in developing indigenous products for export promotion and import substitution**.
 - **Supports industries' quality assurance programs**.
 - **Assists BIS** in the formulation of National Standards.
 - **Provides R&D support** in Test Engineering.
 - **Assists NABL** in the accreditation of Testing & Calibration Laboratories in India.
- **Administrative Details:**
 - Functions as a **subordinate office under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**, and the **Department of Consumer Affairs**.

Exercise MAITREE

Why in the news?

- 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 Vachirapukan, 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:

- **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.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- 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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