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CURRENT AFFAIR

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SCO Summit 2023

- ➔ India recently hosted the **23rd meeting** of the Council of Heads of State (CHS) of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**.
- ➔ India tried to secure its interests in this. It emphasized the need to fight cross-border terrorism which was a strong message to Pakistan.
- ➔ During this, Iran officially gained membership of SCO as its 9th member country.

Member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation



- ➔ The theme of India's chairmanship is **'Towards a SECURE SCO'**.
- ➔ The word SECURE is derived from the acronym given by the Indian Prime Minister at the Qingdao Summit of SCO held in the year 2018.
- ➔ **SECURE** stands for S: Security, E: Economic development, C: Connectivity, U: Unity, R: Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, E: Environmental protection.
- ➔ India declined to be part of the BRI (Belt and Road Initiative), referring to "interested member states" in the SCO members' economic-strategy statement.
- ➔ India's opposition to the BRI stems from including projects in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), which India regards as a violation of its sovereignty.
- ➔ The Indian Prime Minister highlighted the importance of connectivity among SCO member states to enhance mutual trade and trust.

- ➔ However, they stressed the need to uphold the fundamental principles of the **SCO** Charter, but also specifically to safeguard respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states.
- ➔ The Prime Minister criticized countries that employ cross-border terrorism as an instrument of their policies and provide shelter to terrorists.
- ➔ He urged the **SCO** not to hesitate in condemning such countries and stressed the importance of consistency in addressing these critical issues.
- ➔ The Chinese President, marking the 10th anniversary of the BRI, referred to his new Global Security Initiatives (GSI), which called for political solutions to international and regional conflicts to establish a solid security shield in the region.
- ➔ **SCO** is a permanent intergovernmental international organization. It is a political, economic and military organization whose goal is to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.

- ➔ It was built in the year 2001. The SCO Charter was signed in the year 2002 and came into force in the year 2003.
- ➔ **Objective:** To strengthen mutual trust and goodwill among the member countries.
- ➔ **SCO Secretariat:** Its secretariat is in Beijing, where informational, analytical and organizational support is provided.
- ➔ **Official language:** The official working languages of the SCO Secretariat are Russian and Chinese.



Anti Defection Law

- In **Maharashtra**, **NCP leader Ajit Pawar** rebelled against his own party and became the Deputy Chief Minister in the Shinde-Fadnavis government. Along with him, 8 other NCP MLAs also took oath as ministers. After the whole incident, the proverb '**Aaya Ram Gaya Ram**' has again come into the limelight.
- **Ajit Pawar** claimed the **support of 40 MLAs** but the numbers were not visible in his meeting. In such a situation, in order to avoid the defection law once again, the tussle is going on in both groups to make the figures in their favour.



- ➔ In the last few years, there has been a spurt in cases of defections in Maharashtra. In the year 2022, **Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde** left the party along with two-thirds of his own party's MLAs. He joined the government in alliance with the BJP.
- ➔ He joined the government in alliance with the BJP. Due to this **Shiv Sena** got divided into two factions. Of these, one group sided with Eknath Shinde and the other with Uddhav Thackeray. Eknath Shinde took oath as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- ➔ **On 2 July 2023, NCP's Ajit Pawar** along with his party's MLAs became the Deputy Chief Minister in the Shinde-Fadnavis government.
- ➔ NCP has a total of 53 MLAs. If Ajit Pawar is to avoid disqualification, he should have the support of at least 37 MLAs. Ajit Pawar has claimed that more than 40 MLAs are in his support.
- ➔ The 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, popularly known as the '**Anti-Defection Law**', was introduced in the year 1985 by the 52nd Constitutional Amendment.

- ➔ It defines '**what is defection**' and provides for the disqualification of members for defection.
- ➔ Its objective is to disqualify the people's representatives who change parties for the greed of political gain and position so that the stability of the Parliament is maintained.
- ➔ **A public representative can be disqualified under the anti-defection law:**
 - If an elected member voluntarily gives up the membership of a political party.
 - If an independently elected member joins a political party.
 - If a member votes against the party's side in the House.
 - If a member abstains from voting.
 - If a nominated member joins any political party after the expiry of six months.
- ➔ **Views of various committees regarding anti-defection law:**

Dinesh Goswami Committee

- In the year 1990, the Dinesh Goswami Committee had said that the decision to disqualify representatives under the anti-defection law should be decided by the President/Governor on the advice of the Election Commission.

170th Report of the Law Commission:

- It may be noted that in the year 1999, the Law Commission in its 170th report had said that if two or more parties form an alliance before the elections and contest the elections, then that alliance should be considered as one party in anti-defection provisions.
- Political parties should issue a whip (order not to vote in favour of the party or disqualification in case of not voting for any party) only when the government is in danger.

Opinion of the Election Commission:

- The Election Commission is of the view that its own role should be comprehensive in this regard.
- Therefore, under the Tenth Schedule, provision should be made for decision-making by the President/Governor on the binding advice of the Commission.



India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway

- ➔ According to the **Union Ministry of Road and Transport**, about 70% of the construction work of the **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway** has been completed.
- ➔ In 2002, **former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee** proposed to connect India and Thailand via road. But after his government left in 2004, the project went on the back burner.




- ➔ It is a road connectivity project with South East Asia.
- ➔ The **1,360 km long highway** starts from Moreh in Manipur on the Indo-Myanmar border and runs through **Tamu (Myanmar)** to **Mae Sot** in Thailand.
- ➔ The India-Myanmar Friendship Road forms the first section of the IMT Highway. It runs from the border of Tamu Moreh to **Kalemyo** and **Kalewa**. It was built with the assistance of the Government of India and was handed over to the Government of Myanmar in 2009.
- ➔ The project requires about 78 km of new roads and the upgradation of 400 km of existing roads.
- ➔ On the Indian side, the project is being implemented by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with its counterparts in Myanmar and Thailand and with budgetary allocation from the Ministry of Finance.
- ➔ The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway (IMT Highway), a **1,360 km long route**, is a highway under construction under India's Look East Policy that will connect **Moreh**, India through Myanmar to Mae Sot, Thailand. Also, it is proposed to be extended to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

- ➔ India's Look East Policy is an effort by the Government of India to develop and strengthen economic and strategic ties with the countries of Southeast Asia in order to strengthen its position as a regional power.
- ➔ The policy also serves to position India as a counterweight to the strategic influence of the People's **Republic of China** in the region.



Alluri Sitarama Raju

- ➔ The President recently addressed the closing ceremony of the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of **freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju** in Hyderabad.
- ➔ The President virtually inaugurated the **Alluri Sitarama Raju Smriti Vanam** at Bhimavaram. He also unveiled an animation film on the life of Sitarama Raju. Telangana Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Chief Minister K.K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy were also present on the occasion.



अलूरी सीताराम राजू का जन्म 1897 में 4 जुलाई को हुआ था

क्रांतिकारी अल्लूरी सीताराम राजू

राजू ने अंग्रेजों के खिलाफ 1922-24 में रम्पा बगावत की अगुवाई की, जो आदिवासियों पर पाबंदियां लगा रहे थे	उन्हें स्थानीय लोग मन्यम वीरुदू कहते हैं, जिसका अर्थ जंगल का नायक होता है
राजू की अगुवाई में क्रांतिकारियों ने ईस्ट गोदावरी, विशाखापत्तनम और आंध्र प्रदेश के सीमावर्ती इलाकों में विरोध दर्ज कराया	साल 1922 में अंग्रेजों ने उन्हें चिंतापल्ली के जंगलों में घेरा, पेड़ से बांधा और गोली मारकर हत्या कर दी
	साल 1986 में भारतीय डाक विभाग की ओर से उनके सम्मान में एक डाक टिकट जारी किया गया

तेलुगू फिल्म अलूरी सीताराम राजू उनके जीवन पर आधारित है

- ➔ **President Draupadi Murmu** recited the song "Telugu Veera Levara...Deeksha Booni Sagar (Take Oath and Go Ahead)" from the Telugu film Alluri Sitaram Raju and Sri Sri on the occasion.
- ➔ **Alluri Sitarama Raju** was born on July 4, 1897 AD (1898 in some sources) in Mogallu village near Bhimavaram, in present-day Andhra Pradesh.
- ➔ After completing his schooling in his native village, he went to Visakhapatnam for higher education.
- ➔ At the age of 18, he took sanyas and by building an ashram in Krishnadevipet, engaged in meditation and meditation etc.
- ➔ The tribals considered him a saint who would liberate them from the humiliating existence of British officials.
- ➔ During the Non-Cooperation Movement, Sitaram Raju inspired tribals to settle disputes in local panchayats and boycott colonial courts.
- ➔ After some time, he became disillusioned with the **Gandhian movement** and in **August 1922**, he started the '**Rampa Rebellion**' against the British.

- ➔ **About 2800 tribes** lived in the Rampa administrative area, who used the '**Podu**' system in agriculture. '**Podu**' is farming done by cutting forests every year.
- ➔ '**Podu**' cultivation was banned under the 'Madras Forest Act, of 1882'.
- ➔ Against this order, the tribals started an armed rebellion, which is known as '**Manyam**'.
- ➔ These tribals refused to work as bonded labourers in the construction of roads and railway lines in hilly areas.
- ➔ **Sitarama Raju** demanded justice for them and resorted to guerrilla warfare against the British.
- ➔ On August 22, 1922, he launched his first attack at **Chintapalli**. Looted the weapons along with his 300 soldiers. After that attacked the police station of Krishnadevipeta and got Viraya Dora freed.
- ➔ To catch Sitaram Raju, the government employed two officers named Scart and Arthur on this task and announced a reward of Rs 10,000 for catching them alive or dead.

- ➔ **Sitaram Raju** surrendered because of the atrocities being committed by the British on the tribals, thinking that justice would be done to him.
- ➔ **On 7 May 1924**, he was falsely implicated and shot after being tied to a tree.
- ➔ He was cremated **on 8 May 1924**.
- ➔ For his valour and courage, he was awarded the title '**Manyam Veerudu**' (the hero of the jungle).
- ➔ Every year the Andhra Pradesh government celebrates his birth date, 4 July, as a state festival.



Ajit Agarkar

- The Board of Control for **Cricket in India (BCCI)** has appointed **Ajit Agarkar** as the chairman of the senior men's selection committee.
- **The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC)** comprising Sulakshana Naik, Ashok Malhotra and Jatin Paranjpe recommended Ajit Agarkar's name.

अजित अगरकर का करियर

टेस्ट

मैच 26 | रन 571
विकेट 58

वनडे

मैच 191 | रन 1269
विकेट 288

टी-20I

मैच 4 | रन 15
विकेट 3



- ➔ The post of chief selector has been lying vacant since the sacking of **Chetan Sharma** in **February 2023**.
- ➔ **Ajit Agarkar** has played **26 Tests, 191 ODIs** and **four T20Is** for India.
- ➔ He was part of the **2007 ICC World T20** winning team.
- ➔ Subroto Banerjee, Salil Ankola, Sreedharan Sharath and Shiv Sundar Das are the members of the men's selection committee.
- ➔ A formal decision to hike the remuneration of selectors will be taken during the Board's Apex Council meeting.

