

1. SCO RATS MEET

Topic: International Relations

In News: India is hosting SCO-RATS meet.

More on the Topic:

- The meeting is taking place **under the framework of the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure.**
- A major focus of the discussions was to be **on the situation in Afghanistan**, especially in dealing with the threat from terrorist groups active in the Taliban-ruled country.
- India is holding present chairmanship of RATS.
- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), is headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- It is **a permanent organ of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO)** which serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of **terrorism, separatism and extremism.**
- It specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence.



About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is **a permanent intergovernmental body** formed on an international basis to enhance the economic, military, and political cooperation in The Eurasian region.
- The SCO currently comprises eight Member States namely China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- It was created on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai (China).

Source: Indian Express

2.Kanheri Caves

Topic: Art and Culture

In News: The Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER) has inaugurated the Kanheri Caves on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.

More on the Topic:

- The Kanheri caves comprise more than 110 different rock-cut monolithic excavations and is one of the largest single excavations in the country.
- These excavations were primarily undertaken during the **Hinayana phase of Buddhism** but also has several examples of the **Mahayana stylistic architecture** as well as few printings of the **Vajrayana order**.
- The name Kanheri is derived from 'Kanhagiri' in Prakrit and occurs in the Nasik inscription of **the Satavahana ruler Vasisthiputra Pulumavi**.



More About Kanheri Caves:

- Inside the Kanheri caves, **there is a large Vihara (prayer hall) and stupas**. The caves consist of about 109 Buddha Viharas, specially designed for the Bhikshus.
- There are magnificent **relics of Buddha and the Bodhisattvas and pillared corridors** of the prayer halls.
- **Chaitya Griha serves the purpose of worship halls**. Buddhist shrines featuring Buddhist paintings and carvings on them. There are more than 30 unfinished paintings of Buddha.

Source: Indian Express

3. “GatiShakti Sanchar” Portal

Topic: e-Governance

In News: Department of Telecommunication has Launched “GatiShakti Sanchar” Portal for Centralised Right of Way (RoW) approvals.

More on the Topic:

- RoW is **the legal right, allowing online filing of application.** Basically, this is **a framework** for setting up telecom towers, laying fibre cables, settling disputes, and improve coordination among companies.
- The portal will enable applicants from various Telecom Service providers (TSPs) as well as Infrastructure providers (IPs) **to apply at a common single portal for Right of Way permissions** to lay down Optical Fibre Cable and for erecting mobile towers to State/UT Governments and local bodies.
- As it **smoothens the process of RoW permissions** as well as faster approvals; it is believed to facilitate easy rollout of 5G services, in which a Base Transceiver Station (BTS) is installed at very short intervals.
- For effective monitoring of RoW applications across the country, the portal even comes fitted with **a potent dashboard showing State and District wise pendency status.**

Significance of the portal:

- Fast laying of more Optical Fiber Cable and thus will **accelerate fiberization.**
- Increased tower density which will **enhance connectivity and improve the quality of various telecom services**
- Increased fiberization of telecom towers, thus ensuring **better Broadband speed,** across the country.

Source: PIB



4. Seoul Forest Declaration by 15th World Forestry Congress

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: The 15th World Forestry Congress concluded with adopting the Seoul Forest Declaration.



More on the Topic:

- The five-day congress is hosted by the **Food and Agriculture Organization** and held every six years to share worldwide forest-related and environmental problems, like climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification, and devise solutions through forests.
- **The first World Forestry Congress first held in Rome in 1926.**
- The Seoul Forest Declaration, prepared by the host country South Korea, was announced among the major outcomes.

Key highlights of the Seoul Forest Declaration:

- Future sustainable forest management responsibilities should be integrated among agencies and stakeholders.
- There is a need to build new partnerships, like the AFFIRM Mechanism, SAFE initiative and REDD+.
- It is important to establish **financing for sustainable forest management**. Investment in forest and landscape restoration globally needs to triple by 2030 to meet internationally agreed commitments and targets on restoring degraded land.
- **Circular Economy and Climate neutrality** is a must for sustainable future.
- There is a need to **utilise the potential of sustainably produced wood** as a renewable, recyclable and versatile material.
- **The health of humans and forests are closely tied** together and the degradation of forests will have serious negative impacts on the health and well-being of humans.
- **The circular economy** is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible.
- **Climate neutrality** refers to the idea of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by balancing those emissions so they are equal (or less than) the emissions that get removed through the planet's natural absorption.

Source: Business Standard

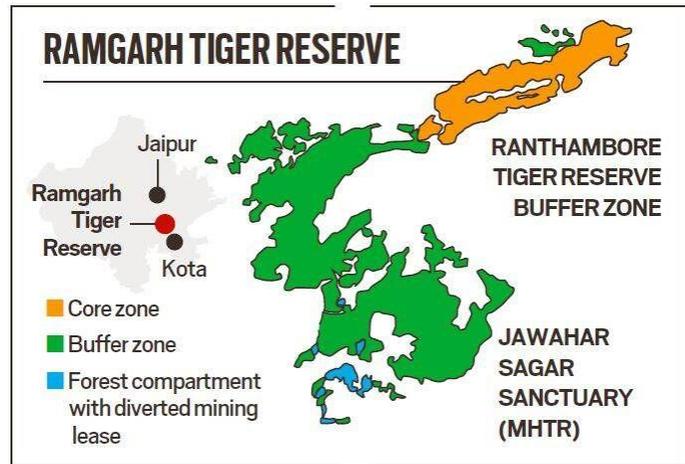
5. Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: The Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary in Rajasthan was notified as India's 52nd tiger reserve recently.

More on the Topic:

- It includes the tiger habitat between Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the northeast and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on the southern side and facilitates dispersal of tigers from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.
- The floristic diversity of this new tiger reserve makes it **an important area for research and education.**
- **Historic and cultural sites like Bhimlat, Ramgarh palace** would encourage eco tourism and provide employment opportunities to local communities.



Tiger Statistics:

- India has **more than 70% of the world's wild tigers.**
- India is in a leadership position on the tiger front globally.
- The Project Tiger, launched in 1973, has grown to more than 50 reserves amounting to almost 2.2% of the country's geographical area.

Source: Business Standard

6. Macolin Convention

Topic: International Affairs

In News: Macolin convention meeting was conducted recently.

More on the Topic:

- The Macolin Convention is the other name for the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions.
- It is a multi-lateral treaty aimed at checking match-fixing.

**Convention on the Manipulation
 of Sports Competitions
 (the Macolin Convention)**



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- The convention was concluded in Macolin, Switzerland in 2014.
- A major focus of the convention is to prevent and punish illegal sports betting operations and to prevent conflicts of interest between legal sports betting operators and sports organizations.

Source: Hindu
