



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

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Why is in news? Varanasi nominated as first-ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital

- **Varanasi** has been nominated as the **first-ever** Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) **Tourism and Cultural Capital during the period 2022-2023** at the 22nd Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of State in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- The nomination of Varanasi as the first ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital will **promote tourism, cultural and humanitarian** exchanges between India and the SCO member Countries.
- It also underlines country's ancient civilizational links with Member States of SCO especially the Central Asian Republics.
- **SCO**: The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic and security organization.
- In terms of geographic scope and population, it is the world's largest regional organization, covering approximately 60% of the area of Eurasia, 40% of the world population, and more than 30% of global GDP.
- The SCO is the successor to the Shanghai Five, a **mutual security agreement formed in 1996** between the People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.
- The SCO is governed by the **Heads of State Council (HSC)**, its **supreme decision-making body**, which meets once a year.
- **Members**: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan. **Observers**: Afghanistan, Belarus, Mongolia. **Dialogue partners**: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Nepal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Turkey.

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