

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 30, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **A rare 10th Century Chola-era stone inscription - was discovered in an agriculture field in the Pudukottai district.**
- ✓ The inscription on two prominent Tamil merchant guilds mentions the active participation of hundreds of merchants from all major Tamil kingdoms including the Chera, Chola, and Pandya in trade across South India.



- ✓ The stone tablet measuring seven feet in length and two feet in width was discovered in Thannagudi village near Iluppur in Pudukottai.
- ✓ The stone inscription, engraved with weapon symbols, was written in Tamil
- ✓ Based on the script's pattern and references, the inscription is dated to the period of Uttama Chola.
- ✓ The inscription mentioned the 14th regnal year of the Chola king, which dates back to 984.
- ✓ On one side of the stone slab, symbols such as weapons and royal accessories, such as a trident, sickle, sword, boomerang, and a royal umbrella, were engraved.
- ✓ This indicates that the merchant guilds had armed guards and royal privileges.
- ✓ After decoding the inscription, the stone tablet was found to have mentioned the names of Ainnurruvar and Valanjiyar, two prominent merchant guilds.

- ✓ These guilds had representatives from present-day Tiruvarur, Sivaganga, Kangeyam (Tiruppur), Dharmapuri, and Kodumbalur (Pudukottai) districts.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The first International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting of G-20 under the chairmanship of India – is being held in Chandigarh on January 30 and 31, 2023**



- ✓ Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Pashupati Kumar Paras inaugurated the meeting of the first International Financial Architecture Working Group of G-20
- ✓ International Financial Architecture Working Group is one of the important workstreams under the G20 Finance Track with a focus on strengthening the international financial architecture.
- ✓ The Working Group can deliberate upon how policy initiatives can address the worsening credit situation
- ✓ It also aims to address multiple challenges faced by vulnerable countries.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **A rare green comet, Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) – may become visible to the naked eye when it comes close to the Earth on February 2, after surviving its orbit around the Sun.**



- ✓ The comet appears distinctly green with a characteristic fuzzy coma and a faint hint of a tail.
- ✓ The finest view of the comet will be available in India on January 30 by 7.30 p.m.
- ✓ The comet's brilliance will gradually fade as it travels away from Earth.
- ✓ The comet last passed close to Earth 50,000 years ago.
- ✓ It has been captured in the skies above the Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle as it continues to leave behind a bright tail.
- ✓ The comet was moving between the orbits of Earth and Mars at a relative speed of 2,07,000 kilometers per hour.
- ✓ It will be 42 million kilometres from Earth, which is the closest it has been, as it continues its journey beyond the Solar System.
- ✓ Astronomers first spotted the comet using the wide-field survey camera at the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF) in the US, in March 2022.

OBITUARY

- **Odisha's Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das - died after being shot at by a policeman on January 29**



- ✓ Das, 60, was shot in the chest at Brajrajnagar town when he was on his way to attend a programme in Jharsuguda district.
- ✓ The accused Assistant Sub-inspector of Police (ASI) Gopal Das was nabbed by locals, who then handed him over to the police
- ✓ The minister, a strongman in the mining hub of Jharsuguda, had switched over to the BJD from the Congress ahead of 2019 elections.
- ✓ He is known to have business interests in coal mining, transportation and hospitality sectors.

SPORTS

- **India - have created history by winning the inaugural U19 Women's U19 T20 World Cup by defeating England by seven wickets in Potchefstroom, South Africa**
- ✓ Chasing a target of 69, India reached the target in 14 overs losing only three wickets



- ✓ Earlier, India's bowling attack was led by pace sensation Titas Sadhu and leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra, who grabbed two wickets along with Archana Devi
 - ✓ For finishing with stunning figures of 2/6, India's lone pacer in the match, Titas Sadhu has been adjudged the Player of the Match
 - ✓ It was the first time that an Indian women's team has won an ICC trophy
 - ✓ Shafali Verma is the captain of the Indian women's team
 - ✓ India's Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was present in the ground to support the Indian team
 - ✓ India headed into the finals after a big victory over New Zealand, whom they defeated by eight wickets in the semi finals
 - ✓ BCCI Secretary Jay Shah announces Rs.5 crore prize money for Women's U19 cricket team and support staff.
- **Germany - beat Belgium in the penalty shootout to win the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on January 29**
- ✓ This is Germany's third Hockey World Cup title after they won it in 2002 and 2006, drawing level with Netherlands and Australia



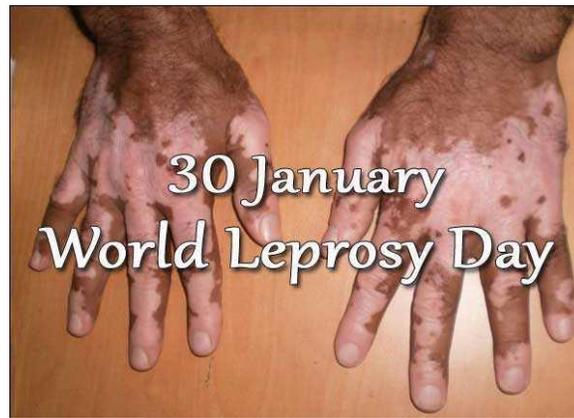
- ✓ Germany made a remarkable comeback to beat defending champions Belgium 5-4 in the sudden death shoot-out after the match ended 3-3 in full time
 - ✓ This is the first time since 1998 that Australia are going home from a World Cup without a medal
 - ✓ In the third place playoffs, Netherlands beat Australia
- **On January 29, Serbia's Novak Djokovic - made history when he claimed a record-equalling 22nd Grand Slam crown at the Rod Laver Arena in the Australian Open.**



- ✓ Djokovic needed just 2 hours and 56 minutes to beat Tsitsipas in the men's singles final at Melbourne.
- ✓ With the victory, Djokovic became the first player to win the Australian Open crown 10 times in his career.
- ✓ Novak Djokovic, the 4th seed, took his Grand Slam tally to 22, equalling Rafael Nadal's record for the most major titles won in men's singles tennis.
- ✓ Roger Federer, who was the first man to achieve 20 Grand Slam titles retired last year
- ✓ Djokovic also became only the second man after Rafael Nadal (14 at the French Open) to win at least 10 titles at a single Grand Slam tournament.
- ✓ Djokovic will be rewarded for his brilliant show in Melbourne with a return to the No. 1 spot in the ATP Rankings on January 30 for the first time since June, replacing Spain's Carlos Alcaraz
- ✓ Earlier, Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) defeated Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) to win her maiden Grand Slam women's title on January 28

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Leprosy Day - January 30**
- ✓ World Leprosy Day is celebrated on the last Sunday in the month of January to raise awareness about leprosy disease across the world
 - ✓ In India, Anti-Leprosy Day is observed on 30th January, coinciding with the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.



- ✓ The theme for this year is “Act Now. End Leprosy.”
- ✓ The event also marked the launch of the Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign, a fortnight-long campaign from January 30 to February 13, with the theme, 'Let's Fight Leprosy and Make Leprosy a History'
- ✓ Hansen's disease or Leprosy is an infectious disease caused by slow-growing bacteria called *Mycobacterium leprae*.
- ✓ In 1873, a Norwegian physician, Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen became the first person to identify the *Mycobacterium leprae* which was the principal bacteria that causes Leprosy
- ✓ In order to raise public awareness, the first World Leprosy Day was commemorated in 1954 by French philanthropist and writer Raoul Follereau
- ✓ The day was chosen to coincide with the Feast of Saint Lazarus, the biblical figure who is associated with leprosy in the Christian tradition.
- ✓ The WHO also stated that in 2018, over 2.08 lakh cases of leprosy were reported from across the world
- ✓ According to WHO and India's National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP), India accounted for 60% of new cases detected in 2017 — 1.26 lakh out of 2.10 lakh.

