

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

31st Jan 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **World Leprosy Day**

- World Leprosy Day (WLD) is celebrated on the last Sunday of January. In 2023, World Leprosy Day is observed on 29 January.
- This international day is an opportunity to celebrate people who have experienced leprosy, raise awareness of the disease, and call for an end to leprosy-related stigma and discrimination.
- This date was chosen by French humanitarian, Raoul Follereau as a tribute to the life of Mahatma Gandhi, who did much work with persons affected by leprosy and died at the end of January in 1948.
- The theme of World Leprosy Day 2023 is “Act Now. End Leprosy.”
- Leprosy is curable with a combination of antibiotics known as Multi Drug Therapy (MDT). This treatment is available for free across the world. If leprosy is not treated, it can lead to serious complications.

❖ **World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day**

- World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (World NTD Day) is observed on January 30 every year to raise awareness about neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) as a critical public health challenge so that we can progress towards their elimination.
- 2023 theme is “Act Now. Act Together. Invest in Neglected Tropical Diseases”.
- The proposal to recognise the day was floated by the United Arab Emirates.
- It was adopted unanimously by the delegates. The first World NTD Day was celebrated informally in 2020.

❖ **Toyota names Lexus chief Koji Sato as CEO**

- Toyota's longtime president and CEO Akio Toyoda is stepping down and handing over the reins of the world's largest automaker to Lexus chief Koji Sato.
- Toyoda would be appointed chairman of the board as Sato takes over daily management.

❖ **NMDC Signed Champion Boxer Nikhat Zareen As its Brand Ambassador**

- NMDC has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with World Boxing Champion and gold medal winner of Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Nikhat Zareen to represent NMDC as its brand ambassador. NMDC is a National miner and India's largest producer of iron ore.
- NMDC Limited, formerly National Mineral Development Corporation, is a central public sector undertaking. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Steel, Government of India. It is involved in the exploration of iron ore, copper, rock phosphate, limestone, dolomite, gypsum, bentonite, magnesite, diamond, tin, tungsten, graphite, coal, etc.
- It is India's largest iron ore producer and exporter, producing more than 35 million tonnes of iron ore from three mechanized mines in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka. It also operates the only mechanized diamond mine in the country at Panna in Madhya Pradesh.

❖ **National Child Science Congress**

- The 30th National Child Science Congress began at Science City in Ahmedabad.
- Secretary of Gujarat Science and Technology department Vijay Nahera inaugurated the Congress in the virtual presence of Education minister Kuber Dindor.
- This program is supported by the National Council for Science and Technology Communication, Government of India.
- Selected awardees are sponsored for the National Children's Science Congress held every year from 27th December to 31st December at selected places.
- It aims to transform the way science is taught and learned in schools by linking the learning process to the surrounding physical and social environment.

❖ EPFO launches 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat' massive outreach programme

- Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has launched a massive District Outreach Programme in all the Districts of the country through a revamped Nidhi Aapke Nikat programme.
- This programme will be e-launched by Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, Ms. Arti Ahuja on 27th January, 2023.
- The Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 will not be only grievance redressal platform and information exchange network for the employers and the employees but also a platform for exchange of information with the district level authorities of various State and Central Government departments.

❖ Khadi Fest-23

- The month-long Khadi Fest- 23 was inaugurated by the Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Mr. Manoj Kumar in Mumbai.
- In his inaugural address, Mr. Kumar said, events and exhibitions like Khadi Fest provide a platform to the Khadi Institutions, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme – PMEGP and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries – SFURTI units to market the products of thousands of artisans directly to customers.
- On 2 October this year, Khadi India's Delhi outlet created an all-time record of selling Khadi worth Rs. 1.34 crore in a single day. Last year, there was a record sale of one lakh fifteen thousand crore rupees of Khadi and village industry items. Apart from this, the Khadi Fest-2022 held on 3rd October registered a sale of Rs.3.03 crore.
- The Khadi Village Industries Commission was established in 1957 under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act 1956.
- It is under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

❖ 15th BRICS summit to be held in August in South Africa's Durban

- The 15th BRICS summit will take place this year in late August in South Africa's Durban.

➤ Earlier in 2013, the fifth annual BRICS summit was held in Durban, South Africa. It was attended by the head of state or heads of government of the five member states Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

➤ The foreign ministers of Brazil, Russia, India, and China met for the first time on the side lines of the United Nations General Assembly in 2006, kicking off BRIC cooperation.

➤ Later in April 2011, South Africa participated, for the first time, in the 3rd BRICS Summit held in Sanya, China.

❖ **Solvay and UNESCO launch STEM education program in Asia including India**

➤ Solvay and UNESCO announced the launch of a STEM education program.

➤ Developed by two leading science-based organizations, this three-year partnership aims at engaging high schoolers and graduate students from India, Indonesia and South Korea to find solutions to national and regional environmental issues through science.

➤ The program will explore mutual impact on the environment by focusing on the theme “Sustainable living for one planet”.

➤ “Sustainable living for one planet” Professors & University students will be trained to deploy the plan in their countries, and hold regional competitions with experts from Solvay, UNESCO’s Science Networks and other partners.

❖ **Petr Pavel became the president of the czech-republic**

➤ Petr Pavel, a former chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) military committee, has become the new president of the Czech Republic.

❖ **Canada to Commercialise World’s First Photonic-based Quantum Computer**

➤ Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced a new federal investment to build and commercialise the world’s first photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer.

➤ The investment of 40 million Canadian dollars (\$32 million) will enable Xanadu Quantum Technologies Inc., a Toronto-based Canadian quantum computing company, to develop the quantum computer.

➤ It will have the potential to provide world leading capabilities to help solve complex data problems and could be used in a variety of sectors such as finance, transportation, environmental modelling, and health.

➤ Earlier this month, Canada launched its National Quantum Strategy, which invests an additional 360 million Canadian dollars (\$288 million) to help solidify Canada as a global leader in quantum technologies.

❖ **Indian-American astronaut Chari nominated for US Air Force Brigadier General**

➤ Indian-American astronaut Raja Chari was nominated by US President Joe Biden for the post of Air Force brigadier general.

➤ The senate approves all senior civilian and military appointments, according to the US Defense Department.

➤ Brigadier General (BG) is a one-star General Officer rank of the United States Air Force.

➤ It is just above Colonel and below Major General.

➤ Raja Chari is a US Air Force Colonel, who is 45 years old and earned a master's degree in aeronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

➤ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and European Space Agency made Chari the Commander of the SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

❖ **Indian poet Abhay K elected as corresponding member of Academy of Letters of Brazil**

➤ The Academy of Letters of Brazil (ALB) in a Plenary Session held on January 19, 2023, ratified the election of poet-diplomat Abhay K as a foreign corresponding member of the Academy.

➤ Abhay Kumar is a poet-diplomat from India who presently works as the Deputy Director General of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations in New Delhi.

- Abhay K, even before his arrival as a diplomat in Brazil, edited CAPITALS – an anthology of poems on 185 capital cities of the world (Bloomsbury), which included a poem on Brasilia.
- ALB is like the French Academy of Letters has 40 active members, who are elected by their peers. The Academy has already had great names in Brazilian Literature in the past such as Ledo Ivo, Almeida Fischer, among others.

❖ Australian Open

- The Brazilian pair of Luisa Stefani and Rafael Matos beat India's Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna 7-6 (2), 6-2 to win the Australian Open mixed doubles title.
- It was Sania Mirza's last match at a Grand Slam tournament before she retires.
- Mirza, who has won six Grand Slam doubles championships — three in mixed, including the 2009 Australian Open — will retire next month after a tournament in Dubai.
- She had won the the mixed doubles titles at the 2009 Australian Open and the 2012 French Open with Mahesh Bhupathi and the 2014 US Open with Brazillian Bruno Soares.
- Novak Djokovic won the Men's single title. A Sabalenka won the Women's single title.

❖ Hockey World Cup 2023

- Germany beat Belgium 5-4 in the penalty shootout to win the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India.
- This is Germany's third Hockey World Cup title after they won it in 2002 and 2006. With this, they draw level with Netherlands and Australia. Germany also became the fourth team to register a come-from-behind win in a World Cup final. From a 2-0 deficit to a 3-2 to lead and ultimately a shootout, they eventually became champions.
- India stood at 9th place out 15 countries. Other standings: Germany, Belgium, Netherlands.

❖ ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023

- India beat England in the first-ever ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup final in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

- India bowled out England for a paltry 68 and won by 7 wkts. This is the first ICC trophy India has won in women's cricket.
- The Indian women's cricket team has never won a World Cup at any level. The seniors reached the World Cup final on three occasions across formats but failed to go the distance. Bowling first, India cleaned up the English side for mere 68 runs in 17.1 overs.
- England captain and stellar all-rounder Grace Scrivens has been named Player of the Tournament after a run of outstanding performances with bat and ball.
- Titas Sadhu of India was named Player of the Match following the ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023 Final match.

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