

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 4, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin - virtually addressed the first national conference of the All India Federation for Social Justice on April 3**



- ✓ During his address, CM Stalin has urged the central government to carry out a caste-based census in the country to ensure social justice and to streamline reservation for minority populations
- ✓ Top Opposition leaders from different political parties from across the country took part in the meeting held in hybrid mode in New Delhi
- ✓ The conference was convened by DMK under the theme “Taking Forward the Struggle for Social Justice and Joint National Programme for Social Justice Movement”.
- ✓ Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D Raja, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Derek O Brien, and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav addressed the conference.

- ✓ MDMK leader Vaiko, Thol Thirumavalavan of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), MH Jawahirullah, MLA, ER Eswaran of the Kongunadu Makkal Desia Katchi, and K Veeramani of the Dravidar Kazhagam, also attended the event.
- ✓ The All-India Federation of Social Justice was launched by CM Stalin in January last year
- **The Pudukottai Archaeology Research Forum - has discovered a 10th-century Jain statue in a village bordering Pudukottai and Sivaganga districts.**



- ✓ The forum also found a stone slab engraved with triple umbrellas (Mukkudai), estimated to date back to the 12th century, near the statue.
 - ✓ The Mukkudai pattern in the center of the umbrellas is a sacred symbol of Jainism.
- ✓ As per the researchers, the statue has been identified as that of Mahavira, the twenty-fourth Tirthankara of Jainism.
- ✓ The Mahavira statue had curly head hair, long pierced ears, and an enlarged chest, with a Prabhavali ring on the back of the head.
- ✓ The statue was engraved above three lion seals, the symbol of the Tirthankara.

STATES

- **On April 3, the Maharashtra government – announced the extension of its healthcare scheme to residents of 865 Marathi-speaking border villages in neighbouring Karnataka.**
- ✓ According to a government resolution (GR), beneficiaries of the Antyodaya food scheme, priority group families (under the National Food Security Act, 2013) and Annapurna ration card holders can avail of healthcare benefits under the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ✓ The order said 865 villages from 12 tehsils in Belagavi, Karvar, Kalburgi and Bidar have been included under the scheme


- ✓ MJPJAY is a universal healthcare scheme run by the Maharashtra government that provides free access to medical care in government-run and private empanelled hospitals for various diseases, surgeries and therapies
- ✓ The residents in these villages will get medical insurance up to Rs. 1.50 lakh per year for 996 types of treatments identified by the state
- ✓ The Maharashtra government has recognised several hospitals in the state where this scheme can be availed by the people
- ✓ The GR comes in the wake of the recent controversy over the Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute and just a month ahead of assembly elections in Karnataka.
- ✓ The Shinde-Fadnavis government had last month announced that it would allocate an additional Rs.54 crore for extending the scheme to residents of 865 border villages in Karnataka that Maharashtra has been laying claim to for many years.
- ✓ However, soon after the announcement, Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai had said his government would take measures to stop the Maharashtra government from offering its health insurance scheme in the border villages.
- ✓ The border issue between both the states dates back to 1957 after the reorganisation of states on linguistic lines.
- ✓ Maharashtra laid claim to Belagavi, which was part of the erstwhile Bombay Presidency as it has a sizable Marathi-speaking population.
- ✓ It also laid claim to more than 800 Marathi-speaking villages which are currently part of Karnataka.
- ✓ Karnataka, however, considers the demarcation done on linguistic lines as per the States Reorganisation Act and the 1967 Mahajan Commission Report as final

NATIONAL

- **A total of 33 products - were granted GI certification on March 31 by the GI Registry, Chennai**
- ✓ Among them, 10 products belong to Uttar Pradesh, including three from Varanasi.
- ✓ The famous Banarasi paan and Banarasi Langda mango are the two latest products from Varanasi to have received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.



- ✓ Apart from paan and mango, another famous farming product of Varanasi, the Ramnagar Bhanta (brinjal), was also granted GI certification.
 - ✓ Of the total 441 Indian products and 34 foreign goods that have been granted the GI tag so far, Uttar Pradesh alone accounts for 45 goods, 20 of them from the Varanasi region.
 - ✓ A geographical indication (GI) tag is a sign used on locally produced products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities distinctive of the origin
 - ✓ The tags were first introduced in 2003, wherein Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get a GI tag.
- **The Hyderabad-based National Geophysical Research Institute - has found large deposits of 15 rare earth elements (REE) in Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur district**
- ✓ These REE of the lanthanide series forms a critical component in many daily-use electronic devices like cellphones, televisions, computers, automobiles and in various industrial applications.

<p>RICH DEPOSITS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Large deposits of 15 rare earth elements (REE) found in AP's Anantapur district ● Hyd-based NGRI made the significant discovery ● REEs are critical components and used in industrial applications ● Crucial for manufacturing mobiles, TVs, computers & automobiles 	 <p>Major REEs identified: Allanite, cerite, thorite, columbite, tantalite, apatite, zircon, monazite, pyrochlore euxenite & fluorite</p>
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- ✓ The elements identified included allanite, cerite, thorite, columbite, tantalite, apatite, zircon, monazite, pyrochlore euxenite and fluorite.
- ✓ These elements are also used in clean energy, aerospace, defence and in manufacturing permanent magnets - a key component of modern electronics - wind turbines, jet aircraft and several other products.
- ✓ The alkaline complexes are located west and southwest of the Paleoproterozoic Cuddapah basin in the Anantapur district.
- ✓ The potential hubs for these REE-bearing minerals are Dancherla, Peddavaduguru, Danduvaripalle, Reddypalle Chintalchervu and the Pulikonda complex in Anantapur and Chittoor districts
- ✓ Previously, 5.9 million tonnes of lithium reserves were found for the first time in the country in Jammu and Kashmir.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Finland - will become the 31st member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on April 4, immediately preceding a two-day meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels.**



- ✓ Finland's blue-and-white flag will be hoisted outside NATO headquarters when it becomes the newest member of the Western alliance
- ✓ Finland's foreign minister will hand over the formal accession papers to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the keeper of NATO's founding treaty
- ✓ Finland's President Sauli Niinisto will speak at the event
- ✓ The ceremony falls on NATO's founding day, the 74th anniversary of the signing of its founding Washington Treaty on April 4, 1949
- ✓ Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February last year pushed Finland and its neighbour Sweden to apply for NATO membership, abandoning decades of military non-alignment.
- ✓ Finland shares a 1,340-kilometer border with Russia, so its entry will more than double the size of NATO's border with Russia.
- ✓ Turkey became the last NATO member country to ratify Finland's membership protocol on March 30
- ✓ Meanwhile, Finnish PM Sanna Marin and her Social Democratic Party lost narrowly in the recent elections on April 2
- ✓ The National Coalition Party, led by Petteri Orpo, captured the most votes in the parliamentary polls, followed by the right-wing Finns Party and Social Democrats.
- ✓ Orpo's party had 48 seats with 20.8% of the vote, just ahead of the populist Finns, led by Riikka Purra, with 46 seats and 20%.
- ✓ Marin's centre-left Social Democrats came in third, with 43 seats and 19.9% of the vote.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On April 3, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - announced the four astronauts, who will be a part of the lunar mission, Artemis II, next year.**
- ✓ The four astronauts will now begin training for the historic Artemis II lunar flyby, which is scheduled to launch in November 2024.
- ✓ This will be the first crewed moon trip in fifty years
- ✓ The astronauts are Jeremy Hansen of the Canadian Space Agency, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Reid Wiseman of NASA

- ✓ Reid Wiseman will be the commander of the Artemis 2 mission



- ✓ Wiseman previously lived and worked on the International Space Station in 2014.
 - ✓ Before that, he commanded the undersea research mission NEEMO21, a 16-day underwater mission that simulated space exploration.
 - ✓ He also served as chief of NASA's astronauts in the past.
- ✓ Victor Glover will serve as the pilot for Artemis 2, navigating Orion around the Moon.
 - ✓ Glover, who was part of the second crewed flight of a SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule, would become the first astronaut of colour ever to be sent on a lunar mission.
- ✓ Hansen, 47, a fighter pilot was selected by the Canadian Space Agency for astronaut training in 2009.
 - ✓ Notably, he will be the first Canadian ever to travel to deep space.
- ✓ NASA astronaut Christina Koch will be the mission specialist for Artemis 3.
 - ✓ Koch visited the space station in 2019, where she was part of the first all-woman spacewalk in history.
 - ✓ With 328 days in space, she holds the record for the longest solo spaceflight by a woman.
 - ✓ This selection makes Koch the first woman who is scheduled to fly to the Moon.
- ✓ The Artemis 1 mission allowed NASA to test the foundations of its latest human space exploration capabilities.
 - ✓ This included the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, Orion spacecraft, and all associated ground systems.
- ✓ Artemis 2 will be the first crewed mission to test all this.
- ✓ The 10-day-long mission will have the four astronauts flying around the Moon to test Orion and its life-support missions to ensure that it can provide a safe habitat that will allow astronauts to live and work during deep space missions.

