

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

18TH July 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Annual Bonalu Festival celebrated in Hyderabad

- Bonalu is celebrated in Hyderabad especially in parts of the Old city, usually during Ashada Masam which falls in July/August.
- Bonam literally means Meal in Telugu, which is an offering to the Mother Goddess.
- During the first and last day of this festival, special poojas are performed for goddess Yellamma.
- Bonalu involves worship of Kali in her various forms such as Mysamma, Pochamma, Dokkamma, Pedamma, Poleramma, Ankamma, Maremma etc.

❖ Home Minister chairs Conference on Drugs Smuggling and National Security

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has chaired the Regional Conference on Drugs Smuggling and National Security in New Delhi.
- During the Conference, over 1,44,000 kilograms of drugs worth 2,416 rupees crore, were destroyed in various parts of the country by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in coordination with Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTFs) of all states.
- The Government has adopted a Zero Tolerance policy against narcotics to create a drugs-free India.

❖ Rituraj Gaikwad to lead India men's squads for 19th Asian Games

- The BCCI has confirmed that Rituraj Gaikwad would lead India's men's squads for the 19th Asian Games, held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 and October 8, 2023.

➤ While Harmanpreet Kaur will lead the women's cricket competition, which will take place from September 19-28, 2023.

➤ Both competitions will be played in T20 formats.

➤ Team India (Senior Men) squad also include Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rahul Tripathi, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma (wk), and many more.

❖ **Eminent mathematician Dr Mangala Narlikar passes away**

➤ An eminent mathematician, Dr Mangala Narlikar passed away at 80 due to cancer.

➤ She is the wife of Dr Jayant Narlikar, who is the founder and director of the Pune-based Inter-z Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA).

➤ She initially worked at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai before joining as a lecturer at Bombay and Pune universities.

➤ Her core fields of interest were real and complex analysis, analytic geometry, and topology.

❖ **Australia names first woman to Lead Central Bank**

➤ Michele Bullock becomes the first woman to lead Australia's Central Bank since it was founded in 1960.

➤ She will succeed Philip Lowe, who is coming to the end of a seven-year term as governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA).

➤ Her appointment comes as the country has been battling rising prices and the RBA is facing a major shakeup.

➤ She is currently the RBA's deputy governor and is due to start her seven-year term as governor on Sept 18, 2023.

❖ **UK signs treaty to join Trans-Pacific free trade bloc**

➤ The United Kingdom formally signed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) trade bloc.

➤ The UK also become the first European country to join the CPTPP.

➤ Aim: To grow the country's economy and provide access for British businesses to a market of over 500 million people

➤ CPTPP: It is a free trade agreement between 11 nations (Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam).

❖ **Nelson Mandela International Day - 18 July**

➤ Nelson Mandela Day is observed on 18 July each year to honour Nelson Mandela, a prominent anti-apartheid activist of South Africa and the country's first democratically elected president.

➤ The theme for Nelson Mandela International Day 2023 is "Climate, Food and Solidarity".

➤ This year the focus is on taking action against climate change and creating a food-friendly environment in solidarity with communities around the world affected by climate crises.

➤ The call to action for 2023 is "It's in Your Hands," encouraging individuals and organizations to actively participate in addressing climate change and supporting vulnerable communities.

History of Nelson Mandela International Day:

➤ In 2009, the United Nations declared 18 July as Nelson Mandela Day to recognize his significant contributions and celebrate his achievements.

➤ Mandela played an important role in ending the apartheid system in South Africa and promoting multiracial democracy.

➤ The first celebration of Nelson Mandela Day took place on 18 July 2010, Mandela's 92nd birthday.

❖ **IIT Roorkee announces research awards for 2022**

➤ Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) has announced its Research Awards 2022.

- The award is given to recognize the outstanding contribution of Institute awardees in their chosen careers.
- The research awards given by IIT Roorkee are open to all Indian citizens and include winners from various prestigious institutions across the country.
- This year's award has five awardees in different categories including 'Khosla National Award' (Science).
- These awards have been in existence since the inception of the University.

Khosla National Award (Science):

- Dr. Kanishka Biswas, recipient of the Khosla National Award, is a professor in the New Chemistry Unit at the Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, whose research interests focus on renewable energy and a clean environment.
- In the past, Dr. Biswas has also been awarded Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Chemical Sciences in 2021 and Swarnajayanti Fellowship 2019.

❖ Launch of 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal' by Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah

- Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal' in New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Cooperatives is actively working to strengthen the cooperative movement in India and protect the interests of cooperative members.
- 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal' has been developed to facilitate submission of valid claims by genuine depositors of Sahara Group of Co-operative Societies.
- Eligible depositors include members of Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Saharayan Universal Multipurpose Society Limited, Hamara India Credit Cooperative Society Limited and Stars Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited.

❖ Inauguration of two National Highway projects in Lucknow

➤ Union Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated two National Highway projects in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh with an investment of over Rs. 3,300 crore.

Project 1 – Madiav - IIM Lucknow-Sitapur section:

- The inaugural project focuses on the Madiav - I.I.M. section of the Lucknow-Sitapur National Highway 24.
- The project aims to provide better connectivity from Lucknow to Sitapur.
- This will provide relief from heavy traffic jams at Bhitauli Tiraha and Jankipuram Extension.
- Passengers are expected to save more than 30 minutes in travel time and fuel.
- This project will facilitate the pilgrims going to Chandrika Devi and Naimisharanya.

Project 2 - Naviganj to Mitrasenpur on Aligarh-Kanpur section:

- The second project involves the construction of a 4-lane road from Naviganj to Mitrasenpur on the Aligarh-Kanpur section.
- The construction of the road will boost economic development in the perfume hub of Uttar Pradesh, Kannauj and surrounding areas.
- The project is expected to benefit small and medium scale industries in areas like Chhibramau, Gursahaiganj, Jalalabad and Manimau.
- Farmers of Kannauj will have ease of transportation till Chhibramau and Naviganj Mandi. This project will give them direct access to Delhi, making agriculture trade easy.

❖ Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches sale of subsidised chana dal under the brand name 'Bharat Dal'

- Piyush Goyal launches sale of subsidised Chana Dal under the brand name 'Bharat Dal' at affordable prices.

- The objective of subsidised chana dal is to make pulses available to the consumers at affordable prices.
- The government's stock of gram is converted into chana dal for distribution.
- Retail outlets of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) in Delhi-NCR selling the chana dal.
- NAFED undertakes milling and packaging of the Chana Dal.
- Distribution through retail outlets of NAFED, NCCF, Kendriya Bhandar, and Safal.
- State governments can procure chana dal for their welfare schemes, police, jails, and consumer cooperative outlets.

❖ **G-20 Global Food Regulatory Summit 2023 for the first time in India**

- The Global Food Regulators Summit 2023 is being held in Delhi for the first time as a G-20 event.
- The summit is being held outside Rome, Italy for the first time.
- The conference is being organized by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on July 20 and 21, 2023 at Manekshaw Auditorium, New Delhi.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya unveiled the logo of the summit.
- To provide a valuable platform to the summit participants to deliberate on food safety and regulatory aspects in a cohesive network.