

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**15<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ **KCR unveils 125-ft tall bronze statue of Dr B R Ambedkar on his 132nd birth anniversary**

- Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao unveiled a 125-foot tall bronze statue of Dr B R Ambedkar at the Hussain Sagar lake on his 132nd birth anniversary.
- The statue is the tallest of Ambedkar in the country, made of over 360 tonnes of steel and 100 tonnes of bronze, and cost nearly Rs. 145 crore.
- Ambedkar's grandson, Prakash Ambedkar, was invited as the chief guest and attended the unveiling amidst chanting of hymns by Buddhist monks.
- Dalits from all the 119 Assembly constituencies were invited and attended the event.
- This statue in Hyderabad is now the tallest statue of Ambedkar in India.

## ❖ **Baisakhi and Bohag Bihu harvest festival**

### **Baisakhi:**

- **It** is a harvest festival celebrated in the **Punjab and Haryana** regions of India.
- Baisakhi also commemorates the formation of the Khalsa sect of warriors under Guru Gobind Singh in 1699.
- The festival holds great religious significance for the Sikh community, who celebrate the day with great enthusiasm and devotion.
- Sikhs visit Gurdwaras, offer prayers and participate in processions.

## **Bohag Bihu:**

- Bohag Bihu, also known as Rongali Bihu, is a harvest festival of Assam.
- It is celebrated in mid-April and marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year.
- The festival is celebrated with cultural programmes, traditional dances and feasts.

## **Other Harvest or New Year Festivals in India:**

- Pohela Boishakh - West Bengal
- Pana Sankranti - Odisha
- Puthandu - Tamil Nadu
- Vishu – Kerala

### **❖ SCO Millets Food Festival 2023 organized in Mumbai**

- The Union Ministry of Tourism is organizing the fourth and final event of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Millets Food Festival **at** Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai from 13 to 19 April 2023.
- In this Millets Food Festival, chefs from SCO member countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Russia) will participate in the nine-day event.
- The Taj Mahal Palace will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Millets Food Festival to mark the International Year of Millets (IYM 2023).
- India is chairing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization for the year 2023.

### **❖ Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**

- It is an intergovernmental organization consisting of eight member states, India, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, four observer states, and fourteen "dialogue partner" states.

### ❖ **Kumar Mangalam Birla honoured with 'Business Leader of the Decade'**

- Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla was honoured with the 'Business Leader of the Decade Award' at the 13th Management India Awards ceremony organised by the All India Management Association (AIMA).
- The award was presented to him in recognition of his contribution to Indian industry, especially in strengthening the operations of the Aditya Birla Group, and his leadership over the last ten years.
- Tata's T Viren was also presented with the Workman- J Worker Partnership Award at the ceremony and ABB India won the 'MNC in India of the Year' award.
- Rahul Kanwal, News Director of India Today and Aaj Tak and Executive Director of Business Today, received the 'Outstanding Contribution to Media' award at the same event.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which operates the retail payment and settlement system in India, was awarded the 'Outstanding PSU of the Year' award.

### ❖ **National Award-winning actress Uttara Baokar passes away**

- Veteran film and television actress Uttara Baokar passed away at 79 in Pune, Maharashtra.
- In 1984, she won India's National Academy for Acting, Sageet Natak Akademi Award.
- She also appeared in Marathi films like Doghi(1995) with Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Renuka Daftardar, Uttarayan(2005), Shevri(2006), and Restaurant(2006) , with Sonali Kulkarni.
- She has played various roles in different plays such as Padmavati in Mukyhamantri and Mena in Mena Gurjari.

## ❖ **TIME most Influential People of 2023**

- TIME Magazine has published a list of the 100 Most Influential People of 2023, which includes Jennifer Coolidge (actor), Doja Cat (recording artist), Bob Iger (CEO of the Walt Disney Company) and Salman Rushdie (writer).
- There is no particular order to the rankings.
- The list was given considering six categories such as Artists, Icons, Pioneers, Leaders, Titans and Innovators.
- Indian actor Shahrukh Khan and Indian director S.S.Rajamouli were listed in Icon and Pioneer categories respectively.

## ❖ **India and WFP signed MoU for sending wheat to Afghanistan**

- The Indian government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Food Programme (WFP) for sending 10,000 metric tonnes of wheat to the people of Afghanistan.
- The MoU was signed between the Ministry of External Affairs and the United Nations WFP.
- This MoU marks the fifth tranche, to be shipped through the Chabahar Port in Iran, of humanitarian food assistance that India committed in 2020.
- In 2022, India has contributed 40,000 metric tonnes of wheat.

## ❖ **NHAI signs MoU with Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve**

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- The objective of the MoU is to improve the entry process for vehicles entering the forest area by facilitating a seamless and efficient system.
- The initiative proposes a FASTag based payment system at forest entry points to avoid long queues and delays.

- The benefit of collection of Ecosystem Management Coordination Fee through FASTag will be extended to various entry points of the Tiger Reserve.
- The partnership between the Highways Management Company of India Limited and the Forest Department is an important step towards promoting sustainable tourism and conserving natural resources.
- This partnership will help curb vehicular emissions at forest entry points, thereby contributing to environmental protection.

### ❖ **Bharat Gaurav tourist train flagged off on the occasion of Dr BR Ambedkar's birth anniversary**

- Union Tourism Minister **G Krishna Reddy** and Social Justice and Empowerment Minister **Dr Virendra Kumar** flagged off the Bharat Gaurav tourist train on the occasion of 132nd birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar from Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station in New Delhi.
- Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train will showcase the rich cultural heritage of India and the life of BR Ambedkar along with promoting tourism.
- The government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has developed five places associated with Dr. Ambedkar as Panchatirth.
- During the 8-day tour, the train will cover cities including New Delhi, Mhow, Nagpur, Varanasi and holy Buddhist sites like Sanchi, Sarnath, Gaya and Rajgir and Nalanda.
- The theme-based tourist circuit train, Bharat Gaurav Train, is in line with the Government of India's initiative "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" and Dekho Apna Desh to promote domestic tourism.

### ❖ **YES Bank become first Indian company with over 50 lakh shareholders**

- YES Bank has become the first Indian company to have over 50 lakh shareholders.
- The bank had 50.6 lakh shareholders as of March 31,2023, all of whom were public shareholders.

➤ While Tata Power was a far second with 38.5 lakh shareholders, followed by Reliance Industries with 33.6 lakh shareholders, according to the December 2022 shareholding Disclosures.

➤ Since then, the number of shares held has also more than doubled from 1,255 Cr to 2,875 Cr.

### ❖ **ATL Linked with KVK and Agricultural Technology Management Agency**

➤ AIM, NITI Aayog , and the Ministry of Agriculture signed to promote innovation in the agricultural sector among school students across India.

➤ The Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) and Agriculture Technology Management Agency agreed to connect.

➤ KVKs work as a Single Window Agricultural Knowledge Resource and capacity Development Centre.

➤ KVKs, in partnership with ATMA, will collaborate with nearby ATLs to support agricultural-related innovation.

### ❖ **Fasal ties up with SBI to help farmers get easy access to loans**

➤ Agri-tech company Fasal signed a partnership agreement with the State Bank of India (SBI) to provide farmers with easy access to capital.

➤ The partnership will help to solve the cash-flow constraints during key cycles in farming by providing quick, easy, and collateral-free loans at very competitive rates.

➤ These ties will help to fulfill Fasal's larger objective of solving the many challenges across the entire horticulture value chain.

### ❖ **India's economic growth projected to decelerate to 6% in 2023:UN**

➤ According to the United Nations, India's economic growth is projected to decelerate to 6% in 2023 from in 2022.

➤ The UNCTAD in its latest Trade and Developed Report Updated released, expects global growth in 2023 to drop to 2.1%, compared to the 2.2% projected in September 2022.

➤ UNCTAD expects the South-Asian region to expand at a still fast pace of 5.1 percent in 2023.

➤ Recently, IMF lowered India's economic growth projection for the current fiscal to 5.9%.

### ❖ **Save the Elephant Day 2023 – April 16**

➤ On April 16<sup>th</sup> each year, people across the globe observe 'Save the Elephant Day', which aims to promote awareness of the issues faced by elephants and inspire efforts to protect these majestic animals.

➤ Theme for 2023 is "Safeguarding Elephant Habitats for a Sustainable Tomorrow".

➤ Save the Elephant Day was established as an occasion for action, enlightenment and motivation for individuals worldwide.

➤ Its objective is to urge people, institutions and governments to take steps to safeguard elephants and their environments.

### ❖ **Bihu performance with over 11,300 dancers, drummers enters Guinness World Records**

➤ Assam created a world record on with a Bihu performance by 11,304 dancers and drummers in Guwahati.

➤ In the presence of an adjudicator from the Guinness World Records headquarters in London, the performers presented their show and achieved the global feat for Bihu dance and dhol-playing.

➤ The Guinness World Record was set at the Sarusajai Stadium in Guwahati.

➤ The event was organized by the Assam government with the aim of promoting the state's cultural heritage.

➤ During the event, the performers included singers and those playing state's traditional instruments such as Dhol, Taal, Gogona, Toka, Pepa, and Xutuli, among others.

➤ Each participant, including the master trainers and dancers, will receive a grant of ₹ 25,000 for participating in the historic event.

❖ **SBI unveils its coffee table book "The Banker to Every Indian"**

➤ State Bank of India (SBI) launched a coffee table book titled "**The Banker to Every Indian**" and the book celebrates 75 years of Indian independence and 200 years of SBI's history.

➤ The book aims to provide a detailed account of the history of SBI since India attained independence.

➤ The Coffee Table Book is a tribute to the spirit of India's independence and SBI's contribution to nation building.

➤ The book throws light upon the bank's ethics, technological advancements and transformation through significant initiatives taken by the organisation.

➤ This book is not only a celebration of SBI's past but also a testimony to its commitment to the future.