



## Rapid Fire Current Affairs

### Bathukamma Festival

The nine-day-long annual festival of flowers **Bathukamma** began on a colorful note across Telangana.

- It is a colorful floral festival celebrated by **women with exotic local flowers**.
  - The festival coincides with the **monsoon, bringing water to ponds and wildflowers in vibrant colors**.
  - Local flowers like '**gunuka,**' '**tangedu,**' '**banti,**' and '**nandi-varadhanam**' are **abundantly used**.
- The festival begins **a week before the 'Saddula Bathukamma'** (the grand finale of the Bathukamma festival) which **falls two days before Dussehra**.
  - During the entire preceding week, women make '**boddemma**' (a deity of **Gowri - mother Durga - made with earthly mud**) along with Bathukamma and immerse it in the pond.
  - This helps **reinforce the ponds and helps it retain more water**.
- The festival reinforces the bond between **humans, the earth, and water, with rituals aimed at preserving natural resources**.

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### Pain as a Warning System

- Pain is subjective and psychological, primarily associated with **tissue damage, and serves as a warning system**.
  - Pain receptors in the skin and body tissues are **activated by chemical stimuli during potential damage**.
- Acute pain has effective treatment options, but chronic pain (long-standing pain) is complex, and influenced by **psychological factors**.
- **Pain thresholds, which provide an indirect measure of pain,** can be evaluated using a range of techniques.
  - Among these methods, a commonly employed one is the **dolorimeter,** which utilizes **heat sources and precise timing mechanisms**. Additionally, **pressure algometers** offer a safer alternative for measuring pain thresholds by applying pressure to a flat bony surface.
- Some individuals lack the ability to feel pain or feel it minimally, leading to higher risks and shorter life expectancies.

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### Estivation

Recently, estivation, an intriguing **animal survival strategy** during hot and dry summers, has gained recognition for its remarkable **adaptations to extreme conditions**.

- Estivation is a biological phenomenon whereby the **animal enters a long period of dormancy, or inactivity,** in response to **high temperature or maybe even drought-like conditions to conserve energy** and water in a difficult time.
  - It helps animals avoid **desiccation,** a condition characterized by **extreme dryness of the skin and shields them from the risk of predation**.
- **Examples of Estivation:**
  - **West African lungfish (*Protopterus annectens*)** burrows into the mud of a drying

- water body and secretes a cocoon of mucus around itself during a drought.
- **Desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*)** dig burrows and retreat into them in hot summer months.

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## Maiden Test Flight of Gaganyaan

The **Gaganyaan mission's Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1)** will take place on 21st October 2023 from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in Sriharikota.

- TV-D1 will demonstrate the performance of the **Crew Escape System**.
- The ultimate aim of Gaganyaan project is to demonstrate human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of **3 members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3 days mission** and bring them back safely to earth, **by landing in Indian sea waters**.

**Read more:** [Gaganyaan mission](#)

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## 69th National Film Awards

Recently, the **President of India** presented **69<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards** in various categories in New Delhi.

- As a part of the event, the **Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award** for the year 2021 was presented to **Ms. Waheeda Rehman**.
- **Dadasaheb Phalke**, also known as the "**Father of Indian Cinema**," was a prominent film director, producer, and screenwriter who is credited with making India's first full-length feature film, **Raja Harishchandra, in 1913**.
  - Phalke was a pioneer in Indian cinema and made over 100 silent films during his career.

**Read more:** [Dadasaheb Phalke Award](#)

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