

# Poson Poya festival

June 26, 2021

**In news-** Sri Lanka recently released 93 prisoners, including 16 LTTE terror suspects held without charges, on the presidential pardon on the occasion of Poson Poya.

## **About the festival-**

- Poson poya annual festival celebrates the **arrival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka in the 3rd century BC.**
- Poson, held on the full moon day of June, commemorates the occasion over 2,000 years ago when **Arahat Mahinda**, son of Emperor Asoka of India, converted King Devanampiyatissa to Buddhism.
- The main center of celebration is **Mihintale**, the ancient monastic complex where the royal missionary monk **Mahinda perched the first sermon to the ruling king.**
- **Anuradhapura**, is the ancient capital, to which a large crowd of pilgrims converge.
- Mihinthale is called the cradle of Buddhism in Sri Lanka.
- For Buddhists, this hallowed day of Poson is **second only to Vesak in terms of importance.**