

Current Affairs search results for tag: festivals

1. Agriculture festival 'Raja' organised in Odisha (June 16, 2023)

Agriculture-festival-'Raja'-organised-in-Odisha

Raja or Mithun Sankranti is a **three-day festival of womanhood** celebrated in Odisha, India.

An Overview of the News

Duration and name of festival days

- Raja Utsav is celebrated for three days.
- Day 1: **'The First King'**
- Day 2: **'Majhi Raja'** or **'Raja Sankranti'** or **'Mithuna Sankranti'**
- Third Day: **'Bhoodah'** or **'Bassi Raja'** or **'Shesh Raja'**

Festival of Agriculture and Worship of Mother Earth

- This is a unique festival of Odisha where **Mother Earth is revered.**
- Agricultural activities like ploughing and digging are suspended during the festival.
- Like a menstruating woman, **Mother Earth is given rest without any disturbance.**

Significance of Raja Mahotsav in relation to monsoon

- **'Pahili Raja'** falls on the last day of the **month 'Jyestha'**, while 'Raja Sankranti' falls on the **first day of the month 'Ashadha'**.
- **'Raja Sankranti'** marks the beginning of the **rainy season.**
- Farmers believe that the fertility of the earth doubles with the first shower of monsoon.

The ritual of 'Basumati Snan'

- The fourth day of the festival is called 'Basumati Snan'.
- Women, after completing three days of symbolic menstruation, take a ceremonial bath for the grinding stone.
- **The grinding stone** represents **Mother Earth or Basumati.**

About Odisha

Formation - **1 April 1936**

Capital - **Bhubaneswar**

Governor - **Ganeshi Lal**

Chief minister - **Naveen Patnaik**

Rajya Sabha - **10 seats**

Lok Sabha - **21 seats**

2. First Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav (June 16, 2023)

First-Janjatiya-Khel-Mahotsav

Recently, the **first Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav** was organized at the **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar**, in a collaborative effort between the **Ministry of Culture, the Odisha Government, and KIIT University**.

An overview of the news

- The event brought together **5,000 tribal athletes and 1,000 officials** from **26 states**, showcasing the diversity and richness of indigenous sports in India.
- By organizing such events and supporting the promotion of indigenous sports, the government aims to preserve and revive these traditional games, ensuring their continued relevance and encouraging the younger generation to participate and excel in them.

About Indigenous Sports

- The promotion and development of indigenous sports primarily lie with the respective **State/Union Territory Governments**, as **'Sports' is a state subject**.
- However, the Union Government supports their efforts through initiatives such as the **'Khelo India - National Programme for Development of Sports'** Scheme.
- This scheme includes a specific component dedicated to the development and promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games across the country.
- It provided an opportunity for athletes from different states to come together, compete, and exchange their experiences, thereby promoting cultural exchange and unity.
- Under this scheme, certain indigenous games have been identified for promotion, such as **Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang-Ta, Yogasana, and Silambam**.

3. Warkari community's Palkhi festival (June 14, 2023)

Warkari-community's-Palkhi-festival

Delegates attending the three-day G20 Digital Economy Working Group conference in Pune recently got a first-hand glimpse of the palanquins of the Warkari community.

About Palkhi Festival

- The Palkhi festival is a tradition that dates back 1000 years and was initiated by saints from Maharashtra, India.

- The Palkhi festival takes place in the month of Jyeshth (June) and lasts for a total of 22 days. It involves a journey from the departure points to Pandharpur.
- It is still practiced today by their followers known as varkaris.
- These varkaris are individuals who follow a vari, which is a fundamental ritual associated with the festival.

Purpose and location of the festival

- The Palkhi festival is an annual pilgrimage (yatra) to **Pandharpur**, a town in Maharashtra that serves as the abode of the Hindu god **Vithoba**.
- The festival is held to honor this **deity and express devotion towards him**.
- During the festival, varkaris walk in groups, carrying **palkhis or chariots**.
- These palkhis contain the paduka or sacred sandals of various saints, with **Dnyaneshwar and Tukaram** being the most prominent ones.
- The Palkhi procession begins from two different locations in the **Pune district of Maharashtra**. Dnyaneshwar's palakhi starts from Alandi, while Tukaram's palakhi commences from Dehu.

Warkari community

- This community or sect is associated with the **Bhakti spiritual tradition of Hinduism** and has a long history in the Indian state of Maharashtra.
- It has been a prominent part of the **religious fabric since the thirteenth century CE**.
- Saints of this community have contributed significantly to the **spiritual and cultural heritage of Maharashtra**.
- Some of the famous saints associated with this community include **Dnyaneshwar, Namdev, Chokhamela, Eknath and Tukaram**.

4. Sri Lanka's National Poson Week begins (May 31, 2023)

Sri-Lanka's-National-Poson-Week-begins

In **Sri Lanka, the National Poson Week began on 31 May.**

An overview of the news

- The Posan festival will be held till **June 6** and will be centered around the holy city of **Mihinthalaya, Thanthirimalaya and Anuradhapura**.
- The festival celebrates the introduction of Buddhism to **Sri Lanka in 236 BCE by Arhat Mahinda, the son of Emperor Ashoka**.
- A large number of devotees are expected to visit Anuradhapura for the festival this year and steps have been taken to provide all facilities to the devotees.

- Due to economic crisis and lockdown in the last few years the festival could not be celebrated on a large scale.
- Apart from this, the traffic police have implemented a special traffic plan to make travel easier in Anuradhapura.

About Poson Festival

- Posan, also known as Poson Poya, is an **annual festival held by Sri Lankan Buddhists** celebrating the arrival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka in the 3rd century BCE.
- The festival is the most important **Poya (full moon) holiday** of the year and the second most important Buddhist holiday of the year.
- Posan is celebrated throughout the island, with **Anuradhapura and Mihintale** holding the most important celebrations of the festival.
- The festival is held in early June, coinciding with the June full moon.

5. First Urban Climate Film Festival (May 25, 2023)

First-Urban-Climate-Film-Festival

The first ever **Urban Climate Film Festival** is going to be held in **New Town, Kolkata** from June 3 to 5 to sensitize the audience about the environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change on urban settlements.

An overview of the news

- The festival will highlight the **environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change** on urban settlements.
- The audience will be able to see these scenarios through the film.
- During this, **16 films from 12 countries** will be screened.
- There will also be a Q&A session with filmmakers to discuss the impact of climate-change on urban buildings.
- People's views will also be invited on this subject.
- It aims to encourage citizens to 'behave environmentally responsible' in line with the call of the Hon'ble Prime Minister through the **U-20 Priority Sectors and Lifestyle for Environment (LIFE) Mission**.
- The festival will conclude with a special closing ceremony on June 5, the occasion of World Environment Day.

Organizer of the festival

- Launched in **New Delhi in March 2023**, the film festival is being organized by the **National Institute of Urban Affairs**.

- This is being done through the **City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) program** under the **U20** (Urban Track of the G-20) program.
- The festival is supported by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, the **French Development Agency (AFD)**, the **European Union** and the **New Town Kolkata Green Smart City Corporation Limited**.

Names of participants in the festival

- Dr. Surbhi Dahiya (Professor, Indian Institute of Mass Communication)
- Dr. Pranab Patar (Chief Executive, Global Foundation for Advancement of Environment)
- Sabyasanchi Bharti (Deputy Director, CMS Environment)

Background

- The Urban Climate Film Festival was launched on March 24 at the **Alliance Francaise in New Delhi**.
- After the successful event in Delhi, the festival was also organized at **Alliance Francis de Bombay in Mumbai**.
- Films sent by filmmakers from countries such as **India, France, Iran and the US** were screened at the festival.

6. Minister of State Dr L Murugan to lead delegation to Cannes Film Festival (May 15, 2023)

Minister-of-State-Dr-L-Murugan

Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting **Dr L Murugan** will lead the **Indian delegation** to the **Cannes International Film Festival** from May 16 to 27.

An overview of the news

- They will also be joined by filmmaker **Guneet Monga** of The **Elephant Whispers** fame, Indian actresses **Manushi Chhillar, Esha Gupta** and acclaimed Manipuri actor **Kangabam Tomba**.
- The India Pavilion is being conceptualised and designed by **National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad** with the theme - '**Showcasing India's Creative Economy**' to the global community.
- The pavilion design has been inspired by the **Saraswati Yantra**, the abstract representation of goddess Saraswati.
- Four Indian films, including **Kanu Behl's Agra** and **Anurag Kashyap's Kennedy**, have made it to the official selection in the Cannes Film Festival.
- Apart from these, many Indian films will be screened in **Marche du Films**.
- A Manipuri film '**Ishanhau**' will be showcased in the '**Classics**' section.

About Cannes Film Festival

- The Cannes Film Festival is one of the most prestigious international film festivals held annually in Cannes, France.

History and significance

- The festival was first established in 1946 and has since become a prominent event in the global film industry.
- It serves as a platform for showcasing and promoting a wide range of films from different countries and cultures.

Film screenings and competitions

- The festival includes various competitive sections, such as the Palme d'Or for the best film, which is one of the most coveted awards in the industry.

Impact on filmmakers and films

- The Cannes Film Festival serves as a launching pad for many acclaimed films and emerging talents.
- Winning an award or receiving critical acclaim at Cannes can significantly boost a filmmaker's career and bring global recognition to their work.

7. Thiruvananthapuram to host fifth Global Ayurveda Festival in December (May 13, 2023)

The **fifth edition** of the **Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2023)** will take place in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala** from **December 1 to December 5, 2023**.

An overview of the news

- The event is being organized by the **Center for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA)** in collaboration with the **Ministry of AYUSH, Government of Kerala and several Ayurveda associations**.
- Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, **V Muraleedharan** is the **chairman of the organizing committee** of the event.
- The event will focus on showcasing the potential of Ayurveda in addressing the health challenges of the present day world and setting up a platform for **global networking of Ayurveda practitioners and stakeholders**.
- The theme of GAF 2023 is "**Emerging Challenges in Healthcare and a Resurgent Ayurveda**".
- Top scientists including Nobel laureates and **7,500 delegates from 75 countries** are expected to participate in the event.

- The event will also explore how to effectively present Ayurveda in the tourism sector, which can contribute immensely to the development of Kerala.

About Global Ayurveda Festival

- The Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) is a **biennial event** that aims to showcase the **potential of Ayurveda as a holistic system of medicine**.
- The festival provides a **platform for global networking of Ayurveda practitioners and stakeholders**.
- The festival includes **presentations of research papers, poster sessions, and exhibitions of Ayurvedic medicines, herbal products**, and wellness services.

8. Millet Festival in Dehradun (May 13, 2023)

In **Uttarakhand**, a four-day **millet festival (Shri Anna Mahotsav)** began on May 13 in **Dehradun** to create public awareness about the health benefits of millets and deliberate on the state's potential to grow crops in this category.

An overview of the news

- Agriculture ministers, scientists and farmers of other states including Union Agriculture Minister **Narendra Tomar** participated in the Anna Mahotsav.
- The four-day deliberations aimed at attracting more and more people **towards millet production**, which has been set to double by 2025.
- The produce of millet will be discussed in the festival and through this festival the farmers of the state will be encouraged to cultivate millet.
- The Uttarakhand state government has made a provision of **Rs 73 crore for the promotion of millets in this financial year**.
- The aim of the government is that farmers produce more coarse grains so that their economy can be strengthened.
- On this occasion, 134 stalls will be set up under the Mahotsav by the Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Universities and other institutions related to agricultural research.

International Year of Millet (IYOM)-2023

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted India's resolution and declared 2023 as the **International Year of millets** in **March 2021**.
- India's proposal received the **support of 72 countries**.
- In 2021, NITI Aayog signed a letter of intent with the **United Nations World Food Program (WFP)**.

- The partnership focuses on mainstreaming millets and helping India take a global lead in **promoting its health benefits.**
- The objective of this partnership is to build resilient livelihoods for smallholder farmers and to build adaptability to climate change and changing food systems.

9. Thawe Festival organised in Bihar (April 19, 2023)

The **Thawe Festival** took place on 15th and 16th April in **Gopalganj, Bihar** and the festival was jointly **organised by the Department of Tourism and the Department of Art and Culture.**

An Overview of the News

- The objective of the festival is to promote tourism in **Gopalganj and invite visitors to Thawe Durga Temple.**
- Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar **Tejashwi Yadav** inaugurated the festival.
- Bollywood singer **Himesh Reshammiya** participated in the second day of the festival.
- This year the **11th Annual Thawe Festival** was celebrated.
- The festival has been organised since 2012 at the **Home Guard Ground near Thawe Durga Temple.**

List of famous fairs and festivals of Bihar-

Chhath Puja: It is one of the most important festivals in Bihar and is celebrated to worship the Sun God.

Makar-Sankranti: It is celebrated every year on January 14, and marks the beginning of the harvest season.

Buddha Jayanti: Celebrated on the birth anniversary of Lord Buddha, considered the founder of Buddhism.

Sonepur Pashu Fair: It is one of the biggest cattle fairs in Asia and is organised every year in the month of November.

Rajgir Festival: It is celebrated every year in the month of October and is a three-day festival which showcases the cultural heritage of Bihar.

Sama-Chakeva Bihula: This is one such festival which is celebrated every year in the month of November.

Madhushravani: It is a festival celebrated every year in the month of August, and is dedicated to the worship of Goddess Ganga.

Pitru Paksha Mela: It is held every year in the month of September, and is dedicated to ancestor worship.

Malmas Fair: It is held every three years in Bihar, and is considered to be one of the biggest fairs in the state.

10. Vishu being celebrated in Middle East (April 15, 2023)

Vishu being celebrated in Middle East

In Dubai, Vishu, the **traditional New Year festival of Keralites**, is being celebrated with **tradition and modernity** this year.

An overview of the news

- The **World Malayali Council** has marked the celebration of **Vishu** this year with special emphasis on **environmental consciousness**.
- The Malayali community traditionally celebrates Vishu by **exchanging token money**, known as '**Vishu Kaneetam**'.
- This year, in lieu of the customary monetary offering, the council introduced '**Vishu Thenitam**', which translates as '**Vishu Sapling Gift**'.
- The office-bearers of the Council started this eco-friendly festival by gifting a sapling to **Dr. Aman Puri**, Consulate General of India.
- This new approach to Vishu festival not only promotes the value of nature and sustainability but also reflects the growing awareness of the need for environmental protection.

About Vishu Festival

- Vishu, the **traditional New Year festival** of the Indian state of **Kerala**, is celebrated with great enthusiasm across the region.
- This festival is **celebrated in the month of April** which **marks the beginning of a new year** according to the Malayalam calendar.
- The day is considered auspicious and is celebrated with various rituals and customs, including the setting up of a special arrangement called **Vishukani**, consisting of things such as **rice, fruits, flowers and coins**, which bring prosperity and abundance. There are symbols.