

Current Affairs search results for tag: festivals

1. SCO Millets Food Festival 2023 organized in Mumbai (April 14, 2023)

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.

An Overview of the News:

- 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).
- The SCO Millets Food Festival will be open to the public for lunch and dinner from April 14 to 19 at Shamiana Restaurant, Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Mumbai.
- India is chairing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization for the year 2023.

SCO Tourism Mart:

- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has successfully completed the organization of SCO Tourism Mart from 9th to 11th February 2023.
- SCO Expert Level Tourism Working Group meeting and SCO Tourism Ministers meeting held from 13 to 18 March 2023 in Kashi (Varanasi).

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.

2. Third edition of the Jammu Film Festival begins (April 9, 2023)

Third edition of the Jammu Film Festival begins

In **Jammu and Kashmir**, the **third edition of the Jammu Film Festival**, sponsored by the **J&K Tourism Department**, began with a grand opening at **Abhinav Theatre** on 8 April.

An overview of the news

- The festival featured **parallel screenings of 25 feature films, short films and documentaries from Iran, India, France and the United States**.
- The inaugural section of the festival featured short films and a documentary from countries such as **Iran, India, France and the United States**.

- These included **Nahid, Kav Kav, Fatih the Conqueror, Sandhanam and Liturgy of Anti-Tank Obstacles.**
- The festival aims to **promote tourism in Jammu and Kashmir** and provide a platform to filmmakers to showcase their talent.
- About **25 feature films, short films and documentaries were screened** on the first day of the festival.
- The festival features screening of 50 feature films, short films and documentaries from 11 countries.
- In addition to screenings, the festival will also host side events such as panel discussions, red-carpet events, culture showcases and painting exhibitions.

3. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurate Gaj Utsav at Kaziranga in Assam (April 7, 2023)

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurate Gaj Utsav at Kaziranga in Assam

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a two-day '**Gaj Utsav-2023**' on April 7 at the **Kaziranga National Park** High School's playground field in Assam.

An overview of the news

- Meanwhile, President Murmu also enjoyed cultural performances including **Bhortal, Jhumur and Bihu dance** forms by Assamese artistes at Kohora.
- The President also flag off the '**Mount Kanchenjunga Expedition-2023**'.
- President Murmu attended the **Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Gauhati High Court** as the chief guest and also launched a mobile app "**Bhoroxa**" designed for the safety of women and the elderly.
- President Murmu is on a three-day visit to the northeastern state.
- The **Gauhati High Court was established on 5th April, 1948** for the seven North Eastern States.
- However, after the establishment of separate **High Courts for the 3 states, the Gauhati High Court** now exercises jurisdiction over the remaining four states.

About Gaj Utsav

- Kaziranga Gaja Utsav is an **annual festival** held in the national park to promote the **conservation and protection of elephants.**
- It is jointly organized by the **Forest and Tourism Departments** to draw attention and find a solution to the growing human-elephant conflict in the state.
- This is being organized to mark the completion of **30 years of Project Elephant.**

- The Government of India started **Project Elephant in the year 1992** to protect elephants, their migration routes and natural habitats.
- **Assam has the second largest population of elephants in the country after Karnataka.**
- Kaziranga National Park being a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** is an ideal place for Gaja Utsav.

About Assam State

- Chief Minister - **Himanta Biswa Sarma**
- Governor - **Gulab Chand Kataria**
- Number of Districts - **33**
- Lok Sabha seats - **14**
- Rajya Sabha seats - **7**
- State Animal - **Indian Rhinoceros**
- State Bird - **White Winged Duck**
- National Parks – **Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Nameri National Park, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park**

4. Two-day Science-20 conference begins at Hapania International Fair Ground, Agartala (April 3, 2023)

Two-day Science-20 conference begins at Hapania International Fair Ground, Agartala

The **Science-20 Summit** under India's G20 chairmanship began today at the **Hapania International Fair Grounds in Agartala, Tripura**. The conference will run for two days and more than 60 delegates are participating in it.

An Overview of the News

- The theme of the science conference is '**Clean Energy for a Green Future**' and it is a part of the G20 meetings.
- The conference will discuss three sub-themes, including **green hydrogen, ocean-based technologies and new generation energy storage.**

About the G20

- It is an international forum for economic cooperation that plays an important role in shaping global governance on major economic issues.

- India will chair the G20 from **December 2022 to November 2023.**
- The G20 was **established in 1999** after the **Asian financial crisis** as a forum for finance ministers and central bank governors.
- **In 2008, the G20** was upgraded to the level of heads of state/government in response to the global financial crisis.
- The G20 focuses on a wide range of topics, including **trade, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, the environment, climate change and anti-corruption.**
- The G20 consists of 19 countries and the European Union, representing approximately 85% of global GDP, more than 75% of global trade, and nearly two-thirds of the world's population.

5. National Science Centre organizes Innovation Festival (March 26, 2023)

The two-day **National Science Center Innovation Festival** event was inaugurated in **New Delhi** on 25 March.

An overview of the news

- The festival was inaugurated by **Prof. Balram Bhargava** (Chief Guest) President, NASI, Former Secretary, Department of Health Research, Govt of India.
- The closing ceremony on March 26, 2023 was presided over by **Dr. Debashish Mohanty**, Director, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi.
- **It aims** to foster a passion and aptitude for science and technology and provide a unique platform to innovative and creative innovators.
- The Innovation Festival consisted of Innovation Fair, Creative Robo Design, Innovative Challenges for families, Family Science Quiz, Popular Science lecture, Workshop on Intellectual Property Right and Idea Contest.
- The festival provides an opportunity to the people to showcase their **innovative works and the products made by them in the past.**
- It is a platform for innovators to showcase their **creative work and interact with others from different fields.**

6. Urban Climate Film Festival, 2023 (March 24, 2023)

The **National Institute of Urban Affairs** is organising the **first Urban Climate Film Festival** under **U20 engagement events** from 24 March.

An overview of the news

- The Urban Climate Film Festival was **launched on 24 March at the ML Bhartia Auditorium in New Delhi.**
- The festival is being organized with the support of the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, the French Development Agency (AFD) and the European Union.**
- A curated selection of **11 films from 9 countries** will be screened to create wider awareness of the impact of climate change on life in cities and engage the public in the dialogue on sustainable urban development.
- Selected films will be screened at the festival in **New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Ahmedabad.**
- The event, to be held from 25 to 26 March 2023, includes **11 award-winning films** and interactive sessions from countries such as **India, France, Germany, Belgium, Poland and USA.**

About National Institute of Urban Affairs

- It is a central **autonomous body** under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**
- It is a **national think-tank** undertaking cutting-edge **multidisciplinary research, knowledge exchange and capacity development**, policy planning in the area of urban development.
- It is also serving as the technical secretariat for the U20, the urban engagement group of the G20.

7. Ugadi Festival 2023 (March 22, 2023)

In the year 2023 **Ugadi festival** is going to be celebrated by the citizens on **22 March.**

About Ugadi festival

- Widely celebrated in **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**, the new year festival Ugadi, also known as **Yugadi**, is celebrated with great enthusiasm.
- The day falls on the **first day of the Hindu month of Chaitra**, and usually occurs in **March or April.**
- Ugadi begins with the **first day of the nine-day festival Chaitra Navratri**, and also marks the **beginning of spring.**
- It is believed that on this day **Lord Brahma** created the universe.
- The name '**Yugadi**' itself is derived from the Sanskrit words **yuga (age) and adi (beginning)** - '**the beginning of a new age**'.

- In the **12th century**, the Indian mathematician **Bhaskaracharya** recognized Ugadi as the beginning of the new year.
- People from all walks of life celebrate this day by wearing new clothes and **eating delicious food**.
- They offer prayers at temples to welcome the new year, and they decorate their homes with rangolis, which are designs made of colored rice or flower petals on the floor.

8. Matua mela is being organised in West Bengal (March 20, 2023)

The **Matua Mela** is being organized in **West Bengal** to commemorate the **212th birth anniversary of Sri Sri Harichand Thakur**, the **founder of the Matua sect**.

About Matua Maha Mela

- West Bengal is hosting the Matua Maha Mela 2023 from **March 19 to March 25**.
- This Mela is being organized by **All India Matua Federation**.
- It is being organized at **Shridham Thakurnagar, Thakurbari in North 24 Parganas of West Bengal**.
- The occasion offers the chance for the Matua community to get together, take part in religious rituals, and honour their spiritual elders.
- The occasion provides an important opportunity to this community to highlight their **customs and cultural heritage**.

Matua Community

- The Matua community has a **sizeable population in both West Bengal and Bangladesh**.
- The Matua sect was founded by **Sri Sri Harichand Thakur** in the **nineteenth century**.
- Over the years the Matua community has faced many **hardships including marginalization and prejudice**.
- The community has persevered in keeping alive its unique **cultural heritage and traditions**.
- After the formation of Bangladesh, their large **population migrated to India**.
- Many people of the community are **yet to obtain Indian citizenship**.

9. G20 Flower Festival begins in New Delhi (March 14, 2023)

From 11 March, the **Flower Festival** began at **Delhi's Connaught Plaza** with an aim to **showcase the diversity of the G20 participants and invited nations**.

News Overview

- It was inaugurated by Union Environment Minister **Bhupendra Yadav**.
- The **main objective** of the festival is to **showcase the vibrancy and diversity of the G20 members and guest countries**.
- To achieve this objective, the festival will showcase a variety of flowering plants in various colours and arrangements, highlighting the richness of the Indian subcontinent.
- Along with plants, paintings and photographs of flowers from G20 members and invited countries will be displayed.
- The festival provides a unique opportunity to appreciate the beauty and diversity of flora and cultural heritage of the participating countries.

About the G20

- It is an international forum of the world's leading economies **established in 1999**.
- Its **primary objective** is to promote international financial stability and sustainable economic growth.
- The G20 serves as a forum to discuss and coordinate policies related to a wide range of economic and financial issues such as trade, investment, employment, energy and climate change.

10. 'Divya Kala Mela' to be held at Bhopal Haat, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (March 11, 2023)

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) is organizing '**Divya Kala Mela**' from 12th to 21st March, 2023 at **Bhopal Haat, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

An overview of the news

- The event will be inaugurated by Hon'ble **Governor of Madhya Pradesh Mangu Bhai Patel** on 12Th March.
- It is a unique event showcasing the products and craftsmanship of **Divyang entrepreneurs/artisans** from across the country.
- The event will provide an exciting experience to the visitors of vibrant products from different parts of the country including **Jammu & Kashmir, North Eastern States** which will bring together handicrafts, handlooms, embroidery works and packaged food etc.
- Around **150 Divyang artisans/artists and entrepreneurs** from around **21 States/UTs** will be showcasing their products and skills.
- The wide range of products includes - home decor & lifestyle, clothing, stationery & eco-friendly products, packaged food & organic products, toys & gifts, personal accessories - jewelry, clutch bags etc.

- It will be an opportunity for all to be '**Vocal for Local**' and products made by Divyang artisans can be seen/purchased.
- In **December 2022**, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities organized the **Divya Kala Mela** at the historic **Kartavya Path** in New Delhi.