

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ G20 Film Festival begins in New Delhi with screening of Satyajit Ray's Pather Panchali

- The G20 Film Festival which began in New Delhi was inaugurated by veteran actor Victor Banerjee and India's G20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant.
- The opening film at this festival was Satyajit Ray's 'Pather Panchali'.
- This film festival aims to celebrate and showcase a vibrant and collaborative partnership existing amongst the G20 and invited countries in the field of cinema.
- It is being organised by the India International Centre (IIC) and the G20 Secretariat of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The event will continue till September 2nd.

❖ G20 Digital Economy Working Group meetings inaugurated in Bengaluru

- As part of India's G20 Presidency, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is leading the G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG). It has identified three priority areas namely, (i) Digital Public Infrastructure, (ii) Security in the Digital Economy and (iii) Digital Skilling.
- The first, second and third meetings of the DEWG were organised at Lucknow, Hyderabad and Pune in February 2023, April 2023, and June 2023 respectively to build consensus on these priority areas.

- The fourth and final meeting of G20 DEWG started in Bengaluru recently.
- 100 delegates from G20 members, 9 invited countries and 5 International Organizations namely Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are the attendees of the meeting.
- The G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (DIA) Summit will be organised on August 17-19, 2023, at Palace Ground, Bengaluru.
- This summit will have a vibrant exhibition, comprising of Startups, Incubators, Accelerators, Corporates, State Governments, etc.

❖ **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is organizing Youth 20 Summit in Uttar Pradesh**

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is organizing a four day event called, Youth 20 Summit-2023 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Y20 provides a platform for the youth to express their voices and ideas on G20 priorities.
- The five identified themes of Y20 are ‘Future of work: Industry 4.0 innovation & 21st century skills’, ‘Peace building and reconciliation: ushering in an era of no war’, ‘Climate change and disaster risk reduction: Making sustainability a way of life’, ‘Shared future: Youth in democracy and governance and Health well-being & sports: Agenda for youth’.

- The knowledge partner for this summit will be IIM Raipur and academic partners will be universities/institutions to negotiate, finalise and sign the Y20 communique.
- This summit will also provide youth a global perspective to become aware of new opportunities, build self-confidence, an opportunities to interact with Indian policy-makers, encourage youth to think constructively about local problems, build perception that youth are active agents not passive recipients of knowledge and interaction with mixed groups to build networks.
- This summit will provide opportunities for collaboration and networking with other stakeholders and contribute to the development of the youth.

❖ **India's first ever, crude oil transaction in local currency was with UAE**

- The first-ever oil transaction in local currency has taken place between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) since the implementation of Local Currency Settlement (LCS).
- Both Indian Rupees and UAE Dirhams were used for this transaction.
- UAE is the fourth largest source of crude oil and the second largest source of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to India.
- LCS reduces the transaction costs and time as well as increase the value of local currencies.
- The surplus balance in local currencies can be used for investing in local currency assets like corporate bonds, Government securities, equity markets etc.

❖ NHA and IRDAI collaborate to boost Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- The National Health Authority (NHA) and IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) jointly organized an exclusive Accelerator Workshop to help insurance companies complete their Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) integration and to facilitate adoption of Health Claims Exchange (HCX) specifications and e-Claim standards for insurance companies and Third-Party Administrators (TPAs).
- The workshop which was organized in New Delhi had participation from over 150 professionals representing 29 insurance companies and 16 TPAs.
- The IRDAI had issued a circular in June 2023 that all insurance companies should start capturing ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) number of all the persons seeking insurance cover. Also to obtain their consent for sharing medical records with insurers/TPAs through ABHA.
- The IRDAI issued a circular advising the insurers and providers get on-boarded to the National Health Claims Exchange (NHCX).
- The integration with NHCX will enable seamless interoperability of health claims processing.

❖ NCBS museum hosts bee species from across India

- National Center for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bengaluru has put together a collection of bees from across the country, particularly from biodiversity hotspots such as Western Ghats and North-east India.
- This museum has different honey bee species, including the giant honey bees *Apis dorsata*, *Apis laboriosa*, *Apis binghami* and *Apis breviligula*.
- *Apis laboriosa* is particularly a spectacular species, in large part because it usually nests on inaccessible cliff in the Himalayas.
- In addition to honey bees, this museum also have a unique collection of 1,200 bumble bee specimens belonging to 24 different species from North-East India.
- This facility is climate controlled and is one of its kind in India.
- It is a national repository of dry and wet specimen collections.
- It also provides taxonomic expertise to help identify and classify species.

❖ UGC to standardize syllabus in PG courses

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has established a specialized committee for crafting model syllabus for courses centered around manuscriptology and paleography.
- Manuscriptology is the study involving the exploration of history and literature through handwritten documents.
- Paleography is the study of ancient writing systems primarily from classical and medieval eras.
- A eleven-member committee, led by Prafulla Mishra, former Director of the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), has been formed including experts from IITs and Sanskrit languages to standardized syllabus for PG Diploma courses.

Mukhyamantri Nishulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Nishulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme' on the eve of Independence Day.
- The aim of this scheme is to provide free monthly food packets from fair price shops (FPS) at no cost, to families covered under the National Food Security Act.
- Each packet given under this programme includes gram pulses, sugar, iodized salt, soybean refined edible oil, chili powder, coriander powder, and turmeric powder.
- By providing essential food items regularly, it primarily ensures that families covered by the NFSA do not go hungry.
- The scheme is budgeted at approximately Rs 4,500 crore annually, to provide relief to over one crore needy families amidst rising inflation.

❖ India & World Health Organization to launch Global Initiative on Digital Health

- India, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), will be launching the Global Initiative on Digital Health.
- This initiative launched under the Union Health Ministry, aims to bring together efforts and investments in the digital health space from around the world.
- It is the first of its kind and will help converge digital health innovations and solutions to improve healthcare service delivery.

- This collaborative effort has also received funding from global partners and will include an investment tracker, an ask tracker, and a library of existing digital health platforms.
- In collaboration with WHO, India is leading the advocacy for a “network of networks approach.”
- The G20 Health Minister’s meeting will focus on three key priorities: health emergency prevention, preparedness, and response; strengthening cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector; and digital health innovations and solutions to aid universal health coverage and improve healthcare service delivery.
- The summit is also working towards setting up a Climate and Health Initiative (CHI) in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the launch of a patient and healthcare workforce mobility portal.

❖ **Pakistani cricketer Wahab Riaz retires from international cricket**

- Pakistan fast bowler Wahab Riaz, has announced his retirement from international cricket, officially terminating his 15-year career.
- He will focus on playing T20 leagues around the world.
- He has not played any international match for Pakistan in over two years and his last appearance was in a couple of white-ball games at the end of 2020.
- He was named as the care taker sports minister of Pakistan's Punjab province in January this year.

❖ India ranks in 3rd position in International Hockey Federation Rankings

➤ Indian men's hockey team has stood in third position in FIH (International Hockey Federation) Rankings.

➤ This increase in India's rankings is due to their exemplary performance at the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy that took place in Chennai, India.

➤ In the latest FIH rankings, India is only behind the Netherlands and Belgium which hold the first and second positions respectively.

➤ The Indian men's hockey team continues to be the highest-ranked team in the world from Asia.

❖ Malayalam New Year 'Chingam' observed on 17th August 2023

➤ Chingam 1, the first day of the Malayalam calendar, marks the beginning of Malayalam New Year 2023 in Kerala.

➤ This day marks the beginning of the new harvest season in Kerala and is considered to be the most auspicious day.

➤ Various cultural events takes place on this day such as Pulikali, a unique folk art form and they serve vegetarian delicacies on banana leaves.