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‘PRASADAM’: Country's First Healthy And Hygienic Food Street

- Union Minister of Health, Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers **Mansukh Mandaviya** and Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh **Dr. Mohan Yadav** jointly inaugurated the **country's first Healthy and Hygienic Food Street (Prasadam) at Neelkanth Van, Mahakal Lok, Ujjain.**
- Prasadam aims to connect people in every corner of the country with pure and safe local and traditional food. This is in line with the vision of **‘Viksit Bharat’**.

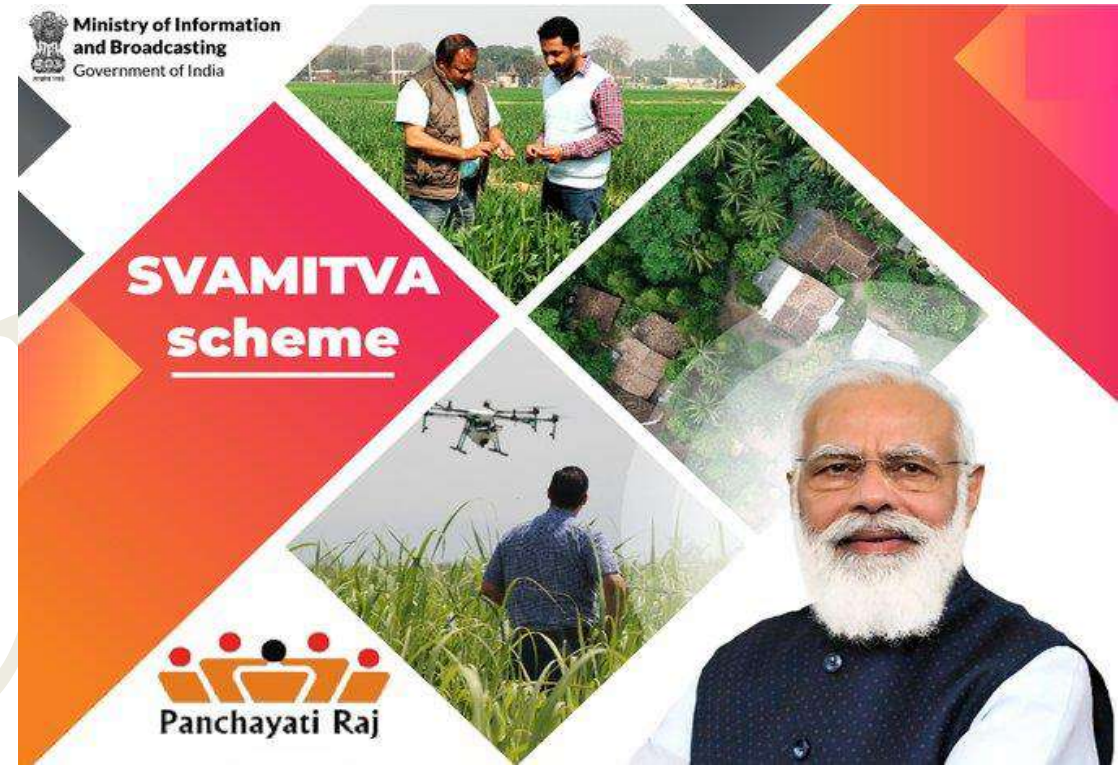
- This initiative aims to enhance Ujjain's tourism attraction and preserve its culinary heritage while also playing a role in promoting economic development.
- Spread over an area of 939 square meters with a total number of 17 shops, “Prasadam” offers convenient and culturally rich dining options for the 1-1.5 lakh devotees who visit the Mahakaleshwar Temple daily.
- The newly launched food street is designed to provide various facilities including a kids' play area, drinking water facility, CCTV surveillance, parking, public conveniences and seating spaces.
- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** will provide food handling training and the 'Food Safety on Wheels' vehicle will inspect the food weekly.

SVAMITVA Scheme : Awarded With The Best Innovation Award

- ‘SVAMITVA Scheme’ has been awarded the **Best Innovation Award for Innovation Sandbox Presentation** during the Public Policy Dialogue-2024 organized by the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.
- **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** participated in the Innovation Sandbox presentation and showcased “Digital Transformation Initiative in Land Management through SVAMITVA Scheme” and was awarded the first prize.

Other honours received by the SVAMITVA Scheme:

- SVAMITVA Scheme received the prestigious Gold Award in the category “Using Emerging Technology to Provide Citizen-Centric Services” at the **National Awards for e-Governance 2023** held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, in October 2023.
- SVAMITVA Scheme was also awarded the Gold Award for the category “Innovative Use of Technology in e-Governance for Digital Transformation” at the **Digitech Conclave 2023** held in Goa in August 2023.
- The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the national level on 24 April 2021.
- Its objective is to prepare housing rights records of the rural population using drone survey technology in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Government of India, the State Revenue Department and Survey of India.



Sansad Ratna

Five MPs

from the **Lok Sabha**
Selected for

Sansad Ratna Awards



Sukanta Majumdar



Shrikant Eknath Shinde



Sudheer Gupta



Amol Ramsing Kolhe



Kuldeep Rai Sharma

Five MPs From The Lok Sabha Selected For Sansad Ratna Awards

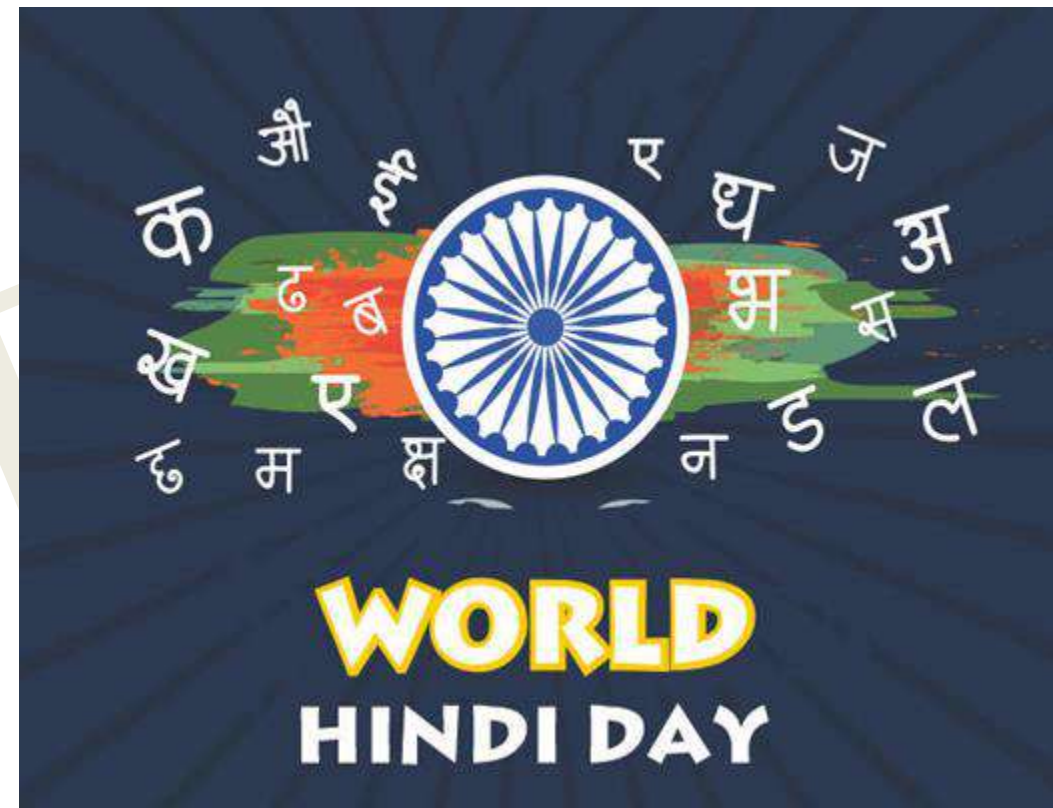
- This award was started on the advice of former **President APJ Abdul Kalam**. This award is given to those MPs whose work is the best in Parliament.
- A jury led by Union Law Minister **Arjun Ram Meghwal** has selected these MPs. The jury also included former Chief Election Commissioner of India **T S Krishnamurthy**.

- The Sansad Ratna Award is given every year. This year the awardees are: **Sunkat Majumdar (BJP), Shrikant Eknath Shinde (Shiv Sena), Sudhir Gupta(BJP), Ramsingh Kolhe (NCP), Kuldeep Rai Sharma (Congress).**
- Priyadarshini Rahul is the Chairman of the Sansad Ratna Award Committee and Trustee Secretary of Prime Point Foundation. This committee has selected five MPs for the **Sansad Maharatna Award** for the entire 17th Lok Sabha.
- This year the awardees are: **N K Premachandran (RSP), Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary (Congress), Bidyut Baran Mahato (BJP), Heena Vijaykumar Gavit (BJP).**
- The Sansad Maharatna Award winners of the previous 16th Lok Sabha will also be honoured with this award this year. The jury committee has selected all the award winners in a transparent manner. This year, there are three Parliamentarians who will be given the award more than once. They are:
Supriya Sule (NCP, Maharashtra),
Shrirang Appa Barne (Shiv Sena, Maharashtra)
Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJD, Odisha)
- Keeping in mind the importance of Parliamentary Committees, three Standing Committees have also been selected for the Sansad Maha Ratna Awards starting from the current 17th Lok Sabha. They are:
Agriculture Committee, headed by P C Gaddi Gowdar (BJP, Karnataka)
Finance Committee, headed by Jayant Sinha (BJP, Jharkhand)
Transport and Tourism Committee, currently chaired by Vijayasai Reddy (YSR Congress, Andhra Pradesh)

World Hindi Day – Jan 10

- January 10 is celebrated annually as World Hindi Day to spread awareness about Hindi as an international language across the world and the day is especially observed by Indian embassies abroad.
- After English and Mandarin Chinese, Hindi is the most spoken language globally, which is **spoken by 600 million people across the world.**
- According to the Census of India of 2001, our country has 122 major languages and 1599 other languages but Hindi in **Devanagari script** is the official language of the central government of India and also of the Union, as per the Article 343 of the Constitution of India.

- It is an Indo-Aryan language but contrary to popular belief, **it is not the national language of India** since the Constitution of India does not give any language the status of national language.
- In 2024, the theme of the World Hindi Day is **“Hindi–Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence”**.





ISRO and Mauritius to Jointly Build and Launch Small Satellite

- India has signed an agreement with Mauritius to jointly develop a small satellite, which will be launched by ISRO in early 2024. The cooperation will be between **ISRO and Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC)**.
- Realization of the satellite through participation of Indian industries is expected within **15 months**. The total estimated project cost is **Rs.20 crore** borne by India.
- The joint satellite project will ensure continued Mauritian government support for ISRO's critical ground tracking station located in the island country. This station aids India's launch missions.
- Additionally, MRIC agreed to provide their ground infrastructure for ISRO's future small satellite projects which signals widened scope of bilateral space collaboration.
- India set up the Mauritius ground tracking station back in 1986 to assist its satellite and launcher missions. The current cooperation is guided by a 2009 country-level agreement on space.

ONGC starts oil production from its Cluster-2 project in Krishna Godavari basin in Bay of Bengal

- State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has started oil production from its flagship deep-sea project in **Krishna Godavari basin in Bay of Bengal**.
- ONGC has started producing from the Cluster-2 project in KG-DWN-98/2 block and will slowly ramp up output.
- The production is expected to be **45 thousand barrels per day** and over **10 million standard cubic metres per day of gas**.
- The project is expected to add 7 percent to current national oil production and 7 percent to national Natural Gas production.
- It is situated offshore the Godavari river delta in the Bay of Bengal. It is located 35 kilometres off the coast of Andhra Pradesh in water depths ranging from 300-3,200 metres.
- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister: **Hardeep Singh Puri**





US Launches Peregrine-1 Lander to Moon in Historic Lunar Mission

➤ The Peregrine-1 lunar lander, operated by private firm Astrobotic, successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, marking the first American lunar mission in 51 years. Scheduled to land on February 23, the mission, conducted under **NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) initiative**, aims to study the Moon's surface environment in preparation for upcoming human missions.

- The Peregrine lander carries five **NASA payloads and 15 other components** designed to measure radiation, surface and subsurface water ice, magnetic fields, and the exosphere.
- Additionally, five miniature moon rovers, non-scientific payloads like a Bitcoin-loaded coin, and a “lunar dream capsule” filled with messages from children worldwide are part of the mission.
- The launch utilizes the **Vulcan Centaur rocket**, a pivotal development for ULA, a joint venture between Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

India to Host UNESCO World Heritage Committee

- In a historic development, India is poised to chair and host UNESCO's World Heritage Committee **46th session in New Delhi** from July 21 to 31, 2024.
- This marks a significant milestone as the first instance of a country leading and hosting the prestigious committee.
- The event positions New Delhi as the focal point for global discussions on preserving cultural and historical heritage, presenting a momentous opportunity to showcase India's rich cultural legacy on the world stage.
- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**, is a specialised UN agency to foster global peace and national security through collaborative efforts in education, arts, science, and culture.
- The crucial UNESCO World Heritage Committee session convenes annually, comprising representatives from 21 member states.
- Its primary function is to contribute significantly to the expansion of the esteemed list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in preserving cultural and natural treasures.
- The Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO is **Vishal V Sharma**.





Mamata Banerjee launches 'Yogyasree' for SC/ST students in West Bengal

- 'YogyaSree' is a specialized initiative launched by **Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** to support SC/ST students.
- The program aims to provide financial aid, mentoring, and coaching services for educational growth.
- It addresses historical disparities and barriers hindering the educational advancement of SC/STs.
- 'YogyaSree' intends to mitigate financial constraints, ensuring access to quality education.
- The initiative signifies a significant step towards **empowerment and inclusivity in education.**



Cyclone Alvaro reaches southern Madagascar

Tropical Cyclone 'ALVARO'

- Tropical cyclone **ALVARO** made landfall over the southwestern-central coast of **Madagascar** on 1 January and crossed the southern-central regions on 2 January, resulting in casualties and an increasing number of affected people.
- The worst-hit regions are Atsimo-Andrefana, Menabe, Matsiatra, Ihorombe and Fitovinany.
- According to the **National Bureau of Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC)**, 10 people died, more than 9,500 people have been relocated to 36 evacuation centres, almost 26,000 people are affected, 241 settlements have been completely destroyed, 426 houses damaged as well as 15 schools.

FIH signs a four year deal with Viacom 18

- The **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** has announced that it has signed a major media rights agreement with Indian broadcaster **Viacom18**.
- This agreement runs for a four-year cycle (2023-2027) and includes all FIH events, except the FIH Nations Cup.



- Under this partnership, Indian hockey fans will be able to watch the upcoming FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, the first ever FIH Hockey5s World Cup, the FIH Hockey Pro League, the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup and many more events on Viacom18 channels. The matches will be available on **JioCinema and Sports18**.