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## Uttarayani Festival on Ram Temple Theme | Uttarakhand | 10 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami directed to celebrate **the Uttarayani festival and fair**, observed on [Makar Sankranti](#) every year in the state's Kumaon region, with the **theme of the Ram Temple consecration ceremony**.

### Key Points

- The chief minister **urged the people to perform Deepotsav** in their homes and **organize Kalash Yatras and Ram Katha**.
- He also emphasized on organizing a **campaign to clean the ghats of major rivers**.
- **Essay and painting competitions** should be organized in **schools on the ideals of Lord Ram**.

### Ram Temple Consecration Ceremony

- Preparations for the **'pran-pratishtha' ceremony of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya on January 22** includes:
  - **Idols of elephants, lions, Lord Hanuman and Garuda, 'vahana' of Lord Vishnu**, have been installed at the **entrance gate** of the Ram Temple.
  - Invitation cards for the consecration ceremony have been sent out to guests including VVIPs, priests, donors and several politicians.
- According to **Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirath Kshetra Trust**, the committee overseeing the construction of the temple:
  - The **Ram Mandir, constructed** in the traditional [Nagara style](#), is a **three-storied shrine, measuring 380 feet in length (east-west direction), 250 feet in width, and 161 feet in height**.
  - It has a **total of 392 pillars and 44 doors**. It features **five Mandaps (halls) -- Nritya Mandap, Rang Mandap, Sabha Mandap, Prarthna and Kirtan Mandaps**.

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## Chhatisgarh Bachao Andolan | Chhattisgarh | 10 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

The **Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) in Chhattisgarh** has extended its support to the proposed **citizens' protest** march in Hasdeo Arand against the large-scale cutting of trees for [coal mining](#).

- **Hasdeo Arand forests** are considered **bio-diversity rich**, with the catchment area of Hasdeo River providing **crucial help for drinking water** in underdeveloped areas.

## Key Points

- The [deforestation](#) of **137 hectares of biodiverse forest** in Hasdeo for the Parsa East and Kanta Basan (PEKB) coal blocks in Chhattisgarh will have detrimental effects. This includes **impacting the river Hasdeo, escalating human-elephant conflicts**, and causing negative consequences for the local biodiversity.
- A total of **five billion tonnes** of coal is estimated to be **sitting under the dense forest area**.
  - The latest deforestation marks the second stage of clearances for PEBK; the first stage included **sanctioning of the open mine for coal extraction to supply electricity in Rajasthan and neighbouring state**.
- The ongoing **deforestation** will displace and **impact the livelihoods of 700 indigenous families from** neighbouring villages in **Surguja district of northern Chhattisgarh such as Sahli, Tara, Janardhanpur, Ghatbarra, Fatehpur and Hariharpur**.
- Tribal rights activists from Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, Save Hasdeo Forest Committee as well as Gram Sabha leaders have been actively protesting the relentless tree felling.
- **Mining Activity in Hasdeo Arand Coal Field (HACF) Region:**
  - The HACF is spread over nearly 1,880 sq km and **comprises 23 coal blocks**.
  - The area was **declared as a 'No-Go Zone' for mining by the Centre in 2009**.
  - The **demand for mining picked up around 2010**, when the Chhattisgarh government recommended forest clearance for diverting forest land for PEBK coal fields.
  - **In 2012, Forest Clearance was granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF)** for mining in phase I of PEBK coal mines.
  - Though cases are pending in various courts, **in March 2022 the Chhattisgarh government approved the second phase of mining in the PEBK coal block**.

## Hasdeo Arand Forest

- Hasdeo Arand, a sprawling forest in the **northern part of Chhattisgarh is known for its biodiversity and its coal deposits**.
- The forest falls under **Korba, Sujapur and Surguja districts** with significant tribal population.
- The **Hasdeo river, a tributary of Mahanadi**, flows through it.
- Hasdeo Arand is the **largest un-fragmented forest in Central India consisting of pristine Sal (Shorea robusta) and teak forests**.
- It is a **noted migratory corridor** and has a significant **presence of [elephants](#)**.

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## Tasar Silk at Republic Day Parade | Jharkhand | 10 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

Jharkhand's tableau showcasing the production of the famed [tasar silk](#) in the Santhal Pargana region was selected for the [Republic Day parade in New Delhi](#).

- Jharkhand is among 16 states and Union Territories the tableaux of which have been selected for the parade.

### Key Points

- The country will be introduced to the **silk of Dumka and Godda of Jharkhand**.
  - **Sarihan variety of tasar silk is found in the Dumka district.**
- There are **four types of silk** -- Mulberry, Eri, Muga and tasar. Mulberry, Eri and Muga are common and can be produced indoors but tasar is wild in nature.
- **Country's 70% tasar is produced in Jharkhand**, of which **40% is produced** in the state's **Santhal Pargana region**.
  - The **tasar silk is transported to Bhagalpur in Bihar, where the final product is made.**

### Status of India's Silk Industry

- India stands as the **world's second-largest producer of raw silk after China.**

- India boasts a **diverse range of silk types**, including **Mulberry, Tasar, Muga, and Eri**. The variations arise from the distinct feeding habits of the silkworms.
  - The **silk industry stands as one of India's largest foreign exchange earners**, contributing significantly to the country's economic landscape.
  - **The major silk-producing states in the country are** Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
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## Healthy Food Street 'Prasadam' at Ujjain | Madhya Pradesh | 10 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated the **country's first healthy and hygienic food street, 'Prasadam'**, that will serve traditional healthy food and delicacies made of **coarse grains** at [Mahakal Lok in Ujjain](#).

### Key Points

- **Prasadam will have 17 shops** that will offer dishes made from **rajgira, sanwa, kuttu, ragi, dal-baffle and other famous traditional dishes of the state**, built at a cost of Rs 175 lakh.
- The food street will be **fully operational from the first week of February, 2024** and **junk foods and plastic are prohibited in the premises**.
- The [Food Safety and Standards Authority of India \(FSSAI\)](#) will give **food handling training to vendors** while the **Food Safety on Wheels vehicle** will come **once a week** to inspect the food and train vendors.
  - **100 healthy and hygienic street food hubs** will come up at different locations **in the country**.
- **The Chief Minister also launched 'Manhit' App focused on mental health**. Mental health screening app "Manhit" developed by the Mental Health Unit of National Health Mission Madhya Pradesh.
  - It is **mainly divided into three sections**: Mental health self-assessment, awareness materials/videos and contact with mental health facilities.

### Coarse Grains

- Coarse grains are **traditionally grown** in resource **poor agro-climatic regions** of the country. They are **also called nutri-grains**.
    - Agro-climatic zone is a land unit in terms of major climates suitable for a certain range of crops and cultivars.
  - **Examples of Coarse grains** are Sorghum, pearl millet, maize, barley, finger millet and several small millets such as kodo millet, little millet, foxtail millet, proso millet and barnyard millet.
  - **Coarse cereals producing states include** Karnataka, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh etc.
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## Uttar Pradesh Among Top Three States for MSMEs | Uttar Pradesh | 10 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

According to a report by realty consulting firm CBRE South Asia and real estate developers association CREDAI, **Uttar Pradesh** has emerged **among the top three states** as a **significant contributor to the [Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises \(MSME\) sector](#)**, with a **9% share in total registered MSMEs** in the country.

- Sector-wise, the report highlighted that the **construction sector, contributing approximately 8% to the GDP**, is a strategic opportunity for Indian MSMEs.

### Key Points

- According to the official data from the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2.21 crore MSMEs are registered** (excluding registrations via the [Udyam Assist Portal](#)) under the ministry.
  - Several cities in Uttar Pradesh have emerged as **MSME clusters**, with **Agra, Kanpur, Varanasi, Lucknow, Meerut and Ghaziabad** leading in enrolling for the Udyam scheme.
- Out of which **38.09 lakh with a 17.2% share were from Maharashtra** followed by **22.32 lakh with a 10% share from Tamil Nadu** and **20.95 lakh with a 9.4% share from Uttar Pradesh**.
  - **Rajasthan with 16 lakh and Gujarat with 15.96 lakh MSMEs** were the other top destinations for registered units in the country.
- Collaborative efforts between the government, industry stakeholders, and financial institutions **can help create a robust support system, ensuring that the MSMEs receive the necessary resources** and guidance to navigate the evolving economic landscape.

### Udyam Portal

- It is an online system for **registering MSMEs, launched by the Union MSME ministry on 1st July, 2020**.
- It is **linked to the databases of the [Central Board of Direct Taxes \(CBDT\)](#) and [Goods and Services Tax Network \(GSTN\)](#)**.
  - **GSTN is a unique and intricate IT enterprise** that establishes a channel of communication and interaction between taxpayers, the central and various state governments, and other stakeholders.
- It is **fully online**, does not require any documentation, and is a step towards [Ease of Doing Business](#) for MSMEs.

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## Swachh Survekshan 2023 | Uttar Pradesh | 10 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

**Prayagraj and Varanasi** will get the **prestigious President's Award** in the [Swachh Survekshan 2023](#) - the cleanliness survey awards in New Delhi.

## Key Points

- Eight cities, including **Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Kanpur, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Jhansi, and Firozabad**, have earned a **3-star rating** while **Noida** has earned a **five-star rating**.
- About **648 cities** of the state have **achieved the [Open Defecation Free \(ODF\) status](#)**. **65 cities** secured the '**Garbage Free City**' status.
- Swachh Survekshan's 2023 results reveal that **129 cities** in Uttar Pradesh have **achieved [ODF++ status](#)**, reflecting adherence to open defecation-free standards and sustainable **waste management** practices.
- **435 cities** in the state have **attained ODF+ status**, showcasing the commitment of the government towards cleanliness in the state.
- **Many cities** in Uttar Pradesh are now **moving towards a 7-star rating**.
  - **Continuous efforts** are being made **by the government** to elevate more cities to **achieve 5-star and 3-star ratings**.

## Swachh Survekshan 2023

- Swachh Survekshan was introduced by **the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in 2016** as a competitive framework to encourage cities to improve the status of urban sanitation while encouraging **large scale citizen participation**.
- Over the years, Swachh Survekshan has emerged as the largest **Urban sanitation survey in the world**.

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## Pharma Park in Uttar Pradesh | Uttar Pradesh | 10 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

According to the **Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA)**, the Uttar Pradesh government is setting up a **pharma park in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand**, covering 1,472-acre across five villages.

- The establishment of the Pharma park and the acceleration of associated projects mark a **strategic move by the Uttar Pradesh government towards fostering industrial growth and economic development**.

### Key Points

- The plan will unfold in two phases, with an initial focus on immediate development efforts covering 300 acres of land.
  - The **villages identified for the survey include** Saidpur, Gadolikala, Largan, Karounda, and Rampur.
- **Surveying techniques** include **oil testing, contour mapping and topographical investigation**.
  - The utilisation of modern surveying techniques **underscores a commitment to precision and efficiency in the planning and execution of these initiatives**.
- UPSIDA is also taking steps to expedite development projects at site-1 and site-2 in Orai, along with the **Plastic City project in Dibiyaipur**.
  - The **plastic park**, spread across 274.4 acres, **encompasses industrial units, residential areas, and basic infrastructure**.

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## Development Projects in Haryana | Haryana | 10 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, inaugurated and laid the **foundation stones for 16 development projects** worth Rs. 215.65 crores in **Fatehabad district**.

### Key Points

- These projects include **7 in the Fatehabad assembly constituency, 5 in the Ratia assembly constituency, and 4 in the Tohana assembly constituency.**
- Under the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) scheme**, the Deputy Chief Minister initiated:
  - The **strengthening and widening of the 19.65-kilometer Fatehabad-Hanspur road** with an allocation of Rs 19.86 crores,
  - The **strengthening and widening of the 2.555-kilometer Mamupur to Chuaharpur via Nardail road** with Rs 3.60 crores, and the **30.14-kilometer NH148B Surewala Chowk to Haryana-Punjab border** with estimated cost of Rs. 149.63 crores.
- The Deputy Chief Minister **also inaugurated 13 development projects** worth Rs. 42.54 crores, which **include road and infrastructure development.**

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PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/statepcs/10-01-2024/print>

