



Best Tourism Villages Award

Why in News?

Recently, three villages in Madhya Pradesh were recognized for their sustainable tourism efforts on [International Tourism Day \(27th September\)](#).

Key Points

- **Awarded Villages:**
 - **Pranpur:**
 - **Category:** Craft
 - Notable for its weaving tradition with 243 households involved in handloom production.
 - Artisans craft items from bamboo, wood, stone, jewelry, and clay.
 - Infrastructure improvements include locally sourced stones for visitor access.
 - Features a "**Handloom Cafe**" and an amphitheater for cultural performances.
 - **Sabarvani:**
 - Category: Responsible Tourism
 - Transformed into a tourism hub since 2019, hosting over 300 international tourists.
 - Offers cultural experiences like traditional cuisine and participation in local agricultural practices.
 - Attractions include Anhoni Hot Spring, Ghoghra Waterfall, and proximity to [Satpura National Park](#).
 - Activities for tourists include bullock cart rides, cow milking, and trekking on Monakhedi Hill.
 - **Ladpura Khas:**
 - Category: Responsible Tourism.
 - Known for its community engagement and promotion of local traditions.
- **Best Tourism Villages Competition 2024:**
 - It was launched by the **Ministry of Tourism, Government of India**, to promote sustainable practices.
 - It aimed to identify villages preserving cultural and natural heritage.
 - A total of 36 villages recognized across eight categories.

International Tourism Day

- **History:** World Tourism Day was first celebrated in 1980 by the [United Nations World Tourism Organization \(UNWTO\)](#), and raises awareness about the social, cultural, and economic importance of tourism.
 - The day marks the adoption of UNWTO's statutes in 1975, signifying its official establishment five years later.
 - UNWTO advocates for tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development, and environmental sustainability while supporting the sector in advancing knowledge and policies worldwide.
 - UNWTO comprises **160 Member States (including India)**, 6 Associate Members, 2 Observers, and over 500 Affiliate Members.
 - Headquartered in Madrid, Spain.

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