



24 December 2024

### National and International News

<p><b>Rann Utsav</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indian Prime Minister has invited the public to experience the <b>Rann Utsav, which continues till March 2025.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rann Utsav is an <b>annual cultural festival organized by the Gujarat Tourism Department in the Great Rann of Kutch, India's largest salt desert.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It celebrates the cultural and artistic heritage of Kutch, attracting domestic and international tourists.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>About the Rann of Kutch</b></li> <li>The Rann of Kutch is a vast area of salt marshes, straddling the border between India and Pakistan.</li> <li>It is primarily located in the Kutch district of Gujarat, with a smaller portion in the Sindh province of Pakistan.</li> <li><b>Geographical features:</b> It lies close to sea level, connected to the Arabian Sea via the Kori Creek (west) and the Gulf of Kutch (east). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the only large flooded grassland zone in the Indomalayan realm, a biogeographic region extending across South and Southeast Asia.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Flora and Fauna:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Indian Wild Ass (Khur):</b> The Little Rann of Kutch is home to this <b>endangered species.</b></li> <li>Ecosystems include <b>mangroves, desert vegetation, and grass-covered patches (baits), vital for local wildlife.</b></li> <li>The region is part of the <b>Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary, India's largest wildlife sanctuary.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>About Kutch Desert</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The Kutch Desert spans vast areas, bordered by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sindh (Pakistan) in the northwest.</li> <li>Arabian Sea to the southwest.</li> <li>Rajasthan in the northeast.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>It provides an example of <b>Holocene sedimentation, showcasing geological and environmental diversity.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Jago Grahak Jago App, Jagriti App &amp; Jagriti Dashboard</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On National Consumer Day 2024, the Department of Consumer Affairs introduced three innovative applications aimed at enhancing consumer protection.</li> <li>These apps focus on combating deceptive online practices known as dark patterns, which can mislead consumers.</li> </ul>



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### Key Points:

- **Jago Grahak Jago App**
  - The Jago Grahak Jago App serves as a vital resource for consumers, which provides essential information about various e-commerce platforms.
  - Users can receive alerts regarding potentially unsafe websites.
  - This app aims to empower consumers by increasing awareness of online shopping risks.
- **Jagruti App**
  - The Jagruti App is designed for proactive consumer engagement, which enables users to report websites suspected of employing dark patterns.
  - Consumers can easily submit complaints about unfair or deceptive practices.
  - These reports will be forwarded to the Central Consumer Protection Authority for investigation and action.
- **Jagruti Dashboard**
  - The Jagruti Dashboard complements the other two apps by offering a comprehensive overview.
  - It aggregates data from reports submitted through the Jagruti App. This dashboard will help authorities track trends in consumer complaints.
  - It aims to provide vital information about the prevalence of dark patterns across different platforms.

### Places in news: Panama Canal



### Why in news?

- President-elect Donald Trump has suggested that his administration may seek to reclaim control of the Panama Canal, calling its transfer to Panama a "foolish" decision by the United States.

### Key Points:

- It is a **man made waterway that connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans across the Isthmus of Panama.**
- It is **owned and administered by Panama, and it is 40 miles long from shoreline to shoreline.**
- It was **built by the United States** and completed in August 1914.
- From its opening in 1914 until 1979, the Panama Canal was controlled solely by the United States, which built it.
- In 1979, however, control of the canal passed to the Panama Canal Commission, a joint agency of the United States and the Republic of Panama, and complete control passed to Panama at noon on December 31, 1999.
- It is a **sophisticated, highly-engineered system which uses a system of locks and elevators to take ships from one end to the other.**

### SpaDeX Mission

### Why in news?

- PSLV-C60/SPADEX Mission is scheduled to be launched on



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December 30, at 21:58 IST from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, Sriharikota, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

### Key Points:

- The Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) is a groundbreaking mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) **aimed at developing autonomous space docking technology.**
- The mission involves **PSLV-C60 as the launch vehicle** to demonstrate in-space docking technology using **two small spacecraft: Chaser (SDX01) and Target (SDX02).**
- This technology is a critical milestone for future lunar missions, the development of the **Bharatiya Antriksh Station (BAS)**, and other advanced space endeavours.
- The **concept of space docking was first achieved by the Soviet Union in 1967 with the docking of Kosmos 186 and Kosmos 188.**
- SpaDeX positions **India as a potential fourth country globally to master space docking technology.**

## Viraasat Sari Festival 2024

### Why in news?

- The third edition of the VIRAASAT Sari Festival is being organized by the Ministry of Textiles from 15th to 28th December 2024 at Handloom Haat in New Delhi.

### Key Points:

- The Viraasat Sari Festival is an **annual event to celebrate and promote the rich heritage of handloom sarees from various regions of the country.**
- **Organizer:** National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC) under the Ministry of Textiles.
- **Focus:** Celebrates the tradition of handloom and handicrafts while providing market access to weavers and artisans.
- **Unique Products:** Features Paithani, Kotpad, Kota Doria, Tangail, Pochampally, Kancheepuram, Thirubuvanam, Jamdani, Santipuri, Chanderi, Maheshwari, Patola, Moirangphee, Banarasi Brocade, Tancoi, Bhagalpuri Silk, Bawan Buti, and Pashmina Sari.

### About National Handloom Day:

- It commemorates the **Swadeshi Movement launched on 7th August 1905, which encouraged indigenous industries, particularly handloom weavers.** The First National Handloom Day was held on **7th August 2015** in Chennai.

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