



24 December 2024

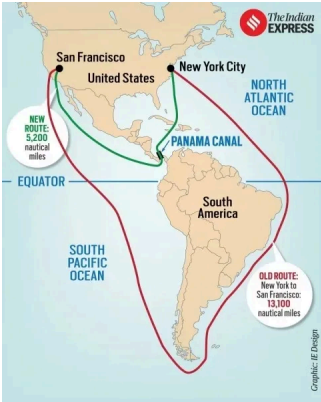
National and International News

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



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. ● Jagriti App <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Jagriti 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. ● Jagriti Dashboard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Jagriti Dashboard complements the other two apps by offering a comprehensive overview. ○ It aggregates data from reports submitted through the Jagriti 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.
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<p>Places in news: Panama Canal</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.
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<p>SpaDeX Mission</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PSLV-C60/SPADEX Mission is scheduled to be launched on December 30, at 21:58 IST from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, Sriharikota, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
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**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, Tanchoi, 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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