



17 January 2025

National and International News

<p>SpaDeX mission</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted a satellite docking experiment making India the fourth country, after the U.S., Russia, and China, to achieve this historic milestone. The two satellites, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), launched by PSLV C60 on December 30, successfully docked with each other. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) is a technology demonstrator mission developed by the ISRO to showcase in-space docking technology. This mission aims to demonstrate the ability to rendezvous, dock, and undock two small spacecraft, marking a significant advancement in India's space capabilities. Objective: The primary goal of SpaDeX is to develop docking technologies for two small spacecraft, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), in low Earth orbit. Mission Duration: Two years Mission Design: SpaDeX will deploy two satellites, SDX01 and SDX02, into a 470 km orbit using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket, where they drift apart and gradually approach each other, eventually docking at distances from 20 km to 3 meters. SpaDeX will use PSLV's fourth stage, POEM (PSLV Orbital Experimental Module)-4, to carry 24 payloads from academic institutions and startups. Docking Challenge: The two satellites (Chaser and Target) will orbit at speeds of 28,800 km/h. They will need to carefully reduce their relative velocity to just 0.036 km/h before docking. <p>What is Space Docking?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space docking is the intricate process of maneuvering two fast-moving spacecraft into the same orbit, bringing them closer, and joining them to form a single unit.
<p>Awards & Honors: National Sports Awards 2024</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Sports Awards 2024 at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. <p>Key Points:</p>



- National Sports Awards are given every year to **recognize and reward excellence in sports.**
- **‘Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award’**
 - It is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over the period of the previous four years.
- **Arjuna Award:**
 - It is given for outstanding performance in Sports and Games’ is given for good performance over a period of the previous four years and for showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.
- **Arjuna Award (Lifetime)**
 - It is given to honour and motivate those sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to promotion of sports even after their retirement from active sporting careers.
- **‘Dronacharya Award**
 - It is given for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games’ is given to coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work on a consistent basis and for enabling sportspersons to excel in International events.
- **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy:**
 - It is awarded for the overall top performing university in Khelo India University Games.

Award Recipients:

- **World Chess Champion D. Gukesh, double medalist at the Paris Olympics Manu Bhaker, Men’s Hockey Team Captain Harmanpreet Singh, and gold medalist at the Paris Paralympics Praveen Kumar** were conferred with the prestigious **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.**
- **Dronacharya Award:**
 - Para-shooting coach Subhash Rana
 - Shooting coach Deepali Deshpande
 - Hockey coach Sandeep Sangwan
 - Badminton coach S. Muralidharan
 - Football coach Armando Agnelo Colaco
- **Furthermore, 32 sports persons were honored with the Arjuna Award. Among the recipients were:**
 - Athletes Jyothi Yarraji and Annu Rani
 - Boxers Nitu and Saweety
 - Chess player Vantika Agrawal
 - Hockey players Salima Tete, Abhishek, Sanjay, Jarmanpreet Singh, and Sukhjeet Singh
 - Para-archer Rakesh Kumar
 - Para-athletes Preeti Pal, Jeevanji Deepthi, Ajeet Singh, and Sachin Khilari, among others.



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<p>Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has forecast the global oil demand will grow by 1.43 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2026. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a permanent intergovernmental organization of oil-exporting countries. Formation: It was established in 1960 by the five founding members Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela. Currently, it has 12 members, including Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria, and the United Arab Emirates. Angola withdrew its membership effective 1 January 2024. Headquarters: Vienna, Austria. <p>About OPEC +:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a group of 22 oil-exporting countries which meets regularly to decide how much crude oil to sell on the world market. These nations aim to work together on adjusting crude oil production to bring stability to the oil market. Origin: These nations came to an accord towards the end of 2016 “to institutionalize a framework for cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC producing countries on a regular and sustainable basis.” At the core of this group are the 12 members of OPEC (the Organization of the Oil Exporting Countries), which are mainly Middle Eastern and African countries. Members: It comprises 12 OPEC countries plus Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Russia, Mexico, Malaysia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Oman.
<p>SVAMITVA Scheme</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi distributed over 65 lakh property cards under the SVAMITVA Scheme to property owners in more than 50,000 villages across 230 districts in 10 States and 2 Union Territories. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas) scheme is a new initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. It aims to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes. The scheme is for surveying the land parcels in rural inhabited areas using Drone technology. The survey shall be done across the country in a phase wise manner over the period 2020 -2025 .



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme is proposed as a Central Sector scheme with a projected outlay of Rs 79.65 crores for the pilot phase (FY 2020 -21) . • Coverage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are about 6.62 lakh villages in the country which will be eventually covered in this scheme. ○ The entire work is likely to be spread over a period of five • Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To bring financial stability to the citizens in rural India by enabling them to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits. ○ Creation of accurate land records for rural planning. ○ Determination of property tax, which would accrue to the GPs directly in States where it is devolved or else, add to the State exchequer. ○ Creation of survey infrastructure and GIS maps that can be leveraged by any department for their use. ○ To support the preparation of a better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS maps. ○ To reduce property related disputes and legal cases
<p>Cross-Border Transactions / Cross-Border Payments</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBI Announces Measures to Boost Cross-Border Transactions in Rupee. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-Border Payments are transactions where the payer and recipient are located in separate countries. • These transactions are vital for international trade, investment, and personal transfers. • Types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wholesale Cross-border Payments: Typically between financial institutions, used for activities such as borrowing, lending, and trading in foreign exchange, equities, and commodities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ They are also used by governments and large corporations for significant transactions related to imports, exports, and financial markets. ○ Retail Cross-border Payments: Generally involve individuals and businesses, including person-to-person (P2P), person-to-business (P2B), and business-to-business (B2B) transactions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A notable example is remittances, where migrants send money back to their home countries.

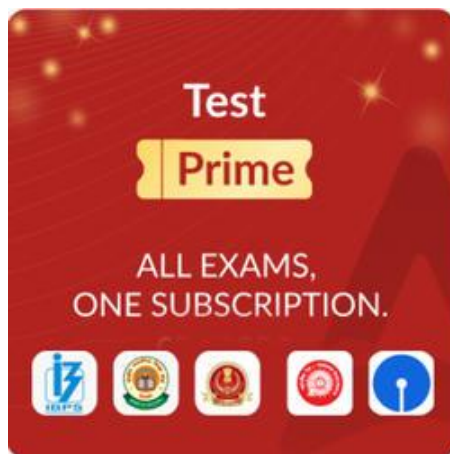


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