



Gudi Padwa

Why in News?

Recently, people celebrated the auspicious occasion of [Gudi Padwa](#) symbolising the commencement of the **Hindu New Year** with joy and religious fervour.

Key Points

- Devotees also embarked on the nine-day **Chaitra Shukla Pratipada**:
 - It marks the beginning of the **new year of the Vikram Samvat** also known as the **Vedic [Hindu] calendar**.
 - Vikram Samvat is based on the day when the emperor Vikramaditya defeated Sakas, invaded Ujjain and called for a new era.
 - Under his supervision, astronomers formed a new calendar based on the **luni-solar system** that is still followed in the northern regions of India.
 - It is the first day during the waxing phase (in which the visible side of the moon is getting bigger every night) of the moon in the **Chaitra (first month of Hindu calendar)**.

Gudi Padwa and Ugadi

- The people of **Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka** celebrate the New Year as **Ugadi** while **Maharashtra and Goa** mark the day's celebrations with **Gudi Padwa**.
- The common practice in the celebrations of both the festivals is the festive food that is prepared with a **mix of sweet and bitter**.
- A famous concoction served is jaggery (sweet) and neem (bitter), called **bevu-bella** in the South, signifying that life brings both happiness and sorrows.
- **Gudi** is a doll prepared in **Maharashtrian** homes.
 - A bamboo stick is adorned with green or red brocade to make the gudi. This gudi is placed prominently in the house or outside a window/ door for all to see.
- For **Ugadi**, doors in homes are adorned with **mango leaf** decorations called **toranalu or Torana in Kannada**.