



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Three years of the Abraham Accords

- The [Abraham Accords](#) are a series of agreements to **normalize relations between Israel and several Arab countries, including the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan**, mediated by the United States.
- The accords were signed in 2020 and marked a historic breakthrough in the Arab-Israeli conflict.
 - The Accords fostered **normalisation and peace by bridging cultural, religious, and linguistic differences**, connecting people beyond borders.
- The Accords laid the foundation for expanded **regional and multinational cooperation, leading to economic opportunities for India**.
 - Following the Abraham Accords, [I2U2 Group](#) was formed, comprising **Israel, India, UAE, and the U.S.**, focusing on critical areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.

Read more: [Israel, UAE and Bahrain Abraham Accord](#)

Green Nudges

- A study conducted in China has shed light on the positive environmental impact of implementing **"green nudges" in online food delivery platforms**.
- Green nudges are interventions that encourage people to act more sustainably. They are a relatively new policy tool that aims to encourage pro-environmental behaviour.
 - By defaulting to **"no disposable cutlery"** and rewarding customers with "green points," this simple change led to a **648% increase in no-cutlery orders, offering potential benefits for both the environment and consumer behaviour**.
 - The study estimated that over 18 months in Shanghai, more than 225.33 million sets of single-use cutlery (SUCs) were reduced, **potentially preventing 4,506.52 metric tonnes of waste and saving 56,333 trees**.
- India's leading online food delivery platform, **Zomato**, introduced similar nudges, leading to a substantial reduction in cutlery waste.

Read more: [Behavioural Economics for New India](#)

Paryushan Parv, A Jain Festival

Paryushan 2023, a significant festival for the Jain community. It is a time for spiritual growth, with fasting, meditation, and **purification rituals**. Devotees attend speeches, **practice non-violence**, and seek forgiveness for their sins.

- The festival is believed to have originated in the **6th century BC** when the Jain teacher [Mahavira](#) taught his followers to abstain from violence and to focus on spiritual purity.
- For both Shvetambara, who observe the ritual over eight days, and Digambara, for whom the festival lasts 10 days, this is a time for introspection, reflection and purification. It takes place in the middle of the rainy season.
- They also do **svadhyaya, self-study**. Paryushan makes one stay close to one's soul, reflect on one's shortcomings, seek punishment for wrong-doings and vow to minimize one's mistakes.

Read More: [Jainism](#)

Truenat Test to Detect Nipah

Kerala has been accorded sanction by the [Indian Council for Medical Research \(ICMR\)](#) to use Truenat test to diagnose Nipah.

- Truenat test uses a portable, smart chip-based, battery-operated **RT-PCR (Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain reaction)** kit to detect the presence of the virus in a sample.
- Truenat is the **first kit in India to receive Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the [Drug Controller General of India \(DCGI\)](#)** for conducting Nipah virus tests.
- Truenat can be used in hospitals that have level **2 biosafety facilities, where there are certain strict protocols in place to prevent contamination of samples**. Truenat can help conduct tests faster, detect if there is an outbreak, and set preventive measures faster.

Read More: [Nipah Virus](#)

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