

# Ashadhi Bij

July 7, 2022

**In news- Ashadha Dwitiya, also known as Ashadhi Bij**, marks the beginning of the new year of Kutch on July 1st.

## **About Ashadhi Bij-**

- Ashadhi Bij is **the second day of Shukla paksha of Aashaadha month, of the Hindu calendar**, which is associated with the beginning of rains in the Kutch region.
- **Kutchi community** of Gujarat celebrate their new year on this day.
- The occasion is also observed by farming communities in the north Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and some other regions.
- **The festival is marked as Kutchi New Year by the Gujarati population.**
- **Devotees worship Lord Ganesha, Goddess Lakshmi and other regional deities and organize satsangs**, musical competitions, and other cultural programs on this day.

## **Communities in Kutch region-**

- **Rabari** constitute a **comparatively large group in Kutch** and there lives a **brave and noble community like Ahir**.
- **Harijan** community also live in the region. They migrated from Marwar (Rajasthan).
- Mutva, Halepotra, Pathan, Raysipotra, are some of well known Muslim communities living in the region.
- Jat is another interesting Muslim community living in this region.
- There are some **other communities living in Kutch. Some of them are Koli, Vaghri, Vadi, etc.**
- These people traditionally hail from the Kutch district of the western Indian state of Gujarat and the Sindh

region of Pakistan.

- **Many of them speak Kutchi language an Indo-Aryan language.**
- **However, most Kutchis living in India are bilingual or trilingual,** due to exposure to closely related neighbouring languages such as Gujarati.
- **Kutch literally means something which intermittently becomes wet and dry;** a large part of this district is known as Rann of Kutch which is shallow wetland which submerges in water during the rainy season and becomes dry during other seasons.
- **The same word is also used in Sanskrit origin for a tortoise.**